

OCTOBER 2012

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Proposed Park Bond Would Benefit District 10 Open Spaces

BY LIZ MELCHOR

In 2007, Chuck Farrugia was done being mad. McLaren Park, San Francisco's second largest park, which Farrugia had lived next to his entire life, was being neglected. Five playgrounds were missing. Trails that were once paved flat were overgrown with weeds and had disappeared completely in places. McNab lake, that Farrugia and his friends had affectionately called Tadpole Pond in their childhood, had a covering of moss so

\$4 million would be invested in rehabbing the Potrero Hill Recreation Center

thick that the turtles, koi fish, and ducks had disappeared. Yet despite the green space's poor condition, a 2008 City park bond allocated no funds to McLaren. Farrugia asked why. City Hall told him: you weren't organized.

Five years and numerous door knocks later, the 2012 park bond—on next month's ballot—would allocate \$12 million to McLaren. Another \$22.5 million of the proposed \$195 million bond would go to other parks located in District 10's Bayview-Hunters Point,

Dogpatch, Potrero Hill, and Visitacion Valley neighborhoods. Of these funds, \$4 million would be invested in rehabbing the Potrero Hill Recreation Center; \$2 million is to be dedicated to building a new playground at Gilman Park, located next to Monster Park; and \$16.5 million would be devoted to developing four sites along the Blue Greenway, a large-scale project that will one day create a continuous 13-mile trail along the Southeastern waterfront.

The 2012 park bond is the third in a series to hit the ballot. But according to Fran Martin, a San Francisco Parks Alliance board member and Visitacion Valley community organizer, bond funds are "...only a drop in the bucket." She explained that the City's park infrastructure is mostly more than 60 years old. "Not even two percent of our general fund goes to Rec and Park. They aren't putting this into parks for improvements. This is just maintenance. We need this bond," she said.

District 10's open space needs have been largely neglected. According to the Department of Recreation and Parks, Golden Gate Park has 52 gardeners for its 1,017 acres. McLaren Park, at 312 acres, has four. "It was pretty sad," said Farrugia. "At one point they wanted to put a recycling plant here. We didn't want

PARK BOND page 14



Mission Pony Rides Into Town

BY BRIAN RINKER

A new breed of pony is in town. Whether described as "odd," "strange," or "whimsical," when the miniature horses glide past, people often stop in their tracks. They stare, point and smile. Their riders may wave, or tip a hat, as they sit awkwardly in their saddles.

The attention isn't unwarranted; these aren't your average ponies. They're made by San Bruno Street resident April Ellis from used mechanical wheelchairs, plywood, steel, plastic, foam, fabric and taxidermy deer eyeballs and ears. They have a

Potrero Hill residents, April Ellis and David Paschich, partners in Mission Pony and life, show off a couple of their finest steeds.

PHOTOGRAPH BY DON NOLTE

top speed of five miles an hour, powered by a battery that can last 18 mile stretches at a time.

"It's kind of like a pony on top of a wheelchair," Ellis said with a smile. She walks over to Primus, the first pony she built using a mail box frame, and softly pets the light brown imitation suede pelt. Ellis is the stable

MISSION PONY page 17



White dots like these have been placed by DPW signaling where property owners need to repair the sidewalks, even when "disrepair" is not visually apparent. PHOTOGRAPH BY DON NOLTE

Hill Property Owners Targeted for Sidewalk Repairs

BY KEITH BURBANK

Last month the San Francisco Department of Public Works (DPW) sent letters to 282 Potrero Hill property owners notifying them that portions of the sidewalk in front of their property needed to be repaired. The notices were posted to owners on 19 blocks between 18th and 20th streets and San Bruno and Pennsylvania streets, according to Mindy Linetzky, DPW spokesperson. "DPW started the inspections for the area from San Bruno to Arkansas Streets [in September]. The scope for the repairs is yet to be determined," Linetzky said.

"The City just marked up the 700 block of Vermont Street and more for mandatory sidewalk repair—after purchasing mandatory City permits,"

said a homeowner on the block. "I now have 20-plus white dots in front of my home..."

An informal survey by the *View* of sidewalks marked for repair suggested a range of potential problems. Some of

"I now have 20-plus white dots in front of my home..."

HOME OWNER, ON 700 BLOCK
OF VERMONT STREET

the dotted sidewalk squares exhibited no damage, at least that were visual to an untrained observer. Others were clearly cracked or elevated. DPW

uses white dots to mark squares for which adjacent property owners are responsible. Colored dots signal that other parties—such as Pacific Gas and Electric Company or AT&T—are on the hook for maintenance.

"Unfortunately, the timing and character of the repair markings, many on minor cracks and not where the public would walk, seem to be as much or more about City fund-raising than public safety, but we're still on the hook!" said the Vermont Street resident.

According to Linetzky, DPW's main concern when determining if a sidewalk section needs to be repaired is safety. Defects in "Throughway Zones"—the area most traveled by

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PUBLISHER'S VIEW

Politics

BY STEVEN J. MOSS



ILLUSTRATION BY GEORGIA KNOWLES

This year's presidential election has triggered passionate debates over the purpose of government, or even whether it should exist at all. Stirred by the intensity of the arguments, I decided to do some research, turning to the most potent source of information on the topic: movies and television. After carefully studying fifty years of crime procedurals, films that feature big explosions, and made-for-TV tear-jerkers, it's clear to me that government is essential. To script writers, at least.

Government gives us an array of bureaucrats that provide the critical glue to numerous plots. There's the paper-pushing Department of Motor Vehicles or Unemployment Insurance worker, who, after a citizen stands in line for hours, quickly declines their request, or goes to lunch just as they step up, snapping down the shade at their service window. Or the immigration agent, who wearily, says "Welcome to America. Next!" after stamping some documents with a hard snap. And of course who can forget the sympathetic, over-worked, overweight parole officer or welfare case worker, who is powerless to provide any real help, but keeps a snack drawer full in their cubicle so they can offer their depressed client a sugary soda or candy bar. Once these people are gone, we'll never get them back.

Then there's the brilliant government scientist, or harried environmental regulator, who, staring at the screen of their 1970s-era computer, discovers that a meteor is heading towards earth, and must be stopped; a bone-crushingly large corporation is adding a chemical to the water system that compels us to buy their products; or, in fact, we've all been turned into robots, we just don't know it yet. These characters are irreplaceable. Really, what would we do without them?

And then there's our entire legal system, chockfull of colorful, critical, characters. The avuncular judge, who, by raising just one of his extra-hairy eyebrows, can quiet a courtroom. The stupid county sheriff, whose large stomach

PUBLISHER'S page 6



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Letters to the Editor

Editor,

I would like you to give me credit for bringing to your attention a typographical error in your article "Potrero Hill an (Unpaid) Television and Film Star" (September issue). Please print my name in your next edition as the person who brought this error to your attention.

The business card of the executive director of the San Francisco Film Commission reads "Susannah Grea-son Robbins." The above mentioned article misspells her name as "Susannah Robinson."

Do you fact check your articles?

Nick Pasquariello
Mission District

Editor,

In the August *View* article entitled "Rebuild Potrero's Proposed Building Heights and Density Reduced in Latest Plan," the author stated "According to the developer [BRIDGE Housing], the first construction phase will begin sometime next year." This is not correct. In fact, the most recent estimate BRIDGE Housing has provided the community regarding commencement of the first phase of construction is 2015. BRIDGE has consistently emphasized that all dates are estimates only, as there is still much work to be done with respect to environmental and land use approvals, infrastructure planning and design, and achieving financial feasibility, particularly in light of the demise of redevelopment.

The article correctly states that BRIDGE has made several significant changes to the proposed plan

in response to community concerns. Proposed heights have indeed been lowered on several blocks, resulting in lower overall project density. For an accurate summary of the changes to the plan, please refer to the Rebuild Potrero column in this month's *View*. BRIDGE Housing pays for a monthly column in order to keep the community apprised of latest developments.

Art May
Project Director

Editor,

My wife, two sons and I have lived at 770 De Haro Street for the past 18 years. Our new next door neighbor to the south, at 2000 20th Street, wants to build a bulky addition to his house, including adding a 1,470 square foot floor and three decks totaling 1,460 square feet. The renovation would add 20 feet to the top of the penthouse.

My neighbor's and our house are intimately linked. Both are of the same design, were built at the same time, and are of the same aesthetic. For all intents and purposes, they're one and the same building. Many Hill residents know the building as the Midcentury Modern design, with zig-zag windows, located on the northwest corner of De Haro and 20th streets.

We contend that our neighbor's proposed design violates several elements of the San Francisco Residential Design Guidelines, and have filed a Discretionary Review. Two of our neighbors have done the same. For example, on the so-called *San*

LETTERS page 6

New Volunteer Contributors at the *View*

DON NOLTE, fourth generation San Franciscan, clown-for-hire and retired photographer joins the *View* this month. He's lived in Potrero Hill for 30 years, watching it grow from where "no one wanted to live" to where "everyone wants to live." In this issue, he photographed Mission Pony, Romer Young Gallery, Sidewalk Repairs, SE Waterfront, Bay Natives, and more.



GEORGIA KNOWLES, originally from New Castle, England, is an artist living in San Francisco, and a student at Academy of Art. A great lover of street art, Georgia finds great inspiration in San Francisco. See her illustrations in this issue, for Publisher's page 2, and Spot the Carney on page 21.



PETER LINENTHAL, long-time Potrero Hill resident and artist teaches art and has written numerous books. Peter's illustration is featured on the Potrero Festival's 2012 Poster. His illustrations were featured in the *View's* September issue, and his self-portrait in this issue, page 11.

SHORT CUTS

Police

In a continuing effort to reduce muggings on the Hill, the **San Francisco Police Department (SFPD)** will be fielding plain clothes officers in the neighborhood from midnight to 2 a.m., staffed by young, energetic, cops... After more than eight car break-ins around Skool, located on Alameda Street, during dining hours — which had the restaurant owner tearing out his hair — SFPD, led by **Officer Sue Lavin**, arrested a suspect. There hasn't been any incident since.

White Hash

It turns out that the mysterious white powder sprinkled throughout Potrero Hill by a jogger marked a running trail for a local Hash House Harriers group (September "Short Cuts"). The Harriers are "an international drinking club with a running problem," according to a 20-year member who recently moved to the Hill from London. "H3" was started in the late-1940s in Kuala Lumpur. A group of ex-patriots wanted to do something more than meet up for a rugby scrimmage and a few pints. They formed a running club at a bar called the Hash House. Today, at each Hash a "hare" is chosen to set a trail; the "hounds" try to find the hare by following the clues. Along the way there might be beer — and shot — stops, false trails,

turnarounds, and runners — men and women alike — dressed in red dresses. After the run, the group meets at a designated Hash House to drink and sing bawdy songs — along the lines of "Me no like you... soldier" and "Free beer for all the Hashers" — and accuse their fellow runners of misdemeanors. The accused defends by drinking a beer "down, down, down;" any left-over beer in the glass is spilled over their head. Hashes are now held in the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, the United States, and elsewhere. The View's publisher ran several when he was in Senegal, and Hill resident **Mike Holland** recently participated in a Hash in Munich. And that white stuff? It's flour, which is biodegradable.

Historic?

Mariposa Street residents **Rod Minott, Kepa Askenasy, and Arcadia Smails** — organized under **The Neighborhood Coalition to Save Lower Potrero Hill** — are calling on the City to re-evaluate whether two steel-clad industrial buildings located at 1200 and 1210 17th Street merit historic preservation. The Coalition believes that the **Planning Department** relied on an historic evaluation report prepared by Page & Turnbull that was biased and fact challenged. **Walden Development** wants to construct housing and space for Kaiser Per-

manente on the site...not far away, in Showplace Square, food truck **Papa November** is competing with that ubiquitous chain to sell coffee, teas, and pastries...**Airbnd** is moving into 888 Brannan Street to accommodate its fast growing staff. Roughly 100 Potrero Hill properties participate in the service, which matches temporary apartments with tourists.

Super Property

Since January home prices in Mission Bay and Potrero Hill have risen by eight percent or more, faster than any other neighborhood in the City. Part of the increase reflects a bounce-back from an oversupply of condominiums built in the run-up to the last recession...**Randy "Surreal Neil" Cordero** — who lives in Dogpatch with his wife and a Siberian husky — fronts the Neil Diamond tribute band "Super Diamond." In a recent San Francisco Chronicle interview Cordero named his favorite neighborhood hang-outs, including breakfast eatery **Just for You**, gourmet pizzeria **Piccino**, **Serpentine**, **Dogpatch Saloon**, and ice creamery **Mr. and Mrs. Miscellaneous...**

Pretty Lady

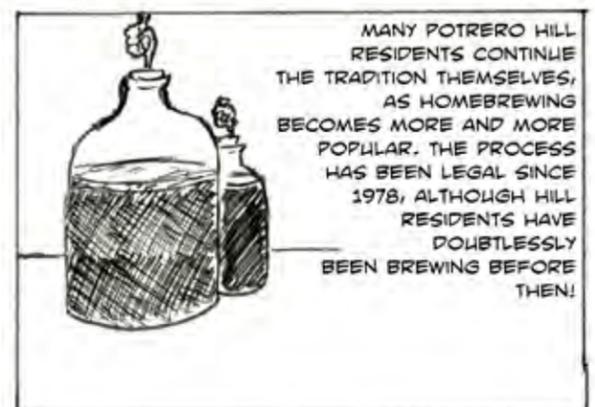
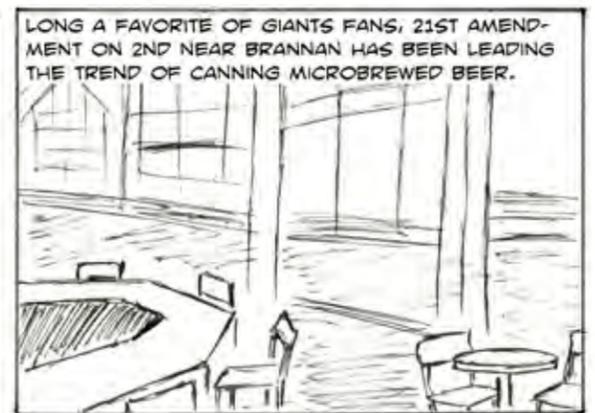
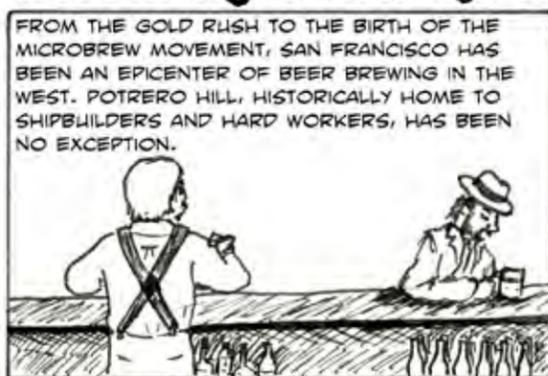
The Sisters Brothers, a fine novel partially set in Gold Rush San Francisco, describes some of the City's timeless qualities: "You must understand, gentlemen," says one character, "that the tradition of thrift and sensible spending has vanished here. It simply does not exist anymore. For example, when I arrived

this last time from working my claim I had a sizable sack of gold dust, and though I knew it was lunacy I decided to sit down and have a large dinner in the most expensive restaurant I could find...so it was that I ate a decent-sized, not particularly tasty meal of meat and spuds and ale and ice cream, and for this repast, which would have put me back perhaps a half a dollar in my hometown, I paid the sum of thirty dollars in cash." "Charlie was disgusted, "Only a moron would pay that." "I agree, said the man, One hundred percent I agree. And I am happy to welcome you to a town peopled by morons exclusively. Furthermore, I hope your transformation to moron is not an unpleasant experience." Thirty dollars buys you a much tastier meal today, but take a walk down Valencia Street, or visit an upscale South-of-Market club, and you'll find hundreds of Internet miners eager to hand over their sacks of cash for short bursts of pleasures that would cost a fraction of the amount in many a home town...

Loss

The owner of the **American Industrial Center**, **Angelo Markoulis**, died last month. Markoulis immigrated to the United States from a ravaged Greece shortly after World War II, with only the shirt on his back and an unending drive to build a legacy in his heart. He's survived by his wife of 64 years, six children, thirteen grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, and a brother.

McKinley Park by Simon Stahl





Led by DNA's president Janet Carpinelli, **Greentrust** is working with DNA to beautify the Dogpatch. The rendering shows proposed changes on 22nd Street between Indiana Street and Iowa streets. PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY GREENTRUST

Dogpatch Neighborhood Association Works to Maintain Historic Industrial Area

SASHA LEKACH

Dogpatch residents tend to be well aware of their neighborhood's industrial roots. For the past decade and a half the Dogpatch Neighborhood Association (DNA) has advocated to maintain the area's historical legacy, while fostering a family-oriented, community-friendly vibe.

At last month's bi-monthly DNA meeting, held at University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) offices on Minnesota and 19th streets, in the heart of the "Dogpatch Historical District"—a 2005 designation that was one of the association's major achievements—the group tackled land use issues, voted on how to spend association funds, and collected a few new paying members who were attending their first gathering.

According to the group's president, Dogpatch resident and web designer Janet Carpinelli, DNA emerged from the Lower Potrero Hill Neighborhood Association, which had initially formed in the 1970s in response to a proposed Muni facility, now the Woods Division operations building, at 22nd and Indiana streets. That group continued until the mid-1990s, when it folded into the Potrero Boosters Neighborhood Association. "People down here wanted their own group," said Carpinelli. By 1998 DNA was established.

Carpinelli has served as DNA's president for four years. Previously she was vice president. She noted that she can't lead the group forever, but "we don't have people banging down the door to become board members." Carpinelli arrived in Dogpatch in 1981 as a renter, and bought a home on Minnesota Street in 1983. Before helping to start DNA she was involved with the Potrero Hill League of Active Neighbors, which also focused on planning and quality of neighborhood life issues, but went defunct in the early-1990s.

DNA offers different membership levels, starting at \$25 a year for an individual resident and \$35 for a household or business. Members must live, work or own property in Dogpatch, defined as the area bound by the Bay to the east, Cesar Chavez to the south, Interstate Highway 280 to the west and Mariposa to the north. "We try to encourage as many people to join, pay dues and donate," Carpinelli said. DNA's five member board includes overlapping members of GreenTrust San Francisco—which pushes for greening of the Central Waterfront, and is also led by Carpinelli—and its members include large numbers of Booster participants, something Carpinelli encourages. "We work together with the Boosters," she said. DNA board member David Siegel also serves on GreenTrust's board.

DNA board member Jared Dou-

mani, who has served as treasurer for the last three years, has lived on Tennessee Street, just blocks from the Hells Angels San Francisco chapter clubhouse on Tennessee and 23rd streets, for the past 11 years. Doumani, who owns Persnickety Painters on Tennessee and 20th streets, said he joined DNA more than a decade ago for the benefit of "knowing what was going on in the neighborhood." He noted that the association is membership-driven, with no major fundraisers or other money sources, and just \$8,000 in its reserves.

Membership coordinator and San Francisco native Vanessa Aquino has lived on Tennessee Street since 2003, and became a board member in 2009. She initially joined because she

"wanted to voice an opinion for the people who live here." According to Aquino, the wide-ranging issues the group covers demand a quick learning curve, but she's catching on and meeting lots of neighbors in the process. Aquino live-blogs DNA meetings for those attending online, and has ramped-up the group's social media, tweeting group updates and maintaining a Facebook page. The Latina young professional—who works as a graduate school adviser at the Academy of Arts—observed that members tend to be older, European-American, long-time Dogpatch residents, but slowly younger families and professionals new to the neighborhood are joining.

Last month's meeting agenda was mapped out to the minute, with no breaks scheduled, and little room for chatter or idle comment. The gathering, led by Carpinelli, with members seated around a large boardroom table in a top floor conference space, felt something like a high-powered executive discussion. Compared to other community group meetings, which feature snacks and social time, DNA is all business once the 7 p.m. start time commences. "It's always a heavy agenda, so it's hard to fool around," Carpinelli said, noting that members felt that monthly meetings were too frequent, making the bi-monthly gatherings meatier.

Attendees of the two-hour-plus meeting included Dogpatch resident

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Essence of Southeastern Waterfront Captured in Website Project

BY SASHA LEKACH

Working with the San Francisco Planning and Urban Research Association (SPUR) and the Port of San Francisco, this year's Piero N. Patri fellow, Alexa Bush, synthesized information about the complex, project-laden Southeastern Waterfront into a website, providing easy access to the storied shoreline's history, characteristics, policies, and proposals. The Piero N. Patri Fellowship was established at SPUR in 2007 by Piero's siblings, Remo and Tito, and their wives, Johanna and Bobby, in honor of their brother's passion for urban planning in the City. The late Giacomo Patri, Piero's father, designed the View's masthead, which first appeared in 1973.

Each year a Patri fellow is selected to create a project that's intended to improve San Francisco. Bush presented her 2012 project at a SPUR event held last month at the Port of San Francisco's Pier 1 building. Her project deviated from past fellowship projects by taking a comprehensive look at Southside urban renewal rather than focusing on a specific area.

At the event, Tito spoke about his brother's commitment to improving San Francisco—specifically the wa-

terfront—before introducing Bush, the sixth fellow to work to spruce up the City through urban planning research. Patri noted that his brother—who worked as an architect until he was diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's disease and died in 2006 in his 70s—wanted to revive the southeast waterfront after it'd become a "garbage dump," particularly compared to the northeast waterfront, which is well maintained and developed. "We're on the threshold of some really exciting development down there," said Remo.

"I had heartbreaking moments talking to [Bayview residents]. There's skepticism that a lot of projects haven't worked in the past and that the system is broken."

ALEXA BUSH, RECIPIENT OF PIERO PATRI FELLOWSHIP IN URBAN PLANNING

During her three month long project, launched in June, Bush collaborated with a number of municipal organizations and companies, including technology corporation AECOM and planning and urban design firm Bionic. Bush, who

has a master's degree in landscape architecture from the University of Virginia, and a bachelor's in filmmaking from Harvard University, is originally from San Jose, and had a vague familiarity with the City's Southside. She was selected as a fellow after SPUR culled hundreds of applications from a nationwide search, receiving a small stipend and an opportunity to work with City planning agencies.

One of Bush's goals was to connect



San Francisco's southeastern waterfront is captured in Alexa Bush's website: sewssf.org. PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF ALEXA BUSH

with long-term waterfront residents who have endured decades of redevelopment plans and promises, some stemming from the 1960s. "Once people got a sense of what the project was about they wanted to share their stories," she said. Many of the conversations with Bayview and Hunters Point residents were difficult, as community members expressed deep frustration with what they considered to be decades of neglect and slow progress. "I had heartbreaking moments talking to them," Bush said. There's "skepticism that a lot of projects haven't worked in the past" and that the system is broken.

After countless conversations,

interviews and research, Bush's work culminated in a website, sewssf.org, that provides an inside look at nearly 15-miles of shoreline and associated parks, businesses and neighborhoods. The website is intended to prompt people to visit the Southeastern Waterfront, learn more about the area and take ownership of it. Past fellows' work—which include proposed improvements to Third Street and

WEBSITE page 25

NEW LISTING!



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Rec and Park Exploring Shifting McKinley Square Fence Towards the Freeway

BY KEITH BURBANK

The fence on the southwest side of McKinley Square, bordering Highway 101, may be shifted closer to the freeway, creating more space for the park's dog play area and native vegetation. "People have been talking about it for years. Everybody is positive about it because it will expand more useable area for trails and native planting, said Cris Rys, Potrero Hill resident and McKinley Square Community Association (MSCA) member. "People are happy about it, and we're happy that CalTrans and SF Recreation and Park are making this happen."

But in response to an inquiry from the View, the California Department of Transportation (CalTrans) said it wasn't able to comment about moving the fence until it gets the go-ahead from the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department (RPD). According to RPD, moving the fence is under consideration. "Our shared goal is to better McKinley Square Park, and moving the fence line is one of the many ideas we are exploring," said Connie Chan, RPD spokesperson.

"There are a number of critical steps that have to take place between

Aerial shot of McKinley Square: dotted line shows the current fence. The dashed is estimate of proposed expansion. COURTESY OF CRIS RYS

[CalTrans] and the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department," said CalTrans' Steve Williams. "And until that happens, nothing is moving. So it would be premature for me to comment on something that may or may not happen. The ball is not in our court, so to speak. If that changes, I'd be happy to respond. But I would need some direction from the City on this." According to Chan, CalTrans will be repairing the existing fence. "SF Rec and Park is always open to work with the community to improve our parks," Chan added.

According to Rys, CalTrans doesn't want the responsibility of maintaining the land between the fence and the freeway. And increasing the amount of green space in Potrero Hill would be a good thing. "So it seems to be a win-win situation for everybody. It would be disappointing if this didn't happen," Rys added.

The existing fence is southwest

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perennially leads him in the wrong direction, but it's always hilarious. The corrupt Drug Enforcement Administration agent, who can't help but sample the product he's supposed to be policing. And my personal favorite, the California Highly Patrol officer, who rides the state's freeways, handsomely things up with his stretch pants and jack boots. Our democracy, or at least essential plot twists and close-up shots, depends on these folks.

I could go on. The sleezy senator, who is essential to taking the bribes that allow that water-polluting corporation to continue its nefarious deeds; the crack, or crazy, Navy Seals, who are always at the ready to shoot a villain, or former friend; even the local dog catcher, who ensures that a wayward, but heart-stoppingly cute, animal always escapes his slapsticky grasp. His antics allow society to sigh a collective prayer, "Ohhhhhhhh..."

Most importantly, without government who would keep the fact that UFOs have been visiting the earth since Truman was in office a secret? And, when those same UFOs invade the earth, who would portentously announce that reality on all three television networks, plus Fox news, before scuttling into his presidential bunker with the Secretary of Health and Human Services to ensure that the human race continues to be propagated? When those aliens arrive on earth, and request to be taken to our leader, where would we send them? Steve Jobs, after all, is dead; Richard Branson will likely have already taken off in the opposite direction. I suppose there's Donald Trump, but he actually ran for President, in real life, so, really, can he be trusted? Hard to say. Hopefully, we'll never have to find out.

LETTERS from page 2

Francisco Planning Department *Historic Resource Evaluation Response* (Historical Review) the preservation planner states, "Based upon the San Francisco Modern Architecture and Landscape Design 1935-1970 Historic Context Statement, this building is a good example of the "Builder-Developer" and "Midcentury Modern (1945-1965)" property type. These buildings represent few of the distinctive characteristics of its style and period and do not possess high artistic value." We strongly believe that based on information in the *Historic Context Statement* document the building at 2000 20th Street/770 De Haro Street was improperly classified as "Builder Developer," and should be reclassified as a true Midcentury Modern, and that we may establish that the building has historical significance.

Our view is supported by Alan Hess, a well-known author, architecture critic, historian and advocate for mid-century modern architecture. In a letter he submitted to Richard Sucre at the Planning Department, Mr. Hess wrote: "I respectfully disagree with the Sept. 27, 2011 Historic Resource Evaluation Response, which found that this building did not qualify under Criterion 3. In my opinion, this building is an example of Midcentury Modern architecture that possesses a high artistic value in its execution. It is more accurately assessed in this category than in the Builder-Developer category. Because it is a "Category B: Potential Historic Resource" (not Category C as the Response states) under the CEQA Categorical Exemption Determination, it deserves Advanced Historical Review."

Neighborhood involvement to oppose this project before the Planning Commission is very important to be

LETTERS page 14

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SPACE SHUTTLE ENDEAVOR September 21



The Space Shuttle Endeavor and NASA's 747 SCA flew over San Francisco on its way to Los Angeles.
PHOTOGRAPH BY EMMANUEL SCHNETZLER

Goats Hill Pizza Expands to West Portal

BY JONATHAN FARRELL
SPECIAL FROM THE WESTSIDE
OBSERVER

Last month Goat Hill Pizza opened its third City location, bringing the neighborhood camaraderie that's made the original Potrero Hill location a central meeting spot to eat, drink and enjoy an afternoon or evening to West Portal.

Established in 1975 on Connecticut Street, Goat Hill has gathered a loyal following that appreciate the pizzeria's 100 percent home-made dishes. With its signature sourdough pizza crust, fresh salads and soups and "all you can eat" Monday nights, Goat Hill Pizza has been a Potrero Hill favorite for almost 40 years. Co-owner Philip De Andrade hopes to build that same longevity and following in West Portal.

"West Portal is a happening place," he said, "I look forward to meeting new friends; I know they are going to love the food." Vandalism, in the form of acid-etched glass graffiti on the restaurant's storefront, didn't dampen De Andrade's enthusiasm for the neighborhood. "There is plenty of business here for everyone, we just concentrate on making the best pizza and pasta; the rest will take care of itself."

The West Portal outlet, which is located on West Portal Avenue next to

a public parking lot, features a bright, clean interior, with crisp red and black trim against warm gray walls. "We will be introducing specials and unique dishes designed just for our West Portal location," said general manager Elena Nuestadt, indicating that special calzones and salads will be on the menu. "We are excited to be a part of West Portal, and so far we have been getting lots of good feedback from locals who are happy we are moving in," she said.

While Goat Hill will compete with other neighborhood eateries — such as the Village Grill, located just a few doors away — West Portal residents seem to be welcoming the locally-owned mini-chain. "I'm thrilled that Goat Hill Pizza has opened another

establishment in my West Portal neighborhood," said author Joe Sutton. "Being a huge pizza lover, I don't have to travel across town anymore to enjoy their fabulous sourdough pizza."

"Our West Portal location will be cafeteria style, with 12 tables for people to order and sit at," Neustadt said. "No serving staff, that is only for our Potrero Hill location. Yet as we get more situated we will introduce specials offered only at West Portal." The restaurant already has a gluten-free crust alternative, as well as a vegan Dayla cheese option.

"Being a huge pizza lover, I don't have to travel across town anymore to enjoy their fabulous sourdough pizza."

JOE SUTTON, WEST PORTAL RESIDENT
AUTHOR, AND FAN OF GOAT HILL PIZZA



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COMMUNITY WORKSHOP – PARNASSUS

Wednesday, October 10
7:00 – 9:30 PM
UCSF Millberry Union
Conference Center
500 Parnassus Avenue

For more information, contact:
Karen Knowles-Pearce
Karen.Knowles-Pearce@ucsf.edu
415-476-8431

The UCSF Parnassus Campus is on MUNI lines 6, 43, 66, N-Judah. If you drive, we will validate parking in the UCSF public parking garage for \$1.75.

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP – MISSION BAY

Thursday, October 25
7:00 – 9:30 PM
UCSF Mission Bay Housing
Community Room
1505 4th Street

For more information, contact:
Michele Davis
Michele.Davis@ucsf.edu
415-476-3024

The UCSF Mission Bay Campus is accessible using the MUNI T-Third light rail line. If you drive, please park at no cost in the surface lot next to the Third Street Garage; this lot can be reached by taking 16th Street to 4th Street. Complimentary parking is not available in the garages.

UCSF's last Long Range Development Plan (LRDP), created in 1996, was designed to guide the university's physical development through 2012. UCSF is now embarking on its next LRDP, which has an expected planning horizon of about twenty years. Community involvement is a key facet of this planning process.

The purpose of the LRDP community participation process is to ensure maximum public involvement in this important planning process, with a focus on neighborhoods in proximity to UCSF's main sites. With an open and interactive process — identifying the best ideas and ensuring that all points of view are considered—the LRDP can integrate the needs of UCSF with those of our diverse San Francisco community. Both workshops — the first in a series — will give an overview of the LRDP process and touch on every major campus site. However, each will focus on the site where the meeting is being held. We will be conducting community workshops for these and other campus sites in 2013.

If you would like to be on our email notification list, please email community@cgr.ucsf.edu, specifying the campus site(s) of interest: Parnassus, Mission Bay, Laurel Heights, Mount Zion, San Francisco General Hospital.

Additional community meetings to be scheduled through Spring 2013.
www.community.ucsf.edu

UCSF fully ascribes to the Americans with Disabilities Act. If at any time you feel you have a need for accommodation, please contact UCSF Community & Government Relations at 415.476.3206 or community@cgr.ucsf.edu with your suggested accommodation.

ART DEPARTMENT



A view inside the Romer Young Gallery with owners Vanessa Blaikie and Joey Piziali standing with the current show, work by German artist, **Gwenaël Rattke**, shown below. PHOTOGRAPH BY DON NOLTE.

Romer Young Gallery

BY PAUL MCDONALD

Located at 1240 22nd Street, Romer Young Gallery is owned and managed by husband and wife Vanessa Blaikie and Joey Piziali, who met in 2003 while attending the San Francisco Art Institute. Formerly called "Ping Pong Gallery"—which served mostly as a social hang-out for artists and art enthusiasts, and actually housed a ping pong table—Romer Young has emerged as a more serious endeavor. The gallery sponsors a roster of 12 artists, who show their work at four week intervals. Currently on display are works by German artist Gwenaël Rattke. On November 2nd artists Daniel Tierney and Patrick Brennan will be featured.

Romer Young launched in its current form in 2010. Blaikie and Piziali, Potrero Hill residents, bill the space as "A contemporary art gallery focused on innovative, challenging and ambitious work." The gallery's new moniker is an amalgamation of the maiden names of the co-director's mothers, who share the same birth date, a coincidence the couple felt merited acknowledgement. Plus their

own names are difficult to pronounce.

The roughly 600 square foot gallery houses individual work spaces for Piziali, who focuses on abstract painting, and Blaikie who pursues print making, painting, and sculptures. The enterprise enables the couple to develop relationships with local, national and international artists. According to Blaikie, five years after graduating from art school, most students are doing things other than art, as the realities of making a living often win out over sticking to the creative process. The couple, who married in 2008, want to stay true to their artistic convictions. Romer Young provides them with a mechanism to hold on to their passion, though they do engage in some non-gallery activities to help pay the bills.

After eight years in business in one form or another, the gallery has developed an email list of more than 6,500 names, which grows as each new artist shares their contacts. Romer Young is open Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and by appointment.

For additional information: romeryounggallery.com.



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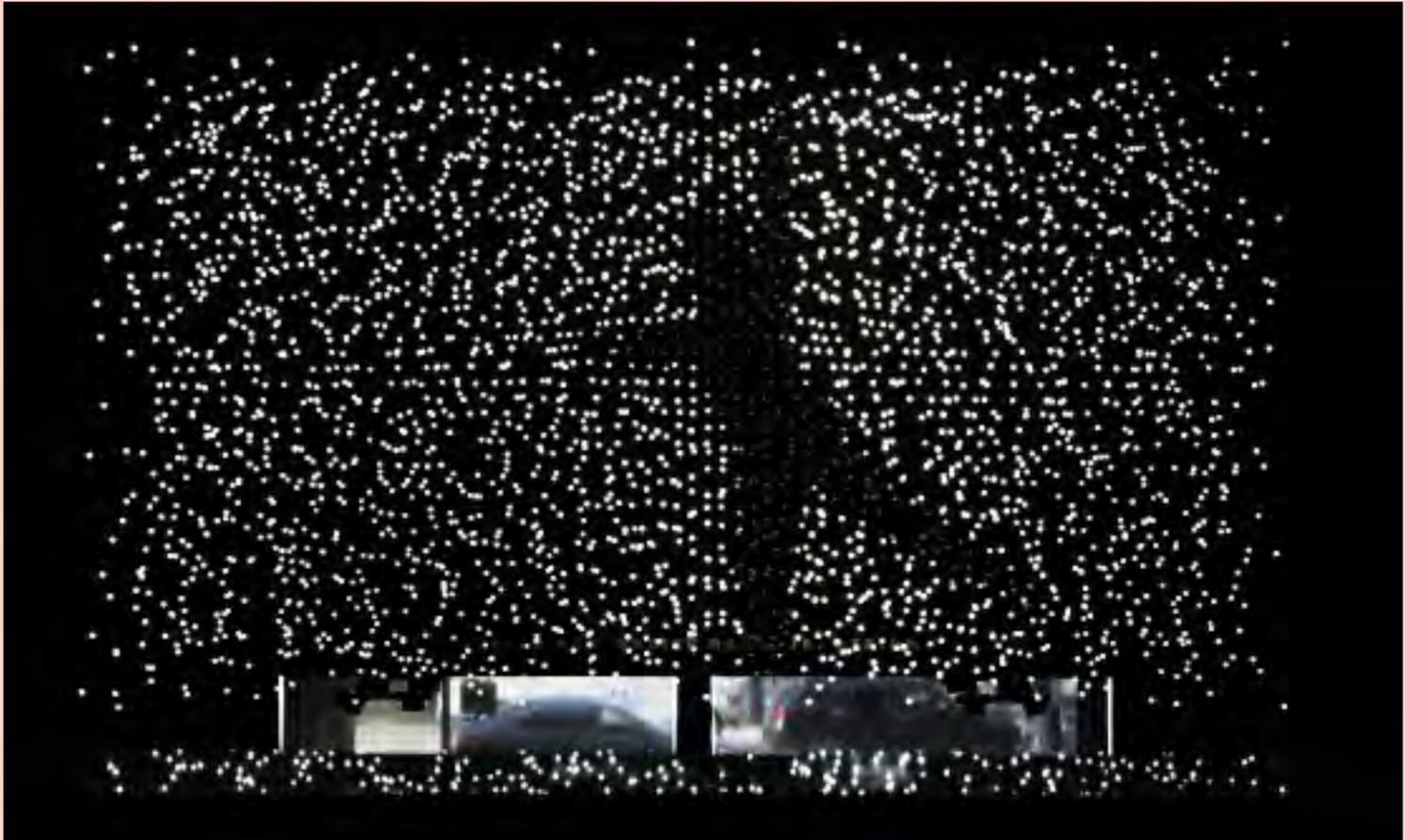
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DEHARO ARTIST, JIM CAMPBELL



Exploded Views, a mesmerizing sculpture made of 2,880 hanging LED lights by De Haro Street artist, Jim Campbell, was featured in San Francisco Museum of Modern Art's atrium last month. What at first looks like a flickering cloud became a scene of lively human silhouettes as the viewer moved away. Amazing! You can also see Jim Campbell's work in a world premier by Lines Ballet at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts October 19-28. —Peter Linenthal

IMAGES COURTESY OF ARTIST JIM CAMPBELL



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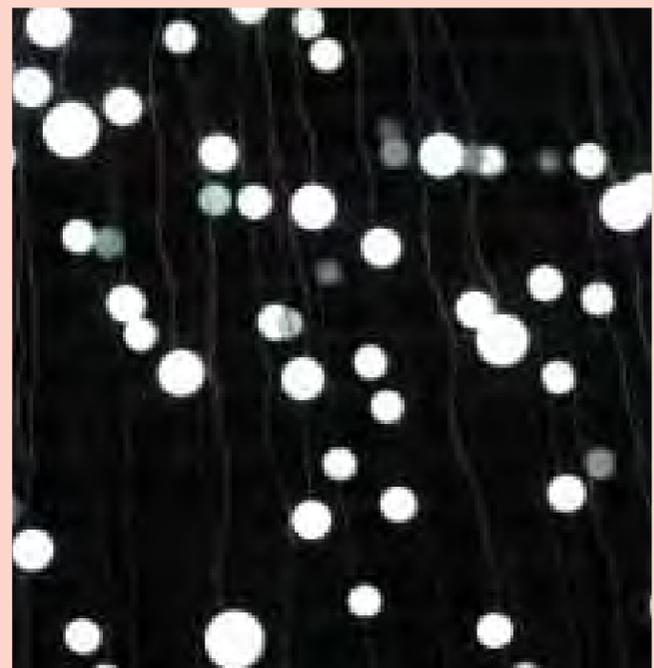
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Kids on the Block



Happy birthday to our big girl, Caroline!
Love, Daddy and Papa



Tristan turns 12 on October 30. He is here hanging out in Starr King Open Space with his friend, Pastis who is turning 15.



Happy fourth birthday Signe!
Love, Mom, Dad and Anderson



Happy Fourth birthday Jecca! Love Mummy, Daddy and Joshua

The View is delighted to publish local kids' birthdays, accomplishments, and milestones. Please email your image and/or caption to production@potreroview.net by the 18th of the prior month. High resolution photos, please!



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PETER LINENTHAL

At the October 20th Potrero Hill Festival, Potrero Hill Archives Project director Peter Linenthal will display a replica of the original branding iron used by Mission Dolores. Come make a print of the “F” for Franciscan, the religious order which founded the mission in 1776. The brand was once ubiquitous on Potrero Hill residents: the hundreds of cattle kept by the mission in their Potrero Nuevo, or new pasture. Find out more about the Hill’s history at the 13th annual Potrero Hill History Night, November 3!



INVITATION TO COMMENT

Draft Feasibility Study and Proposed Cleanup Plan Former Potrero Power Plant Northeast Area

Public Comment Period: September 24–October 23, 2012

The Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region (Water Board), announces a public comment period on a Draft Feasibility Study and Proposed Cleanup Plan (Draft Cleanup Plan) for the Northeast Area of the former Potrero Power Plant property. The area addressed by the Draft Cleanup Plan also includes the affected areas on a portion of the adjacent Pier 70 property. The Water Board is the lead agency overseeing environmental investigation and cleanup work at the site.

The Draft Cleanup Plan evaluates potential cleanup options and identifies one of those options as the preferred cleanup approach. The public comment period for the Draft Cleanup Plan will run from **September 24 to October 23, 2012**.

HOW DO I PARTICIPATE?

Public comments can be submitted orally or in writing any time during the public comment period. Please submit your comments by October 23, 2012, to Mark Johnson at the Regional Water Quality Control Board. See Water Board contact information below.

WHERE DO I GET MORE INFORMATION?

The Draft Feasibility Study and related site documents can be viewed at the following information repository:

Potrero Public Library, Reference Desk
1616 20th Street
San Francisco, California 94107

The Water Board also has documents and other technical information for the site available at their offices in Oakland (see address below), as well as electronically on the Geotracker website at: <https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov>. Click on advanced search and enter **Case ID number: 38S0038**.

WATER BOARD CONTACT INFORMATION:

Mark Johnson, Regional Water Quality Control Board
San Francisco Bay Region
1515 Clay Street, 14th Floor
Oakland, California 94612
(510) 622-2493 or mjohnson@waterboards.ca.gov



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- **GET WITH THE OLD**—It is easy to accumulate clutter over just a few years. Donating or discarding unneeded items can make a home feel more spacious—and make your photos more colorful.
- **DO NOT FORGET SMALL THINGS WITH BIG IMPACTS**—Simple steps like painting the garage floor or painting light fixtures can give your home a fresh and easy and inexpensive way to make a home more welcoming and lively.

If you are thinking about selling your home, call me at 415-710-8000 for a free copy of my 2012 Potrero Hill Real Estate Report.

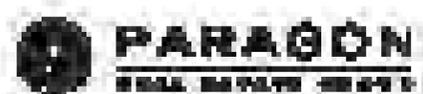


This booklet includes:

- Sales Prices for All Potrero Hill Homes Sold in 2011
- Why Prices are Rising on the Hill
- What Potrero Hill Buyers are Looking For
- How to Prepare Your Home for Sale



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SIDEWALK REPAIRS from Front Page

pedestrians – are repair priorities. These zones are defined as 12 inches from any physical obstruction from the property line, to within 12 inches of the closest obstruction – tree basin; parking meter – to the curb. For areas that are less than 48 inches wide, zones are defined as 12 inches beyond any physical obstruction from the property line, extending 48 inches to the curb.

DPW fields three Sidewalk Inspection & Repair Program (SIRP) inspectors. Defects that need to be repaired include sections “where the sidewalk pavement, or curb, is displaced by one-half inch or more from the abutting pavement or curb,” and “voids, cracks, chips, holes, gaps – where sidewalk pavement, or curb, has eroded leaving a one-half inch or more void, in width and/or depth, from abutting pavement or curb...these measurements should account for existing grades, slopes and existing sidewalk patterns,” according to DPW. Typically a damaged square has to be replaced, but temporary repair methods, such as patching and grinding, can also be used.

Sidewalk squares can be displaced by tree roots, or when the earth shifts, thereby reducing accessibility and increasing the risks of “trip and fall” lawsuits. State Highway Code 5611 and Public Works Code Section 706 “require [property] owners to maintain the sidewalk adjacent to their property.” There are four instances when the City or another entity is responsible for repairs: when the damage is caused by “city-maintained street trees as listed on the city’s street-tree database;” if the “damage is in the sidewalk corner;” if the damage is related to a utility, such as a wastewater treatment station; and if the sidewalk is composed of bricks or tiles, according to DPW Order Number 177,526.

Property owners have 30 days to initiate repairs from the date they receive a Notice to Repair Sidewalk. Otherwise, DPW can order the repairs to be completed as part of SIRP, with the owner responsible for all costs under the threat of a property lien. If repairs are done by a contractor, rather than the City, permits may be required. Repairing a three foot by three foot section of sidewalk doesn’t require a permit; 100 square feet or more does. “The price of our most current SIRP contract is \$10.40 per square foot,” Linetzky said. “For the typical three foot by three foot sidewalk section, the cost for the City to repair the

sidewalk works out to be \$93.60.”

“Property owners who qualify under economic hardship can apply for a deferred payment plan of up to \$5,000,” according to DPW. “This plan is designed to assist those on limited fixed incomes as well as household incomes below minimum levels as established by the Mayor’s Office of Housing.” If DPW does the work two billing options are available: full payment within thirty days of completion of the work; or payment rendered through the owner’s next property tax bill. Under this option, an administrative fee of 12 percent is added.

Vermont Street resident Frank Bodnar, who has lived on Potrero Hill since 1974, wants the City to take responsibility to repair neighborhood sidewalks. “Our concern is that...they do the same for City-owned streets. A lot of our blocks need help desperately!” he said by email.

SIRP is “a proactive program implemented in 2007,” according to DPW. Its inspection “schedule is prioritized by a number of factors, including pedestrian usage as well as community elements that include: commercially-zoned districts, as defined by the Planning Department; MUNI routes; sidewalks within 500 feet of schools, public facilities, hospitals, or senior centers; and population density, as defined in the 2000 Census,” Linetzky wrote in an email. “Sidewalks identified with the greatest number of these community elements are inspected and repaired first. Proactive sidewalk inspections are constant citywide, and all City sidewalks are on a 25-year cycle to get repairs.” DPW inspected 18 corridors in fiscal year 2011/2012, including 24th Street and South-of-Market blocks.

Rather than repair broken sidewalks, Friends of the Urban Forest (FUF) encourages property owners to create gardens or plant trees. “Usually sidewalk inspectors are willing to give extensions if they know people are working with FUF,” said Karla Nagy, FUF’s sidewalk landscape program director. “Though it’s not always realistic to get an extension.” FUF’s projects require “a majority of the people on the block to participate” and “the project’s usually take a year or more,” Nagy said. Many of the Hill’s sidewalks are wide enough to accommodate new garden space and pedestrians.

FUF subsidizes some of the costs associated with landscaping projects. “FUF will incur expenses and costs prior to planting day through [a

resident’s] participation ...These [fees] include permit processing, administrative expenses, underground utility identification, concrete cutting and removal; sourcing plants, materials and other supplies; coordination of volunteers, and planting logistics,” according to a FUF application form. Sidewalk gardens can raise property values, according to DPW, provide drainage for rainwater, and offer habitat for birds and butterflies.

Right Only a few of the dotted areas contain damage like this, where the danger to pedestrians is clear. **Below** Resident Mat Balen chose the green path in response to DPW repair mandate, which is highly encouraged by SF DPW Urban Forestry, however it does require regular watering and maintenance, as well as a permit—yet another payment to DPW. PHOTOGRAPH (RIGHT) BY DON NOLTE, PHOTOGRAPH (BELOW) COURTESY OF MAT BALEN



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LETTERS from page 6

successful. If you want to join us in opposing this addition, write to Mr. Sucre, Preservation Technical Specialist/Planner, at the San Francisco Planning Department. The meeting before the Planning Commission is scheduled for October 18. Letters regarding this issue should arrive on or before October 9 to be included in the packets the commissioners will receive in advance, but can be sent until the meeting.

Abrasha Staszewski
De Haro Street

Editor,

We're long-time Potrero Hill residents who are firmly opposed to plans for the giant Kaiser building (see "Dogpatch and Potrero Hill Thick with New Developments," August). We don't write this solely to protect the skyline view our families and visitors to Potrero Hill have enjoyed for generations, but more to protect the neighborhood, which is threatened by outsized commercial growth in this area.

The presence of a Kaiser building at the base of Potrero Hill will disrupt family life in our neighborhood, increase traffic congestion, worsen street parking for residents and local businesses, and diminish our rights to peace and security in probably the last neighborhood frontier close to downtown San Francisco.

We're not anti-business or anti-

commerce in any way. We know businesses and health establishments are necessary for jobs and public welfare. That being said, a massive medical facility that's 84 feet high and 200,000 square feet isn't befitting of a neighborhood such as Potrero Hill. It can, however, be very well absorbed into Mission Bay, where large new developments are embraced.

Our neighborhood is a community where we plant and care for trees on the sidewalks at our own expense, where we have traditions such as family walks, and where we know our neighbors by name. As residents, we need to protect the special character of neighborhoods such as ours. We need a balance of both commercial expansion and neighborhood protection in our community. If we neglect the latter, we contribute to the faceless, nameless and impersonal society that our city planners and zoning regulations should safeguard us against.

Dina and Richard Dwyer
Mariposa Street

Colleen Bradley
Missouri Street

Sarah Gudernatch and Simon Murtha-Smith
Connecticut Street

Nancy and Keith Anding
Missouri Street

Cindy Sterne
De Haro Street

PARK BOND from Front Page

trucks going through the park."

In response to the chronic neglect of a cherished community resource, Farrugia started "Help McLaren Park." At first it had 20 members; it soon grew to 350. The group organizes events every third Saturday to help with deferred maintenance. They wade into McNab Lake and pull out moss once a year. "We have a stronger sense of community in the park, and that is what makes the park safer," he said.

Over the last few years Farrugia has seen the park change. In 2010, Help McLaren Park received grants from San Francisco Parks Trust and San Francisco Beautiful to erect a kiosk at the Gambier and Burrows streets entrance to help visitors. Farrugia now sees people running with their dogs and walking their children, in places that were previously deserted. "The bond is just the starting point," said Farrugia, who estimated that the park needs more than \$100 million dollars of maintenance. In collaboration with community groups, the Trust for Public Land is designing a Master Plan for McLaren Park, which will help Farrugia and other advocates raise matching funds if the bond passes. For Farrugia, a firefighter with small children, organizing for his neighborhood park has become a second profession, "unfortunately it never ends," he said.

To the east of McLaren, along the waterfront, the Blue Greenway is slowly unfolding. The project was launched in

2004, with the goal of creating a waterfront trail and bike path stretching from AT&T to Monster Park. "Ultimately, I could walk or ride my bike all the way from AT&T Park to Monster Park. It is a great alternative transit route for, say, people working at Genentech," said Matthew O'Grady, San Francisco Parks Alliance's executive director. Along with development of the trail, kayak rentals, windsurfing, and boat ramps would increase access to the bay.

The 2008 bond dedicated \$22 million to six sites along the trail. The 2012 park bond would allot \$16.5 million to four District 10 trail sites. The largest of those are located in Pier 70, which stretches between Mariposa and 22nd streets. The pier—historically a shipyard and still home to ship repairer BAE systems—will ultimately feature four open spaces: Crane Cove Park, Slipways Park, Machine Shop Courtyard, and Central Plaza. The green spaces will make the industrial space inviting to pedestrians, and highlight the area's maritime history, putting the cranes that have been used to build ships on display.

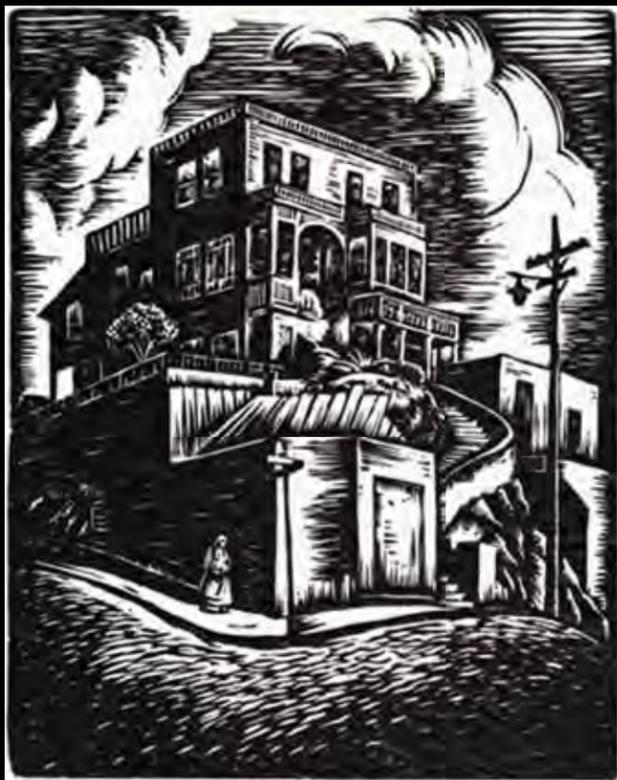
Ships being repaired at Pier 70 can be seen from a vantage point slightly north of the pier at another site targeted by the bond, Agua Vista Park. The park, located at 16th street, will connect to Bayfront Park, which was developed with 2008 bond funds. Further south are two other sites included in the bond: Warm Water Cove Park and Islais Creek. Both will receive improved waterfront walkways, plantings, and lighting.

PARK BOND page 17

THE POTRERO HILL ARCHIVES PROJECT *and*

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at Mission Bay

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Charles Surendorf 1937

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Saturday, November 3, 2012

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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS FROM SOMA TO BAYVIEW

Improvements Called for at Youngblood-Coleman Playground

BY MORGANE BYLOOS

A Bayview community advocate is working to demonstrate that ‘it takes a village’ is more than just a saying. Vanessa Banks is leading the “We 4 Youngblood-Coleman Park Initiative,” which aims to rehabilitate the Youngblood-Coleman Playground, on Hudson Avenue. Banks grew up near the park, and is concerned that use of it has drastically decreased in the past few years. “This was the only place we had to play and socialize without being on the streets,” Banks said. “I want this park back up for this community.”

Born of tragedy, the park has long been a mecca for neighborhood children. In 1974, Rubin Youngblood and Wardell Coleman Jr., both 10 years old, were killed at the then-public housing construction site when a dirt wall collapsed and caved in on them while they were playing. The incident prompted the City to modify plans to build housing, instead creating a park dedicated to the boys’ families in 1979.

Born of tragedy, the park has long been a mecca for neighborhood children. In 1974, Rubin Youngblood and Wardell Coleman Jr., both 10 years old, were killed at the then-public housing construction site. PHOTOGRAPH BY MORGANE BYLOOS

Banks, who is working on a community health degree at Community College of San Francisco, isn’t alone in her efforts to revitalize the community asset. The initiative has received support from the nearby Butchertown Association,

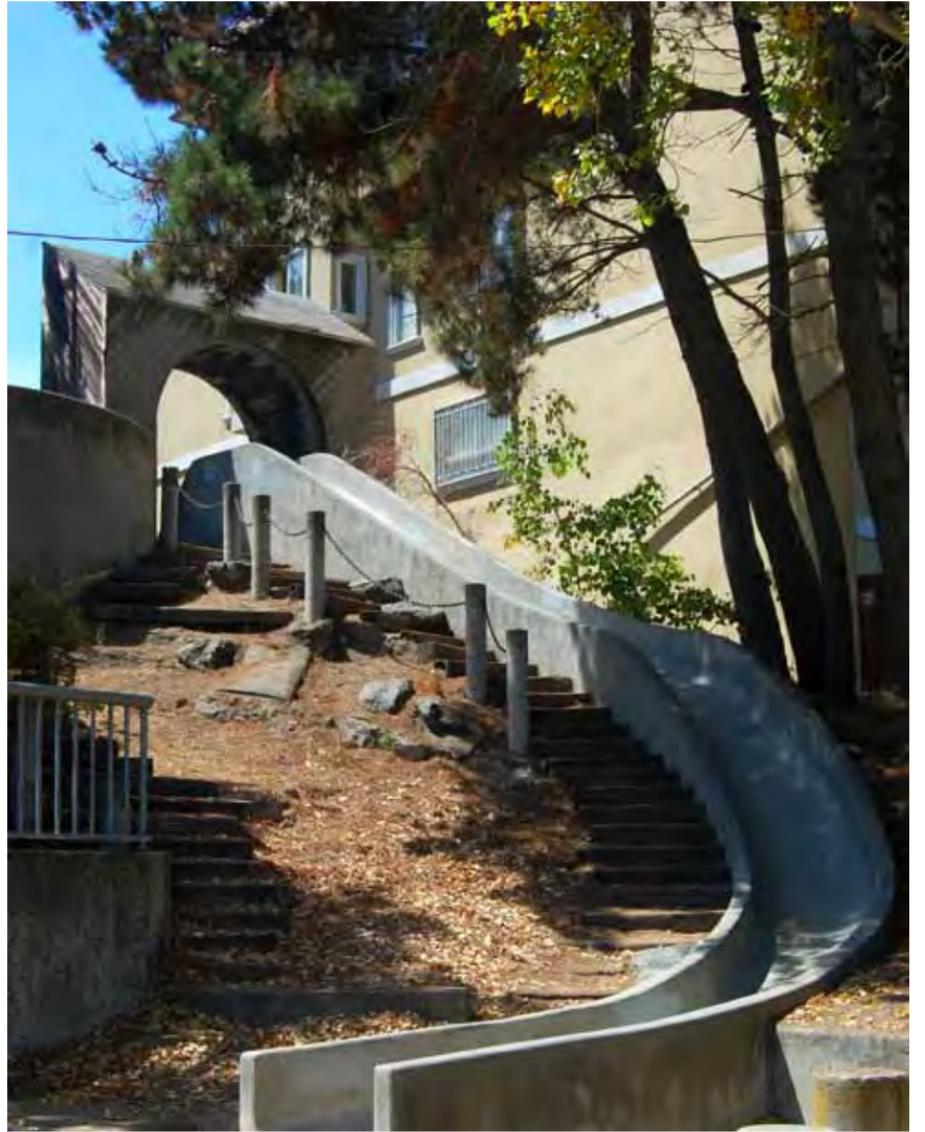
Bayview-Hunters Point YMCA, Habitat for Humanity of Greater San Francisco, Javalencia, Parks 94124, San Francisco Department of Recreation and Parks, and SF Art Everywhere. BMAGIC, Bayview Mobilization for Ado-

lescent Growth in our Communities, is helping Banks and fellow residents evaluate what needs to be done to provide a nicer environment for kids to play. “When [Banks] called, we immediately jumped on board,” said Lyslynn Lacoste, BMAGIC’s director. “We did a walkthrough,

PLAYGROUND *Southside* page 3

“This was the only place we had to play and socialize without being on the streets.”

VANESSA BANKS, LEADER OF THE YOUNGBLOOD-COLEMAN PARK INITIATIVE



Speakeasy Celebrates 15 Years

BY SIMON STAHL

Hundreds turned out to celebrate Speakeasy Ale & Lagers’ 15th anniversary last month. Since it was launched in 1997, the Bayview brewery has become known for its balanced, robust-yet-drinkable beers; perhaps most famously its Big Daddy I.P.A. and Prohibition Ale. At the celebration, Speakeasy’s friendly staff struggled to keep up with demand. Partygoers waited in line for as long as 15 minutes to exchange three dollar poker chips for the crisp, wheaty White Lightning or the smooth, dark Butchertown Black. Crowd favorites tended toward the more potent: the 9.5 percent ABV Double Daddy and the 10 percent ABV XVth Anniversary Ale, both Imperial I.P.A.’s, drew frequent praise.

Speakeasy’s guests paired their libations with offerings from Taco El Tuca, All Good Pizza, Southern Sandwich, Kasa Indian, and Ritual Roasters. While some enjoyed the bright, clear weather outside, others packed inside the brewery to listen to local bands, like Porkchop Express, whose Americana, Honky-Tonk sound complemented Speakeasy’s overall theme. Frontman Collin Conoley, who wailed hard on an



PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF SPEAKEASY

electric ukulele, was excited to play for such a receptive audience: “We’ve been drinking Speakeasy a lot. I like the whole Prohibition-Speakeasy vibe.”

The brewery offers tours every Friday at 4:30 p.m., and opens their warehouse bar to the public Fridays and Saturdays from 4 to 9 p.m. By combining these two features at their anniversary celebration San Franciscans enjoyed some of their favorite beers just feet from where they were created.

The brewery conveys the staff’s personality: fun-loving, but serious about beer. A disco ball hangs from the ceiling; a keg is made into a bull, with stirrups and horns attached; a potted plant is decorated with a moustache and the trademark Speakeasy eyes. In just a decade and a half Speakeasy has earned a permanent place in the hearts and fridges of thousands of San Franciscans.

Cut Loose Prospers in Bayview

BY SIMON STAHL

As fashionistas shop for their fall wardrobe, one Bayview-based label offers a unique approach to fashion. Produced at their factory near Third Street, Cut Loose’s collection for women conveys a relaxed sophistication, with strong colors and flowing lines. But what sets the business apart is its fabrication process. Each article on offer is sewn before being dyed in any of 19 seasonal colors. This approach enables boutiques to customize their orders with colors applied to their specifications, selected from 323 fall combinations. Customers can mix and match various dyed-to-order articles to create endless, uniquely layered possibilities.

Cut Loose was started by two European expatriates in 1977, who sold drawstring pants and T-shirts on Fisherman’s Wharf. Without dressing rooms, the clothing had to be one size, so it was literally cut loose to accommodate a range of body types. Cut Loose distinguished itself from the many T-shirt outlets that persist along that tourist boulevard by hand-dyeing garments in unique, vibrant colors in a Victorian claw-footed bathtub.

From the bathtub Cutloose graduated to old washing machines with mangles on top, and from there to



PHOTOGRAPH BY DEY

customized machines and computerized dye vats to ensure consistent color. Now the company—which is still owned by its original founders—has a store in Solana Beach, north of San Diego, a factory outlet on Valencia and 23rd streets, and its clothing is sold across North America and the United Kingdom.

True to its San Francisco roots, Cut Loose demonstrates its commitment to environmental sustainability with the use of non-toxic dyes and minimalist, recycled shipping materials. The rigorous coloring process, where garments are soaked in near-boiling vats of non-toxic dye, consumes substantial amounts of salt. This produces brackish waste water, which the company is careful to neutralize to prevent corrosion to the City’s pipes. Even fabric scraps are recycled into smaller accessories, like scarves, napkins, and scrunchies, which are offered for sale at the factory outlet.



Bay Natives Nursery Offers Indigenous Plants

BY PAUL MCDONALD

At the end of Cargo Way, across the street from the entrance to Heron Head's Park, is a nursery that specializes in native plants. Bay Natives, a fifty-fifty venture between avid naturalists and renowned plant guys Geoffrey Coffey and Paul Furman, opened last fall. Almost a year old, the business offers hundreds of varieties of plants native to the San Francisco Bay Area.

Coffey and Furman have known each other for years. Both share a passion for plants; specifically ones that grew — in many cases, exclusively — in the Bay Area far before humans stepped into and on top of them.

Furman is a landscape architect, naturalist and photographer. Coffey previously owned Madroño Landscape Design Studio, and formerly wrote a column for the *San Francisco Chronicle's* Home and Garden section on local plants.

"There are thousands of native plants in California, and somewhere in the neighborhood of 20 grasses alone

that are native to the Bay Area," said Coffey. Many of these are sold at Bay Natives, which began in 2005 as an on-line venture. More than 20 types of manzanita, and many trees, shrubs and flowers with fun names like California Lilac, Monkey flower, Sea side daisy, pipevine, seathrift and Islais Cherry are offered at the nursery.

Although located in a remote part of the City, the nursery feels like it's in the center of everything, as it's surrounded by large trucks serving Recology's nearby recycling center, the Bay Railroad, and the massive development slowly emerging at the Hunters Point Shipyard. The Port of San Francisco, which owns the land on which Bay Natives

operates, is pumping millions of dollars into restoring and expanding the nearby Bay Trail and adding new bicycle trails.

Bay Natives sponsors monthly talks on the second Wednesday of the month, from 6 to 7 p.m., at the Eco Center at Heron's Head Park. These programs are part of Bay Natives' mission of spreading knowledge of native plants, as well as propagating the plants themselves. In the future Coffey and Furman hope to open a café within their nursery, and use it to host special events.

For information: baynatives.com.

"There are thousands of native plants in California, and somewhere in the neighborhood of 20 grasses alone that are native to the Bay Area."

— GEOFFREY COFFEY

Geoffrey Coffey and Paul Furman, owners of Bay Natives stand with their favorite bay native plants. PHOTOGRAPHS BY PAUL MCDONALD (TOP RIGHT) DON NOLTE (TOP LEFT AND BOTTOM)



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PHOTOGRAPHS BY MORGANE BYLOOS

PLAYGROUND from *Southside Front Page*

and we were able to identify some of the needs that we have and put them on a map." Proposed improvements include additional garbage cans, dog-free court and field areas, murals, new paint, and sculptures.

According to Rec and Parks' Park Service Area Manager Robert Watkins, the park has been partially renovated since the department acquired it from the Redevelopment Agency in the early 1980s. Rec and Parks installed a new synthetic field in 2004 and a brand-new bathroom that's "one of the best in the City" in 2011, Watkins said. Kimberly Kiefer, Rec and Parks' director of volunteer programs, said the park receives 30 hours of maintenance a week, more than many other City parks.

But for Banks that's not enough. She wants to offer services to the community, such as yoga classes, movie nights, clean-up days, kickball tournaments, food vendors, child care, and a food pantry. "There are people trying, but we need to try all together," Banks said. "I just want the kids to have hope and keep

their minds off where they don't need to be, get them out of the TV."

According to Watkins, one of the reasons visits to the park have declined is because "softball is not as big in the City as it used to be," and there aren't as many kids. Kiefer highlighted the importance of having neighborhood advocates like Banks. "Volunteers are the cornerstone of our community and partnering organizations," Kiefer said. "In this day and age we cannot afford to sit back and not take an active role giving back to our parks and recreation centers. The level of service by San Franciscans is crucial to our operations and to our communities. We are a City of service, and we rely on the 147,367 hours performed by our amazing volunteers every year."

Turnout for a day of service held at the park last summer was good. Last month National Public Lands Day sponsored an event at the green space at which community members participated in a kickball tournament.

For more information: [facebook.com/We4YoungbloodColemanParkInitiative](https://www.facebook.com/We4YoungbloodColemanParkInitiative)

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Bayview Native Cooks Good Food

BY PAUL MCDONALD

Dontaye Ball, founder of Urban Gourmet Kitchen, has a passion for food that began when he was just eight years old, working alongside his grandmother baking cookies and cakes in her Bayview kitchen. As a youngster Ball participated in the San Francisco Boys and Girls club, wrote a cookbook for kids at age 10, and was getting paid for his burgeoning food endeavors at 17. Now, just 29, he's setting the table for big things, with a catering business, a new restaurant outside of San Francisco General Hospital (SFGH) — Hearty Café—and soon, a fleet of food trucks.

Ball's personality matches his self-described "hefty" physique and passionate love for everything culinary. After graduating from J. Eugene McAteer High School, he attended City College of San Francisco's culinary arts program, traveled to Europe, returned to San Francisco and learned his trade at renowned restaurant Delfina, with stints at Spork, Contigo and Google.

"Chef," as Ball is called, owns Good Foods Catering, the foundation for his expanding food empire. He can be found most days at a permanent trailer just outside SFGH's main entrance. Opened last summer, the eatery starts serving at 6 a.m. and stays open until

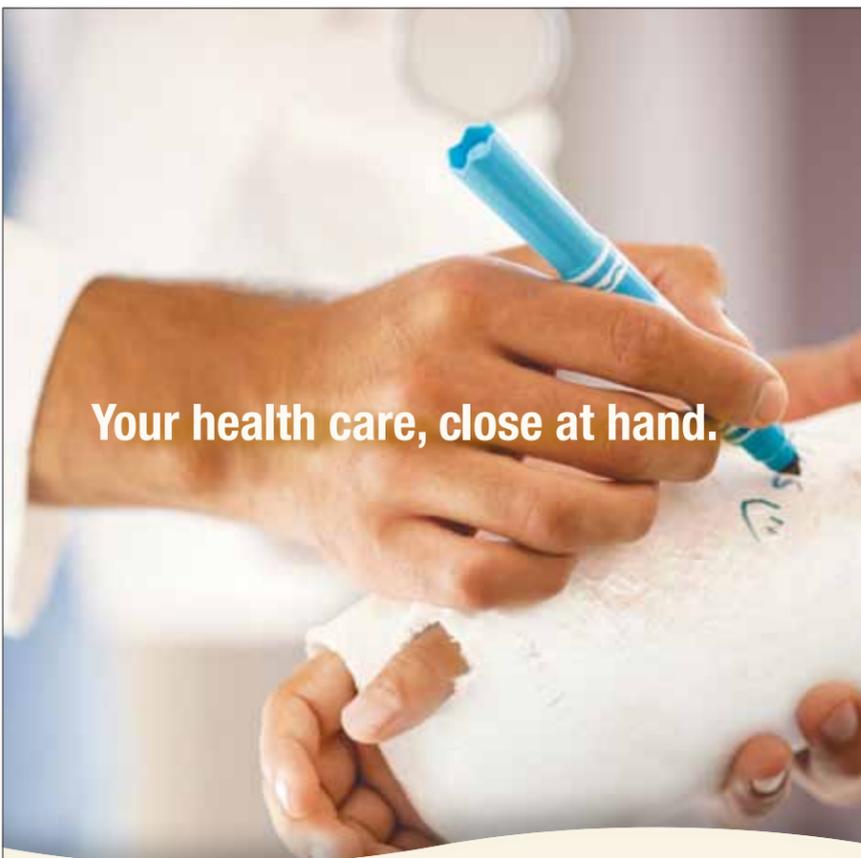
9 p.m., offering, lunch and dinner to a passing crowd of nurses, doctors, and patients, who Ball prefers to call "guests." Hearty Café's motto is to serve "local, fast, healthier food," with no trans fats, low salt and vegan and vegetarian options. As part of the agreement to secure the well-traveled spot, Ball provides monthly cooking demonstrations as part of the hospital's "healthy living" community wellness program.

Ball, who lives in Bayview, prefers to employ low-income District 10 residents who may not initially present well. He takes as much time and concern with his current 15 employees as he does with the ingredients of his well thought out menu offerings. "You need to love yourself first, then you can love what you do," said Ball, who attributes his management philosophy to Delfina, a family atmosphere is cultivated based on trust, open communication and varied interests. One of Ball's employees has web skills, so was tasked with building the enterprise's website; another is free to express their design talents for creating enticing atmospheres for their catering events.

On Sundays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Ball can be found at the Stonestown Farmers Market serving barbeque watermelon and cinnamon French toast, finished on the grill. And he'll be at the Potrero Hill Festival, October 20th, serving his specialty sandwiches and salads.

Dontaye Ball making lunch in his food truck.

PHOTOGRAPH BY PAUL MCDONALD



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DNA from page 4

and City Attorney Dennis Herrera, members of the motorcycle club Hells Angels, and representatives of Local 104, the Sheet Metal Workers union, with roughly 60 people packing the room. A large portion of the gathering was devoted to discussing Walden Development's plans to construct Kaiser Permanente medical offices and connected housing on 16th and Missouri streets. According to Kaiser representative Randy Wittrop, "San Francisco is not an easy city to find land that is developable." Plans for the outpatient facility include three floors of underground parking and a 68-foot tall building. The next door residential building would have 185 residential units, stand 48 feet tall, with four floors, and more underground parking. In response to questions about the proposal, Wittrop said that the building wouldn't likely be approved and constructed for at least three more years. Doumani noted that the neighborhood was still "reeling" from the suburban feel of the UCSF-Mission Bay campus, and "this would not help with that."

Lev Bereznycky then explained his plans to renovate an industrially-zoned building located at 2538 Third Street into a residential unit. Various attendees voiced their support for the development, and touted the proposed design as a creative use of space that doesn't expand the existing building's size and incorporates green outdoor spaces. Others vowed to write letters of

support to the Planning Department. DNA voted unanimously to back the development, which includes cutting out sections of the warehouse to create negative space.

Things got heated as the night wore on, and preliminary plans for a residential complex at 1201 Tennessee Street were introduced. The concept of the 300-unit project is rough, but the design firm and architects had opted to engage in a community conversa-

tion early in the process, showing a draft of a large mass that would cover a desolate, warehouse-heavy area at the neighborhood's outskirts. Although just a massing to show the maximum amount of space that could be legally built out, the drawing spurred negative comments. Some members yelled out "This is horrible" or "This is scary," while others said, "You don't want to show this to us; it couldn't be any worse." Carpinelli commented that the design team would have to trim down the building, while other attendees pointed out potential problems with noise and traffic. Herrera, who had been a quiet spectator at the meeting, told the presenters that the proposal had to be refined, and encouraged the

project sponsor, AGI Capital, to reach out to neighbors as the design process continued, but only when more specifics had been pinpointed.

Discussion of the controversial Opera Warehouse residential building proposal, at 800 Indiana Street, was differed to a special follow-up meeting scheduled for this month, usually a non-meeting month for the group, which typically meets only on odd-numbered months.

"Part of our dream for 22nd Street is to be connected to the rest of the Hill."

JANET CARPINELLI, REPRESENTING DNA AND GREENTRUST,
ABOUT A PROPOSED 22ND AND MISSOURI STREET



Carpinelli noted that conflicts with residential developments often arise because of the neighborhood's mixed zoning, which supports both housing and heavy industry. Residential projects often take advantage of the oversized plots originally set aside for industrial uses and "max out the volume" of their projects, something DNA keeps a close eye on.

As the meeting wound down members unanimously voted to spend a total of \$1,500: \$500 for a booth at this month's Potrero Hill Festival, and \$1,000 to design a mini-park landscaped with California native plants at the Woods Muni facility. GreenTrust SF will invest \$1,300 in the garden project, with local landscape design

firm Madroño donating \$500.

The association's website, mydogpatch.org, serves as a community forum, and the medium through which Carpinelli can quickly reach members. Almost 700 people have registered on the site, though not all of those have paid dues. In addition to taking on development issues, the group gets involved in neighborhood events, including last month's annual coastal cleanup day. Along with GreenTrust, DNA has adopted Warm Water Cove, helping to steward the small shoreline park at the end of 24th Street. Carpinelli highlighted the annual Christmas party the association hosts for members, residents, and businesses. This year's party will be held on December 11, at 7 p.m., at a yet-to-be-determined location.

At a recent walk organized by non-profit Walk SF and the San Francisco Park Alliance, Carpinelli, representing DNA and GreenTrust, spoke about a proposed 22nd and Missouri street project on land on which a storage facility is located. "Part of our dream for 22nd Street is to be connected to the rest of the Hill," she said. When the walk ended at Warm Water Cove, Carpinelli reiterated the importance of having green, undeveloped spaces in the City's Southside neighborhoods, which feature expansive views of the Bay and East Bay. "We encourage people to come here," she said. "The DNA didn't realize we could have this in our Dogpatch neighborhood."

DNA meets on the second Tuesday of odd-numbered months. For more information: mydogpatch.org.

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LIBRARY NEWS

BY LYNNE BARNES, POTRERO BRANCH LIBRARIAN

Programs for Adults

All Power to the Imagination: A Review of Surrealism and Its Connections to Oceanic Art. This presentation, by the Fine Arts Museums' Docent Council, will review Surrealism and the major players in the movement, highlighting the Fine Arts Museums' collection of Surrealist artists, including Tanguy, Donati, Matta, and Miro. It will explore the Surrealist's connections with Oceanic art, which inspired them. October 20, 3 to 4 p.m.

eBook and eAudiobook Help Sessions. Bring your Kindle, Nook, iPad, or other eReader device with you and learn how to download books and other materials for free from the Library website. For adults, 18+. October 3, 17, and 31, 6:30 p.m.

Consumer Health Information and Alternative Medicine. Learn how to find information on alternative and complementary medical practices, recommended therapies for specific disorders and diseases, and medicinal uses for plants and herbs, using the Encyclopedia of Alternative Medicine database. No medical advice will be given. Instructor: Richard Le. October 14, 3 to 4:30 p.m.

Genealogy Research. Learn how to conduct genealogy searches and find people using U.S. census data, vital records, directories, photos, and genealogical records. Learn to access and use the Library's Ancestry and Heritage Quest Genealogy Search. For students, amateur genealogists, and novice researchers. October 28, 3 to 4:30 p.m.

Programs for Children

Baby Rhyme and Play Time. For infants up to 18 months and their caregiver. Tuesdays, October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, 1:15 to 1:45 p.m.

Family Storytime. Storytime features stories, songs, and rhymes. For children up to five years and their caregiver. October 4, 11, 18, 25, 10:30 to 11 a.m. and 11:15 to 11:45 a.m.

¡Baila Conmigo! **Dance With Me!** Maria Luna integrates Mexican folk dance and creative movement. Learn dances from different regions in Mexico, including structured footwork and partner dancing. For children of all ages. October 6, 4 to 5:30 p.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. October's films will be *Halloween*, *Beneath the Ghost Moon*, *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom*, *Giggle Giggle Quack*, and *Chrysanthemum*. For children ages three to eight years. October 10, 6:30 to 7:15 p.m.

Make Art Workshop: Day of the Dead Marigolds. In celebration of the Day of the Dead, learn to make these symbolic paper marigolds. Create one for a loved one, a shrine, or simply for decoration. For children ages 6 to 12. October 13, 4 to 5:30 p.m.

Celebrate Día de los Muertos. In this workshop, Anita Lucio will explain the history of Día de los Muertos and help you decorate an altar with handmade marigolds and mementos. For children and their families. October 27, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Library-Sponsored Community Partnerships

San Francisco Seed Library at the Potrero Branch Library. In partnership with the San Francisco Seed Library, the Potrero Branch has seeds available for "checkout," on the first floor beneath the staircase.

The Potrero Hill Book Club meets at the library every third Wednesday evening. October's selection is *The Man Who Loved Books Too Much* by Allison Hoover Bartlett. October 17, 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Creative Writing Workshop. Join writer, filmmaker, and journalist Shevi Rosenfeld Loewinger for a free class to help you write stories, develop characters, and find your own unique voice, all in a supportive and creative environment. Information: sheviros@gmail.com or 415.602.7961. October 4, 11, 18, 25, 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

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PARK BOND from page 14

While O’Grady estimated that Blue Greenway completion is decades away—mainly due to the long time it will take to develop the Hunters Point Shipyard area—he believed most of it will be finished by 2025. “It is quite exciting,” he said. “It is one of the biggest developments of open space in many years. It is going to have a huge impact on the whole City.” However, this impact will only be realized if funds are available to support it. “The bond is really, really important not just for the southeast, but for the whole City,” said Martin. “I strongly support it.”

MISSION PONY from Front Page

master, founder, engineer and artist behind the miniature, mechanical horses that she creates under an emerging company she calls “Mission Pony.” Ellis builds her herd in her garage. She rides them around the Mission District or Potrero Hill when she runs errands or gets coffee. Sometimes she rides one to piano lessons at 17th and Sanchez streets, tying her pony up out front. What would normally be a 10 minute bicycle trip can turn into a 40 minute pony ride because of the many stops along the way to chat or get a photograph taken. “People get so excited about them,” said Ellis. “It makes people happy.”

Ellis named her venture “Mission Pony” because she likes to ride on the Mission District’s flat streets.

Top April Ellis dons proper riding gear atop her favorite Mission Pony. *Bottom* Saddles line the walls of Ellis’ garage awaiting riders.

“Plus,” she said, “Potrero is where the goats live and the Mission is where the horses are,” referring to that area’s historical use as San Francisco’s stable lands.

This month the ponies will be ridden for sport at the Slovenian Hall on Mariposa Street, where Ellis married Dave Paschich two and half years ago. Ellis hopes to have 12 ponies ready for the event, which will include polo—using croquet mallets—and fox hunting, where riders chase a toy fox atop the chassis of a remote controlled car. Some ponies may be converted into unicorns, a creature often requested by her friends and supporters. A mechanical giraffe is in the works to referee the games.

While Ellis’ husband, Paschich, doesn’t often mount the ponies, preferring to ride his bike alongside Ellis, he supports his wife’s vocation. “It’s a nutty idea,” said Paschich adding that he wasn’t surprised. “I kind of saw it coming.”

Ellis has always loved dressing up in elaborate costumes, as well as collecting horses. The room next to her garage is lined with shelves filled with horse figurines. She got interested in mechanical ponies after building a horse-like sled out of recycled materials for the “Bring Your Own Big Wheel” race, held every Easter on

MISSION PONY page 26



PHOTOGRAPH BY DON NOLTE

“People get so excited about them. It makes people happy.”

APRIL ELLIS, FOUNDER OF MISSION PONY



PHOTOGRAPH BY BRIAN RINKER



December, 1959, “contrasting homes of ‘hill dwellers’ on Arkansas St., gabled Victorian model and new one-story job.” S. F. News-Call Bulletin photo by Sid Tate. Courtesy SAN FRANCISCO HISTORY CENTER, SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY.

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City and County of San Francisco Department of Elections

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November 6 General Election

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Request to vote by mail by **October 30**
Vote early at City Hall **October 9 – November 6**
Polls open 7:00 AM – 8:00 PM **November 6**



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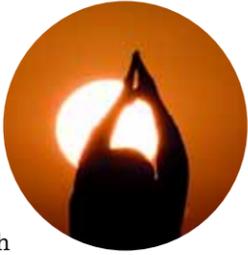
COMMUNITY CALENDAR

OCTOBER 2012

Wednesdays in October

Body: Restorative Yoga at Yoga Sita

Do you love Yoga, but don't feel up to a class with 108 downward facing dogs? For those with an injury or illness who are looking to restore equilibrium; those who feel their body slower or muscles tighter; those who are entering the age of "senior", or those who know the bliss of a slow moving Yoga practice— this class is for you. Come, learn how to relax into poses and breathe deeply in this new Restorative Yoga class. Wednesdays, 4 to 5:30 p.m. Yoga Sita, 1501 Mariposa Street # 308; Information: yogasitasf.com



October 4 through November 7

Health: Managing Health Conditions Workshop

The workshop was developed by Stanford School of Medicine and is geared towards people concerned with diabetes, arthritis, heart problems and other chronic conditions. The workshop will teach participants how to: manage pain, stress, and fatigue; be more fit and eat healthier; work more effectively with doctors and healthcare professionals; set goals and problem solve to make positive change; learn mind-body techniques like deep breathing, guided imagery and feel better about taking care of their health. Free. (Participants can join until 10/10). Everyone is welcome though space is limited. Workshop is in English. San Francisco General Hospital, 2789 25th St Room 2014. Pre-registration is required, contact Shelley Glazer 452.5839 or email: sdglazer@ccsf.edu or Ken Wong (415 550-6002. Do not call SFGH to register.

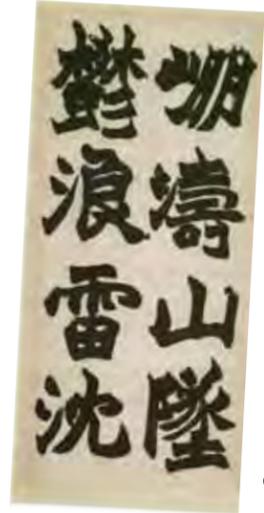
4 Community Meeting: Rebuild Potrero Community Building Group Meeting

There is a lot happening in Potrero, and the Rebuild Potrero Community Building Initiative is part of the change. Join the discussion, and hear about the progress and provide input on future activities. Some developments to discuss will be: free ZUMBA class; the new Texas Street Garden; the Healthy Generations Project and many more. Free. Dinner served. 6 to 8 p.m. Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro Street. Information: Emily Weinstein 806.1429

October 5 through January 13

Art: Out of Character— Decoding Chinese Calligraphy

Calligraphy is China's most revered art form, and this exhibition explains why. Out of Character provides an overview of the different styles, scripts, tools and techniques of this time-honored art form through 40 masterworks—many on public view for the first time—



borrowed from the collection of Bay Area entrepreneur. The artworks offer not only a foundation for understanding the basic principles of Chinese calligraphy, but also a contemporary exploration of its broader cultural significance. General Admission Fee. Asian Art Museum. 200 Larkin Street. Information: asianart.org

6 Food: Cheeses of France

Taste classic American dishes with French flair prepared by Jason Fox, executive chef and co-owner of Commonwealth. Explore cheese and speak with experts. Watch sculptor Krai create works of French cheese art. Admission is free. 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. 111 Minna Gallery. Information: email jeanmaries@jaffeandpartners.com or visit cheesesoffrance.com



6 Music: Con Funk Shun at Yoshi's

ConFunkShun is a star-quality attraction delivering a superb, high-energy show with electrifying choreography, glistening six-part vocal harmonies, and a dash of humor. They are, unquestionably, among the heroes of Funk— not a show to miss. \$30. 9:30 p.m. Yoshi's, 1330 Fillmore Street. Information: yoshis.com/sanfrancisco/

October 9, 16, 23, 30, and November 7, 13

Safety: Neighborhood Emergency Response Training

This six-class, NERT workshop provides essential training for households and families to be prepared for emergencies, such as an earthquake. Sponsored by the San Francisco Fire Department. Free. St. Theresa of Avila, 1490 19th Street @ Connecticut., 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. To enroll, call 970-2024. Information: 970-2022 or erica.arteseros@sfgov.org.

10 KidQuake: Middle School Program, with author Marissa Moss

Join acclaimed children's book authors, illustrators, poets and workshop leaders for a morning of readings, discussion, and special workshops designed to help fuel the imagination of kids from 3rd to 5th grade. Book sales and signing to follow. Katherine Applegate, Lewis Buzbee, Daniel Handler, Steve Cottle, and many others will be presenting there. Author Marissa Moss will read from her middle-grade time travel series, *Mira's Diary: Lost in Paris*. Free. 10 a.m. Free. Koret Auditorium, San Francisco Main Library, 100 Larkin Street. Information: kidquake@litquake.org

October 13 through November 20

Art: Dia de los Muertos / Somarts

The 13th annual Day of the Dead exhibit brings together the centuries-old tradition of building altars to welcome and celebrate deceased loved ones fuses with present-day artists' sentiments on the state of life. Elaborate traditional altars and multi-dimensional art installations are on view. Potrero Hill resident, Xiaojie Zheng, has a multimedia installation *Where Do We Come From? What Are We? Where Are We Going?*, inspired by her nine-day pilgrimage to Haifa, Israel in 2012. Reception, Friday, October 12, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., \$7-10 sliding scale admission. Exhibition until November 10. Free. SOMArts Cultural Center, 934 Brannan Street. Information: somarts.org or call 415-863-1414.

13 Music Outdoors: Slim Jenkins at Mission Creek

Slim Jenkins is a gritty yet smooth, hard-hitting blues and swing group. The group features Felix Macnee on drums, Timothy on bass, Joel Martinez on guitar, and Randy Johnson and Byron Burchard on saxophones. Vocalist Justin Oliver shouts out the swinging lyrics. Formal seating is limited so a blanket or beach chair is suggested. Free. Noon. Mission Creek, 290 Channel Street at 4th Street. Concert is held at the esplanade overlook located at Fifth and Berry Streets. Information: missionbayparks.com, 543.9062.

15 Live music: President's Breakfast

Come enjoy live music by President's Breakfast, a collective of some of the Bay Area's most talented Jazz and Funk musicians. 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Farley's, 1315 – 18th Street.

17 Live music: Soul Delights

The ever popular Soul Delights! The Soul Delights always draw a crowd here at Farley's. Come on in and enjoy the tunes. 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Farley's, 1315 – 18th Street.

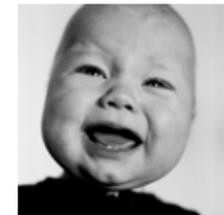
18 Dining: Artist's Four-course Dinner

Pay homage to the firemen who once lived at Firehouse 8, while fine dining with a new wave of community leaders. Table and wine pairings by Amy Currens. Seating limited to 30 people. Tickets available in advance for \$125. Firehouse 8, 1648 Pacific Avenue. Information: Mrs. Robinson Society, email MrsRobinsonSF@gmail.com or visit mrsrobinsonsf.com or firehouse-8.com.



24 Kid Health: Illness Workshop with Nurse Judy

Knowing when to reasonably worry is one of the hardest lessons that parents learn. In her many years at Noe Valley Pediatrics, Nurse Judy has calmed down countless parents who were in a panic over a mild virus. Conversely, she has informed parents who didn't recognize when a child is very ill of the need for immediate medical attention. In this workshop, parents will learn the rules about when to worry or not. Topics will include fevers, rashes, coughs, colds, and stomach bugs, as well as discussion about seasonal illnesses and a question period. \$20. 7:30 pm. Noe Valley Pediatrics, 3700 24th Street. Information: NurseJudyNVP@gmail.com or 641.1019



27 Community: Farley's 22nd Annual Pet Parade and Costume Contest

Don't miss this most wonderful and exciting event, the tradition carries on, and this year's Parade and Contest promises to be bigger, grander and more bazaar than ever! Come and cheer for your favorites...come and have a GREAT TIME! Free. 1 p.m. Meet in front of Farley's. Farley's, 1315 – 18th Street.

FICTION

Spot the Carney

BY STEVEN J. MOSS

Where do “carneys” go after the last summer county fair folds its tents? You know carneys; they’re the people who run the rides, concessions, and carnival “games of chance,” which just might pay out a giant teddy bear or inflatable hammer. Usually tattooed, pale-skinned, and thin, the best carneys can get their customers to shell out \$25 trying to win a \$2 doll by throwing a ten inch basketball into a nine inch hoop.

The bad thing about carneys—the crafty ones, anyways—is that they’re quite skilled at getting money from a wallet into their hands. The good thing about them is that we know they’re carneys, so there’s some chance we’ll come to our senses before spending our entire paycheck on winning a pair fuzzy dice by throwing a tiny ring onto a big bottle.

After the summer ends, the carneys disappear. I always assumed that, like birds, they traveled south, to warmer climates, where children still begged their parents for one more chance at the dime throw, or water-gun balloon race. Until the fog rolls back into announce San Francisco’s summer, carneys become one of the season’s faded memories. Or do they?

It was a chilly fall day in San Francisco. I was walking down Market Street, heading towards the financial district, oblivious to all but my need to get to a meeting. A scrawny white guy with a long sleeve shirt and no jacket caught my stride. He lopped alongside me for a minute or two, before turning towards me.

“Hey man, why are you walking when you could be riding? I’ve got



ILLUSTRATION BY GEORGIA KNOWLES

Muni transfers. Fifty cents’ll get you downtown in two minutes.”

I shook my head, and kept my pace.

“Just fifty cents, two quarters a ride. You can’t beat that!”

He thrust some pieces of crumpled newsprint my way. He’s sleeve drew back, revealing the edges of an elaborate tattoo.

“No thanks,” I said, firmly.

Without breaking his speed he peeled off, and attached himself to a woman walking the other way.

Later, at my office, I got a telephone call.

“Hi, this is mmmpphh,” the name was muffled, “if you sign up for Sprint today, I’ll send you a watch. Cheap phone service and free time.

What could be better?”

“Not interested,” I said, and hung up the phone. I paused for a minute. Tattoos? Something for nothing? My thoughts were interrupted by a bicycle messenger, who poked his head into my office.

“Package for you,” he said. “And,

as a bonus for using our service we’re handing out free pens. Here, take some.”

I reached out to grab the colorful samples, and abruptly pulled back.

“What’s the catch?”

“No catch. We’re giving them away.”

He looked at me curiously before throwing a few pens on my desk, and moving along. I squinted after him. I thought I saw the edge of some color peeking out along the bottom of his neck. That’s when it hit me; carneys don’t disappear. They just go underground.

I mulled it over. The woman selling Sunday papers in front of Farleys; she was a carney. The man on the infomercial selling face cream: carney. Carneys were everywhere. They worked for airlines, selling strangely priced fares that were full of black-out periods and required stay-overs. Sometimes they were kids, pushing foul-tasting chocolate bars in front of the remaining Blockbuster outlets. Other times they surfaced as free taste ladies at Costco.

I had to tell someone, warn them about the carneys. I dialed my wife.

“Hey,” she said, “wanna go out to dinner tonight. I have a two-for-one coupon at the Chevy’s, near Yerba Buena.”

I abruptly punched the hang-up button. Was my wife a carney too? I sat at my desk, thinking. She did have a coupon for a free meal. Chevy’s had cheap margaritas. What the hell, if you don’t play you can’t win. I picked up the phone, and tapped in my wife’s number.



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Neighborhood Filmmakers at 35th Mill Valley Film Festival

BY LORI HIGA

Celebrating 35 years, the Mill Valley Film Festival is renowned for presenting breakthrough independent cinema from down the block and across the globe. Thanks to its proximity to San Francisco, the festival can readily tap into the City's rich wellspring of filmmakers, whose works span from the quirky to the divine. The latest crop of films from neighborhood makers of movie magic are exceptional in their creativity, messaging and technical prowess.

To *Chris Marker, An Unsent Letter* by the Emmy-winning, Bernal Heights resident, Emiko Omori is a brilliantly composed love paean to the late great French new wave photographer-filmmaker. From its opening frames and mesmerizing soundtrack, *Letter* traces the enigmatic Marker — perhaps best known for his 28-minute 1962 science fiction featurette *La jetée*, which inspired director Terry Gilliam's *12 Monkeys* — and an astounding body of profound, socially relevant work. Marker passed away at age 91 in July.

Troubled kids — largely low-income and of Latino, Asian- and African-American ancestries — at Marina Middle School are the stars of the impressive documentary *Room to Breathe*, directed by Marina resident Russell Long and shot by cinematographer and Bernal Heights denizen Herve Cohen. Topping the San Francisco school district in disciplinary suspensions, the school's overwhelmed administrators seem to have few options in what's initially

portrayed as a hopeless and horrible situation. With overcrowded classrooms populated by unruly kids throwing things at each other and taunting their teachers, the school's minders take what turns out to be a truly bold path: providing students mindfulness, conscious breathing and meditation training. The risky experiment works, inspiring the development of new social and emotional skills that change lives of the kids and their families.

An ode to factory films of the 1920s, *Manufactured Fortunes*, by Mission District maven Kevin Gordon, is a smart, tight, breathtaking five-minute essay on humankind's eternal quest for meaning. Humorous and thoughtful excerpts on fortune cookie forecasts by off-screen voices underpin fascinating and artistically shot footage of the making of these petite edible containers of random wisdom, guidance and advice.

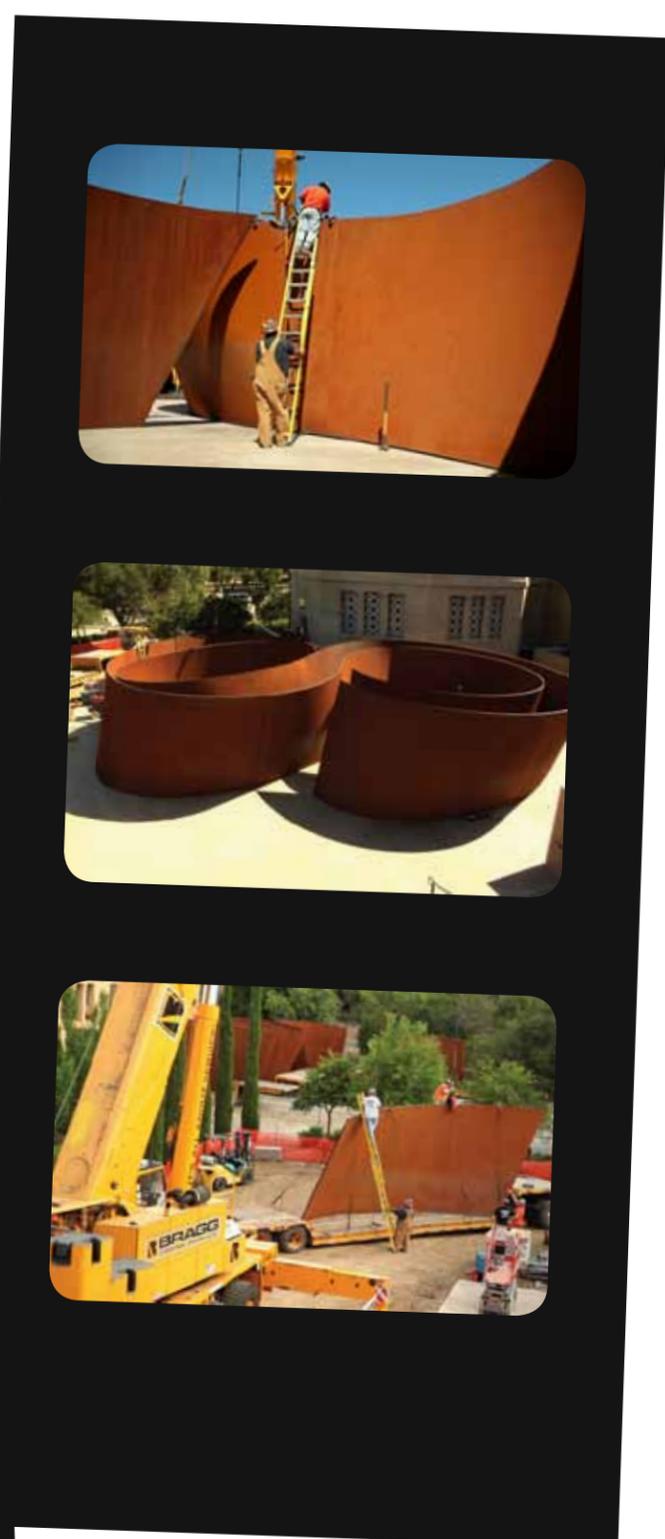
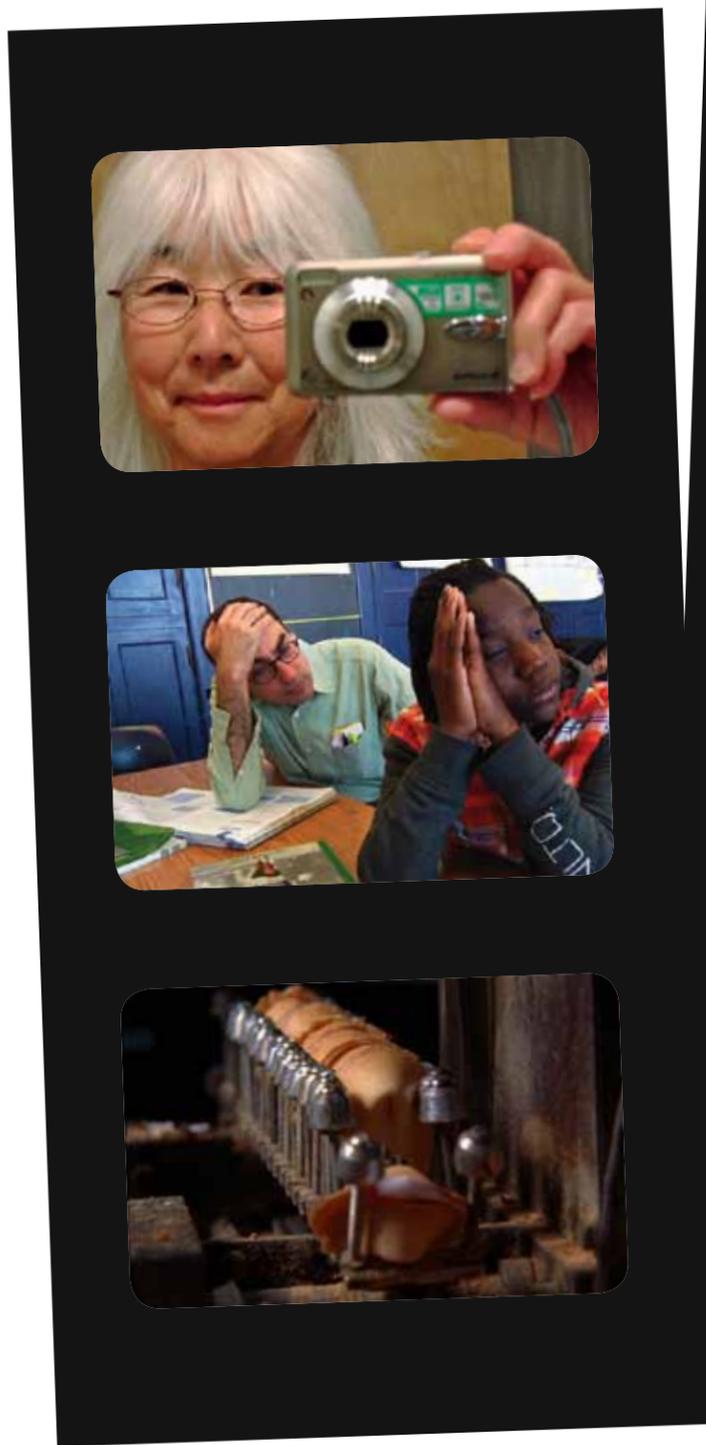
Installation, by Potrero Hill director Laura Green, is a visual poem that explores the blurred lines between art, architecture and engineering as embodied in the work of minimalist artist Richard Serra. The film follows the construction of Serra's massive 235-ton sculpture "Sequence." A San Francisco native whose father worked as a pipe-fitter in the Hunters Point shipyard, Serra is known for his controversial, super-sized metal work, as well as the fatalities that accompanied two of his previous installations. Steel behemoth *Sequence* required 23 truckloads of concrete and a 6,000-square foot patio. Like the artist's work, *Installation* provides moments of unexpected grace, as riggers, truckers and construction workers bring the building-sized piece into temporary environs at Stanford's Cantor Arts Center. The

sculpture is destined for its permanent home at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art by 2016.

The Mill Valley Film Festival is running from October 4 through the 14th. For information, visit their website at mvff.com.

LEFT STRIP top to bottom,
1) Emiko Omori, filmmaker and Bernal resident. **2)** *Room to Breathe* documentary of Latino-, Asian- and African-American students from Marina Middle School. **3)** Still from *Manufactured Fortunes* by Mission resident Kevin Gordon.

RIGHT STRIP
Installation by Potrero Hill Resident, Laura Green, a tribute to Richard Serra and his work called *Sequence*.



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GreenTrust would like to thank all the volunteers who helped clean up *Warm Water Cove Park* on September 15th.

A WALK ALONG THE WATERFRONT

BY DON NOLTE



A MONTHLY UPDATE
SPONSORED BY BRIDGE HOUSING

VOLUME 25 • OCTOBER 2012



As the community building work at Potrero Terrace and Annex has continued to thrive over the last several months, the project team has also been working with the environmental consultants and the Planning Department on the draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) as well as other entitlements (approvals) for the project including a Special Use District (SUD) and Development Agreement (DA).

The EIR/EIS is evaluating 19 topic areas including transportation, public services and air quality. This study is still in preparation with the goal of publication for public review and comment before the end of 2012. The SUD and DA will be considered by the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors concurrently with the EIR/EIS.

Land use applications submitted to the City reflect important changes that have been made to the proposed plan in response to neighborhood concerns as well as further evaluation of slope conditions on individual blocks. These changes include reduced heights on some blocks that led to a decrease in overall density, more parking and an additional open space. Some of the key changes are:

- ☑ Reduced heights from 50'/55'/75' to 40' on blocks A, B, F, and Q, respectively in order to maintain 40' heights adjacent to existing residences.
- ☑ Heights on blocks K & L have been reduced to 65' in response to the community's concern about the height of these

buildings. The top two stories will still be set back so that, from the street, these building will appear to be four stories.

- ☑ Height reductions led to a reduced maximum unit count of 1,600, down from 1,700.
- ☑ The overall average parking ratio was increased from .5:1 to .6:1 in response to community concerns.
- ☑ Closed Connecticut St. to traffic and created new ½-acre relatively flat open space on Connecticut Street at 25th. This also resulted in a flatter, more useable lower portion of the Central Park at 24-1/2 Street.

The project team has also engaged a financial consultant to provide advice on achieving financial feasibility so that this important project can be realized.

Weekly Zumba Class: Ready to move your body and get your heart pumping to high energy music? Free Zumba classes are now being held at the NABE every Monday from 6:00-7:00 pm.

Join us for Garden Days: work/harvest every Wed. 10-12. Info., call 415-806-1429

For more information, call 415-806-1429 or email potrero@bridgehousing.com
See more at www.rebuildpotrero.com

**CITY AND COUNTY OF
SAN FRANCISCO
OCTOBER 2012 MONTHLY**

ASSESSMENT APPEALS BOARD (AAB)
Notice is hereby given of 8 vacancies on the AAB. Applicants must reside in San Francisco and have at least 5 years experience as one of the following: Certified Public Accountant or Public Accountant; licensed Real Estate Broker; Property Appraiser accredited by a nationally recognized organization, or Property Appraiser certified by the California Office of Real Estate Appraisers. For additional information & application, please call 415.554.6778.

DON'T MISS TWO BLOCKS OF ART
A FREE artwalk showcasing over 100 local artists in 25 locations in the Central Market neighborhood rich with culture and well known for its cutting edge arts community. Friday, September 28, 2012, 4—8 p.m. Market Street (between 5th and 7th streets) and 6th Street (between Market and Howard streets). Presented by Urban Solutions with support from the San Francisco Arts Commission and Grants for the Arts/Hotel Tax Fund.

WIC OFFERS YOU FREE FOOD AND SERVICES!
The Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Supplemental Nutrition Program helps pregnant women, new mothers, infants and young children eat well and stay healthy. WIC offers benefits to pregnant and postpartum women, infants and children under the age of 5 years who meet federal income guidelines. WIC benefits include nutrition and breastfeeding education and support, supplemental foods and referrals to health care and community services.

WIC pregnant/breastfeeding mothers receive education and support through Breastfeeding Peer Counselors or WIC Breastfeeding Warm Line (415) 575-5688.

WIC participants receive checks for nutritious foods. WIC staff helps find community resources to meet individual needs. For more information, call (415) 575-5788. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

SAN FRANCISCO GENERAL HOSPITAL FOUNDATION (SFGHF)
SFGHF is seeking nominations for its eighth-annual Heroes & Hearts Award, a service award which

recognizes unsung heroes who provide exceptional and inspirational service to an individual or the community. Nominations deadline - Thursday, November 1st. For information, visit sfgfh.net.

TRANSBAY BLOCK 9 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)
The Successor Agency to the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency is soliciting proposals from qualified development teams to purchase Transbay Block 9, a 31,000 square foot site located in Downtown San Francisco. For a copy of the RFP, visit <http://www.sfredevelopment.org>, call (415) 749-2439, or email courtney.pash@sfgov.org. Proposals must be received by December 12.

NEED HELP FINDING A DENTIST OR DENTAL INSURANCE FOR YOUR CHILD?
Did you know that Tooth Decay can affect your child's ability to do well in school, eat healthy food, and can affect self esteem? If you live in San Francisco—call the San Francisco Women and Children's Health Referral Line 1-800-300-9950 for information about low-cost dental insurance, or to find a dentist for your child. SF Child Health & Disability Prevention (CHDP) Program

SAN FRANCISCO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (SFO)
The Airport Commission has commenced the RFP process for Terminal 3 Common Use Club Lease at SFO. Submittal Deadline is changed to Wednesday, December 5, 3:00p.m. (PST) Information website is: www.flysfo.com/web/page/about/b2b and click on Concessions and Leases.

PORT OF SAN FRANCISCO
The Port will soon be publishing two RFPs for youth employment oversight and a hazardous waste management on its website at www.sport.com

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.

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: My son Sam graduated from Cal State Hayward two years ago and is still working in the book store job he had during school breaks. He did well in school, and given all the money we paid, I thought that he'd be able to get started in a career oriented role, hopefully in his chosen field of marketing. What should he do?

A: Unfortunately, this is a common problem, and only partly due to the economy and poor job market. As with everyone looking for a job in this market, it can be quite difficult, but not impossible. I'd hope that the university career center would have been able to help him with at least the basics of a resume and interviewing skills. In the best of circumstances they'd have companies coming to campus to recruit, or at least post open entry level positions.

Two factors have lessened career centers' effectiveness. One is that since there are fewer jobs available, there's much less campus recruitment activity. The other is that budget strapped universities have slashed funding for career services.

Despite the fact that it's been a couple of years since he graduated, your son should consult Cal State Hayward's career center. Most schools offer some services to alumni, and should certainly accommodate a request from a recent graduate.

Unless Sam has made an exhaustive effort to pursue marketing himself, he shouldn't give up yet. I recommend that he look at several job sites to identify positions that could be launching points for his career. A Google search on "entry level jobs" will provide a good list of these sites. My favorite job search engine, Indeed.com, has a section that focuses on entry level positions. Using these sites, Sam should search on the keyword "marketing." He may find a full-time marketing job or internship, but he should also watch for more administrative/assistant type roles that are in the marketing or internal communications department. Sam should also be open to an administrative/assistant type role in almost any department in a major corporation. Once inside, he can be on the lookout as positions open up, and after proving himself, make an internal move.

Once Sam has identified positions of interest, he needs to ensure that his resume is professional and highlights his strengths, especially those that are relevant to the positions he's targeted. All companies today are seeking employees with skills in social media. As a young man, these should be a no brainer for Sam, and he should make sure that they're detailed on his resume. He should also make sure that his own Facebook profile can withstand scrutiny by a potential employer.

A factor that will help Sam is that he has had a reasonable amount of professional work experience. Even for entry level positions, employers will consider an applicant with almost any work experience before looking at someone with none. This is why I highly recommend that parents insist that their children work during the summer and school breaks, whether they need the money or not.

Sam should also include on his resume details of class projects that required him to use skills that will be used in the jobs he's targeted, and the same goes for volunteer work.

When he does get called in to interview, make sure that he's prepared. Encourage him to write out answers to anticipated questions as well as descriptions of the experiences he'll want to present, and help him practice.

Endorsements for the November 6th General Election

Endorsements require 60% of votes cast.

U.S. President: BARACK OBAMA
U.S. Senator: DIANNE FEINSTEIN
U.S. Representative, District 12: NANCY PELOSI
State Senator, District 11: MARK LENO
State Assemblyman, District 17: TOM AMMIANO

San Francisco Board of Education: SANDRA LEE FEWER, MATT HANEY
SF Community College Board: AMY BACHARACH, RAFAEL MANDELMAN

BART Director, Districts 7 & 9: No position

State Propositions

- 30 – YES** Taxes for Education, Public Safety
- 31 – NO** State Budget Changes
- 32 – NO!!** Political Contributions by Payroll Deduction
- 33 – NO** Auto Insurance Pricing Changes
- 34 – YES** Repeal of Death Penalty
- 35 –** No position Expanding Definition, Penalties for Human Trafficking
- 36 – YES!!** Amending Three Strikes Law
- 37 – YES** Labeling Genetically Engineered Foods
- 38 –** No position Tax to Fund Education and Early Childhood Programs
- 39 – YES** Tax Changes for Multistate Businesses, Clean Energy Funding
- 40 – YES** Approving New State Senate Districts

City Propositions

- A – YES** City College Parcel Tax
- B – NO** Clean and Safe Neighborhood Parks Bond
- C –** No position Housing Trust Fund
- D – YES** Consolidating Odd-Year Municipal Elections
- E – YES** Gross Receipts Tax
- F – NO** Water and Environment Plan for Hetch Hetchy
- G – YES** Policy Opposing Corporate Personhood

Potrero Hill Democratic Club meets the first Tuesday of every month at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House. All meetings are open to the public. For more information, please visit: www.PHDemClub.org or find us on Facebook.



Maureen DeBoer *Your Neighbor Bringing Good Neighbors to Potrero Hill*



PHOTOGRAPH BY EMILY PAYNE

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Bayview Police Station Captain's Community Meeting is held on the first Tuesday of each month at the Bayview Station, 201 Williams Avenue. Next meeting: October 2nd, 6 p.m.

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

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: 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: October 30th, 7 p.m.

Potrero Dogpatch Merchant's Association meets the second Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. at Goat Hill Pizza, corner of Connecticut and 18th streets. Visit www.potrerohill.biz or call 341.8949. Next meeting: October 9th, 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: October 2nd, 7 p.m.

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

Starr King Open Space SKOS The Starr King Open Space Board Meeting is on Tuesday, October 9th, 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the meeting room of the Public Potrero branch Library at 1616 20th Street SF CA 94107.. SKOS needs a tax preparation know anyone? Come volunteer the 2nd Saturday of each month neighbors and friends are welcome to get down and dirty while sprucing up the open space. For more information: www.starrkingopenspace.org; email the Board of Directors at starrkingboard@gmail.com; voice mail 415-633-6756.



PHOTOGRAPH BY DON NOLTE

FENCE from page 6

of the park's plateau at Vermont and 20th streets, on the hillside – which has been designated a dog play area – and toward Highway 101. Eighty percent of the park is “legally designated for off-leash dog-play,” according to the McKinley Square Park Foundation's (MSPF) website. The park's plateau includes a flat grassy area adjacent to a children's playground. Roughly a decade ago MSCA and MSPF launched efforts to improve the park, planting flowers on the hillside below the

plateau, among other things. “All of the western hillside, where the fence is located has recently been upgraded thanks to Recreation and Parks, local volunteers, and park partnerships like the Arc of San Francisco,” according to MSPF's website. Today the park has a master plan to be used as a guide for future improvements.

McKinley Square is one of San Francisco's oldest parks, dating to the late-1870s, making it a contemporary of Union Square – which was presented to the City in 1850 – Franklin Square, Jackson Square, and Golden Gate Park.

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WEBSITE from page 5

Cargo Way, Warm Water Cove, and Islais Creek; increasing the “bikeability” of the Embarcadero; and a look at Southside’s underused streets and spaces — are incorporated into the site and provided the structure for Bush’s project.

Bush features information about heavy industry’s adverse impacts, but also how the area used to thrive with shrimping and ship building activity. As industry and residential neighborhoods started to mix, she noted the clashes between the communities. Residents won some battles — shutting down the Hunters Point and Potrero power plants and heavy machinery zones — leaving behind abandoned warehouses, old Navy yard equipment and industry materials that continue to blight Southside coastlines.

The projects emerging in the area include construction of the Blue Greenway, Pier 70 redevelopment, Eastern Neighborhoods Area Plan, and Hunters Point Shipyard redevelopment, which are influenced by City zoning restrictions and land-use stipulations. Through these efforts a regional Bay Trail will connect the waterfront and open spaces; Pier 70 will be rebuilt to accommodate ship repair, recreational activities and shoreline access; parts of the Mission, South-of-Market and Potrero Hill will be developed with more housing and non-industrial businesses; and the Hunters Point shipyard will be revamped with housing and commercial development. Bush described the area based on seven nodes:



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF ALEXA BUSH

Hunters Point, India Basin, Heron’s Head Park, Islais Creek, Warm Water Cove, Agua Vista Park, and Mission Creek. Each is profiled with history, amenities, transportation access, active organizations, and other details, such as nearby businesses. Photographs and maps are sprinkled throughout the website.

Bush highlighted Islais Creek as undergoing “an amazing transformation.” She outlined the area’s history as “Butcher Town” from World War II to the 1960s, with much of the original creek undergrounded after Interstate Highway 280 was built in the 1980s. She contrasted the area’s current recreation opportunities with its use as a scrapyards in previous years. Today, there are a growing number of parks

and a series of proposals intended to make it more transit accessible and walkable, including the development of a promenade.

At the August gathering, which was standing room alone, the audience — mostly SPUR members — expressed concerns about how the site will be maintained, along with praise for the well-organized and researched online source. “The whole shoreline is shrouded in mystery and confusion,” one audience member said. He went on to suggest that Bush’s website be the model to organize and chronicle the Bay Area’s vast civic, geographical, economic, natural and social histories, policies and future development plans. One self-deprecating member noted, “As an old person, I’m

blown away by this.”

David Beaupre, a Port of San Francisco waterfront planner, emphasized the City’s pleasure working with Bush, who produced three oral histories captured on podcasts on the site, including one about the success story of Heron’s Head Park. “The three oral histories helped humanize each of the projects along the way,” Beaupre said.

Unfortunately for Southside residents, the site will be left fairly unmonitored, with Bush slated to put her landscape architecture skills to use at an Ann Arbor, Michigan design firm. The ambitious fellow urged residents to post photos and comments to the site and affiliated Flickr photo-sharing accounts.

Visit the website at: sewsf.org.

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BOCCE BALL IN THE HOOD

Vic Crespi (left) and Dennis Fisicaro (right) try out the brand new bocce ball court in Progress Park on Indiana Street. The court was funded by a San Francisco Community Challenge Grant award and built by the Fisicaro-Giusti Landscape company.

MISSION PONY from page 17

Vermont Street, after deciding that a rolling, mechanical horse would be better than riding a plastic garbage can or tricycle. Having recently quit a seven-year career as a social worker at a local hospital, Ellis had plenty of free time to figure out how to build mechanical horses adults could ride. She'd never attempted anything like it before.

Craig's List became an indispensable resource. She bought used wheelchairs, took them apart, and, keeping the wheel base and joy stick, attached a steel, plywood and plastic frame, sprayed foam and covered the contraption with vinyl. She added deer ears and eyeballs purchased from a taxidermy catalogue; a pair of eyes cost just \$10. She named the first one "Ferrari."

Since then her design has evolved. Ellis now makes two basic models.

One uses a large metal mail box as the body, which provides storage space accessed through the rear of the pony.

Another, newest, model relies on old animatronics horses called "Furrreals," which cost between \$60 and \$100. Parts of the head and tail respond to noises. Snap a finger and the head cocks, the ears twitch. Each pony costs roughly \$1,500, and takes about three weeks, to build. Constructing the mechanical horses is a hobby, but Ellis, hopes to soon rent the ponies for parties and parades. She's working with Rocket Lawyer to attain insurance and incorporate Mission Pony into a limited liability company.

According to Ellis, the ponies are for adults only, and aren't suitable for children. In any event, she said that children don't seem impressed by them. It's the adults that stop mid-step or pull their car over wanting a picture or just to gawk. "Something about the ponies reminds people of a whimsical time of their lives," said Ellis.

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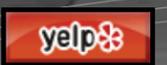
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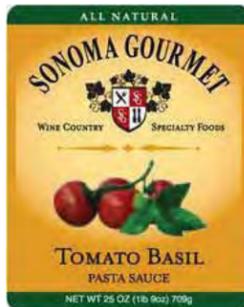
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