



May 2011

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## Violence Flares on Potrero Hill

By Peter Linenthal

Over the last half-decade there's been an average of two murders a year on Potrero Hill. But since December, six youths living in the Annex-Terrace housing complex have been killed, and five have been wounded. Two of the Annex-Terrace residents were lured to other neighborhoods, where they were murdered. According to a San Francisco Department of Children, Youth & Their Families (DCYF) report, "San Francisco is experiencing a street violence crisis, which is concentrated in specific areas of the City. Within these areas youth and young adults of color, ages 10 to 25 years old, are at greater risk of being a victim or perpetrator of street violence...it is a serious public health concern, the leading cause of injury, disability and premature death among youth and young adults in the nation."

In 2008, a Violence Prevention Plan was issued by former Mayor Gavin Newsom to address a sudden spike in murders citywide: 100 in 2007. In response to criticism that the plan was too general, unreflective of San Francisco's demographic diversity, and lacking a way to measure progress, Newsom asked that it be revised. Last month, DCYF's new Street Violence Reduction Initiative (VPI) was adopted by the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council. Under the initiative, City services and violence prevention providers would better coordinate, with particular outreach to four crime hot zones: the Western Addition, Bayview-Hunters Point, Visitation Valley, and Tenderloin/South of Market. DCYF planning and policy manager Diana Oliva-Aroche hopes to work closely with other City departments to develop more accurate data to assess street violence. For example, information is needed from the San Francisco Police Department (SFPD) on the ages and demographics of those arrested, and the reasons crimes were committed. That data could be used to evaluate VPI's effectiveness, and to attract funding from the state and federal governments. As one DCYF Citizen Advisory Committee

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## City Struggles with \$380 Million Deficit

By Simon Stahl

District 10 San Francisco Board of Supervisor Malia Cohen hosted Mayor Ed Lee and a panel of municipal department heads at a town hall meeting to discuss the City's budget last month. The gathering, held in a packed University of California, San Francisco-Mission Bay campus auditorium, was the third in a series of 10 meetings Lee has planned to solicit opinions from different supervisorial districts as he prepares a budget to submit to the board on June 1.

San Francisco faces a \$380 million deficit, created by a combination of lower revenues, state and federal budget cuts, and rising municipal employee benefit costs. The City Charter prohibits deficit spending, limiting the government's ability to borrow funds to pay for shortfalls. Lee's primary approach to addressing the shortfall is to repeat former Mayor Gavin Newsom's measure of cutting 10 percent from each department's budget. Each department will also propose an additional 10 percent contingency cut. However, even a 20 percent across-the-board spending reduction would only save the City \$180 million; the rest of the cuts will come from reductions in public employee benefits. Which departments will receive deeper cuts will be determined by a highly political



Photograph by Simon Stahl

Mayor Ed Lee listened attentively at last month's town hall budget meeting held at UCSF.

process, influenced by citizens and interest group lobbying. All departments will ultimately have cut their budgets by at least a 20 percent over the last two years.

The Department of Children, Youth and Their Families, with a budget of \$28.5 million, plans to focus its funds on afterschool and summer activities, job training, youth employment programs, crime prevention, and family services, such as childcare. According to Maria Su, DCYF can

reasonably cut \$5.7 million from its budget because of careful planning and a competitive application process for funding, in which lower cost programs are awarded contracts. Programs funded by DCYF may receive major cuts or a complete funding loss if they're unable to prove their value.

As a result of federal cuts, the Department of Public Health must slash its \$344 million budget by at

see **DEFICIT** page 22

## Southside San Francisco Residents Debate How to Invest \$1 Million in Mirant Mitigation Money

By Tim Henry

Bayview, Dogpatch, and Potrero Hill residents are debating how to spend \$1 million provided as part of a settlement to close the Potrero Power Plant. The Asthma Task Force (ATF), which was created in 2001 in response to concerns that a city-wide asthma epidemic was emerging, is advocating that the funds be invested in a range of projects, including retrofitting 16 homes located adjacent to the 101 freeway in Visitation Valley with air systems to filter pollution, outdoor activity and exercise programs – which have the support of former District 10 Supervisor Sophie Maxwell – community gardens, and asthma education programs. ATF

consists of a mix of individuals representing community-based and environmental justice organizations, the health care profession, and persons who have asthma or are parents of children with asthma.

Under ATF's approach, the million dollars would be spent over three years. Earlier this year the Power Plant Task Force (PPTF) and ATF held a joint public meeting to obtain citizens' recommendation on how to invest the funds. PPTF is made up of a local business owner, a public affairs lobbyist, and the *View's* publisher, among others, and was created by a Board of Supervisors resolution in the late-1990s to advise the City on issues related to the Potrero Power Plant. At the gathering, participants

voiced strong support to direct monies to community gardens. The San Francisco Board of Supervisors will make the final decision on how to spend the funds.

The million dollar settlement was negotiated by the City Attorney's office as part of efforts to close the plant, which is owned by GenOn Energy, formally Mirant Corporation. The facility ceased to operate in February. "I think this is a really big success story for the City and the community," said Theresa Muller, a deputy city attorney who's been working on plant-related issues since 1998, around the time Pacific Gas and Electric Company sold the facility to Mirant.

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PUBLISHER'S VIEW

# Apocalypse Now

By Steven J. Moss

Nuclear meltdown in Japan; boiling unrest in Africa and the Middle East, with U.S. military intervention on three different fronts; multi-billion dollar budget deficits cratering local, state and federal governments; and a jobless rate that remains stubbornly high. Are we nearing the apocalypse, or a new age foretold by the December 21, 2012 end of the Mayan calendar? Perhaps God the destroyer is sweeping away the old to make way for God the creator. We could be at the start of a new spiritual era, whose shape we can't yet discern, and which we are powerless to stop.

More likely, though, the world is simply reaping what it's sowed. The Japanese catastrophe has hewed close to the storyline of a Godzilla movie: an act of nature unleashed the radioactive monster created by human folly. Populations held under the thumb of cartoon dictators finally had enough. Italians responding mostly with their famous shrug to Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's licentious behavior provides the comical counterpoint to the chaotic teenagers' uprising against Libya's "Colonial" Gadhafi, himself a monstrous joke. America, tethered to the Middle East by petroleum pipelines,

is trying to settle the angry young men down, and usher them away from the oil fields – nothing to see, move along – by distributing their favorite toys: guns and bombs. Look at that pretty explosion. And our economy, well, Countrywide, Madoff, and the banks took care of that.

Aside from military action, politicians' response to these alarming events has been oddly surgical, mostly focusing on arguments about whether just the government's fingers and toes should be amputated, or might it be better to simply shoot the government in the head so we can hurry back to our private compounds. That vision-thing is mostly absent, unless the vision is of a hobbled government waiving its crutches and yelling "cut that out" at monopolies and mega-corporations as they pick the pockets of the poor, while the rest of us keep our heads down playing Angry Birds on our pocket computers. If dedicated pensions are dead, and 401ks are demonstrably unable to provide a secure retirement for 98 percent of the population, what's the long-term goal of pension reform, once "spiking" and six figure payouts are addressed? To kick more people

see PUBLISHER'S page 8



## Letter to the Editor

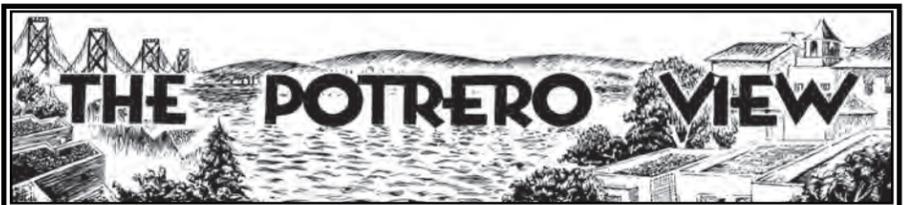
Editor,

On behalf of the City and County of San Francisco, I'm delighted to extend greetings to our neighbors and *The Potrero View*. We live together as District 10 residents, and I support our shared goals of community and collaboration. I'm pleased to learn that the *View* is expanding its coverage to include more of the City's southern communities. Bringing

District 10 neighborhoods closer together by sharing a newspaper is an important undertaking.

I commend the *View* for its contribution and commitment to neighborhood news. I look forward to a partnership, and wish you much success!

Malia Cohen  
San Francisco Board of Supervisor, District 10



EDITOR and PUBLISHER: Steven J. Moss

PRODUCTION MANAGER: Lisa Tehrani

MAY STAFF: Regina Anavy, Abby Bridge, Robert Davis, Debbie Findling, Lisa Gunther, Tim Henry, Lori Higa, Abigail Johnston, Sasha Lekach, Peter Linenthal, Catie Magee, Paul McDonald, Sara Moss, Mary Purpura, Mauri Schwartz, Bill Slatkin, Nicole Spiridakis and Simon Stahl

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THE POTRERO VIEW, 2325 Third Street Suite 344, San Francisco, CA 94107  
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## MCKINLEY PARK BY SIMON STAHL



**Food and Threads**

Roughly 1,150 riders participated in last month's **Bring Your Own Big Wheel Race** on Vermont Street, hailing from three countries and 16 states. Considerable cash was raised for **Daniel Webster Elementary School** to boot. Roll on! ... According to **Table-hopper**, if you want a nice meal visit 18th Street's **Pera**: "Nice people make food taste better, starting with the nice person who greets you when you walk in, to the nice chef who is in love with making bread, to the nice server pouring your wine. And up on Potrero Hill, Pera is brimming over with nice"... **Patisserie Philippe** has been sold, though its fine France-inspired baked goods will continue to be offered at its Townsend Street location... **Horatius** has closed its restaurant and gourmet retail business, and is now solely being used for events...A few locals are grumbling about the owners of **Papito's** sometimes less than community-spirited approach to the noise and garbage that occasionally spills over from the restaurant...**Mary Petrin** has purchased **Collage Clothing**, on 18th Street, from **Delisa Sage**, owner of **Collage Gallery**. The new outlet, renamed, **Kate's Closet**, will sell men's, women's and children's consigned, new, and locally-designed clothing and accessories...According to **Fritz Frisbie**, **Connecticut Yankee's** owner, the *View* was incorrect when it stated that the establishment's monthly rent was \$15,000 in last month's "Short Cuts." It's actually much less than that. Although the restaurant is feeling the recession,

**SHORT CUTS**

it's not going anywhere. The *View* regrets the error.

**Crime**

A 77-year-old Mississippi Street resident was mugged at 1:30 p.m. outside the Friendship Community

months ago – when first one, and then a second hooded African-American man approached him as he got into his car. A short scuffle ensued, causing scrapes and bruises to the victim's arm and hand. The muggers got away with a cell phone, roughly \$140,

**Champion Readers at Webster**



Ron Russo's third grade class at Daniel Webster Elementary School display their medals, which they received as part of the Champions Are Readers, a national literacy program developed by the national college fraternity of Pi Beta Phi.

Garden, located at 22nd and Connecticut streets, last month (see also "Crime and Safety," this issue). The elderly gentleman had just finished tending his garden plot – which he'd waited three years to secure, and had only started cultivating a few

a credit card, and some personal information. The victim was left a bit poorer, but much more scared to tend his plot. Be careful out there, but keep going out: nothing deters criminals more than lots of good people hanging around.

**Tweet This**

**Black Rock Arts Foundation**, a.k.a. Burning Man, is abandoning its Bayview offices on Third Street in favor of space at Sixth and Market streets. The move takes advantage of a recently adopted municipal tax break for businesses that newly locate to the Mid-Market and Tenderloin neighborhoods. Let's see, Black Rock, which was in hard-pressed Bayview, is given a tax incentive by the cash-strapped City to relocate to hard-pressed Mid-Market. Is this performance art? Playa surrealism? Is that something burning we smell, or something altogether different? ... **Summer in the City** – a summer camp for six to 13 year olds replete with field trips and enrichment programs – kicks-off at the **Potrero Hill Neighborhood House** on June 6. To register contact Sharon Johnson, 826.8080... *People Magazine* recently profiled the **Homeless Prenatal Program**, located on 18th and Potrero. Since it opened in 1989, HPP has helped more than 2,000 women deliver healthy babies...Vermont Street resident **Lise Swenson**, the **de Young's** filmmaker-in-residence, has produced the museum's first app: *dYinterpretations: A Journey through the de Young with Filmmaker Lise Swenson*. *dYinterpretations* relies on interviews, performances, site-specific work and behind-the-scenes impressions from artists, museum staff and community members to provide an engaging view of the nation's fifth most visited mu-

see **SHORT CUTS** page 17

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**577 Mississippi Street**

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# Forest City Development Awarded Pier 70 Renovation Project

By Lisa Gunther

As reported in the *View*, in March the Central Waterfront Advisory Group held a meeting at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House to hear Pier 70 redevelopment proposals from four different development groups: Forest City Development of California, Mission Bay Development Group, San Francisco Waterfront Partners and TMG Partners. Representatives from each of the four developers made their case as to why they'd be most suitable to take on the complex renovation.

Last month the Port of San Francisco unanimously voted to select Forest City Development to undertake the redevelopment project. Forest City's plans focus on creating a welcoming space for science and bio-technology firms to settle. In their presentation to the Port, the company promised a design that would enhance the creativity and spirit of the surrounding community by creating a first-class job center and "experimental retail." In addition to utilizing the pier as a bio-tech hub, Forest City plans to create spaces for artists.

Forest City Development was founded in 1920, and specializes in mixed use property development, as well as public-private partnerships. The company has approximately \$11.8 billion in assets. Over its 90 year history it has owned, developed, managed and acquired more than 200 commercial and residential real estate projects throughout the United States.

In a letter to the Port, Forest City president Kevin Ratner stated, "Nearly all of our projects involve some form of public-private partnership structure and we believe our expertise to execute in this area makes us the right partner for the Port. We have a significant portfolio of historic revitalization projects, many of which are on brownfield sites and along a waterfront. For all of these reasons and others outlined within this statement, we see ourselves as an ideal partner for the Port and stakeholders in redeveloping Pier 70."

Port project manager Kathleen Diohep believes that Forest City's experience will enable the company to take on the mammoth task of renovating Pier 70. Among the company's roster of accomplishments are University Park in Cambridge, Massachusetts, the \$460 million Westfield San Francisco Centre, and the recent \$71 million, 154-unit Presidio Landmark. As part of Pier 70 renovation, Forest City will be working with the design team of AECOM, Urban Design, and the Architectural Resources Group.

The now run-down Pier 70 has been mostly utilized for ship building and repair over the last 150 years. According to the Port's *Master Plan*, the 25-acre waterfront site has the potential to accommodate 2.5 million square feet of commercial space, creating as many as 8,000 jobs.

To find out more about Pier 70 and Forest City development, visit <http://pier70sf.org> and <http://www.forestcity.net>.

## A View from the Past: Remembering Mother's Day



Photograph courtesy of Potrero Hill Archives Project / Carlton Collection

In this 1914 photograph, Frances Bertich glows with a mother's love as she bends over baby Virginia in the backyard of the family's 327 Missouri Street home. From the foot of the wicker bassinet, Virginia's older sister Bernice looks on, perhaps a bit balefully. In 1989, some 60 years after the family moved off the Hill, Virginia Bertich Carlton paid a sentimental visit to her old neighborhood. On a whim, she rang the doorbell at 327. Herb and Mary Wasserman, who had bought the house in 1974, welcomed her in and made her a cup of tea. The years hadn't dimmed Virginia's memories of the house. She told the Wassermans that her parents had bought it a few years before she was born, when it was new, and the only house on the block with hardwood floors. She remembered her mother doing laundry on a wood-burning stove in the utility room and reading by gaslight; reminisced about days spent at Daniel Webster Elementary School and about playing in Jackson Park. As an adult, Virginia lived for many years in the East Bay, where she worked as a legal secretary, painted in oils, created quilts, and designed jewelry. Together with her son, Daniel, Virginia paid several more visits to the Wassermans, and shared more than 400 family photographs with the Potrero Hill Archives Project; she died in 2008, age 94.

- Abigail Johnston  
Potrero Hill Archives Project

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# Dogpatch Resident Dennis Herrera Running Hard for Mayor

By Sasha Lekach

San Francisco's mayoral election isn't until November 8, but Dennis Herrera – one of 30 declared candidates – is already campaigning as if the vote is tomorrow. Herrera, a Dogpatch resident who was elected City Attorney in 2001, is attending a whirlwind number of events, happy hours, meet-and-greets, community meetings and panel discussions in his quest to be elected to the City's highest office.

One April afternoon started at Herrera's California Street headquarters, transitioned to a South-of-Market lounge, on to a private residence in the Haight, ending at Dolby Laboratories on Potrero Avenue before the candidate headed home to Dogpatch.

Herrera opened his headquarters in February in a newly constructed building which now sports his yellow and red "Dennis Herrera for mayor" posters. Inside there was a quiet bustle of staffers moving through offices and conference rooms, banks of computers at-the-ready to execute the social media necessary in a modern-age campaign, and handmade posters and signs broadcasting ideas of what San Francisco could be, including a "City with clean streets" and "a City with a 21st century health-care system." Herrera's campaign tagline is "Imagine. A City that

works."

Throughout the evening's many events, Herrera talked about San Francisco's future, juxtaposed with his experience working with all



Photograph courtesy of the Herrera for Mayor Campaign

facets of City life as an attorney representing a diverse municipality. "I've seen how government can have an impact on people's lives," he said.

At Wish Bar & Lounge on Folsom Street, Herrera spoke at a San Francisco Women's Political Committee happy-hour, the first of a series of candidate meetings. Herrera told the predominately female crowd that he's always been

a supporter of women's political issues, and would continue to champion reproductive, marriage and equality rights as mayor. According to Herrera, as City Attorney his was the only local government office to support Planned Parenthood in opposing a 2006 federal abortion ban. "People asked why that was a San Francisco issue," Herrera told the SFPWC crowd. "The local level had to step up."

After mingling with the crowd – but no cocktails – Herrera sped-off to Haight-Ashbury to speak to a group of community leaders, hosted by Ted Loewenburg, Haight-Ashbury Improvement Association president. Roughly a dozen neighborhood activists assembled at Loewenburg's home to hear Herrera's pitch for mayor. Faced with a more intimate crowd, Herrera talked about his plans for San Francisco's neighborhoods, including creating a smoother-running public transportation system, improving public schools, and keeping small businesses in the City. Attendees asked questions ranging from rank-choice voting strategies to ever-increasing City fees. When asked for specifics on how to make San Francisco better for children, Herrera talked about implementing a "community schools model," where neighborhood schools would be viewed as a community resource.

Herrera nibbled on appetizers chased-down with water. His staff soon told him it was time to hit the road. On the trip to Potrero Hill, Herrera and his long-time friend, San Francisco District Attorney worker, and driver for the evening David Burke, chatted about every topic, similar to a television show *West Wing* walk-and-talk, except they were driving down Fell Street and interrupting each other with

opinions about the best routes to take to the Hill. The conversation turned bittersweet when Burke asked about Herrera's nine-year-old son Declan, a student at Chinese American International School. Herrera said he missed spending time with his son as the campaign ramps up, but was proud that Declan seemed to understand the importance of the election to his dad.

At Dolby Laboratories Herrera took a bathroom break – the first moment to himself since earlier that afternoon – and then was briefed on his role on a panel discussing the film *12th & Delaware*, hosted by NARAL Pro-Choice California. Herrera had been invited to provide a legal perspective on the film, a HBO documentary about crisis pregnancy centers (CPCs). Although Herrera arrived at the end of the screening, he'd watched the movie at his work desk earlier that morning, and seemed to have remembered all of the details and statistics about CPCs, abortion clinics and the women interviewed in the documentary. One of the few males in the room, Herrera held his own. "People take choice for granted," he said, encouraging the audience to get involved politically with issues they care about. "Political activism is important. Keep pressure on elected officials. Let them know you are there."

By the time questions died down and the event coordinators said their good-byes it was 9:30 p.m. After finding his car, Herrera said it was time to decompress and slow down. He takes in a few moments of calm every night to be ready for another full day serving as City Attorney and running for mayor. And the election isn't for another seven months.

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## Lucrative Landfill Contract in Limbo, as Supervisors Mull Their Options

By Lori Higa

Those awaiting the outcome of a hotly-contested battle over a proposed \$115 million landfill contract will have to wait a little longer. At a San Francisco Board of Supervisors Budget and Finance committee meeting held in April, supervisors voted for a second time in as many months to delay approval of the controversial contract, which was awarded to Recology by the San Francisco Department of the Environment in 2009.

Approval of the contract has dragged on for years amidst accusations by rebuffed incumbent landfill operator Waste Management (WM) of Alameda County of conflicts of interest and an unfair bidding process, as well as citizen protests over Recology's plan to dump the City's trash at its landfill near Wheatland, a Sierra foothills agricultural community.

At the previous committee meeting held in February, budget analyst Harvey Rose dug up poop on the 1932 voter mandate that ultimately resulted in a Recology garbage collection monopoly within City limits. His conclusion: ratepayers may not be getting the best deal, and the matter might well be placed before voters. Supervisor David Campos agreed, disclosing that he'd already put into motion a November ballot measure to force competitive bidding for local trash

collection. Campos and fellow Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi advocated for pushing the pause button on the Recology landfill award, to buy time to investigate different trash setups.

San Francisco's Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO), on which Supervisors John Avalos, Campos and Mirkarimi serve, also met last month to review a \$27,000 study by R3 Consulting LAFCO commissioned that examined how neighboring cities and counties conduct their trash business. David Gavrich, chief executive officer of San Francisco Bay Railroad, a Dogpatch-based firm that moves City recyclables by rail and barge, believes the R3 Consulting report raised more questions than it answered. "The consultants found that San Francisco doesn't even have a contract with Recology," Gavrich wrote in an email, "so the City is at a disadvantage with regard to setting garbage franchise fees, which could help with the budget deficit."

LAFCO sent R3 back to the drawing board to find out more about alternative hauling methods and other ways that might save money for ratepayers and earn revenues for the City. Gavrich noted the fiscal benefits of the City running its own transfer-recycling-eco-industrial complex at the Port instead of continuing with the current Recology-owned property

in Brisbane near Candlestick.

The decision to postpone the Recology landfill contract offers a ray of hope to its opponents. A broad contingent of Yuba County



Photograph by Paul McDonald

residents and heavy hitters, including the Yuba-Sutter Farm Bureau, county supervisors, the mayor of Wheatland, and the citizen activist group Yuba Group Against Garbage (YuGAG), are fighting Recology's contract, fearing air and groundwater contamination would hurt the area's estimated \$2 billion agricultural industry. According to Yuba County supervisor and board president Roger Abe, "they're forcing it down our throats."

"Barging is not a strong alternative, rail haul is a long shot and that there are better landfill options than Recology's," said David Tam, director of Sustainability, Parks, Recycling And Wildlife Legal Defense Fund (SPRAWLDEF), a

veteran of local garbage politics. "The Bay Area has 15 landfills, with only one-third of that capacity being used now. There are at least six other places that San Francisco could go that make more sense. Why travel all the way to Wheatland, 238 miles away round trip, when there are landfills much closer?" Tam asserted.

"We're glad the supervisors are taking time to explore the issues in more depth," said David Tucker, WM government affairs director, "but look at what's getting lost in the discussion: there's no infrastructure in place for Recology's plan to rail haul trash to its Ostrom Road landfill, there's a host of unknown costs and Yuba County doesn't want it."

Meanwhile, Recology isn't letting grass grow under its feet. The firm, joined by Waste Connections of Folsom, is supporting Assembly Bill 1178, introduced by Assemblywoman Fiona Ma, that would take away cities' and counties' ability to stop the importation of garbage from outside their jurisdictions. According to MAPLight.org, a nonprofit which connects the dots between campaign donations and legislation, Ma received \$5,000 from special interests linked to the legislation. Bill supporters have outspent – \$243,347 versus \$46,165 – the opposition, listed as Sierra Club Solano County, YuGAG and SPRAWLDEF.

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– Janet J.



# Absence of Freeway Barriers Increases Health Hazards

*San Bruno Avenue Residents Looking for Reprieve from Noise and Odor*

By Tim Henry

It's not easy to get a freeway sound barrier built in California, especially in the midst of a budget crisis. Expensive new walls, which some health officials say help reduce health hazards from air and noise pollution, are only built when something new – a lane or onramp – is constructed on an existing highway.

The 400 block of San Bruno Avenue is just 30 yards from Highway 101, with only a small chain link fence separating homes from eight busy traffic lanes. Tall trees and shrubbery separated the street from the highway about five years ago, but the trees had a limited lifespan, were diseased, and had to be removed. Homeless people have historically made use of the no-man's land near the freeway, which can attract nefarious activity.

Freeway walls were built in the 1980s near neighboring Vermont and Utah streets when the federal government funded such projects; that burden now falls to the state and counties. "Walls are a double bang for your buck," said Tom Rivard of the San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFDPH). "But walls are very expensive and hard to build. It's too bad, because I think San Francisco could really benefit from sound walls." In 2007, more than 70 San Bruno Avenue and nearby residents petitioned the City and County of San Francisco

and state – including State Senator Mark Leno's office – for trees to be planted or a sound deadening wall to be built. The response from officials was uniform: there's no money for a wall, and the 101, built in the 1950's, will not see new construction any time soon.

Most new residential development in densely populated San Francisco takes place on former commercial or industrial areas located near Highway 101 or Interstate 280. In 2008, San Francisco became the first city in the nation to require residential develop-

**"The psychological stress associated with noise can exasperate other health effects... If it's noisy and you don't sleep, this can have an effect on the totality of your health."**

**- Tom Rivard , S.F. Dept. of Public Health**

ers building near freeways to assess pollution levels, and, if necessary, install ventilation systems. According to SFDPH, particulate matter – which can cause heart disease and strokes – is often concentrated within roughly 500 yards of freeways. "The evidence is that walls are helpful in terms of reducing particle matter concentration," Rivard said. "[Walls] slow down the free flow of pollutants and allows them to fall out of air or be deposited. Particulate matter is responsible for a wide variety of respiratory and circulatory problems." SFDPH also identifies noise pollution as a health

hazard, which can increase the risks of developing hypertension, cardiovascular disease, and mental disorders.

On the sidewalk in the 400 block of San Bruno, voices must be raised to speak; there's a clear odor of exhaust. "You can't tell the true health story unless you look at noise and air pollution as being part of the same bigger health issue," Rivard said. "The psychological stress associated with noise can exasperate other health effects... If it's noisy and you don't sleep, this can have an effect on the totality

of your health." The stress caused by freeways is also in the eye of the beholder. "When the trees were here, we couldn't see the freeway," said Sheldon Trimble, a 10 year resident at the corner of San Bruno and Mariposa. "It's one thing to hear it, but it's another thing to see it. I feel like I'm right on the road."

According to the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD), freeways aren't the only polluters. Areas between 100 to 200 yards from busy surface streets are also affected by car and diesel exhaust. "Pollution attacks them from all sides," said Lisa Fasano, BAAQMD's communication director, who identified asthma and damage to the lungs among the health problems caused by air pollution. However, Fasano disagreed with SFDPH about the effectiveness of walls. "Walls don't help with air pollution, which still wafts up and goes out. It may knock down noise, but not air pollution,"

Fasano said. The BAAQMD advocates for thoughtful development in high traffic zones, such as creating buffer zones, which could consist of building parks next to freeways, with houses sitting at the ends of the park.

Charlene G., a resident of the 400 block of San Bruno, said she's not bothered by the freeway. "I don't even notice the noise any more. I only notice when it stops for an accident." And the fumes? "It's no more than if you lived with a smoker," Charlene said, adding that she's concerned that a sound wall might attract graffiti; she preferred trees. And like many residents, Charlene agreed that the vegetation used to attract the homeless. "Now they've all moved to the overpass."

According to the San Francisco Coalition for the Homeless, homeless individuals are often mistakenly associated with crime. "The thing to keep in mind is that homeless people are residents too," said Bob Offer-Westort, the Coalition's civil rights organizer. "I think if you recognize them as neighbors, it makes an easier living situations for both parties. In general, people are pretty reasonable if you deal with them face to face."

Jean Bogiages, a 37 year resident of Utah Street, helped form the Mariposa-Utah Street Neighborhood Association (MUNA) in 2003 in response to muggings, prostitution, drug dealing, and a high concentration of homeless individuals. The group helped improve the mini-park at 18th and Utah streets, and gathered signatures petitioning for a sound wall on San Bruno Avenue in 2007. "I don't remember homelessness being an issue 30 or 40 years ago; I don't think the Caltrans areas are a good place for them to live. There are no bathrooms there," Bogiages said, referring to the green patches and bare areas surrounding the freeway. MUNA lobbied then District 10 Supervisor Sophie Maxwell, Leno, the Department of Public Works, and

see WALLS page 9



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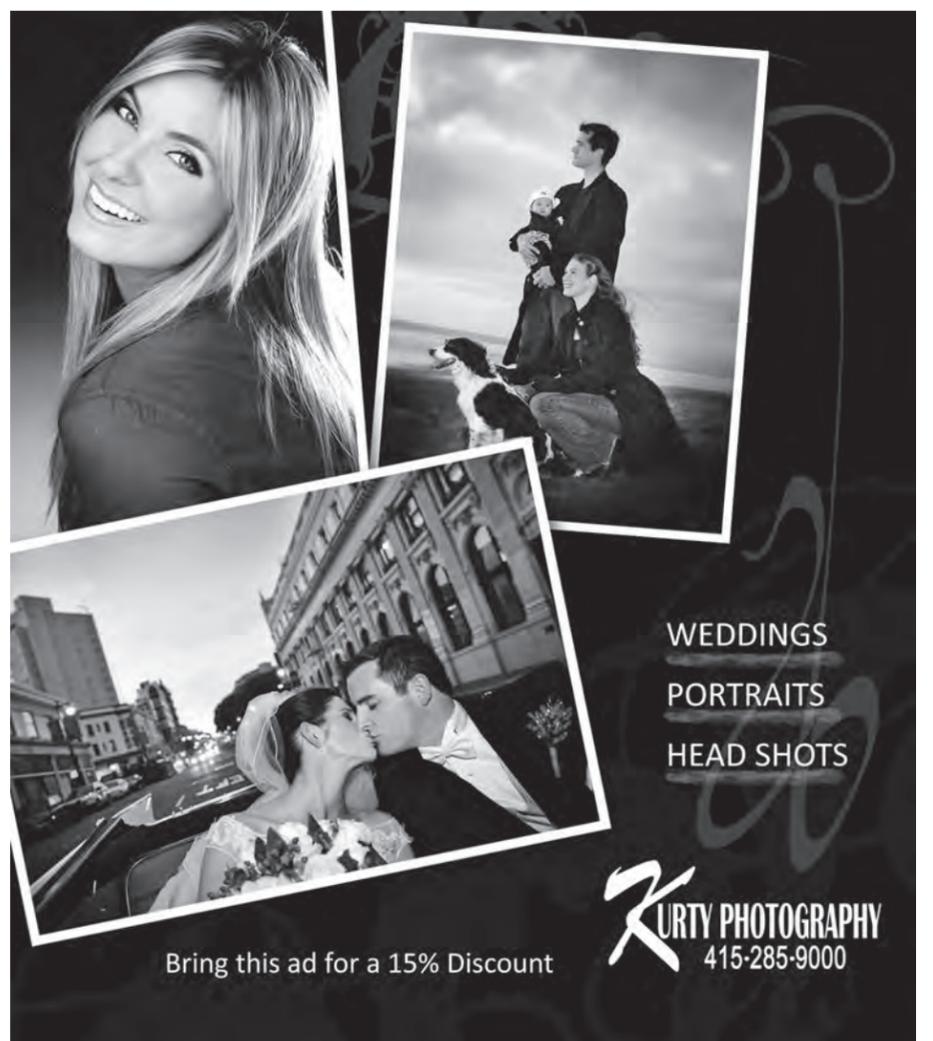
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# Chocolatier Expands in Dogpatch

By Bill Slatkin

Is making chocolate an art or a science? For Michael Recchiuti, whose Recchiuti Confections has grown from his kitchen into a sprawling production and shipping facility in the American Industrial Center (AIC) building, the work of a chocolatier is equal parts both. His fascination with the art began when Recchiuti was growing up in Philadelphia, watching his pastry chef grandmother at work. As his interest transitioned into a career, Recchiuti came to appreciate the science involved. There are mornings when the clock strikes four while he's loading peanuts, chocolate, and other ingredients into a mixer, then carefully adjusting its controls after calculating how the temperature, humidity and other factors will influence the texture and taste of the final creation.

On the A list of San Francisco chocolatiers almost since it was founded in 1997, Recchiuti Confections is part of the fabric of Southside San Francisco's new economy, which is being shaped by enterprises dedicated to innovation. While many traditional confectioners can boast that they've pleased customers with the same mixtures of popular ingredients for generations, Recchiuti continual searches for new combinations of flavors and textures, offering an ever-changing, sometimes surprising, line-up of treats. An experiment with a tarragon-infused ganache, for example, resulted in a favorite that Recchiuti Confections dresses-up with a custom finish for a corporate client, ships to mail-order customers and select retailers throughout the country, and is featured in the Recchiuti outlet at San Francisco's Ferry Building.

Recchiuti's experiments with new flavor combinations extends to the source: the chocolate bars or pellets, the raw material from which the company creates upwards of 35

products. Along with his wife – and business partner – Jacky, Recchiuti will spend part of this spring visiting Valhrona, one of the company's chocolate suppliers, located in a wine growing region near Lyon, France. "Some of their technicians came out here recently to see what we're doing. We're working on the interior chocolates; the ganache. And we're working with them on some new custom formulations," he said.

The combination of Recchiuti's



Photograph by Paul McDonald

One of Recchiuti's cooks whips up a batch of the chocolatier's specialties.

precise planning and creativity is reflected in his company's character. He first moved to San Francisco in 1986, worked in the food industry, much of the time as a pastry chef, met and married Jacky, then accepted a position as an instructor at the New England Culinary Institute in Vermont. In the early-1990s the couple decided they wanted to produce extraordinary confections. They worked together at a small Barnard,

Vermont resort, while making plans and saving money for the chocolate business they hoped to create in San Francisco. By the time the company launched, the test chocolates Recchiuti had been making in his home kitchen were beginning to get favorable attention among food critics, restaurateurs and others. "The buzz was starting to build," said Recchiuti. A write-up in *Bon Appetit* resulted in orders for products "even before we started the company." Recchiuti initially distributed at farmers' markets.

The company has steadily expanded its AIC space, which now

includes offices, production, and shipping facilities. "We really love it here. In fact, we just moved to Tennessee Street..." from a home near Dolores Park. The move not only puts the couple closer to their manufacturing facility, they'll live down the street from their next retail store, the Chocolate Lab, which will open in the space now occupied by Piccino, when that café moves to Minnesota and 22nd streets.

PUBLISHER'S from page 2

out of their retirement lifeboats, so that they too can live out the rest of their lives eating cat food and sleeping in a cardboard box? If we can no longer afford quality education for most of our children, is the plan to have a nation of Walmart greeters, selling Chinese products which have the subtle smell of a petroleum-based toxin?

Sifting through the rubble of chronic government budget deficits, shafts of light can be found indicating potential pathways to a future we might actually want to live in. Despite false starts and inadequate leadership, California's energy policies seem to be stumbling towards a more reliable, sustainable, and even community-based era, in which there's a range of fuels – including natural gas, advanced (renewable) diesel technology, the sun, and the wind – from which to power our vehicles, refrigerators, and other equipment. The federal stimulus package, while poorly constructed and badly implemented, signaled that large, collective action can be taken in the midst of crises. And citizen-leaders are pointing towards ways to reclaim underperforming schools and ill-tended green spaces, through literal grassroots efforts supported by a mix of public and private dollars.

Whether the current travails have a spiritual dimension – and really, what doesn't – or are purely human made, our response should be the same: praise the Lord and pass the ammunition. Whereby "praise" might mean stop poking at your iPhone, and wake up to what's going on; and "ammunition" comes in the form of adopting public policies that create the kind of world we want for our children.

*A version of this commentary was aired as part of KQED Radio's Perspective series last month.*

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# District 10 Candidates Keep A Low-Profile Post Election

By Nicole Spiridakis

The San Francisco Board of Supervisors District 10 race last November often was described as “unprecedented.” Twenty-one candidates – and no incumbent – competed for the slot to represent the Bayview, Dogpatch, Hunters Point, Portola, Potrero Hill and Visitacion Valley neighborhoods, with no obvious frontrunner leading the pack throughout the race. The prevailing candidate, now supervisor, Malia Cohen, eked out a victory with 4,173 first, second, and third place votes after 19 rounds of the ranked-choice voting (RCV) process.

San Francisco’s RCV system allows voters to select their top three picks for supervisor – and mayor, this November – with the winner declared after a candidate collects 50 percent of the vote after all of the ballots are tabulated or exhausted. Cohen, a San Francisco native, didn’t garner the most first-place votes – Lynette Sweet did – but under RCV was ultimately declared the winner in a process that took until Thanksgiving to complete.

In the crowded D10 field, four leading candidates emerged after the first round of voting. Sweet, Tony Kelly, Cohen and Marlene Tran all landed within roughly one-third

of a percent of each other. A fifth candidate, Steve Moss, came within 1 percent – less than 200 votes – of Sweet’s first-place votes. The five remained within 3.5 percent of one another during each of the following RCV rounds, until Cohen finally emerged as the winner.

Sweet, a Bay Area Rapid Transit board director, ran on the strength of her leadership experience. She’d previously directed the San Francisco Redevelopment Commission, served as president of the Taxi Commission, and an elected BART board member. Sweet’s main campaign message revolved around job creation in the district.

Kelly, a Potrero Hill activist running on the left, campaigned for more permanently affordable housing, among other community issues. Tran, a Chinese-speaking community leader who has taught English and citizenship classes to the Asian-American community for decades, and who has served on both the Ingleside and Bayview police precinct’s community advisory boards, pushed for better Muni service and increased employment in the district. And Moss, who runs an environmental nonprofit as well as this newspaper, focused on green job creation and responsible development.

Sweet continues to serve on the BART board. Kelly, who was the long-time Potrero Boosters Neighborhood Association president before his supervisorial run, hopes to reprise that role in June. He also continues to work with the theater company he co-founded, Thick Description, in collaboration with Bindlestiff Studio, helping to supervise the construction of a new theater venue at 6th and Howard, which will open this summer. Tran continues her community activism, particularly in the Visitacion Valley community. Neither Sweet, Kelly, nor Tran were available for comment for this article.

Moss shared some of his post-election thoughts five months after the end of his campaign, mentioning that as a result of his participation in the race he’s expanded the *View* to provide news and editorial coverage of issues facing the Bayview and South-of-Market neighborhoods, “because we need high-quality information about the world around us now more than ever.”

According to Moss, he ran for the D10 seat because of a desire to help create a sustainable future for district residents, as well as San Francisco as a whole. “I was concerned about my then eight-year-old daughter’s – and all children’s – future in a City that has become increasingly expensive and bifurcated between the rich and the poor,” Moss said. “I wanted to up my contribution to solving our

**WALLS** from page 7

San Francisco County Transportation Authority (SFCTA), asking for a wall or trees to be placed between San Bruno and the 101.

The California Department of Transportation (CalTrans) owns and maintains the small clusters of trees and shrubs stretching southward from the 17th street overpass, and is required to consider walls where appropriate on new freeways, or when lanes or off/on ramps are added. The Doyle Drive project south of the Golden Gate Bridge won’t include a sound wall. The addition of new walls to old freeways is SFCTA’s responsibility; the agency can rely on state funds or part of its internal budget to pay for walls; neither coffer is especially full at the moment.

“The problem right now is funding. Unfortunately a sound wall doesn’t appear in any transportation project,” said Steven Nguyen, a senior project engineer for SFCTA. According to Nyugyn, current county funding is being directed to the Doyle Drive project and the Trans Bay terminal. “Even if funds for sound walls were available, they must compete against all other projects for priority,” Nguyen said.

Although District 10 Supervisor Malia Cohen acknowledged the City’s financial challenges, she stated that adding a wall or vegetation along San Bruno Avenue is “...something we’d be willing to entertain from the community.”

see **CANDIDATES** page 20



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**VIOLENCE** from front page

member put it “DCYF can coordinate and coordinate but what if there is no money for services?”

Recently appointed Police Chief Gregory Suhr pointed-out that three of the six Annex-Terrace residents’ murders resulted from arguments which escalated, and weren’t random acts or drive-by shootings, in which bystanders may get hurt. This distinction, however, may be lost on those directly affected by violence, and is considered callous by some community advocates. According to Suhr, the police have increased their presence at Annex-Terrace over the past year, and will participate in a meeting about Hill violence at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House (Nabe) on May 28 at 4 p.m.

Nabe director Edward Hatter spoke without hesitation about what causes violence on the Hill. “The kids are bored, boxed-in by street violence which locks them into an eight block radius. They’re afraid to go outside. The long-standing feud between Potrero Terrace and Potrero Annex residents needs to be talked about because it’s real. Many youth programs are gone, eliminated by budget cutbacks. This situation makes selling drugs attractive and leads to fights over drug-selling turf on Connecticut, Missouri and Dakota streets. Pill parties, where a bowl full of drugs is shared, have become popular with our youth.” According to Hatter, staff reductions at the Potrero Hill Recreation Center and charging for once-free summer programs have made things even more difficult for Hill youth. Hatter believes that because the DCYF hot zones were determined by analyzing where all crime occurs, neighborhoods where youth violence is concentrated may be neglected. Hatter also thinks that VPI focuses too much on youth after incarceration, and too little on the family and community situations that lead to problems.

And Hatter is critical of how SFPD operates its Connecticut and 25th streets substation. “It’s almost never open, and closed after 5 p.m. and on weekends.” He hopes that SFPD will restart a program in which police volunteers take 40 kids a month on fishing trips on the bay. Two years ago, under the Juvenile Justice Department’s Intensive Home



Photographs by Peter Linenthal

Left to right: Veronica Martinez, Tara Regan Andersen and Diana Oliva-Aroche from DCYF’s violence prevention and intervention unit, Edward Hatter, Joe Tasby and recently appointed Police Chief Greg Suhr.

Based Supervision Program, a case manager kept tabs on Hill youth who’d been arrested and put on probation. According to Hatter, she knew her kids and the community well, and was able to defuse conflicts before they became violent. Hatter believes that the program should be reprised.

DCYF also runs the Community Response Network (CRN), modeled on a successful program located in the Mission, in which fourteen social service agencies collaborate to reach-out to gang members. Potrero Hill is in CRN’s southeast sector, which includes the Visitation Valley, Bayview-Hunters Point, Sunnydale, and the Excelsior neighborhoods. Hatter believes that CRN spends too much time with kids who are in school, neglecting their main target: kids as young as 11 who have dropped out of school, who teach other youth that truancy is cool. These kids may get out of bed at 11 a.m., and devote the rest of the day and night to selling drugs. When the DCYF laid-off its Visitation Valley CRN staff six months ago, the Nabe withdrew from CRN. Under VPI, CRN would be consolidated into one office that would cover the entire City.

According to Joe Tasby, Family Resource Center director, violence could be prevented if sufficient funds were available. “What is most frustrating is when people articulate needs that I don’t have the resources to meet. Just what I thought would happen is happening. When the Hill Rec. Center program ended, all the kids came here. I’m not supposed to be running a youth program, but I am. A lot of people come here, see what the needs are and promise to help, then disappear. 94107 is one of the most affluent parts of the City but where is the help? Programs for youth are fighting over funding so the youth start fighting each other. There

should be more collaboration on policy between the programs. The pedagogy of our contemporary policies is that people are expendable and the dollar is recoverable.” Tasby would like to see a Mayor’s Youth Education & Employment Program vendor for Potrero Hill, which is already in place in the Mission and Hunters Point.

While funding for the center has been cut from \$750,000 to \$500,000 over the past three years, demand for services has increased. A year ago, the center’s food pantry supplied 60 families a week with bags of groceries; today upwards of 120 families participate. When the San Francisco Unified School District eliminated summer school last year, Tasby organized activities at Daniel Webster Elementary School. He also leads groups at the school when students are exposed to violence. One student saw his parent shot and killed, a situation, Tasby says, that often leads to Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. He speaks from his own ex-

perience. “I grew up in Hunters Point and experienced a lot of my peers die in their adolescence. I thought it was normal and it’s not.”

Tasby acknowledged that his center serves Annex residents; those from Terrace are afraid to come. “It’s like East and West Germany. What’s sad is that the feud pits former school mates against each other. But we’re not unique. All SF public housing has divisions like this.”

There are bright spots. This year Tasby was able to buy several computers and fund a teaching position through a \$50,000 DCYF grant. District 10 Supervisor Malia Cohen’s office helped secure new furniture. Tasby looks forward to a second Peace March, which will be held on May 11, 8:30 to 11 a.m. During the march students from Daniel Webster, Starr King, and Live Oak elementary schools, Downtown High School, and International Studies Academy gather at Jackson Park and call for an end of violence. Last year 700 people took part in the gathering.

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# Time is Money for Timebank Participants

By Mary Purpura

People are losing their homes to foreclosures and short sales; unemployment rates are high. The Bay Area Community Exchange (BACE) is trying to help hard-pressed families through current difficult times. BACE, a network of individuals and grassroots organizations that support the development of alternative means of exchange in the San Francisco Bay Area, introduced the BACE

## Urban Ecology

Timebank as its first project a little more than a year ago. “We were discussing various alternative currency projects, and many of us thought Timebank was a good one to start with, particularly since it didn’t require issuing alternative currency,” explained Visitation Valley resident Tara Hui, a BACE Timebank founder and board member.

Anyone can join the Timebank by going to <http://timebank.sfbace.org> and opening an account. Participants identify the skills – grouped into one of 19 categories, such as food, mechanical, transportation, and legal – they’re willing to offer, and post a short biography and photograph. “We encourage people to use real photos of themselves,” said Hui, “since one of our goals is to build community and trust. It helps to see images of the real people you’re trading with.”

Timebank exchanges are prompted by member requests. A participant may need a ride to and from the grocery store. The post requests to tag along with someone doing a shopping trip. Another Timebank member responds, and an amount of time to complete the task is agreed upon. That time is debited from the recipient’s account, and credited to the individual providing the car share. “The Timebank itself always maintains a neutral balance,” said Hui. “We are just a recording mechanism, essentially keeping a ledger.” The only currency exchanged is time; everyone’s time is valued equally.

“When everyone is compensated equally, it changes the way you feel about the work you do,” said Amber Yada, a freelance videographer who created a video about the Timebank and other local economic alternatives. “You don’t feel like you always have to grab your share, or like you’re being exploited. When I trade through the Timebank, I feel like my work is being valued fairly.”

“I’m a big fan of barter too, but I think the Timebank opens up more possibilities,” said Yada. “If I’m going to barter with someone, we’re limited to our specific skill sets,” but because Timebank uses time as the currency exchanged, members aren’t bound to direct trades. Likewise, the Internal Revenue Service taxes barter exchanges in dollars and

cents, even though no money changes hands. Timebanking is tax-free. One member can offer an hour of garden work to another member, and receive two hours of instruction in French from a third. The time values credited and debited to an individual member don’t have to be equivalent; running a negative – or positive – balance is allowed.

“Often people will wait for an opportunity to earn before they spend,” said Hui. “With money, that’s a responsible thing to do. But with the Timebank, we don’t discourage negative balances. Negative balances mean that trading is happening in the community, and that’s our goal,” she added. While negative balances are acceptable, and even encouraged, Timebank, which is run entirely by volunteers, will contact members who have a negative or positive balance of 25 hours, said Hui. “We want to discourage both hoarding and taking advantage of others,” she explained. “We don’t cut somebody off from Timebank if they hit that 25-hour limit, but we do communicate with them to see what’s going on. For example, someone with a big negative balance might have a big project underway that they’re using a lot of Timebank help to complete. Once the project is done, they’ll be able to give back to the Timebank community.”

“While everyone needs to exercise any precautions that they would

also use in a transaction that involves money, I think the Timebank allows you to gather a lot of information about someone you might be trading with,” said Hui. “Once you’re a member, you can see the transaction history of any other member. You can see who they’ve transacted with in the past, and you can contact those people for recommendations.” Individual email addresses are never made public through Timebank – even to other members – but an email address is used for verification purposes when someone first sets up an account. All email communication happens through the Timebank webmail system.

The BACE Timebank has roughly 300 members, about 100 of whom are active. “We have members as far away as Eureka and Big Sur,” said Hui. “That’s because lots of skills – like editing and writing – can be shared virtually.” Still, Timebank’s heart is face-to-face interaction. “We’re really trying to encourage transactions between people,” said Hui. “People get to know each other; it’s very local and we’re really building community at a basic level.”

“Timebank provides an economic alternative, but it’s also a social tool,” said Hui. “We want everyone to feel valued,” including the elderly and disabled, who are often marginalized in terms of economic exchange. “We want to encourage people to see their intrinsic value, not seeing their marketability as employees as their only source of worth. There’s always

see **TIMEBANK** page 20



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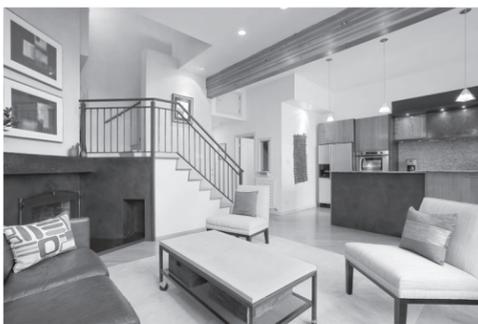
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# Dogs, Pollution Nip at Heron's Head Bird Population

By Tim Henry

According to National Geographic, there are about 110,000 dogs in San Francisco; roughly one dog for every seven humans. This large canine population needs to stretch their legs and poop, mostly likely at one of more than 30 City parks. As the National Park Service and San Francisco officials debate the future of dogs in federal parks, unleashed or otherwise, a slice of green space in India Basin may also be an emerging center of conflict between dog owners, birds and bird enthusiasts

Heron's Head Park is a 24-acre jetty that slivers into India Basin between Hunters Point and Pier 96. The largest park owned and operated by the Port of San Francisco, it's commonly used to walk dogs. A recent informal survey conducted by the *View* found that more than 80 percent of the individuals using the park were accompanied by dogs, some on-leash, others not, though a sign on the front gate tells visitor that dogs must be on-leash at all times. An off-leash dog area will be built this summer near the park's entrance, with the rest of the space remaining open to on-leash dogs, according to



Photograph by Paul McDonald

Port officials.

"We don't anticipate a change to the [on-leash] policy," said David Beaupre, the Port of San Francisco's senior waterfront planner. "We have had some complaints about dogs being off-leash at Heron's Head. It came to our attention a couple of years ago, and came up again a few months ago as more and more people become aware of the park. The increased popularity has elevated conflicts such as these."

The San Francisco Board of Supervisors voted 10 to one last month to oppose a federal proposal to significantly limit dogs' access to the

Golden Gate National Recreational Areas (GGNRA). Under the GGNRA proposal, the current "voice-control" standard – in which dogs must be contained by their owners' commands – would be replaced by strict on-leash requirements at Forts Funston, Mason, Baker, and Miley, Crissy Field, Lands End and Ocean Beach. "It's important to maintain adequate dog space at GGNRA, otherwise there will be an increase in dog activities at neighborhood parks; they're going to go somewhere," said District Eight Supervisor Scott Wiener, who led the charge against the GGNRA proposal.

"There's no conflict between people and birds. Heron's Head is a very peaceful place. I've never seen a dog harm another person or another bird," said Richard Drechsler, an

avid birder and Audubon society volunteer, who visited the park on 242 days in 2010. Drechsler considers himself a bird advocate, and doesn't own a dog.

Sharon Beals, a Potrero Hill resident and author of several books on both birds and dogs, walks her dog, Ellie, at Heron's Head a few times a week. "I've been an advocate for birds about as long as I've had dogs, which is about 20 years. As I learn more about the habitat issue facing birds, I'm becoming more concerned." Beals said she supports the proposed tough new dog access restrictions for GGNRA. "If I want to have my dog off-leash, I go to the Bernal Heights park," Beals said.

That dogs roam off-leash in places where they're not supposed to is widely known. "The Recreation and Park Department conceded a high level of noncompliance, and it has long been tolerated. Even when the City has stuck up for the leash law, it's met with a lot of resistance," said Mike Lynes, Golden Gate Audubon Society's conservation director. "There are a lot of negative effects of dogs. Little kids are not comfortable, and dogs defecate in environmentally sensitive areas. And there have been incidences of bites and attacks," Lynes said.

In a bizarre event last New Years

see **HERON'S HEAD** page 4

## Justice Comes to Bayview

By Regina Anavy

Last month's gathering called by District Attorney George Gascón – held at the Southeast Community Center in Bayview – drew a crowd, including recently appointed Police Chief Greg Suhr and District 10 Supervisor Malia Cohen. They'd come to hear about an innovative concept, "restorative justice," which



Photograph by Regina Anavy

Greg Suhr, Malia Cohen and George Gascón.

members would meet once or twice weekly to adjudicate minor offenses, such as public urination, recycling theft, graffiti and other quality-of-life crimes. Court participation would be triggered when a citation is issued; the offender would have the option of going through the regular court system or receiving "instant" adjudication within two days in the community court. There'd be no defense attorney in the community court. The volunteer court could require the offender to do community service for a certain number of hours, which would have to be completed within two weeks. The court would identify areas where offenders could fulfill a sanction, such as painting over graffiti, gardening, or working for Habitat for Humanity. There'd be no jail-time, and the incident wouldn't go on the perpetrator's record. Translators would be provided as needed.

According to Lenore Anderson, from the DA's office, community courts are necessary "because the criminal courts are packed." A neighborhood prosecutor, Assistant DA Rebecca J. Prozan – who unsuccessfully ran for the San Francisco Board of Supervisor in District 8 last November – would alternate between being available at the Bayview and Mission police station to review cases and issue citations.

is intended to reduce the criminal court system's workload and to enable minor offenders to avoid jail terms.

Under the approach, volunteer community courts would be created in Bayview and the Mission as part of "an experiment," said Gascón. Both neighborhoods have high-crime rates. Three volunteer community

## Velma's Serves Up Soul

By Simon Stahl

Velma's is the kind of place you'd never find if you didn't know about it. Located on Jerrold Avenue, between Upton and Napoleon in Bayview's industrial center, from outside Velma's looks like a dive bar. But once inside you'll be treated to some great music. The walls are decorated with photographs of some of the blues, jazz, rhythm and blues, and soul musicians who have performed there; legends like Bobby Bland, Clarence Carter, and Jerry Butler, to name a few.

Velma's attractions differ depending on the day of the week. Fridays are normally reserved for events and parties; with a full bar and a large dance floor, nearly 500 people can be accommodated. On Thursdays there's live jazz. Every other Wednesday Velma's hosts comedy performances. Sundays feature blues or R&B acts. On Tuesdays and the remaining Wednesdays, the space is closed.

Mondays are open mic night, providing an opportunity for local musicians to find a new audience. It's also

a chance for jazz, blues, and soul fans to enjoy great music without paying a cover. Up and coming artists like Ms. Jody are known to perform at Velma's. As an extra attraction, a free buffet is offered, with treats like hot dogs and cole slaw.

Velma's kitchen boasts a mastery of soul food classics, like fried chicken and fried fish. Breakfast is served Monday and Friday mornings, and co-owner Chester Billinger plans to start serving lunch. For now the food is mostly offered at events and private parties, though; the emphasis at Velma's is on the music and the bar, which offers \$7 nightly specials. Cocktails aren't the biggest, but they're certainly strong enough.

Velma's is a simple place that does a few things well. There's nothing special about the location, the décor, or the ambiance, but it's a nice place to sip a drink and listen to some great music. It's also easy to drive to, right off Highway 101, with plenty of parking nearby. Add in the prospect of free food, and it makes for a tempting option on a weekday night.

**MITIGATION** from front page of View

But Teri Anders of the Anders and Anders Foundation, a job training and placement nonprofit, believes that a million dollars is inadequate: "I am appalled that we would consider a million to be all we need, after the injustice of what Pacific Gas and Electric has done to the community," Anders said.

At the March task forces meeting, Southside residents spoke about the benefits of gardens. Under ATF's proposal, \$52,000 a year would be provided for three years to sustain new and existing garden projects, including providing monies for lead testing in soil, garden supplies, and stipends for interns. According to Potrero Hill resident David Glober, the Potrero Hill Community Garden is an example of an already successful project. "I think we have a good start. We've had amazing moments where people get their hands in the dirt, and children are involved. It keeps them from vandalizing the neighborhood," he said.

Vermont Street resident Henry Wimmer, a McKinley Square Park Foundation board member, proposed using some of the funds to eliminate the large concrete no-man's land at 17th and Vermont streets, which attracts crime and lawlessness. "We really want to have a healing garden and incorporate kids and neighbors," Wimmer said.

Karen Cohn, San Francisco Department of Public Health's children's environmental health promoter and ATF member, said she'd like to see the money directed toward health programs and home retrofits. "Anything that burns and has combustion products is bad to breathe. Power plants in general, the Mirant Plant included, do cause air pollution that can lead to new asthma, and that make existing asthma worse," she said.

Under ATF's approach, funds would be provided to three clinics: the Potrero Hill Caleb Clark Center, which provides primary care, but doesn't have an asthma educator on-site, the Potrero Hill Family Resource Center, which offers a parent empowerment series designed to bolster community cohesiveness, and San Francisco General Hospital's Pediatric Asthma Clinic, which would receive funds to support an extra health worker. The clinic is a well-established specialty center that has a long waiting list of patients. "An extra health worker would help meet the demand," Cohn said. "The clinic does see quite a lot of children from

Potrero Hill and from the southeast corridor in general. There is also a medical legal partnership on-site that provides disability rights advocacy and housing rights advocacy to the clinic's patients."

"I know with providing asthma educators to these clinics I can reach hundreds of people with asthma in three years time, and teach them how to manage their asthma both medically and environmentally," Cohn said. Increasing access to asthma medicine – typically a rescue inhaler, which relieves the symptoms of restricted breathing, and a controller inhaler, which treats asthma's long term effects – is only part of the solution. "It really helps people to just get the support to understand what is happening with their asthma. I think asthma education has a very important role in saving lives."

Under the proposed filtration retrofitting project, gravity-fed furnaces and ducting would be converted to forced air natural gas systems, which would be fixed with filters that strain-out pollutants and cycle clean air. In 2008, San Francisco began requiring developers in air pollution "hot-spots" to install filtration systems. But the ordinance only applies to new developments, not existing housing. "Developers do pay community benefits regardless, so it would be innovative to direct their funds towards improving existing housing. That is why this proposal is sustainable and potentially benefits much more than the 16 homes proposed," Cohn said. "It's a fine impulse," said Steve Moss, a PPTF member, the *View's* publisher, and founder of San Francisco Community Power (SF Power), "but we ran a furnace replacement program more than six years ago, using

mitigation funds provided when the Potrero Power Plant was originally sold. We replaced a dozen or so bad furnaces, but at that scale the overhead burden is simply too high to be sustainable."

Stacey Bartlett, Potrero Residents Education Fund administrative president, said that she'd like to see the money go to different projects than those proposed by ATF. Bartlett posted an electronic survey in late-March, which received 250 responses in less than 48 hours. Most of the survey respondents favored greening local schools, including installing solar panels, and expressed support for reclaiming the concrete area around 17th and Vermont streets. "We should have a format for vetting proposals," Bartlett said. PPTF has "...fought their fight, and they're tired. But this money could be used for anything, as long as it's for the benefit of the community. And I think most people think that improving schools is a benefit."

The Potrero Power Plant was one of the state's oldest and most outdated generating facilities. The plant relied on bay water, which was cycled through hot turbines and returned to the environment roughly 10 degrees warmer than when it left, causing harm to marine ecosystems. "Most visible was the air impact," said City Attorney, Dogpatch resident and mayoral candidate Dennis Herrera. "If the wind was blowing the wrong way, there was a film that you'd see on cars."

As part of an effort to restructure the state's electricity industry, the California Public Utility Commission forced PG&E to sell the plant in the late-1990s. Mirant, which was spun-off by its parent, Southern Company, in 2001, purchased the facility, and quickly made plans to almost triple its size. Dogpatch and Potrero Hill residents – lead by PPTF, PotreroBoosters Neighborhood Association, and SF Power – rallied against the expansion, and, with help from City leaders, stopped it. A coalition of activists and politicians then turned their attention to closing the plant entirely.

In the end, aggressive application of building codes was the last straw that finally felled the facility: the unreinforced brick building didn't meet earthquake standards, and would have cost Mirant millions to upgrade. "The most important thing was to get an agreement to shut the plant down," Herrera said. "All parties are to be applauded for their efforts."

With completion of the Trans Bay Cable, which was developed by Patten Energy Group, and built by SteelRiver Infrastructure Partners, the California Independent System Operator – which is responsible for statewide electric reliability – determined that the Potrero Power Plant was no longer needed. Under the agreement to approve the cable an additional \$2 million will be paid each year to the City, to be invested in renewable energy and environmental health programs that benefit low income and at-risk populations.

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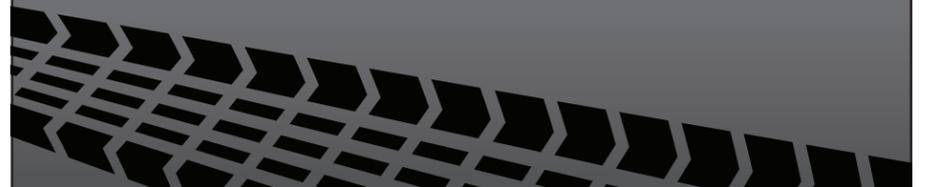
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# Derelict Buildings Dot Bayview

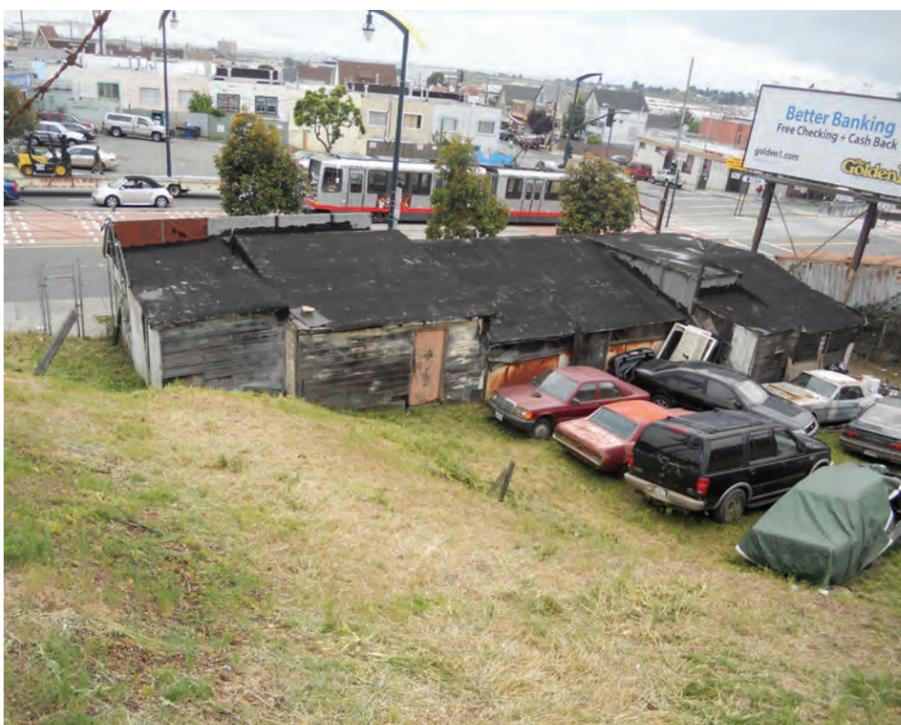
By Robert Davis



Located at 4801 Third Street, this building has been vacant for at least a year, with \$6,120 in City fees outstanding.



This vacant house, located at 1748 Oakdale, has been subject to a series of complaints over an almost 15 year period. A rear porch and stairway were removed in 2000. In 2009 the Department of Building Inspection noted that there was “debris on premises, excessive vegetation, abandoned vehicles in rear yard and dilapidated exterior.”



These 5210 Third Street commercial buildings have been blighted with refuse and abandoned vehicles for more than a decade.



Photographs by Paul McDonald

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## HERON'S HEAD from front page

day, a dead adolescent Great Blue Heron was found draped over a fence at Heron's Head. A necropsy wasn't preformed to determine the cause of death; according to Port officials puncture wounds were observed by a concerned citizen, suggesting some type of predation. "We really don't know what killed the Great Blue Heron," said Carol Bach, the Port's environmental and regulatory affairs manager, and a dog owner. "Speculation about predation, type of predator, or where the Great Blue Heron died are all ideas that have been offered to me by members of the public, and I am really not in a position to validate those suggestions or speculate myself. However or wherever the Great Blue Heron died, it was certainly a person who picked the carcass up and draped it over the 'wildlife area' sign. We don't know what that person's intent was," Bach said.

"After that incident, the Port sought increased police presence to enforce the dogs-on-leash rule, with limited success. Our efforts were driven partly by that incident, but equally by the fact that we had increasing complaints about off-leash dogs over the past year or so," Bach added.

Dreschler, who photographed the Great Blue Heron when it was an adolescent, disagreed. "The Great Blue Heron incident is a hoax," he said. "There are no Great Horned

Owls or foxes in [Heron's Head] park. Only Golden Eagles attack Great Blue Herons, and they are extremely rare. None of these animals would then place the bird's body over a fence. The bird was placed there at night, when the park was locked, to be seen and photographed the next day," he said.

San Francisco Animal Control hasn't received any complaints at Heron's Head so far this year. "I haven't had a call out there," said Lieutenant Le-Ellis Brown. "My only call this year has been goats," he said, referring to grazing goats that escaped from herders that use them to clear grass for fire-hazards. According to Bayview Station police officer Melvin Thornton, who patrols several southside San Francisco parks, though not Heron's Head, he's written fewer off-leash tickets recently as more park users obey the rules.

According to Beaupre, the presence of dogs – especially off-leash – in Heron's Head Park creates a potential conflict with other groups. "I think there's two types of complaints with dogs in the park: they are sensitive natural areas, and people feel threatened by dogs. You have a mile long spit going into the water. If you are entering the park and see an off-leash dog, you basically have the option of turning around and not going," he said.

Bach said that dogs can also be a distraction to school children on field trips at Heron's Head. "For our school groups, the classes can find off-leash

dogs very disruptive. If you're a teacher with school children, dogs can be a problem in that that the kids can't pay attention; it's not conducive to learning. And that's not getting reported to the police," she said.

Literacy for Environmental Justice (LEJ), a nonprofit organization, is funded by the Port to run educational field trips, and coordinates restoration efforts at Heron's Head. "We have to balance between being educators and running a program," said Reynelle Rino, LEJ's park ecologist. "If I'm seeing someone who doesn't have a dog on a leash, I'll enforce the dogs-on-leash law, and sometimes that has to be enforced while I'm teaching a lesson. That can interrupt our program," she said.

Heron's Head is an oasis of wetlands stuck in between one of San Francisco's most polluted industrial areas. The manmade, nearly mile-long, jetty was built in the late-1970s, and converted to a park in 1999. Nonnative plants have been removed by Port gardeners and volunteers, and pickleweed, which provides habitat for insects and food for birds, is flourishing. "The Port, like most industrial areas, has had a lot of different kinds of uses over the decades, which has released a lot of chemicals into the environment," said Deb Self, Baykeeper's executive director. "[The chemicals] get into the environment through the sediment, which then gets into invertebrates and clams. Those chemicals will concentrate as they work their way up the food

chain. That's a threat to birds."

According to Self, the biggest environmental problem in Port lands is storm water run-off, which washes diesel fuel, engine lubricants and anti-freeze into the bay. Baykeeper recently filed a lawsuit against Hanson Aggregates for violation of the Clean Water Act. Hanson has locations in Oakland, Pier 92, and Pier 94, the latter of which is about a half mile from Heron's Head. "They handle sand and gravel that's dredged from the bay. Because that sediment has been contaminated, it's toxic if it washes back into the bay in a storm," Self said.

Seagulls have been dying in large numbers near Pier 94; Port officials believe that the gulls are dying from a fungus in the lungs, which comes from a common mold found in bread and vegetation. "We know it's the mold," said Bach. "The Department of Fish and Game conducted a lot of observation; we just don't know where they're picking [the mold] up. The life shed of seagulls is pretty large; they fly all over the Bay Area," she said.

According to Drechsler, pollution in general is the problem. "The Pier 94 district has been the dumping ground for San Francisco's waste for decades. It's businesses' recycled rubble, garbage and spoiled carrion that attract hungry gulls who roost along the shore; their native habitat. For years birds have been found with greased feathers and broken limbs." Drechsler said that local conservation groups identified 54 bird deaths in 2010.

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# Happy Mother's Day

I'd like to wish all the Potrero Hill mothers a happy Mother's Day, especially all of the mothers and my neighbors in the Potrero Hill Annex and Terrace.

- Uzuri Pease Greene



Clockwise: Mamma Woo of the Potrero Terrace Market, Dorothy, Monica, Andy and Sarah.

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## LIBRARY NEWS

By Abby Bridge, Potrero Branch Librarian

**53RD ANNUAL ART EXHIBITION** The Library hosts its 53rd Annual Art Exhibition, May 8 through June 4. Featuring artists who live, work, or study on Potrero Hill, this is San Francisco's oldest annual art show and owes its longevity to a group of artists who painted with, or under the tutelage of, the late Charles Farr. Enjoy beautiful community art, musical entertainment and refreshments at the opening reception on May 7 from 1 to 4 p.m. M.B. Hanif will perform jazz music for all ages at 1 p.m. The Red Shoes, a duo of teenage sisters, will perform traditional Celtic and old-time American music at 3 p.m.

### Library Adult Programs

**A KID'S VIEW OF POTRERO HILL** with Carl Nolte, a veteran reporter and columnist for the *San Francisco Chronicle*, who writes a Sunday column, *Native Son*. Nolte was raised on Potrero Hill and remembers all kinds of amazing stuff about the Hill. He writes: "It was a great place to grow up: there were steam trains, billy goats, grass bombs, Russians with long white beards, lumber yards, fleabag movies, the famous summer days when the SFFD set the whole Hill on fire, kite flying contests, cliffs, unpaved streets, even sailing rafts on flooded ponds on the south side of the Hill. They had ant-aircraft guns in the park, and the Bay was full of ships. Jeez, you shoulda been there." May 14, 4 to 5 p.m.

### Library Children & Teens Programs

**KOREAN STORY TIME.** For families who are interested in learning Korean songs and reading Korean books. For ages birth to five years old. May 8, 3:30 to 4:15 p.m.

**BABY RHYME AND PLAY TIME.** For infants up to eighteen months old and their caregivers. May 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31, 1:15 to 1:45 p.m.

**FAMILY STORY TIME,** featuring stories, songs and rhymes. For children from birth to five years old and their caregivers. May 5, 12, 19 and 26. 10:30 to 11 a.m. and 11:15 to 11:45 a.m.

**FUN FLICKS: ALEXANDER, WHO USED TO BE RICH LAST SUNDAY, ALEXANDER AND THE TERRIBLE, HORRIBLE, NO GOOD, VERY BAD DAY, ALL THE COLORS OF THE EARTH, AT HOME WITH MRS. HEN.** Fun Flicks is offered every second Wednesday of the month and includes short films based on children's books and stories. Bring a snack! For children ages five and older. May 11, 6:30 to 7:15 p.m.

**GUSTAFER YELLOWGOLD'S SHOW,** featuring a musical, moving storybook concert experience for children of all ages and their parents or caregivers. Morgan Taylor performs catchy original tunes from his latest work, *Gustaf Yellowgold's Infinity Sock*. May 22, 3 to 4 p.m.

**KNIT PICKERS.** Want to learn how to knit? Already an experienced knitter? Come and join us. Practice supplies will be provided. For ages nine and up. For more information, contact Dale: [djenne@sfppl.org](mailto:djenne@sfppl.org). Thursday, May 26, 4 to 5:30 p.m.

*Unless otherwise noted, all Potrero Branch Library programs are held in the second floor meeting room.*

### Potrero Library Campaign

The Potrero Neighborhood Library Campaign Committee meets monthly to discuss fundraising strategies and progress. If you'd like to join the committee, contact Mary Abler at Friends of the Library: 626.7512, extension 107 or [mary.abler@friendssfppl.org](mailto:mary.abler@friendssfppl.org).



VOLUME 8 • MAY 2011

**R**ebuild Potrero has two new team members. Uzuri Pease-Greene, a resident of Potrero Terrace is the new Junior Community Builder working under the direction of Emily Weinstein. Uzuri is primarily working on outreach to Terrace & Annex residents to increase involvement in community building programs and activities. Drew Jenkins is the Job/Life Skills Specialist focusing on connecting young men to job readiness/training and employment opportunities. Uzuri and Drew both bring a real life perspective to the task of building community from the bottom up.

The Sustainable Living Group met on March 27th at the home of Joni Eisen. Accompanied by the clucks of chickens, the group connected around all of the wonderful work already underway on sustainability and gardening in Potrero Hill. The group will encourage participation and volunteerism in all of the gardens throughout Potrero by increasing outreach efforts and linking groups together. It will also continue to focus on garden opportunities for the residents of Potrero Terrace and Annex public housing by organizing field trips, creating new gardens and maintaining the Family Resource Center Garden and the Barrel Garden Pilot Program. See the community gardening calendar: <http://unitepotrero.org/calendar/>

This group is poised to start preparations for the Texas Street garden pending the outcome of funding decisions for resources such as the Community

Challenge Grant. The goal is to start laying the groundwork for this garden in the next few weeks and to start construction this summer.

**Master Plan Update:** A group including two neighborhood residents from Potrero Annex and the neighborhood at large, selected HKIT/YAH Studios to be the architect for the blocks bounded by Wisconsin, Connecticut, 25th & 26th Streets. After HKIT/YAH develops a preliminary schematic design, and the public has been able to comment, the design will be included for review in the Planning Department land use applications. These blocks will most likely be the first ones developed, and including the schematic design in the land use applications will help expedite the development process once funding is available.



The next meeting of the Community Building Group is May 5th at 6pm at the NABE. All are invited to join in.

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

For more information or to join an action team, call 415-806-1429 or email [potrero@bridgehousing.com](mailto:potrero@bridgehousing.com)

Thank you to all of our community members for joining us at Warm Water Cove for Earth Day Gardening and Clean-up Day April 23, 2011

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# Painter Finds New Hill Home and “A Place of Her Own”

By Lori Higa

Xiaojie Zheng feels lucky to have found a new home and commercial studio on Missouri Street. “I love it here, it’s so sunny and warm,” said the artist, comparing it to her last neighborhood, West Portal, which was “so cold and foggy.” Zheng was born and raised in mainland China’s Wenzhou, a town about 226 miles south of Shanghai, where she earned a degree in art education at the local teacher’s college. Before moving to northern California, Zheng lived around the globe – from China to Holland, Massachusetts and Illinois – painting and teaching art to high school students. She ultimately settled in the Bay Area, making her way west from Pleasanton to Oakland and, in January, to the Hill.

Two years ago, Zheng heard about “A Place of Her Own,” a show organized by the Asian American Women Artists Association (AAWAA), a South-of-Market-based nonprofit dedicated to showcasing female artists of Asian heritage. The project resonated strongly with Zheng; she joined the association, and immediately began creating art for the show. In addition to Zheng, “A Place of One’s Own” – which opens on May 5 and runs throughout Asian Pacific American Heritage month at SOMArts gallery, located on Brannan near Eighth Street – features mixed media works by local Asian American women artist luminaries, including AAWAA’s curator, Cynthia

Tom, Shizue Seigel, Nancy Hom and 22 others. California College of the Arts’ painting chair, Kim Anno, and Kimi Taira, with the Asian Art Museum’s conservation department, served as jurors for the show.

The exhibition is “not a simple juried art show, but about the process of working towards a direction,



“Reconciliation” and Xiaojie Zheng at her Missouri Street studio.

Photograph by Cynthia Tom

creating a space without limits, on one’s own terms,” said Zheng. According to the artist, who recently experienced a painful divorce, “This show was a healing process for me. It gave me a chance to visually express my feelings about losing majority custody of my two children, my home, and helping me find balance.”

Since 2003, Zheng “has been trying to process this devastating turn in my life. The only thing that saved me is my art making.”

For the 2010 show, Zheng’s two-piece work reflected breaking ties with the past, losses of home, children and physical space, and inventing a place to renew spirit and welcome

“agonized dark swirls, symbolic of my state of mind when I am without them.” Zheng found inspiration for the work in the Ruhiyyih Khanu poem, “This is Faith,” with singing and music composed by Elika Mahony.

“This is the power of ‘A Place of Her Own.’ If it can help me move toward a place of healing, it can do the same for others. I know from experience that art can have a positive effect for people in crisis and recovering from trauma.” For the 2011 exhibit, Zheng will show a new three-piece work, “Reconciliation,” about “finding my own path in life through knowing myself,” consisting of a painting, an installation and an on-site project.

Zheng uses her Missouri Street studio for painting and teaching. Her portfolio is varied, with commissions, awards, articles and shows in numerous Bay Area venues, including portraits of the Oakland Police Officers Association. In her Potrero Hill space Zheng plans to spend “fifty percent of my time doing my own work and the other half holding workshops and gatherings to include performance, music and other art forms. I want to celebrate and bring together San Francisco’s vibrant and diverse artist community.”

Admission to “A Place of Her Own” is free. The show is part of the Asian Pacific Islander Cultural Center’s United States of Asian America Festival. [www.aplaceofherown.org](http://www.aplaceofherown.org); 722.4296.

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# Despite Changes, Thick House Thrives

By Lisa Gunther

If you're craving old-fashioned theater, Thick House – nestled between residential units in the Goodman 2 building on 18th Street – should fit the bill. Though the theater space has experienced notable changes over the past few years, it's currently thriving under the management of John Wong, a real estate entrepreneur who has served on the San Francisco Arts Deco Society board.

The performance space was once occupied by the theater group Thick Description, led by Tony Kelly, who unsuccessfully ran for the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, District 10, last year. Despite receiving a controversial \$150,000 donation in 2008 from the Eastern Neighborhoods Public Benefits Trust Fund, Thick Description left the theater in 2009. According to Kelly, conflict over a debt to the City was settled shortly before Thick Description vacated the space. "The Thick House cost more than \$500,000 to build and equip; less than half of that was covered by the City's \$200,000 loan. We never saw a penny of that loan, all of it was paid by the City directly to the contractor. Thick Description contributed the rest of the construction costs, including almost \$100,000 worth of theatrical sound and lighting equipment and fixtures...Thick Description donated all of its theatrical equipment to the City when we vacated the premises in December 2009. That equipment remains at the Thick House to this day, and that donation ended City pursuit of any further loan repayment," Kelly said in an e-mail.

The venue is now owned and operated by Art Space Development Corporation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to creating working spaces for artists. The theater serves as a home for the Asian American

Theater Company, Playground, Theater Rhinoceros, Symmetry Theater Company, Golden Tread Productions and the Playwrights Foundation.

Amy Mueller, Playwrights' artistic director, praised Wong for his dedication to keeping the theater alive. "When Thick Description left, he was on the board of the organization that ran that space, and when that organization disbanded, he took over management of the space itself," Mueller explained. "He wants to give the space an identity as a new play theater, one that promotes new plays and culturally diverse work. That's his mission."

So far that mission has proven hugely successful. In 2010, Thick House showcased an original musical, *The Gilded*, written and directed by Reynaldi Lolong. *The Gilded* marked the theater's first show under Wong's management.

"The venue is great," said Tatiana Dayers, a Bindlestiff Studios member who performed with the company last October. "There's lots of parking! The dressing room and green room are a comfortable size. The theatre is also a good size, both from a spectator and a performer point of view, in that it's intimate."

According to Mueller, the theater's location is what makes the playhouse so appealing. "I think the Hill really provides this very rich cultural stew. I mean, you can have sushi, you can have pizza, and you can go down and see a play, and meet people and then walk back up. I mean, I think it's just a really great place for the Thick House to become a part of the lifeblood of 18th Street. Because in some ways we thought, well this is going to be too out of the way, but it's not. It turned out to be just a great, great location for it."

The Playwrights Foundation, one of Thick House's main theater companies, seeks out exceptional

# Temporal Mural on Tennessee Street



Photograph by Lisa Tehrani

Ephemeral art has been created on Ampersand Art Gallery's exterior wall, located at 1001 Tennessee Street. Artist and photographer Chip Thomas installed the mural (right), which features Tennessee Street residents Imogen Doumani and Patricia Parker, last month. Both Doumani and Parker are lifelong Tennessee Street residents. As a child Parker attended the now defunct I.M. Scott School, the City's oldest school house. The mural is printed paper, and was installed using wheat paste, a flour-sugar-water combination that will last only a few years. More of Thomas' work can be found at <http://speakingloudandsayingnothing.blogspot.com/>.

emerging playwrights, reading as many as 500 plays a year. Anyone can submit a play. There's an intensive selection process, with each work read by at least two people. "We're very dedicated to the development process," Mueller said. "And we do a series called rough readings, and that happens once a month over a period of eight months."

Recent shows produced by the Playwrights Foundation include *Darwin's Challenge*, written by Jason Grote. The play centers on a young Charles Darwin, who is feverishly at work on his theory of natural selection when he suddenly and inexplicably ends up on the set of *Darwin's Challenge*, a reality television show. A part of the Rough Reading Series, the performance took place on March 7th and 8th. "It's really fun and erudite. Jason tackles these very large questions about culture and really important scientific discoveries," Mueller said.

In April, Thomas Bradshaw's play, *Ashes*, was featured. The production is described as an original, experimental piece about race and class, and about the lenses we use when making judgments about someone else's work of art. There was also a reading of local San Francisco writer Brian Thorstenson's *Behind the Bark-N-Burger*, a comedic play about the recession, and college graduates with advanced degrees working at a fast food joint.

In May, the theater hosts the "Best of PlayGround," a San Francisco-based performance group. According to the group's website, each season, "PlayGround develops thirty-six original short plays by approximately two dozen emerging professional playwrights through our monthly Monday Night PlayGround series. Of these, seven plays and playwrights are selected each year

see **THICK HOUSE** page 20



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# KIDS ON THE BLOCK



Abby and Jeremy Post are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Evelyn Jane Post. Evelyn arrived at 10:25 a.m. on Monday, March 28th at UCSF Parnassus Hospital. She weighed seven pounds, 11 ounces and measured 21 inches in length.



We can't believe it - Hill native Adam Moss turns eight this month. Much love from Mom, Dad, Olivia, and Joy!



Baby Nicholas turns one on May 25th!

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

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**SHORT CUTS** from page 3

seum. *dYinterpretations* is available for purchase on iTunes for \$2.99.

**Redistricting**

**The Elections Commission** is vetting candidates to serve on a task force to develop recommendations on how to redraw supervisorial lines in the face of a population tilt towards the City's southside neighborhoods. District Six – which includes the Tenderloin and South of Market neighborhoods – added roughly 24,000 people over the past decade, while District 10 absorbed 9,500 people, more than half of whom are Asian-American. To maintain equal populations, six, 10, and adjacent districts three, five, eight, and nine will have to shift boundaries. How the ripple effect plays out will be highly political, potentially impacting the fortunes of three sitting supervisors when they run for reelection. When the last redistricting task force convened in 2002 the Portola neighborhood rallied to stay in District 10, but instead was divided between 10 and nine in an arrangement that kept Potrero Hill – former Supervisor **Sophie Maxwell's** base – in District 10. The Commission will hold a special meeting to interview applicants on May 4, and select three candidates at its regular meeting on June 15. The **Board of Supervisors** and **Mayor Ed Lee** will also nominate three candidates.

**SmartMeters?**

Excelsior and Portola residents are complaining that **Pacific Gas and Electric Company**, or its contractors, has been installing SmartMeters in homes in those neighborhoods in the guise of making line repairs. In one reported case last fall, PG&E claimed that they needed access to a garage to repair a gas line. While the line was being worked on, other technicians switched-out the meter, a change the property owner wasn't aware of until



Photograph by Jon Bauer

Dusty, the unicorn, joins more than one thousand big wheel riders down Vermont Street.

her next utility bill arrived. PG&E has proposed charging its customers \$270 plus monthly fees of up to \$20 to decline SmartMeter installation. The utility expects roughly 145,800 ratepayers to pay to opt out...PG&E is demanding that Dogpatch-based **San Francisco Community Power** pay the utility more than \$90,000 because the nonprofit's network of 150 small businesses didn't adequately reduce their electricity use when called on nine times last summer as part of a voluntary curtailment program to protect against blackouts. SF Power, which was paid less than \$25,000 to manage the "demand response program," is asking the **California Public Utility Commission** to intervene on its behalf...**Green Citizen** will recycle electronics equipment for free this month at its South-of-Market store, 591 Howard Street, as well as its outlets in Berkeley, Burlingame, and Palo Alto. Unwanted computers, phones, discs, components and batteries can be dropped off from 10 a.m. to 6 pm, Monday through Saturday. Everyone who uses the free service and then recommends it to a friend will be eligible for a drawing to receive a new iPad 2. For more information, <http://www.greencitizen.com/index.php>.

**Foreclosure**

A recent *Bay Citizen* article published in *The New York Times* pointed to yet another way property owners can lose their homes: unpaid homeowner association fees. Parkview Heights resident **Estrella Bryant** owed \$500 in dues to her homeowners association. The association turned the debt over to a collection agency and threatened to foreclose unless Bryant, a 70-year-old Filipina immigrant who for a time conducted energy efficiency audits for San Francisco Community Power, paid her debt, which increased tenfold because of fees and interest. With the help of a lawyer, Bryant ultimately worked out a payment plan and saved her home. According to **Jane Fay**, who

took over as president of the association in the middle of Bryant's dispute, "We don't want the association to be making money off of homeowners who are in dire financial straits..." *The Times* also picked up on a letter to the editor published in the *View's* March issue by **Frank Gilson** that was critical of the City's bike plan. We're glad we're being read by the paper of record.

**Deals**

Not surprisingly, it's become even more apparent that the City won't have sufficient funds to redevelop both the Potrero Annex-Terrace and Sunnydale housing complexes. Which one goes first will be a matter of politics...

**Superbug**

*The New York Times* reports that bacteria containing an antibiotic-resistant "superbug" gene have been found in two of 51 tap water samples in New Delhi, India, and in dozens of puddles and pools that children play in. A team from Britain's Cardiff University found the gene, NDM-1, in 11 different types of bacteria, including those that cause cholera and dysentery. While the bacteria had previously been found in Indian and Pakistani hospitals, it hadn't been identified in the general environment. Their presence in water hasn't caused any known outbreak of untreatable disease, but public health officials are concerned that it could, particularly during the rainy season.

**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](mailto:editor@potreroview.net).

**Q:** I've heard that the economy is picking up. Are more jobs available?

**A:** I'm asked this question nearly every day. While I'm not an economist, a good sign for me is that I'm doing a lot of interview preparation work. My clients began landing interviews at a significantly increased rate starting in December.

According to a recent survey conducted by the Bay Area Council, a business-sponsored, public policy advocacy group, more than half the 485 Bay Area chief executive officers interviewed felt that local economic conditions had improved in the past six months; 61 percent expressed confidence that progress would continue in the next six months. It's important to note that some sectors are seeing job growth, while others are shrinking. The Council's survey showed most growth in trade, professional and business services, and information technology. With all government levels showing huge budget deficits, the number of public sector jobs is rapidly shrinking.

Overall, the job market is better than last year. While it's a good time to put your search into high gear, it's still quite competitive. For every job, there may be hundreds of applicants. Be on your toes, make a good impression. As I always say, if they're going to hire someone, why not you?

An additional tip: you may be able to deduct certain expenses incurred in looking for a new job in your present occupation. These include the costs of job seeker services – such as resume development – job search strategy, and interview preparation, as well as other recruiting and outplacement agency fees. You may even be able to deduct the costs of transportation to obtain these services. Check with the IRS for details: [IRS.gov](http://IRS.gov), Publication 529. If you incurred these costs last year and didn't include them when you filed your 2010 taxes, you can file an amended return.



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62350	Collective Bargaining	M-Th	1:45 p.m.	3:15 p.m.	1-Jun	1400 Evans	TBA
62351	Collective Bargaining	M-Th	9:45 a.m.	11:00 a.m.	1-Jun	1400 Evans	TBA
62352	Collective Bargaining	M-Th	9:45 a.m.	11:00 a.m.	1-Jun	1400 Evans	TBA
62353	Collective Bargaining	M-Th	1:45 p.m.	3:15 p.m.	1-Jun	1400 Evans	TBA
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# Community CALENDAR

May 2011

## May 1 through 22

### Theater: *Devil and Fish*

Cirque Nouveau presents *Devil and Fish*, a love story featuring world class, contemporary aerial and acrobatic performances illuminated by cinematic visual effects. Friday and Saturday 7 p.m.; Sunday 6 p.m. Tickets: \$26. Brava Theatre, 2781 24th Street. Information: [www.brava.org](http://www.brava.org).

## May 4

### Families: Kindergarten Information Night

Parents with children ages three and above are invited to gather information about kindergarten programs at more than 60 Bay Area public and independent schools. No reservations needed. Child care won't be available; event isn't suitable for children. 6 to 8 p.m. Free. Jewish Community Center of San Francisco, 3200 California Street. Information: [jccsf.org/programs/preschools/kindergarten-information-night](http://jccsf.org/programs/preschools/kindergarten-information-night).

## May 7

### Community: Potrero Hill's Got Talent

Show your support for Potrero Hill's youth in a community talent show sponsored by Fei Tian Academy of the Arts and the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House. A silent auction and raffle will help raise money for scholarships for low-income students to attend classes in traditional Chinese arts and culture. 4 to 7 p.m. 853 De Haro Street. Information: Cecilia Xiong, 825.467.1763.

### Family: Potrero Hill 53rd Annual Art Exhibition

Head to the library for a family event celebrating local artists. M.B. Hanif performs jazz for all ages at 1:15 p.m. The Red Shoes, a teenage sister duo, will perform traditional Celtic and old-time American music. Music and refreshments. 1 to 4 p.m. Free. Reservations requested. Potrero Branch Library, 1616 20th Street. Information: [www.sfpl.org](http://www.sfpl.org).

### Music: Emith

Emith, meaning the good life, is an original fusion band which mixes the old and new, humor and sadness, and the pristine and the profane. Acoustic duo, with local guitar legend Steve Guir, and full band will perform. 8 p.m. Free. Farley's, 1315 18th Street. [www.emith.com](http://www.emith.com).

## May 12

### Fundraiser: Taste of Potrero

Daniel Webster Elementary School's parent-teacher association hosts a gala event showcasing tastes, nibbles and bites from restaurants in Potrero Hill and adjacent neighborhoods. Featuring food from Piccino, Kitchenette, Serpentine, Flour +

Water, Bar Agricole, Tacoliscious, Hapa Ramen and more. The event will include entertainment from Jane Wiedlin of the GoGos DJing a set, wine and spirits, and a wine wall and silent auction. 6 to 7 p.m. VIP admission; 7 to 10 p.m. general admission. Tickets: \$50 single ticket, \$100 VIP ticket. Dogpatch Studios, 991 Tennessee Street. Information: [www.tasteofpotrero.com](http://www.tasteofpotrero.com).

## May 13 through June 24

### Art: *Pencil Me In*

Electric Works presents Bob Van Breda's balanced pencil creations. Applying a physics theory called The Moment of Inertia, the artist demonstrates the role these instruments have had in the past, and their impending obsolescence with today's

[board@gmail.com](mailto:board@gmail.com); 6336-SKO (756).

## May 19 & 20

### Film: *In Search of Good Food and The Greenhorns*

Locavore movement your passion? Or perhaps something you'd like to learn more about? Educate and immerse yourself with two sustainable food supply documentaries. The screening will include popcorn and food from Bi-Rite. 6 to 10 p.m. No charge; donations accepted. Recology Center, 900 Seventh Street at Berry. Information: <http://insearchofgoodfood.blogspot.com>, <http://thegreenhorns.net>.

## May 21-22 & 28-29

### Performance: *Mixed Messages* by



Potrero Hill natives, and occasional *View* contributors, Lucia and Flavia Purpura-Pontoniere have been singing and playing cello and fiddle together for the last ten years. The sisters' duo, The Red Shoes, perform traditional music from Ireland, Scotland and the United States. The pair will perform at the Potrero Hill Art Show on May 7th at 3 p.m. at the Potrero Branch Library. They'll also offer a children's program at the library at 1:30 p.m. on July 1.

mobile technology. Artist reception May 13, 6 to 8 p.m. Electric Works, 130 Eighth Street. Information: [www.sfelectricworks.com/blog/2011/01/pencil-me-in](http://www.sfelectricworks.com/blog/2011/01/pencil-me-in).

## May 15

### Community: Starr King Open Space Spring Wildflower Walk

The wildflowers have returned to Starr King Open Space. With more than one hundred different kinds of plants and many varieties of flowers in bloom, this free event is a popular way for Potrero Hill residents of all ages to get into the spring spirit. Meet SKOS volunteer guides on Carolina Street at Coral Road, across from Starr King Elementary School. 11 a.m. Information: [www.starrkingopenspace.org](http://www.starrkingopenspace.org); [### Push Dance Company](http://starrking-</a></p>
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Called "fierce and boundless," Raisa Simpson brings her most visually compelling work about mixed race and San Francisco's multiracial community to the Museum of the African Diaspora. *Mixed Messages* is a two-year collaboration between 3rd Street Youth Center and Clinic and Push Dance. Youth performances and special guest Village Dancers, Dr. Albirda Rose and Dr. Catherine Macklin. Times vary; two performances a day. Tickets: \$10; \$5 for students, seniors and MoAD members. Museum of the African Diaspora, 685 Mission Street. Information: [pushdance.org](http://pushdance.org).

## May 21

### Art: *LOOP* – Art Reception and

### Benefit for Kim Epifano

*LOOP* features photographs by Kim Epifano, a well-known San Francisco choreographer, from Ethiopia, India, Vietnam, and Turkey, showing personal, private, and diverse public spaces. 7 p.m. Free. Farley's, 1315 18th Street.

## May 20& 21

### Art: San Francisco Dump Artist in Residence Exhibitions

The Artist in Residence Program at Recology San Francisco hosts an exhibition and reception for current artists-in-residence Scott Kildall, Niki Ulehla, and Alex Nichols. The exhibition is the culmination of four months of work by the artists who have scavenged materials from the dump to make art and promote recycling and reuse. Friday 5 to 9 p.m.; Saturday 1 to 5 p.m. Free. Recology Environmental Learning Center Gallery, 401 Tunnel Ave. Information: <http://www.recology.com/AIR>

## May 22

### Community: *Nests: Fifty Nests and the Birds that Built Them* by Sharon Beals

Join Christopher's Books and Farley's for a book signing reception for Potrero Hill resident Sharon Beals. Beals' new book, *Nests: Fifty Nests and the Birds that Built Them*, is a collection of color photographs of historic nests from science museums, with essays about their builders. Illustrator Laurie Wigham will also be on hand. Featured nests were photographed at The California Academy of Sciences, The Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, and The Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology. 5 p.m. Free. Farley's, 1315 18th Street.

### Music: Jennifer Bryce and Josh Workman at Rocketfish

Rocketfish presents jazz/soul, vocal/guitar duo singer Jennifer Bryce and guitarist Josh Workman, performing *Spring Fever*, a new collection about rain and new life from classic jazz to contemporary pop. 5 to 8 p.m. \$10 cover. 1469 18th Street.

## May 31

### Community: Potrero Boosters Annual Installation

Join your neighbors at the Booster's annual installation dinner and awards banquet. Welcome new officers, and discuss community issues. Reception 5:30 to 7 p.m.; dinner 7 to 9 p.m. Tickets: \$45 per person, including wine. Pay via PayPal on [potreroboosters.org](http://potreroboosters.org) or send a check to Potrero Boosters Neighborhood Association - 1459 18th St. PMB 133. Indicate preference for meat, fish or veggie dinner. Tickets will be held at the door. Mission Bay Conference Center, 1675 Owens Street. Information: [www.potreroboosters.org](http://www.potreroboosters.org).

# Charles Lindsey Vaughn

1953 ~ 2011

Born in Amarillo, Texas, Charles Lindsey Vaughn was the seventh and last child of Robert Allen and Vera Lorraine Vaughn. Always industrious, as a child Charles had a paper route in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where he spent his young years, attending Marquette Grade School and Bishop Kelley High School. When the family moved to Houston, Texas, Charles worked at a dog grooming salon. At sixteen, while attending Saint Thomas Academy, he served as a surgical technician at Ben Taub Trauma Center, which inspired him to earn his licensed vocational nurse (LVN) credentials.

In 1972, Charles accompanied his sister, Maggie, on a visit to San Francisco. He moved to the City shortly thereafter, and became a licensed cosmetologist. Working as a LVN and vending his hair styling skills, Charles obtained his registered nurse certification from San Francisco City College. Through the San Francisco Nurses Registry he worked as a RN at many Bay Area hospitals. In 1979 he nursed August Sebastiani, which resulted in a relationship with the Sebastiani family, and work at their winery.

Charles joined the Traveling Nurses association, being deployed by Doctors Without Borders in 1981, followed by a personal trip to the Far East in 1983 with his friend Don Cox. As the 1980s and HIV/AIDS consumed gay communities, Charles entwined his medical skills with activism, attending conferences and promoting the latest AIDS research to promote better health care for those stricken with the disease.

As Charles continued his nursing career, he obtained a real estate license in 1987, and signed on with BJ Droubi Realty. He became a successful realtor; the firm's top producer one year. Charles purchased his own home in Potrero Hill. In

1990 he swapped houses for a year with jewelry-making friends in Cuernavaca, Mexico.

Charles' curiosity and perseverance enabled him to become proficient in sculpture, photography, floral arrangement, upholstery, carpentry, landscaping, and interior design. He was the ultimate party host; he loved to show people a great time. Charles' gifts of visualization and execution were synergistically enhanced by Michael Behney, a friend he'd known since the 1970's, and who became his life partner in 1995, when together they decided to leave the City and head for the hills: Arcata, California, and eight country acres found by his sister, Andrea, who lived nearby.

In 1996, Charles and Michael opened the Pottery Farm on the Arcata square, which not only fired customers' painted pieces, but expanded commercial exposure for local pottery artisans. The pair also sold exotic wares from San Francisco's wholesale import markets. While operating the store, Charles continued nursing with Open Door Community Clinics and various local hospitals. Michael worked as Arcata's Mr. Main Street, organizing civic events. They converted their overgrown acreage by constructing a one-of-a-kind house and beautifying the grounds.

Michael passed away on February 10, 2008. Charles died peacefully February 3, 2011, leaving behind siblings Vicki Coble, Mark Vaughn, Andrea Vaughn, Maggie Vaughn, Christine Vaughn, one paternal aunt and innumerable cousins, nieces and nephews.

*For those wishing to honor Charles' memory, donations may be made in his name to: Open Door Community Health Centers 670 Ninth Street, Suite 203, Arcata, California 95521; 707.826.8633, extension 5131.*

## TIMEBANK from page 11

something you can offer and share and do with others. You can read to people, tell stories, share knowledge." Current requests for services on Timebank include a graphic design for a book layout; a sketch of a jackal for a shirt design; surplus veggies from local gardeners; and help building shelves in a chicken coop. Offers range from yard work and housecleaning to therapeutic body work to conversational German to worms for composting.

"It takes people a while to get away from a scarcity mentality and from viewing everything through the lens of money," said Hui. "We can have a very rich, interconnected community if we can think about wealth as more than just money," said Yada. "There's a motivation behind our starting the Timebank at a moment of economic crisis, trying to help people to not feel helpless and hopeless," said Hui. "We can't change the system, but we can offer an alternative to people to get some basic needs met and to strengthen their communities."

You can view Amber Yada's video about Timebank and other local economic alternatives at <http://timebank.sfbace.org/home/show/8>. Tara Hui and her Timebank colleagues invite programmers familiar with Ruby on Rails or Ajax to help with the project. Programmers will be credited on Timebank for the hours they invest.

## CANDIDATES from page 9

complex municipal problems, and felt, after working as a policy analyst for 25 years, an environmental activist and educator for ten, and a neighborhood newspaper publisher for five, that I could contribute to creating workable solutions."

Moss is working on rebuilding his policy analysis, teaching, and environmental advocacy career. He was recently appointed to the board of the Agahozo-Shalom Youth Village, an orphanage in Rwanda, and is planning a visit there with his family this summer.

Though his political future is uncertain, Moss is glad he threw himself into electoral politics. "I made great friends, and learned an enormous amount about our district. We live in the best part of San Francisco."

## THICK HOUSE from page 15

to receive PlayGround's Emerging Playwright Award and full production of the short plays as part of The Best of PlayGround festival, running for four weeks in May."

Thick House will also be presenting the Theater Rhinoceros-produced play, *Fighting Mac!* in June. A satire focusing on the military's Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy, the play is written and directed by John Fisher. The show runs from June 2 to June 19.

*For more information regarding upcoming shows: [www.thichouse.org](http://www.thichouse.org).*

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**SENIORS (60+) - DON'T EAT ALONE!** Join us for daily lunch and add to your social life. Mon-Fri, hot nutritious meals—your first time with us you get a free lunch! Bingo, cards, birthday celebrations, special events, and other activities. For more information, call Dolores Maghari at 415.826.8080. PH Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro St.

### Employment

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# CRIME & SAFETY REPORT

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By Regina Anavy

## Connecticut Street Robberies

According to a Potrero Hill resident, while he was “walking the dog at the end of Connecticut by the community garden/mini park, police officers stopped to chat and cautioned that there have been a rash of robbery attempts there.” One incident occurred on April 5, when a 22 year-old man was approached at the dead end of the 600 block of Connecticut by two African-American males in hoodies who seemed “sinister.” The man ran, initially pursued by the two males, who quickly gave up the chase. The hooded men returned to the area, and roughed-up and robbed a 76-year old Mississippi Street resident, who had just finished gardening his plot. According to San Francisco Police Department spokesperson Albie Esparza, one of the suspects was six feet tall and weighed about 160 pounds; the other was roughly 5’8” and 140 pounds. Both were wearing black hoodies and dark jeans, and were seen running towards the Annex-Terrace housing complex after the robbery.

## Homeless Camp Fire

On March 27, a Hill resident reported “fire trucks and big plumes of smoke” at the homeless encamp-

ment under the 280 freeway. “The camp is a hazard, but no one seems to want to take responsibility for it. SFPD says it’s the California Highway Patrol’s responsibility, but they say it’s a Caltrans issue. What a mess,” said the resident. According to Thomas Harvey, San Francisco Fire Department captain, “We did some quick research, and it appears the Fire Department has responded to this area twice this year...I believe this is state property under the jurisdiction of the California Highway Patrol.” According to Robert Salazar, California Department of Transportation regional manager, there’s a procedure for having the campers removed, followed by a clean-up by the CHP. “However, the courts going to let them go, and then they’ll be back....We have become a maid service. It’s a societal problem.”

## Shalako Rape Hearing Delayed

Damir Shalako, 25 years-old, has been charged with rape, burglary with the intent to commit rape, and residential robbery stemming from a September 28, 2010 incident that occurred at the Annex-Terrace housing complex. The defendant is accused of attacking, sexually assaulting, and robbing the victim in her home. Shalako was arraigned on October 4, 2010; bail was set at



Photograph by Regina Anavy

The scene at J&S Recycling.

\$3 million. The case is scheduled for a preliminary hearing at 9 a.m., June 9, 2011 in Department 20, Hall of Justice, 850 Bryant Street. Assistant District Attorney Kin Tong is prosecuting the case. Shalako, who remains in custody, is represented by San Francisco Public Defender Alex Lilien.

## Murder Charges Filed in Stabbing Death

On March 28, in the 1000 block of Connecticut Street, Maria Burgos, 48 years-old, allegedly stabbed Ernestine Herron, 26 years-old. Burgos was arrested, and is being held in the San Francisco County Jail, with a bail of \$2 million. Burgos is accused of pulling out a kitchen knife and stabbing Herron in the neck during an argument with a man. According to recently appointed Police Chief Greg Suhr, “It was a romance that went wrong. One woman got tired of being bullied by the other.”

## Preliminary Hearing Postponed for Grays

Antoine Grays, 29 years-old, has been charged with killing Sylvestri Brown, 33 years-old, on January 31, on the 900 block of Connecticut Street. Toyia Taylor, 19 years-old, has been charged with being an accessory to murder. Both defendants are in custody; their cases were split into two different tracks on March 18. Taylor’s preliminary hearing took place on March 18; a preliminary hearing for Grays was held on April 22. Both cases are scheduled to go to trial in July.

## Recycling Economics

According to a spokesperson at Recology’s Recycle Central at Pier 96, in addition to Recology truck deliveries, individuals bring materials to the facility as part of the Recycling Buy-Back program. “This location mainly focuses on California redemption bottles and cans. We also accept unwaxed cardboard, but the load has to be at least 150 pounds, or our computer won’t accept it. The

price varies like the stock market. It’s set by the state, and a list is sent out once or twice a year.” Whether or not the materials have been taken from sidewalk recycling receptacles is “...determined by the person who accepts it when it is brought in.” Ron Walton, Recology district manager, said that the company ensures that its recycling processes fully comply with a state mandate that recycling loads must weigh more than 100 pounds to be considered legal. Walton estimates that Recology loses \$5 million annually to recycling theft.

At J&S Recycling, located at 3201 Third Street, individuals sort plastic bottles and metal cans into bins, then wheel them around and position them on the sidewalk. A faint odor of stale beer hovers over the facility. According to J&S’ website, the company “offers California redemption value for plastic, aluminum, cast iron, ferrous and non-ferrous metals, radiators, copper and glass.” In addition, it pays for wiring, stainless steel, cable, red brass and catalytic converters. Catalytic converters contain platinum, and a Kansas Street resident, whose car “sounded funky” one March morning, reported that her mechanic “could see where the chain was cut.” She warned that “this kind of crime is always being committed in our neighborhood.”

Online chatter on neighborhood listservs revealed differing opinions on the issue of recycling theft. “I feel sorry for these people,” said a Mississippi Street resident, who believed that the culprits are just trying to survive in a poor economy. “I try to help them by pre-sorting the paper, plastic and metal into separate piles, so they won’t make a mess when they empty the bins.” Others see recycling theft as an urban blight, and complain that the thieves throw trash around and make noise in the middle of the night. “They are getting cash for their drug habits,” said a frustrated Potrero Hill resident. “There ought to be a way to stop them. They are committing criminal acts that ultimately pass costs on to the consumer.”

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**DEFICIT** from front page

least \$70 million. The department has identified \$56 million in reductions, with the remainder to come from outpatient programs, residential care programs, and increased efficiency efforts. About 2,000 employees and benefit recipients are expected to be impacted. Over the long term the department will emphasize prevention strategies, such as diet, exercise, and adjusting personal habits, in the hopes of inducing substantial future reductions in the demand for public health services.

The Human Services Agency faces at least \$9 million in cuts while struggling with reduced federal funding. In addition to staff layoffs, the agency plans to concentrate on basic public services, such as providing food, housing, care for seniors and people with disabilities, and providing income and health care assistance. District 10, which is home to 40 percent of San Francisco's families, would be particularly impacted by cuts to the agency. Cathy Davis, Bayview Hunters Point Adult Day Health Center director, received a show of support from the audience when she spoke about fairness. "We've made our cuts year after year while other department's don't... we are serving some of the most vulnerable people in San Francisco and we have been cut and cut and cut," she said.

Better news came from the Municipal Transportation Agency, which boasts a balanced budget, and plans to resume half of the services it cut last year. MTA also plans to hire additional employees to support Central Subway construction. The Redevelopment Agency is funded by property tax increases captured in designated redevelopment areas, rather than the general fund, and isn't directly caught up in budget negotiations. However, Governor Jerry

Brown is proposing to eliminate the agency altogether. Redevelopment projects – principally focusing on creating housing accessible to a range of incomes – are currently underway along Third Street, in Mission Bay, at the Double Rock and Hunters View housing projects, and at the Hunters Point Shipyard.

The audience applauded San Francisco Police Department interim chief Jeff Godown for his readiness to make difficult cuts. With 87 percent of the department's \$400 million budget going toward salaries, layoffs are inevitable. The department plans to manage a 20 percent reduction by redeploying 25 percent of office staff to the field. The SFPD deep cuts will enable other agencies to maintain their crime prevention programs.

After a couple years of battering, the Recreation and Park Department appears to have stabilized its operations. By prioritizing revenue generation, and "privatizing" clubhouses and other services, the department will avoid lay-offs. RPD also cut overtime and worker's compensation by \$4 million. As a result, the department has been able to add thousands of hours of programming, 87 summer camps, and swim classes. While last year was difficult for San Francisco parks, general manager Phil Ginsburg was "quite confident that you will not see any service reductions this coming year."

During a 30-minute question and answer period, it became clear how difficult it will be to determine budget priorities. Meeting participants voiced their concerns about health care, senior care, small businesses, unemployment, and the needs of the African-American and Asian-American communities. As Supervisor Malia Cohen struggled to reign in a passionate crowd, she vowed to help "those who supported me," drawing critical remarks from the audience. With only a month left to complete his budget proposal, Lee faces some challenging decisions.



**Bayview Police Station Captain's Community Meeting** is held on the first Tuesday of each month in the Bayview Police Station Community Room at 201 William Street. Enter through the Newhall Street door. Next meeting: May 3rd, 6 p.m.

**Dogpatch Neighborhood Association** usually meets the second Tuesday of each odd-numbered month. Next meeting: May 10, 7 to 9 p.m., 654 Minnesota Street @ 19th Street. 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. Next meeting: May 11, 2011, 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Downtown High School, 693 Vermont Street. Board meetings open to the public. Visit [www.mckinleysquare.com](http://www.mckinleysquare.com) for more information.

**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](http://www.potreroboosters.org) or email [president@potreroboosters.org](mailto:president@potreroboosters.org). Next meeting: May 31st Annual Installation & Awards Banquet. See [www.PotreroBoosters.org](http://www.PotreroBoosters.org) for more information.

**Potrero Hill Association of Merchants & Businesses** 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](http://www.potrerohill.biz) or call 341.8949. Next meeting: May 10th, 10 a.m.

**Potrero Hill Democratic Club** meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro Street. For more information: 648.6740, [www.PHDemClub.org](http://www.PHDemClub.org). Next meeting: May 3rd, 7 p.m.

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

**Starr King Open Space** The Starr King Open Space Board Election and Annual Meeting is on Tuesday, May 10th, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro Street. The Starr King Open Space Volunteer Work Party is held on the 3rd Saturday of each month, excluding holidays. Next Volunteer Work Party: May 21st, 9 a.m. to noon. Meet on the Open Space along Carolina Street, across from Starr King Elementary School. For more information: [www.starrkingopen-space.org](http://www.starrkingopen-space.org); email the Board of Directors at [starrkingboard@gmail.com](mailto:starrkingboard@gmail.com); voice mail 415-6336-SKO (756).

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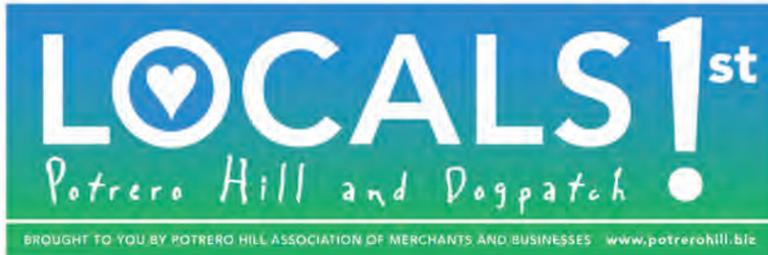
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