



June 2011

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FREE

Southside Businesses Convene at Chamber of Commerce Summit

By Simon Stahl

Thirty-five owners and managers of enterprises located throughout Southside San Francisco shared their opinions with City government leaders at the District 10 Neighborhood Business Summit, held in late-April at Horatius on Kansas Street. Although the businesspeople had an opportunity to question District 10 Supervisor Malia Cohen and envoys

from a number of San Francisco City Hall departments about municipal issues, most seemed more interested in networking with one another over wine and Goat Hill pizza.

Steve Faulk, the Chamber of Commerce's president and chief executive officer, struggled to pry attendees' attention away from their conversations, as he kicked off the evening's presentations.

The Chamber represents 1,500 San Francisco businesses, 1,200 of which have fewer than 50 employees. The organization works to create a merchant-friendly climate in the City. Recent accomplishments include defeating a ballot initiative to increase the hotel tax last November, keeping a parking tax hike off the ballot, and working with Mayor Ed Lee on pension reform.

Faulk stressed the importance of small businesses in leading San Francisco's economic recovery. "There are 12 million square feet of vacant office space," he said. "That's 10 Bank of America buildings, empty." With 45,000 residents out of work, the challenge of creating jobs largely falls to the small companies that comprise 90 percent of the City's 85,000 businesses.

By gathering together City Hall representatives, Faulk hoped to make government agencies more accessible to small businesses. "You'd rather focus on your business, so that's why we're coming to you," he said. The Office of Economic and Workforce Development promoted a program that pays employers \$5,000 for hiring workers from their pool. Healthy San Francisco provided information on covering employees who lack health insurance. The San Francisco Office of Small Business offered assistance with starting-up, expanding, and preventing lawsuits stemming from the Americans with Disabilities Act. U.S. Department of Labor staff answered questions about complying with labor laws, and how to deal with salary and pension disputes before they became serious. Representatives from the Port of San Francisco and San Francisco Police Department also fielded questions.

Ex-Supervisor Maxwell Continues to Serve

By Sasha Lekach

Last January District 10 San Francisco Board of Supervisor Sophie Maxwell was termed-out of her seat, after a decade representing southside San Francisco. But in the months since her political service ended she's hardly slowed down, though she spends more time walking, and restoring her Queen Anne Victorian-style home in Bayview. "It's changed," Maxwell said of her life since January. "It's great to be able to think about what I want to think about. I'm not preoccupied."

The former supervisor was interviewed at the Potrero Branch Library, comfortably seated on a chair outfitted with a plaque commemorating her mother, Enola Maxwell, the long-time director of the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, who died in 2003. While Maxwell claimed she was less busy than when she held office, she rattled off a list of municipal projects and issues in which she's involved. Maxwell serves on the America's Cup committee, which oversees the international sailing event, scheduled to reach San Francisco's shores in 2013. "I enjoy sailing," Maxwell said. "It's just wonderful for [the Cup] to be here. It will certainly help our bottom line, City taxes and revenue."

Maxwell's decade of service makes her an important resource to City officials and political activists. "Really seldom you get to talk to someone who knows from the inside," she said, adding that she's happy to help Malia Cohen, who replaced her

Hill Schools March for Peace



Photograph by Peter Linenthal

Three Potrero Hill schools, International Studies Academy, Live Oak School and Daniel Webster Elementary marched in the Potrero Hill Peace March on May 11. Above: International Studies students perform a dance during the peace rally at Jackson Park.

on the board. "Her success is all of our success," she said.

With a more flexible schedule, Maxwell now sees how consuming her dedication to her constituents and the City has been. "I never realized how absorbed I was," she said. After non-stop work through different careers that spanned three decades, she's now talking with a career coach, who Maxwell said has been valuable in reconnecting her with who she is, not as a supervisor or City worker, but as herself. Maxwell has also been investigating – with Potrero Hill resident Nadine Burke, the medical director of the Bayview

SAFE Groups Aid Community Crime Prevention Efforts

By Simon Stahl

Over the next year, the San Francisco Police Department might lose up to 300 officers to retirement, with another 100 threatened with layoffs by the City's budget deficit; about 18 percent of the force all in. Newly appointed San Francisco Police Department Chief Greg Suhr has said that he'll work to avoid layoffs, and, by recruiting police from other Bay Area cities, SFPD could gain roughly 100 officers a year to replace those retiring. Still, as City Hall

grapples with its budget crisis, San Francisco communities are preparing to shoulder more responsibility for their own safety.

Created in 1976 by SFPD, Safety Awareness for Everyone (SAFE) works to empower communities to prevent crime. Funded by the City and private donors, the nonprofit organization provides safety-related tools, training, and educational resources to citizens and businesses. Some SAFE services come with a fee – such as

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PUBLISHER'S VIEW

Property

By Steven J. Moss

When the telephone chimes at three in the morning, you know it's bad news. It took two rounds of rings to rouse my wife and I from a deep sleep. The four-unit apartment building we own in Mission-Dolores was on fire. I threw on some clothes, and jumped in my car. By the time I arrived, firefighters had doused the blaze. No one was hurt, thankfully, but the unit where the fire started was a soggy, burned-out mess. Eerie tendrils of smoke were imprinted on the bedroom baseboard of the flat above the burnt unit, where another one of our tenant's baby normally slept. Fortunately, the family was out of town.

The blaze was sparked by an unattended candle. If not for the Fire Department's quick response, the entire building could have been destroyed. The burned-out apartment is uninhabitable, with more than \$100,000 in repairs. The building's three other units will be subjected to construction dust and noise for upwards of six months, making them barely livable for weeks at a time. Yet, because of San Francisco's bizarre rent control policies, within a few days of the fire we handed the tenant who caused it an \$8,000 check, to find a new apartment.

A few months later we discovered that another one of our tenants had moved to Southern California. He was illegally subletting his rent controlled-apartment to two, maybe three, other people. After initially denying his scam – and securing legal aid from a local nonprofit – he finally copped to it. We paid him \$7,500 for his troubles.

It's true, I'm a landlord – a category above being a Republican, but

just below a skinhead, in our lefty City. Like many small property owners, I fell into leasing units as a way into homeownership. My wife and I were on the verge of being evicted from a rented house in Noe Valley, when – cobbling together every dime we'd saved over a combined 75 years – we bought a two-flat building in Potrero Hill. Eight years later we parlayed that purchase into our four-unit Mission-Dolores property. We don't live off of our properties, and pay astonishing municipal tax and water bills. All-in, the buildings have been net drains on our pocket books. But we joke that our daughter will inherit a nice piece of San Francisco thirty years from now.

There's no easy way to maintain affordable housing in an expensive City, particularly when government's ability to build or subsidize homes is compromised by budget deficits. Even in the best of times, rent control is an awkward way to protect tenants, creating incentives for renters who may have higher incomes than their landlords to stay where they are long after they've outgrown their unit, and degrading property owners' ability to pay for needed upkeep. But San Francisco's junkyard dog politics has exacerbated these flaws, morphing the policy into a kind of renter-owner profit-sharing arrangement, in which even dangerous, or grifter, tenants are entitled to cash payments for causing problems. Property, as asserted by a French philosopher, may be theft. But property owners aren't criminals. It's time to stop treating us that way.

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

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Letters to the Editor

Boosters

Editor,

I'd like to publicly thank the Potrero Boosters Neighborhood Association, and the community-as-a-whole, for the privilege of serving on the Boosters' board for the past eight years, and especially for the honor of serving this last year as president. It's been educational, challenging and fulfilling to serve all these years.

Leaving the board at the end of May is bittersweet for me. Bitter in that I'll miss being in the midst of the neighborhood's action, and will deeply miss interacting with the board, Booster members and other neighbors. But sweet in that the reason I'm stepping down is the huge increase in my business – I create custom databases when I'm not at Booster meetings – and that I'm leaving the organization in the immensely experienced and capable hands of Tony Kelly and his board; a mix of old and new board members. I have the highest hopes for wonderful things from the Boosters, and all the various groups working to enhance our Potrero Hill neighborhood.

I'll see you around the 'hood!

Audrey Cole

Missouri Street

Southside

Editor,

Thank you for providing Southside San Francisco communities with stories about our neighborhoods. Potrero Hill, Dogpatch, Hunters Point, Bayview and Mission Bay receive most of the City's sunshine. However, investigative and personal neighborhood stories would remain shrouded in darkness were it not for your publication and a few others.

The April edition of "Publisher's View" spoke of changes, both in demographics and the built environment. After spending nearly 15 years in "La-La" Land, a.k.a. Los Angeles, I embraced the opportunity to return to my native City. Awed by the changes, I needed to re-acquaint myself with Bayview-Hunters Point. No longer would I complain bitterly of waiting for the MUNI-15 Third for an hour, only to laugh wryly when three would come in a row like a parade. The "T" is definitely an upgrade, in my humble opinion.

I'm ambivalent about other changes in the neighborhood. The overarching question: is the neighborhood being "upgraded"? As a single, college-educated, African-American male, I lament the absence of an African-American professional class in San Francisco. In Bayview-Hunters Point new residences are being built; old residents moving out. Is San Francisco still a City for "us"?

For me, the question is rhetorical. Attracted to the City's beauty, style, culture, and economic opportunity, people come to San Francisco from

throughout the United States and the world. I will endeavor to enjoy all the City has to offer.

Bayview Resident

Bayview Safety

Editor,

After my car died I decided to walk my son back home from his school in the Mission to our Bayview home. It was an unpleasant experience. All of the routes into and out of the community – Third Street, Evans, Cesar Chavez, Jerrold, and Industrial – are isolated, scary, or unsafe. I was lucky it's summertime and not dark by 6 p.m.; otherwise I would have been afraid of being raped, besides being robbed or run over.

I understand the industrial nature of the neighborhood, but there's people living in the Bayview who would like to be able to walk to other parts of the City without fear.

Ximena Ares
Hudson Street**Dogs**

Editor,

Tim Henry's story in the May issue on dogs at Heron's Head Park was a good attempt to explain the brewing storm over this little oasis on the Bay ("Dogs, Pollution Nip at Heron's Head Bird Population"). It's unfortunate that the article didn't air more comments from people who regularly use the park. Though Henry called me, I was unable to get back to him before the *View* went into production. The article didn't tell the side of the story of the many dogs that waddle or trot alongside their owners, sniffing the plants and the dirt, who are well-behaved, under voice control and don't go into the protected areas.

I've been going to the park nearly every week – sometimes several times a week – for about three years now. Believe it or not, I've never encountered an irresponsible dog owner or a badly behaved dog. And I've never seen anyone frightened by a dog, or schoolchildren significantly distracted because of a dog in the vicinity. Frankly, I've only seen a few school groups out there. I've found that people with dogs less under voice control do use leashes. Dogs that are off-leash stay mostly near their owners and on the sandy paths. I've hardly ever run into dog feces; though watch out when the geese go through. For the most part, the dogs, the birders who park along the path to watch the wildlife, the families who stroll through and the people who ride bikes along the path mesh well.

In San Francisco, as in many other parts of this country, dogs are part of the family. We love them and

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Tell Tale

Last month's Taste of Potrero, a benefit for **Daniel Webster Elementary School**, was a smashing success, drawing hundreds of people to the event venue, **Dogpatch Studios**, and raising almost \$50,000. "This looks like the Marina crowd," said former mayor and Hill resident **Art Agnos**, as he surveyed the assorted hipsters. "One of the best school fundraisers I've ever been to," gushed 18th Street resident **Debbie Finding**, who should know: she's served on the Alvarado Elementary School Parent-Teacher Association's and Brandies Hillel Day School's boards. "What's going on at Webster is biblical," said Mission Creek resident and Webster parent **Sarah Davis**, referring to the school's transformation. Certainly the slow cooked eggs, offered by **Hapa Ramen** at the fundraiser – and at the Ferry Building Farmers' Market on Tuesdays and Thursdays – were heavenly...The Yellow Building, featuring **Piccino Café and Restaurant**, **DIG** wine shop and **MAC** mercantile store, opened last month on 22nd Street. In 1859, the building served as a barn. Long gone are the animals, replaced by fashionistas and foodies, though one wonders how long it will take for urban farmers to bring barns – and butchers – back to our metropolis...**Envy Me**, a salon and spa, just opened at 2071 Third Street, across from **Moshi Moshi**. Drop by for all your hair and nail needs; ask for **Patrice**...A small store with a long name has opened

SHORT CUTS

across from **The Ramp** on Illinois Street: **Gluten Free Reviewer Grocery**. It's San Francisco's first 100



Photograph by Ashleigh Reddy

New Daniel Webster parent Victoria Offenhartz, left, and Becki Spector, right, enjoyed Bon Vivant's cocktails at the school's Taste of Potrero fundraiser.

company's products can be found on Tuesdays and Saturdays at the Ferry Building, at the Tell Tale "Trunk Show" inside **Big Daddy Antiques**, 1550 17th Street, and through their website, www.tell-tale-preserveco.com. Worth telling someone about...A *View* staffer reports that a check-out clerk at an upscale local grocery store asked him, "How's your day going? Is it average, special or miraculous?" Makes one miss the simple questions, like "paper or plastic?" or "cash or credit?"...

Starrs

Seven new directors were elected to Starr King Open Space's board last month: **Jannella Stebner**, **Daniel Fineman**, and **Alexander Jones** will serve three-year terms; **Jennifer Serwer**, **Julie Schumate**, and **Christina Quiroz** will serve for two years; and **Kathyjean Boise** and returning board members **Christa Conforti** and **Webb Green** will serve one-year terms. With the establishment of staggered terms, in future elections only three seats will come up for a vote. For more information: <http://starrkingopenspace.org/>... District 10 residents are speculating about who will be the next Bayview Station police captain, now that **Greg Suhr** has become chief. The official announcement will be made on June 7 at 6 p.m. at the Bayview Opera

House, 4715 Third Street. As the *View* went to press this month it learned that **Paul Chignell**, captain of the SFPD's Airport Bureau, has been offered the job.

Firehouse

Technology entrepreneur and Burning Man veteran **Wayne de Geere** purchased the 909 Tennessee Street firehouse. A founder of first generation dot-coms Critical Path and DomainNet, de Geere paid just over \$1.3 million for the 6,400 square foot building. De Geere wants to rezone the property for mixed use, with a restaurant on the ground floor and two residential units above. The sale, by the **Department of Real Estate**, took six months to close. According to a June 2010 appraisal, the building was worth \$340,000, reflecting the need for significant repairs. In 2005 the **Department of Public Works** estimated it'd cost \$2.1 million to return the building to active fire station use. De Geere has been involved in Burning Man for 15 years, serving as an advisor to the board of directors from 1995 to 2010, and is a board member of the Friends of Black Rock High... The **76 Gas Station**, on the corner of Potrero and 17th streets, is giving away funny face car stickers for kids. Get yourself some...The *View* received encouragement from a reader to check-out the **California State Controller's Office**'s unclaimed property website, <http://scoweb.ca.gov/UCP>. The website

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McKinley Park

By Simon Stahl



MCKINLEY PARK IS A WORK OF HISTORICAL FICTION. WHILE THE CHARACTERS ARE IMAGINED, THE EVENTS THEY ENCOUNTER ARE REAL.

Two Hundred Acres of Right-of-Way Available for Urban Agriculture

By Lisa Gunther

James Galanis has a vision: fresh, locally-grown food; jobs for Bay Area residents with diverse backgrounds and skills; community-based energy systems; sustainable land use, and ecological awareness. At the center of his dream is reclamation of land owned by the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) as part of the Hetch Hetchy water system's right-of-way.

Galanis is particularly interested in roughly 60 miles of right-of-way, starting from the City of Fremont, at the Irvington Portal, stretching around the Bay to the City of Woodside's Pulgas Water Temple; more than 200 acres of land that currently consists of a patchwork of weeds, "groomed" public parks and paved parking lots and streets. Galanis, an Intel Corporation economist who holds a doctorate in energy management and policy from the University of Pennsylvania, believes that this open space could be transformed into urban farmland. According to the Palo Alto native and fifth-generation Californian, most people aren't aware of the possibilities the SFPUC land holds. "In their midst, there's land that they walk by every day...they should be aware of what it could become."

The Hetch Hetchy water system, which supplies San Francisco and other Bay Area municipalities, originates in the Yosemite Valley, near the Tuolumne River. Its creation was prompted in 1906, after San Francisco's historic earthquake, when the City and County of San Francisco applied to the U.S. Department of the Interior to gain access to and the rights over the watershed. The City's plan was energetically opposed by the Sierra Club, led by John Muir. But the City prevailed. The 1913 Raker Act granted the water rights-of-way on the Tuolumne River in Yosemite National Park to San Francisco. Today, the Hetch Hetchy dam and 168 miles of pipeline aqueducts and conveyances deliver 239 million gallons of water daily to Bay Area residents.

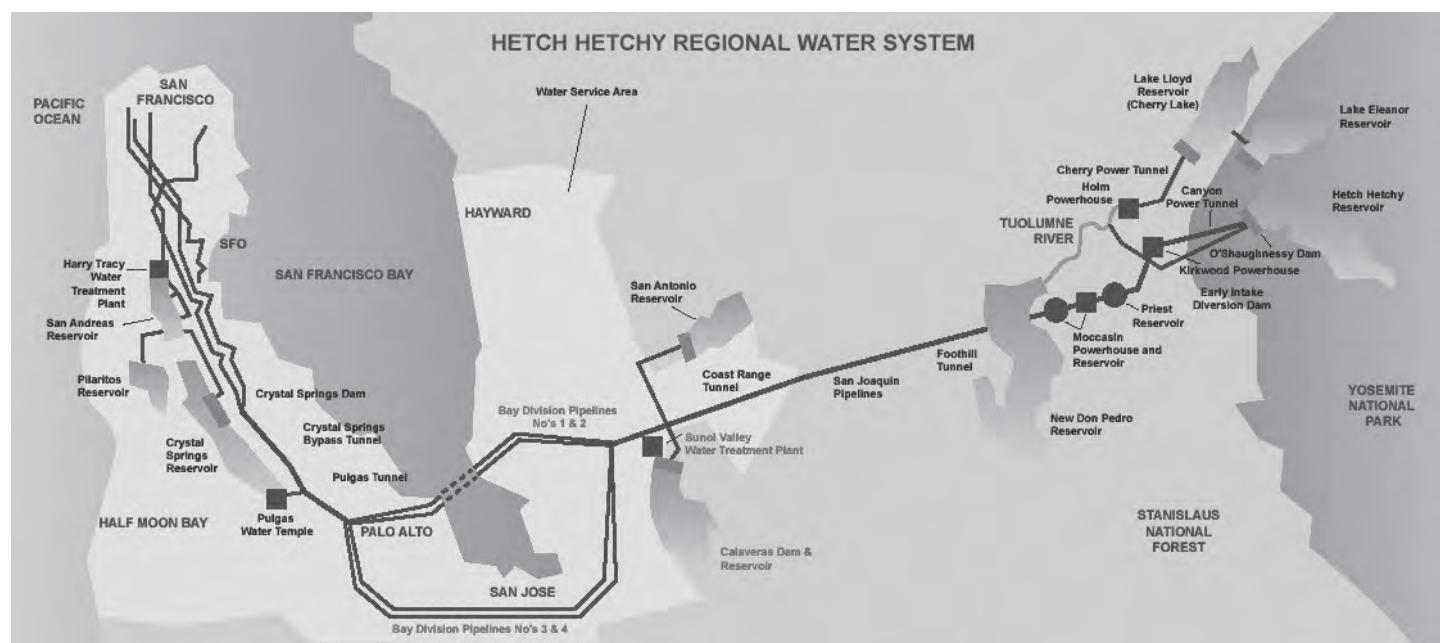
Galanis believes that the land associated with the Hetch Hetchy

water delivery system offers a valuable real estate opportunity. Unlike former industrial land, the Hetch Hetchy right-of-way boasts pristine acreage that's been untouched since the construction

huge. It would look like Central Park from an aerial view."

Galanis has spent almost three decades studying California's land use issues and energy needs. He's particularly interested in the em-

the Great Depression; something of that nature. What I had in mind were growing tomatoes, which are labor intensive, and possibly lettuce; basically any kind of crop that would grow here. I've done some



Map courtesy of the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission

of the pipes, making it potentially ideal for cultivation. "The 50 to 60 miles I am interested in are surrounded by light industrial, commercial and residential properties. The land is highly valued and suitable because of what it is not; that is, many candidates for urban agriculture are found on toxic locations, such as old gas stations, whereas the Hetch Hetchy right-of-way has had relatively minimal impact over the years. Of course, soil samples would be required, but the assumption is that there would be fewer problematic areas."

Galanis' vision focuses on the right-of-way that goes across the Bay to East Palo Alto, and heads to the Crystal Springs reservoir; and a corridor that was developed in the early-1950s, that goes "around the southern tip of the Bay, from right near where I work at Intel," explained Galanis. Palo Alto and other cities take water from the system at various points along the way. "In my cycling around it and traversing it at various points, I sort of created a mental map...and when you think about real estate values in the Bay Area, and aggregate all of this land that's in this narrow skinny corridor that's about 40 to 60 feet width, it would be absolutely

employment opportunities that could be prompted by transforming a part of the Hetch Hetchy right-of-way into a series of farms. He believes that the initiative, which he calls "Bay Area Harvest," could provide similar economic benefits as the large-scale public works projects created by President Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal. "I'm envisioning kind of a Civilian Conservation Corps type project, from

preliminary economic analyses, and the yield harvest would be very substantial. And of course the benefits would be the sustained employment. There's a lot involved in the cultivation and the harvesting. I'm just sort of putting bait in the water, to see who will respond. I'm looking to create something for the community."

To find out more: bayareaharvest.com.



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The Rebuild Potrero Community Building Group had its bi-monthly potluck dinner meeting on May 5th at the NABE. Caroline Bird provided an account of the architect selection process for the two blocks that are expected to be Phase 1 of the development. Caroline lives at the corner of 25th & Wisconsin, directly across the street from these blocks, and was one of the panel members who selected the architect. The action teams reported on their activities, including the Dream Box project that the Social Outreach Action Team is coordinating, and the Sustainable Living Action Team reported on the forthcoming construction of the Texas Street Garden. The group will plan a Community Building Day to kick off construction of the garden. Details of this event will be coming soon.



photo: David Globre

Master Plan Update: As design work for the first two blocks gets underway, we will be inviting members of the community to participate in the design process for these buildings. The first public meeting will take place this summer and will be widely noticed.

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

these programs, the Family Resource Center is providing van service to certain program locations. The community building team is working with Family Resource Center staff to arrange for between 15-20 children and youth from Potrero Terrace & Annex to attend summer camp at the Bayview YMCA. Camp will last for 8 weeks and kids will be transported by YMCA staff.

Several Rebuild Potrero team members and residents of Potrero Terrace and Annex joined the Potrero Hill Boosters at their annual officers swearing-in and awards dinner on May 31st. This was an exciting event for Uzuri Pease-Greene, Potrero Terrace resident, and Emily Weinstein, Rebuild Potrero community builder, who received awards from the Boosters for their outstanding outreach to the residents and businesses of the entire Potrero Hill community. For more information or to join an action team, call 415-806-1429 or email potrero@bridgehousing.com



Former Candidate Remains Active on the Hill

An Interview with Boosters President Tony Kelly

By Nicole Spiridakis

In response to last month's article, "District 10 Candidates Keep a Low-Profile Post Election," Tony Kelly, who came in second place in last year's District 10 Board of Supervisors race, contacted *The View* to share what he's been up to during the six months since the elections. Kelly, the art director for *Playbill*, the San Francisco Symphony's program magazine, lives on Connecticut near 18th Street.

NS: What prompted you to run in 2010?

TK: I believe district elections are about bringing the people's voice to City Hall. And especially in District 10, we need a supervisor who comes from the neighborhoods, who knows the neighborhood issues, and knows that we know our district better than anyone. A lot of the D10 candidates were very clear about their own ambitions, but not clear at all about their ambitions for the neighborhoods, or their vision about using the supervisor's office to support the communities of D10 [District 10] and really address our particular issues. In some ways, I felt like I was really running for a very different job than almost everyone else.

NS: Would you consider running again?

TK: That's really up to Supervisor Cohen. She has a great opportunity to work with the tremendous amount of knowledge, experience, and energy in the district; to show City Hall how to create local jobs, clean up our environment, support our families, and use common sense ideas to fix our budget. I hope she does that with the people of the district, and she's got a few years to show how she can do that with us.

NS: What's next up for you?

TK: Starting in June, I'll be president of the Potrero Boosters Neighborhood Association again, advocating for a lot of neighborhood issues. I'm also working for the Neighborhood Parks Council, trying to develop a plan to fully fund the City's Recreation and Parks Department in the coming years. And I'm volunteering with some folks trying to get a measure onto the November 2011 ballot to bring competitive bidding to the City's garbage services, which would bring lower rates and raise a substantial amount of money for the City. And I'm also volunteering with a gaggle of arts groups interested in creating a citywide America's Cup Arts Festival in the summer of 2013. I've also joined the brand-new – revived – Arts Democratic Club, and I'm advocating at City Hall on other issues as they come up!

NS: What are you doing now?

TK: I've still got my day job, and my work in theater.

NS: What was the community response to your campaign, and that you lost?

TK: I'm really proud of the grassroots campaign I had. Other campaigns had a lot more money than we did, but we had more donors from District 10 than anyone, more – amazing – volunteers from District 10 than anyone, and just as many first-place votes in District 10 as any other campaign. So I know the voters heard us and liked what I offered. After coming in second [in first choice votes], I've certainly heard from a lot of people with complaints about ranked-choice voting, but I still believe it's a far better system for runoffs than what we had before. It's just difficult for any election to have more than 20 candidates!

NS: What was your overall take-away from the experience?

TK: In theater, you often get this really nourishing kind of failure; what eventually ends up on stage is nothing like what you envisioned, but after working with a lot of other people in very intense times, what is different is also better. I think community organizing is a lot like that too. And maybe politics can be as well, sometimes.

NS: Any regrets?

TK: Not at all.

COMMERCE from front page

In response to a question from the audience, Cohen spoke about drawing tourists to the district with innovative attractions and restaurants, mentioning that someone had pitched her about creating a specialty foods district. While Cohen seemed interested in encouraging more attractions, audience members voiced concern that the district's existing features weren't being properly advertised. One attendee commented that Bayview is left off some San Francisco tourism maps, including one on the Chamber of Commerce's website.

A common concern was the recently enacted Mandatory Local Hiring Ordinance, which requires major City public works contractors to set aside 20 percent of project hours to local workers. The proportion will increase by five percent annually over the next seven years, at which point fully half of all work hours will be dedicated to San Franciscans. Larry Frias, of Waste Solutions Group, expressed concern about paying local workers more in a period in which the City is pressuring contractors to keep costs low as a result of its budget crisis. "These are the things the City folks need to consider...I'd rather pay one or two extra dollars [to hire locally]..." but may not be able to afford to do so. According to Cohen, enforcement of the policy remains "a little bit up in the air, it's nebulous...the first line of defense is bringing it to my attention."

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SAFE from front page

training courses and on-site security assessments – but many are free.

SAFE groups serve as an expanded neighborhood watch. They bring neighbors together to identify their safety concerns, and organize a collective response. By promoting awareness, vigilance, and a closer community, SAFE encourages residents to take an active role in keeping their neighborhood safe. Neighbors who know each other are more likely to look out for one another. The groups also provide a link between communities and the SFPD, whose officers regularly attend neighborhood meetings. This dialogue lets officers know about neighborhood-specific concerns, and keeps residents informed of crime issues the community faces, and how to properly respond to them.

Ray O'Connor is the captain of the Kansas Street Neighborhood Association and Watch Group, which draws members from the 1000 to 1400 blocks of Kansas Street, and the 1200 to 1400 blocks of Rhode Island. About 15 members regularly attend the monthly meetings at O'Connor's home, and roughly 90 people receive his email updates. Neighbors discuss their concerns – unsafe traffic, unsightly AT&T boxes, recycling theft – and share ideas for solutions.

Some of the most common crimes in the area are home break-ins and car thefts. In fact, this reporter's Honda Civic was recently stolen from 20th and Vermont streets, and recovered a few blocks away with some screwdriver punctures around the intact stereo; the thieves didn't take the Creedence discs. SAFE groups create an informal surveillance network that can contribute to SFPD's efforts to identify and apprehend suspects.

SAFE groups also host a wide variety of guests, including representatives from the California Department of Transportation, AT&T, the Mayor's Office and the San Francisco Department of Public Works. At the Kansas Street's April meeting, Potrero Hill resident Betty Packard, who serves on the San Francisco Ballot Simplification Committee, patiently explained ranked choice voting. Officer Stevens, of the California Highway Patrol, spoke about removing graffiti and illegal encampments. SFPD Officers Ng and Rodriguez described an incident in which a woman was struck and robbed by a

group of juveniles while getting off a Muni bus. They advised residents to always be vigilant on Muni, to keep their wallets and purses close, and to stay with the driver rather than exiting the bus if the situation outside looks unsafe. "If we know the police and they know us, a beneficial and reliable relationship forms and our concerns receive immediate attention," O'Connor said in an email. "They provide excellent updates on our neighborhood and answer all our questions."

In addition to the support and guidance it provides to neighborhood groups, SAFE offers resources to business watch groups. These function similarly to residential groups, creating a network where local business owners know and look out for each other. Like residential watch groups, business watch teaches people how to recognize and respond to suspicious activity before crimes are committed. They also account for the unique challenges businesses face, such as robbery, shoplifting, and employee theft.

According to Furlishous Wyatt, SAFE business security specialist, an enterprise's physical environment can enhance its security: controlling exits, making sure the entire store is visible to employees, giving employees specific territory to watch, and increasing lighting all enhance safety. Educating employees is also important; making sure they know how to recognize casing, teaching them how to confront shoplifters, and motivating them to stay vigilant. SAFE provides free educational literature and resources for forming a business watch group. For a fee, they'll send an expert to identify a business' security risks and recommend solutions.

A common concern Wyatt encounters relates to the safety of large multi-story buildings. It's often uncertain who, if anyone, is responsible for covering shared spaces like hallways, landings, and lobbies. Occupants are often isolated from other business on their floor and throughout the building, and are likely to ignore potential security threats that don't seem to affect them directly. A single guard downstairs might lure people into a false sense of security, while other areas are unmonitored. "You have to take your share of responsibility for safety and security in the workplace as well," said Wyatt. A sense of community and inculcating the idea that a security risk anywhere in the building affects all of its residents are important crime prevention tools.

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New Equipment Helps Water Department Find Leaks

By Regina Anavy

Last month four San Francisco Water Department (SFWD) workers prowled Potrero Hill with a handheld device – an "acoustic leak noise correlator" – they recently obtained from Fluid Conservation Systems, of Milford, Ohio. According to Doug Sangermano, who traveled from Ohio to teach SFWD staff how to use the device, the City bought two correlators. "They will save time and be more accurate in determining leaks in the water main," he said.

The correlators work by placing one microphone at a water line valve, another microphone at a second valve, and simulating a leak between them. The processor takes the resulting information and "tells us if there's a leak, based on the sound and speed of the water." The correlators cost \$40,000 apiece. "It is well worth the cost in terms of the amount of water saved," said Sangermano.

A SFWD employee, who preferred to remain anonymous, said that San Francisco "is enacting a proactive leak-location program. The goal is to save the City water. The City has been replacing the aging water-main infrastructure steadily. The old technology uses 'permalogs'

that listen to a water main for eight hours and then give a read-out of the information. A red light indicates a leak." The new technology uses highly sensitive microphones. As one worker placed a microphone into a water main on Mississippi and 19th streets, another immediately got a reading.

The SFWD employee said they were the only SFWD staff checking for leaks. "The goal is to save City water with only four workers. Most

major cities have 20 to 25 workers looking for leaks. The cost of hiring workers would be minimal compared to the water saved. For example, the high-pressure fire system, which has 110 miles of high-pressure pipe, is filled by tanks. We can see the tanks dropping. We are losing 200,000 gallons

a day, or 150 gallons a minute. The high-pressure fire system is one of the oldest in San Francisco; it has not been replaced since after the 1906 earthquake."

With the acoustic leak noise correlators, the City not only saves water, but also reduces re-paving costs when streets are dug up to replace pipes. "With more precise information on the location of a leak, we can dig a smaller hole to replace the pipe."



Photograph by Regina Anavy

Water Department staff use a correlator to detect leaks.



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Boosters Call for Review of Proposed AT&T Cabinets

By Cris Carson

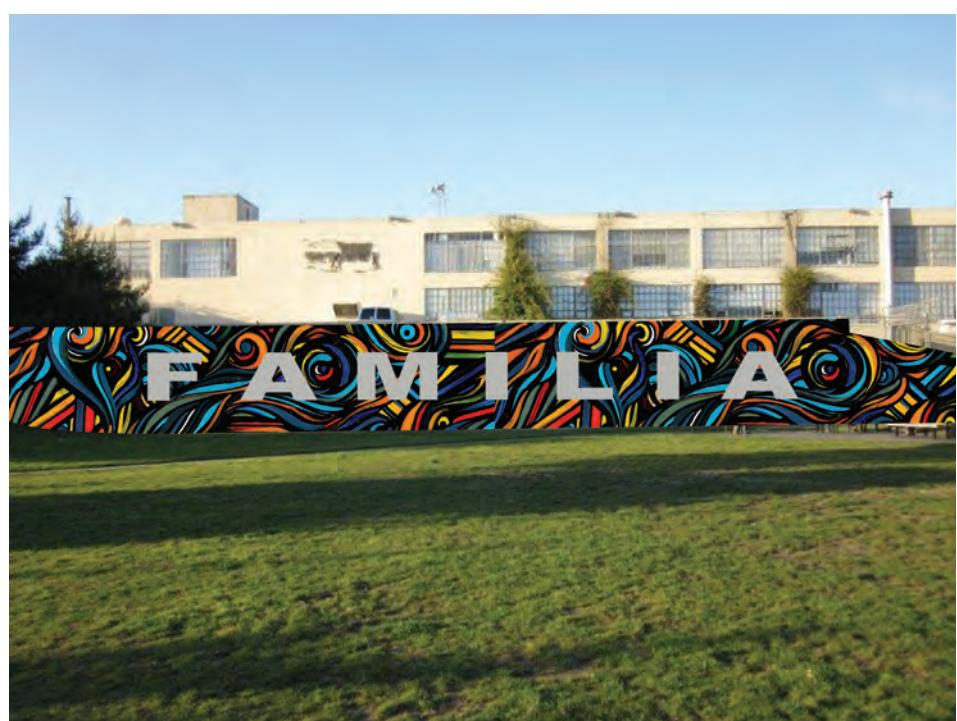
Additional AT&T utility cabinets may be coming to Potrero Hill, as well as the rest of City. More than 700 of the cabinets have already been installed in San Francisco. The telecommunications company is proposing to double that number to support their U-Verse service, in which fiber optic is linked to the cabinets, and used to convey high speed data over existing copper wires to homes. AT&T wants to install roughly 20 new cabinets in Potrero Hill, more than 70 in District 10, and in excess of 700 Citywide. On the Hill, existing cabinets that require new companion cabinets within 300 feet are located at: 600 Mariposa, 1301 17th, 1650 17th, 403 Kansas, 419 Vermont, 1808 Mariposa, 2280 20th, 2201 20th, 1850 20th, 500 Missouri, 900 22nd, 700 Pennsylvania, 699 Pennsylvania, 1798 22nd, 2090 22nd, 1298 Utah, 1301 San Bruno, 1211 Kansas, 2225 Third, 730 23rd, and 1277 Connecticut.

Dick Millet, Potrero Boosters Neighborhood Association member – along with a number of other community groups – wants the Board of

Supervisors to order an environmental impact report on installation of the additional four foot wide, two and a half foot deep cabinets, as a means to evaluate potential impacts and alternatives. According to Millet, the City needs more information before deciding whether or not to approve AT&T's plan. In the face of significant opposition to AT&T's plan, the board vote on the issue on June 28.

District 10 Supervisor Malia Cohen indicated her belief that community involvement is integral to the process. AT&T's Marc Blakeman stated that San Franciscans will have input on where the cabinets will be located, or if a neighborhood should receive the new service at all. If the equipment is installed, the Boosters plan on arranging neighborhood walkthroughs with AT&T to identify cabinet locations. Ideally locations off the sidewalk can be found. According to Blakeman, notices will be posted and mailed to all residents within 300 feet of a proposed cabinet site. The San Francisco Department of Public Works will hold informal hearings to address permit issues, which, if granted, can be appealed to the Board of Permit Appeals.

New Potrero Del Sol Mural



San Francisco General Hospital, in collaboration with soon-to-relocate Buena Vista Elementary School and the Department of Recreation and Parks, will install a mural at Potrero Del Sol Park, on the south wall of the hospital's Community Health Network Building, located at 2789 25th Street. The building suffers from persistent graffiti tagging; the hope is that the mural will dissuade such activity.

LETTERS from page 2

want the best for them. They need exercise – the ability to run a bit – as much as their owners. And that's not possible on a leash, unless you're a runner yourself. On leash, dogs can't chase a ball thrown along the Heron's Head path or mountain goat along the rocks along the northern side, where access isn't restricted. The few times I've seen dogs run toward birds, the birds were in the air before the dog was anywhere near. Most of the time my own dog just watches the birds that fly over, in fascination.

Fenced-in, often cramped off-leash parks also are not very fun for dogs who love to follow a trail or path. These parks, such as is planned at Heron's Head, aren't much fun for many dogs. They can become

dominated by more aggressive dogs, or filled up by professional dog walking companies that take dozens of dogs out at once. Just as dogs can sometimes be more aggressive with other dogs when on leash, so they can be when crowded in a limited space. I've never seen that happen with dogs walking along with their owners in Heron's Head, and only rarely at Golden Gate National Recreational Area open spaces where dogs run off-leash.

Since the Eco-Center was finished and written about there have been a few more visitors than usual. But in general, the wide sandy pathway out to the Bay is relatively traffic-free. I think it can handle a few more dogs.

Robin Evans
18th Street
Member, Dogs of Heron's Head

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St. Gregory's Feeds The Needy

By Paul McDonald

If you've ever found yourself near the Anchor Brewing Company at Mariposa and De Haro streets on a Friday afternoon, you've probably noticed a line of mostly Asian-Americans with backpacks, bags, and small suitcases. The crowd is participating in a weekly food giveaway across the street from the brewery, at St. Gregory's Episcopal Church.

Started by Sara Miles in 2000, the program is funded by private and corporate do-

nors. The food comes from the San Francisco Food Bank's (SFFB) 55,000 square foot warehouse, located on Pennsylvania near Caesar Chavez, in the shadow of the 280 freeway. Originally called "St. Gregory's Food Pantry," the church reference has been dropped, leaving just "The Food Pantry."

The Food Pantry is run by about 20 volunteers, who split indoor and outside duties. Five participants are

allowed inside the church at a time, with volunteers monitoring entry. Once inside, recipients are free to circle around about 20 food stations, choosing from an array of canned food, bread, potatoes, salad dressing, vegetables, fruits, and other items. As with most food banks, the intent of the effort is to supplement people's food needs – the rations are expected to last about three days – not to fully replace them.

Between 400 and 500 people participate in The Food Pantry each week. According to Michael Reid, The Pantry's director of operations, when the

program began upwards of 1,200 people queued up for groceries. The staff realized that they didn't have the financial or managerial capacity to sustain a program of that size. St. Gregory's board, which oversees the program, decided to issue color-coded cards to manage the demand. On Fridays, from noon to 3 p.m., food is distributed to those who

see PANTRY page 12



Photograph by Paul McDonald

MAXWELL from front page

Child Health Center, a satellite clinic of California Pacific Medical Center – opening a health clinic focused on trauma. While the project is in the early stages of development, Maxwell said she's fascinated by studies that link trauma to mental and physical deterioration.

Maxwell, who has been an advocate for clean water throughout her life, is also spending time on water-related issues in San Francisco, especially in the Bayview. As supervisor she frequently encouraged public dialogue on water conservation and infrastructure issues. "I'd have town halls and say I just want to talk about water," she half-joked. Working with the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC), Maxwell is examining the educational resources San Francisco provides to youth and residents about water. She wants plans to revamp the Southeast Wastewater Facility, located on Phelps Street, to include learning experiences so that "no youth in that district shouldn't know about water," she said. "Without blue there's no green." Maxwell has been communicating with the president of the International Water Association, and hopes to travel to South Korea next year for the World Water Congress and Exhibition.

Maxwell has also been active in the fall mayoral election. She's endorsed City Attorney and Dogpatch resident Dennis Herrera, and

has been working on his campaign "behind the scenes." As a supervisor Maxwell worked with Herrera to close the Potrero Power Plant, and to address gang violence in Bayview.

Looking back at her decade on the board, Maxwell is proudest of her success in creating CityBuild, an employment program run by the Office of Economic and Workforce Development's Workforce Development Division that provides training and job placement services to San Franciscans interested in construction careers. "I took [CityBuild] to the mayor, and took it to my colleagues, and they embraced it," Maxwell said. "People are still working and training and being valuable to our City." Another highlight of her District 10 service was her work to redevelop the Hunters Point Shipyard. The Shipyard closed in 1974, and was left polluted and neglected for more than a quarter century. "[Let's] have it a place where we can work and play," Maxwell said about the redevelopment project.

Serving on the Board of Supervisors gave Maxwell a connection to her district. "I felt like I was connected to people all the time; not isolated," she reminisced. "What you find at the end of day is that when you empower people, you empower yourself." Maxwell acknowledged that political service isn't always easy, but "I really liked the process of democracy, it's kind of irritating sometimes, but there's nothing like it. It's only better when we have engagement. We gotta be involved, that's what it's all about," she said.



SFMTA Islais Creek Project Community Meeting

The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA), which operates Muni, will host a community meeting with you, your neighbors and local businesses to ensure that you have current information about the Islais Creek Motor Coach Facility Project. This will provide an opportunity to discuss the project details so that you know what to expect and to respond to your questions and comments.

The community meeting is scheduled for:

Wednesday, June 15, 2011 from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

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Please use the entrance on 25th Street. Parking is available on the street and inside the Muni facility.

For more information, please contact the Project Manager, Peter Gabancho, at 415.701.4306 or by e-mail: peter.gabancho@sfmta.com.

**For project information, please visit
www.sfmta.com/islaiscreek or call 311.**

Additional project info:

The SFMTA is constructing a new Muni motor coach facility on City-owned land at 1301 Cesar Chavez Street. The new facility will include parking, fueling and vehicle washing facilities.

As part of the project, the SFMTA will create an edge treatment on the Islais Creek shoreline that allows for public access and reflects the historical, industrial and port uses along the San Francisco Bay. The area of public access will include amenities such as public art, a small pedestrian bridge and a walkway that circles the new facility. The edge treatment will also restore local wetlands to allow colonization by native plant and animal life. The work will be done in cooperation with the Bay Conservation and Development Commission, San Francisco Arts Commission and Friends of Islais Creek.

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SHORT CUTS from page 3

lists \$1.96 owed by General Electric Company to reporter **Nicole Spiridakis**, \$139.14 of unclaimed wages from a prior employer for reporter **Bailey Debruynkops**, and \$14,750.31 in a fallow bank account owned by the **Potrero Hill League of Active Neighbors**. Go get your money!

Halloween Ghoul

A man suspected of shooting three people outside the Potrero Annex-Terrace housing complex, including a three-year-old girl, last Halloween killed himself in Houston after a shootout with police at a Greyhound bus terminal. The man, identified as **Jesse Brown**, 20, shot two Houston police officers last month in three exchanges of gunfire, before turning the gun on himself. Houston police believe that Brown, who was bound for Georgia, may have been on the run since the Halloween shooting. In that incident, a three-year-old girl coming home from trick-or-treating with her grandfather was shot three times outside Annex-Terrace, where Brown was living at the time. The girl's grandfather, **Maurice Williamson Sr.**, apparently attempted to shield the girl from the gunfire, and also was wounded. A suspected target of the shooting, a 20-year-old man, suffered serious but not life-threatening injuries. The Houston shoot-out occurred after a bus terminal screener spotted the butt of a semi-automatic pistol in Brown's duffel bag as he waited to board a bus. The screener stalled Brown while motioning for Officer Fernando Meza, who was working an off-duty security job at the station. Meza approached Brown, who had turned to leave. Meza ordered Brown to stop, and tried to shock him with a stun

gun when he refused and reached into his bag. Brown then began shooting at Meza, firing all his bullets and then dropping the gun. Meza, who returned fire, suffered a superficial gunshot wound to his hand. Brown fled to a nearby McDonalds, where he pulled another semi-automatic pistol from the duffel bag and exchanged gunfire with two responding Houston officers, one of whom was shot in the leg. Brown ran toward a parking garage and fired a third time when confronted by another officer. Houston police SWAT officers, using an armored vehicle, were canvassing the garage when they heard a single gunshot. SWAT officers found Brown in a fourth-floor stairwell with an apparent gunshot wound to the head and the second gun next to him.

Bad Cooking

The *View* followed an incomplete recipe in its April article "Culinary Academy Students Work to Create Tastier World." The story reported that 85 percent of **California Culinary Academy** students who graduated between July 1, 2008 and June 30, 2009 found employment in their or a related field. It also said that 2007 U.S. Department of Education data indicated that CCA students had a 4.1 percent loan default rate. What was left out of this half-cooked story was that the school's 2010 loan repayment rate was just 51 percent. And many of its graduates end up in menial labor jobs paying \$12 or less. The school's parent company, Career Education Corporation, recently settled a class action lawsuit, Allison Amadar et al. versus California Culinary Academy, in which it agreed to pay more than \$40 million to former students...The photo credit for last month's story on **Xiaojie Zheng** was incorrect; Lou Dematteis snapped the picture.

Kate's Closet Owner Has Long Ties to Potrero Hill

By Lisa Gunther

Mary Petrin, who recently opened Kate's Closet on 18th Street, has long ties to Potrero Hill. In the 1940s high unemployment rates prompted Petrin's grandfather, John Petrin, to move to the Hill from Anaconda, Montana, where he found a job at the Bethlehem Shipyards, located on the Central Waterfront. "There were a lot of Yugoslavians on the Hill at that time," Petrin explained. "A lot of Croatians, Serbians...They had a house on Carolina, and my dad's two first cousins were born in that house, which I think is where Papito is now. And then, coincidentally, my husband and I bought a house on

that the business was for sale from her friend Anne Brinkley, who lives upstairs from the store, and who also owns a local business: Potrero Hill Healing Arts. "She was the one who told me that Delisa was thinking of selling it, and luckily, I got it. And it's a great little spot. I love doing consignment, and I love meeting my neighbors. It's fun. It's been a great move," Petrin said.

Petrin hasn't always been a shopkeeper. After graduating college she wasn't sure what career path to take; she took a job caring for the elderly. She worked for two sisters, Mary and Margaret Keane, who grew up in an ornate Victorian house on 20th street, across from what's now The Good Life Grocery, but was once a dance hall. The two women told many tales about San Francisco history. Mary, especially – whom Petrin cared for until she passed away in her mid-nineties – would regale her with stories of the old dance hall, roller skating down Connecticut Street's wooden sidewalks, and the 1906 earthquake. "I didn't intend on staying there so long, but [Mary] was such a sweet lady. She was a *lovely* lady. And she loved this Hill," Petrin remembered fondly.

Petrin also loves the Hill; especially its sense of community. "We have great neighbors," she said. "I lived in another part of the City when my husband and I first got married, and there was no community feel. Nobody knew each other. It was kind of depressing...And then we moved here, and in the first few weeks I knew all my neighbors. We all get together a lot. When I had my

see **KATE'S** page 20



Photograph by Paul McDonald

Mary Petrin in her new store.

Connecticut Street."

Life on the Hill has been good to Petrin, a San Francisco native, who moved to the neighborhood in 2003. In April she bought the consignment clothing store, Collage Clothing, from Delisa Sage, who still owns the gallery next door. Now named Kate's Closet, after her two and a half year old daughter Kate, Petrin first heard

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The Ramp Keeps Waterfront Dining Fresh, Lively in Dogpatch

By Sasha Lekach

The Ramp has been on the waterfront since the 1950s, but it's changed form since its original bait shop days. Today it's a patio restaurant and bar on Terry Francois Street – formerly

who maintains The Ramp's allure to regulars and newcomers. Robins has worked at The Ramp for 24 years, starting as the assistant manager. She even moved to Potrero Hill to be closer to the restaurant once she relocated to San Francisco from



Photograph by Paul McDonald

The Ramp's hostess, Genevieve Nizic.

China Basin Street – resting hard against the Bay near the intersection of Illinois and Mariposa streets.

Owners Michael Denman and Marvin Patel, who also operate next-door San Francisco Boat Works, often help-out at the bayside eatery, but it's general manager Joan Robins

New York, and devotes her energy to making the restaurant a fun place to visit. "[Over the years] we've tried to keep the flavor the same: funky and casual," Robins said. "We appeal to a diverse clientele; look at our mixed and matched table and chairs."

Chef Edwin Cabrillo came on

board almost two years ago, spicing-up the menu and introducing specials, such as Taco Tuesdays and Oyster Thursdays. "We've seen the food improve with him," said Robins. "He keeps it interesting and uses locally produced food." Cabrillo has been a Bay Area chef for roughly 20 years, and enjoys working at The Ramp. In just his two years in Dogpatch he's noticed changes. "Yes, there are Ramp regulars whose favorites include the cioppino or barbecue spareribs, but lots of new people are coming in," he said. Robins concurred, "Many new people are meeting us," she said, but stressed that it's the regulars that make The Ramp special. "We are like a family; it makes people feel like they are coming home."

With a new population exploring Dogpatch, last month The Ramp introduced a revised menu, sprinkling in new dishes – a lot of fish – amongst regular favorites, such as the burgers and fish and chips. The updated offerings include steamed mussels and Manila clams with spicy Spanish chorizo in a white wine garlic broth, and merguez sausage with sweet peppers and onions. Brunch is popular on weekends, especially the crab benedict. Plans are in the works for a heated tent for the large outdoors space, and live music on Friday nights. From April through October The Ramp takes on a club vibe, with salsa on Saturdays, and

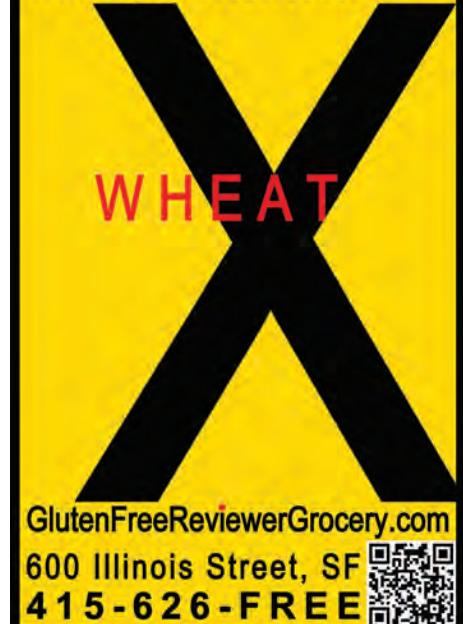
Latin beats on Sundays.

On a sunny day, The Ramp staff stays busy, but the restaurant and bar's biggest challenge is the weather. "It varies hour to hour," she said. "The patio can fill up in 45 minutes if the sun is out." A seasonal venue, The Ramp scales down during the winter to 15 staffers. As the weather and sun perk up in the spring through summer up to 35 people are hired to handle the larger load. "A huge part of the appeal is waterfront dining," Robins said.

Negotiating the economic down-

see RAMP page 20

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Library Art Show Brings Familiar Faces



Photograph by Peter Linenthal

Former View publisher Ruth Passen and View contributor Denise Mintor enjoyed last month's Potrero Hill Art Show, held at the Potrero Branch Library.

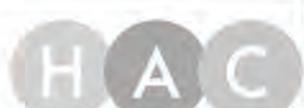
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The Daddy Handbook

By Steve Moss

"There's no such thing as a Daddy Handbook," my daughter said, squinting at me suspiciously.

"Sure, there is," I countered. "It's issued to every dad when they bring home their baby."

"Show it to me, then," she insisted.

"I can't," I replied, "It's for daddies' eyes only. I'd be breaking the daddy code if I showed it to you."

Since my daughter could talk in semi-complete sentences, I've been invoking the Daddy Handbook as a disciplinary tool, though I've never actually shown it to her, and, for all she knows, it doesn't exist.

"Why do I have to go to bed at 7:30?"

"Because of the Daddy Handbook."

"I don't want to buckle my seat belt!"

"Sorry, the Daddy Handbook says you have to. If you don't, I might lose my daddy privileges."

Oddly, given my strong-willed and charmingly manipulative daughter, citing the handbook mostly works. She protests less, and with better humor, when I call it out. When she was little the book tickled her desire for a higher authority, a league of daddies who had carefully thought-out responses to murky situations. It made her feel safe. As she reaches adolescence, her belief that the book is real has diminished, though it remains higher than her faith that the Tooth Fairy is anybody other than me.

It helps that I've used the handbook sparingly, and mostly for things that make intuitive sense

to her, even if she doesn't like the rules: sleep, safety, and hygiene. I tried employing the handbook once to get her to do her homework, but quickly abandoned the tactic when it became clear that a book she's never seen was powerless in the face of the quite real math exercises she held in her hand.

Lately, I've had to dip into the book's more creative recesses to get her attention. A few weeks ago she refused to brush her teeth before bedtime, preferring to play with a half-deflated balloon. "You gotta brush your teeth," I said, "it's in the Daddy Handbook." She ignored me. "Alright, then," I continued, "I'll need to call the tooth brushing guy." I could see her ears perk up.

"What tooth brushing guy?" she asked. "There's no tooth brushing guy."

"Sure, there is," I replied, "he advertises in the Daddy Handbook. You give him a call, and he'll come over and brush your children's teeth. He even does dogs."

"Huh," she said, still playing with her balloon, though with diminished intensity.

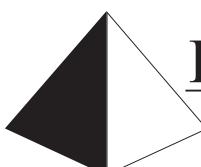
"I'll go call him," I said. As I walked toward the telephone in the other room a strong wind rattled the windows. "Oh, maybe he's here already."

"No need, no need," said my daughter, rushing to the bathroom to brush her teeth.

"Maybe that wasn't him after all," I said, as I looked out the window. But by that time my daughter, her teeth freshly scrubbed, was already in bed.

To follow the Daddy Handbook blogs: <http://daddyhandbook.org>.

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Café in Dogpatch Adds Gallery Space

By Judith Kahn

Dog Patch Café, located at 2294 Third Street, first opened its doors as Sundance Coffee in the fall of 2010. Owners John Warner – also a photographer – and Herb Kaufman – author of *A Testament to Grace* and *Montgomery Clift Can't Save You*, among other fiction works – hope to create a place where people can exchange ideas and form new perspectives. Engaging in good conversation is one of their favorite pastimes, even as discourse increasingly takes place through tweeting, texting, and email.

In April Warner and Kauffman opened a gallery adjacent to the cafe, where they hold monthly open mic sessions, and provide space for artists to display their work. The pair hopes that their venue will attract new, untapped talent from the community. Warner's vision for the gallery was influenced by The Long Now Foundation, a nonprofit whose mission is "to provide a counterpoint to today's faster/cheaper mind set and promote 'slower, better thinking'."

At the café's first open mic session musicians played classical and flamenco guitar, sang original songs, and performed covers of their favorite tunes. For some participants it was their first time in front of an audience; others were more experienced. An exhibit of drawings and mixed media work on paper by Rodney Ewing, *Unwashed Saints Port Chicago* and *Rituals of Water*, is on display at the café through June 9. According to

Ewing, "With my work, I am creating an intersection where body and place, memory and fact are merged to re-examine human interactions and cultural conditions to create interactions and cultural conditions to create a narrative and requires us to be present." Ewing hopes his art sparks a dialogue with his audience.

Warner is constantly searching for art to exhibit in his gallery. He frequents other galleries, and discovers artists through word of mouth. The gallery space is also available for rent. The high ceilings, good light, and new wooden floors make for an excellent venue.

The café also features attractive lighting, is airy, and comfortable. Artisan coffee – Torrid Coffee – is brewed, with roasts available from Guatemala, Nicaragua, Peru, and France. Each day, the café offers a different type of bread pudding; chocolate almond, cherry with almonds, or a savory bread pudding, depending on what ingredients are available in the kitchen. Sandwich choices include bacon, egg and gruyere; gouda, gruyere, mushroom, onion and tomato; organic peanut butter, honey and apple; and empanadas by Venga. A different, locally grown, organic salad is offered daily; items are reasonably priced.

The café is open from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. For information on upcoming events: www.dogpatchcafe.com. If you're interested in participating in the monthly open mic, contact Dean Harlem at 609.574.5414.

Mayoral Candidate Visits Opponent's Turf



Photograph by Richard Christian

Joanna Rees, candidate for San Francisco Mayor, campaigned in front of Cup o' Blues in Dogpatch in late May, a couple blocks from another mayoral candidate City Attorney Dennis Herrera's residence.

PANTRY from page 8

possess either a blue or red card. The red card is good for the first and third Fridays; the blue for the second and fourth. The cards have created a better managed process, with less crowding and associated litter, traffic congestion, and safety issues.

There are roughly 150 food banks in San Francisco, each with their own guidelines and processes. Reid manages everything from overseeing volunteers, to making sure The Food

Pantry receives the correct quantities and types of food from SFFB, to checking the client registry, and distributing new cards if someone stops showing-up. He takes pride in managing his particular program, which "...keeps the neighbors happy, is painless and has an ease of access" that others may not. He likens the atmosphere of the giveaway to an open air farmer's market, and takes comfort in a well-organized program that provides food to those in need.

For information about The Food Pantry, how to donate or volunteer: www.thefoodpantry.org.

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Sharing Offers Economic Alternative, Builds Community

By Mary Purpura

There are lots of established sharing projects on and around Potrero Hill: the community gardens and the library provide shared space and resources. Every week, the Free Farm Stand in the Mission offers hyper-locally grown produce to all comers. The Pennsylvania and the 18th and De Haro streets gardens reflect efforts to create green spaces for everyone to enjoy.

While sharing formally and informally is a part of Potrero Hill life, there's a new emphasis on sharing as a conscious economic alternative

to goods, services, and information traded for

money. "The sharing economy is a collection of trends and practices that affect our consumption, how we meet our needs, and how we transact with each other that generally involves a more collaborative model" than we use when we purchase things, said Janelle Orsi, a Berkeley-based attorney whose private practice focuses on sharing arrangements, such as cohousing, community gardens, and car-sharing. Orsi co-authored *The Sharing Solution: How To Save Money, Simplify Your Life, and Build Community*, published by Nolo Press, with fellow attorney Emily Doskow. The book includes sample agreements and forms that might be used in different sharing arrangements, as well as practical, step-by-step advice on how to organize a range of collaborative projects, including sharing housing, transportation, and child and pet care.

In May, representatives from Shareable.net, a nonprofit online magazine that covers trends in the sharing economy, hosted ShareSF at The Hub, located South-of-Market.

"ShareSF highlighted sharing practices in San Francisco, and connected people who are building the sharing movement in the City," said Millicent Johnson, Shareable.net's community engagement manager. Conference attendees committed "to use sharing not only to address economic issues but to make our City more collaborative and reflective of the world we want to live in," explained Johnson. She pointed out that sharing arrangements can help address "the trio of problems – social, economic, and environmental – that face all of us." ShareSF will likely become an annual San Francisco event.

"San Francisco's density makes it a great platform for sharing," said Orsi. "Within 100 yards of where you live, there's a high likelihood that there's someone willing to share a vacuum or a car or whatever it is you'd like to share. A lot of people feel that society has isolated us, and they want to start making more connections with other people. Sharing is a great way to do that," she added.

Sharing can save money and time – carpooling, or neighbors cooking for each other – or deliver returns in terms of fun, relationship-building and environmental sustainability. One particularly charming sharing project is the Belly-to-Belly Bartermart, begun by Oakland resident Ellen Johnson. "I feel that we are disconnected from the food we eat," explained Johnson. "I favor getting better connected to what we're eating and building community at the same time. The best way to build community is around food, because everyone has to eat. I started thinking about ways that people could get food beyond going to Trader Joe's and handing over \$40." Johnson decided to contact people she knew who, like her, enjoyed making batches of artisanal foods. She invited them to her home to bring

lots of whatever they'd made valued at \$10 per lot to trade with others. Fifteen cooks attended the first Belly-to-Belly Bartermart in April. Participants had emailed Johnson weeks before the gathering detailing what they planned to bring, to avoid everyone showing up with cranberry-fig jam. The participants introduced themselves and their product, samples were available, and the swap was organized like a silent auction. As people walked around and decided what they'd like to trade for, they wrote down their name and proposed exchange on the form in front of each station.

"Look, I can tomatoes," said Johnson. "If I can 40 quarts of tomatoes, that's great, I've got a pantry with 40 quarts of tomatoes. But if I trade 20 quarts of those tomatoes, I'll have a pantry filled with foods I want to eat but don't know how to make, or don't want to make, or have never even thought of making. And the food you buy at the store will never taste the same as food made in small batches by skilled hands." All kinds of yummy, handmade treats were swapped at the Belly-to-Belly Bartermart, including custard made with eggs from a neighbor's chickens; blood orange curd; cookies from a newly developed recipe; goat feta and chevre; nut and date sorbet; pickled beets; limoncello; and sauerkraut.

Johnson was thrilled with the event, and reports that many of the participants continue to trade for foods they fell in love with at the Bartermart. She plans to organize one every few months, and has offered to help anyone who would like to start a similar event in their own neighborhood. To take her up on that offer, contact her at yumm_sf@yahoo.com.

Sharing arrangements can even help individuals facing financial crises. "I've had a couple of clients who lost their jobs and needed to figure out some kind of arrangement so they

could keep up with their mortgage payments," said Orsi. "In one case, someone my client knew came in to take over the mortgage payments. In return, she gained a larger part of the equity share. In other situations, someone might bring in a roommate. You can also retrofit a house to accommodate two separate units. I've had two clients who built an addition; so each had a separate living space. They shared the house's one kitchen and the home costs," explained Orsi. In that case, the parties involved had dinner together every week for a year before entering into the legal, home-sharing agreement. Orsi pointed out that that kind of cautious preparation pays off. "It's so easy to go into something quickly with the best intentions, but with something like sharing a house, you want to be as sure as you can that it's going to work," said Orsi.

Unless your financial situation demands a major sharing arrangement, it probably makes sense to start small. "To make initial connections, start talking to your neighbors and friends. Put the word out that you have tools or appliances sitting in your closet that you're not using and that you'd like to share. Have potlucks. Organize block parties. Join the Timebank. Our whole society needs to develop more willingness to share," said Orsi.

A Sharing Revolution Conference will be held in Mountain View on June 18. For more information: <http://www.acterra.org/sharing/>. For more on the Belly-to-Belly Bartermart, check out this youtube video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MWJfHELCalc&list=PL871DF048218B89A7>. Rblock.com and gogoverde.com allow users to create a kind of Facebook page to increase communication in specific neighborhoods. Neighborrow.com and neighborgoods.net are web sites designed to help people share goods and tools.

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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS FROM SOMA TO BAYVIEW

Literacy for Environmental Justice Trains Bayview Youth

By Rheba Estante

Literacy for Environmental Justice (LEJ) was launched in 1998, with a goal of helping the Bayview-Hunters Point community foster sustainable energy, healthy food, clean air and water, open space, and equitable educational and employment opportunities. Last year, LEJ received the 2010 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Environmental Justice Achievement Award, in recognition of its EcoCenter, a green building located at Heron's Head Park that's considered a landmark architectural structure.

The EcoCenter is the Bay Area's first facility dedicated to environmental justice, and San Francisco first 100 percent "off-grid" building, modeling solar power and alternative wastewater technologies. The U.S. EPA's Region Nine administrator Jared Blumenfeld collaborated on the project when he directed the San Francisco Department of the Environment, which provided much of the funding to build the center. The 1,500 square foot facility boasts an EcoMachine wastewater treatment – a series of wetland cells and UV light sterilization mats that treat water for irrigation use – a green living roof, solar panels and wind turbine, structurally insulated panels, and



Bay Youth for the Environment program interns at the Eco-Center.

Photograph by Carlos Gonzalez

native landscaping.

LEJ promotes the EcoCenter as a place that creates empowered and eco-literate youth; benefits the environmental, public, and economic health of southside San Francisco; and acts as a model for green buildings and environmental education worldwide. Our mission, vision, and purpose is to foster principles of environmental justice and urban

sustainability in young people by helping them understand the tasks needed in the future to promote the long-term health of their communities," said acting executive director Patrick Rump.

Rump, who started three of LEJ's programs, took the nonprofit's helm in January in the wake of staffing cuts. Rump has been trained in ecology and environmental horticulture,

and earned his associates degree at San Francisco City College. According to Rump, LEJ's involvement in the EcoCenter, a million dollar capital improvement project, required them to make staffing sacrifices.

"The EcoCenter staff is currently working with teachers and school program educators about green buildings," said Rump. "We want to use it [the EcoCenter] as a community resource for people to convene. The public can book it for meeting and events. It's a very unique place, and its presence raises the visibility of environmental and ecological issues in Bayview-Hunters Point."

According to Rump, LEJ works with roughly 1,000 schoolchildren a year, principally at Heron's Head Park and its Plants Gone Wild Native Plants Nursery, located in Candlestick Point. Adult volunteers also work with the nonprofit, planting seeds at the park or tending to the nursery. Some volunteers use their

see YOUTH page 4

Flora Grubb Plants Community

By Bill Slatkin

Celebrating its fourth year on Jerrold, just off Third Street, Flora Grubb Gardens is a nursery customers find peaceful, expansive and fun. A walk among the green groves and shaded paths enables visitors to see, smell, and perhaps experience how one of the trees, flowers or other plants might transform a space. And that aligns with the mission of Flora Grubb, a 13-year San Francisco resident, who thinks about how people "are changed by working with even a tiny piece of earth. It connects you. I don't know if that's to God or to nature, or if it means to help people get centered in themselves," she said, emphasizing that interacting with nature tends to make people "more aware of the broader world, less caught up in the narrower things" that occupy our time and attention.

Grubb's appreciation for plant life mixes well with her playful and entrepreneurial spirit. Her inspirations include a gourmet coffee and tea bar, and a prominent display of vertical gardens that surprise and delight

Southeast Wastewater Treatment Plant to Get a Makeover

By Bailey Debruynkops

Able to handle up to 250 million gallons of water a day, the Southeast Wastewater Treatment Plant (SEP), located in Bayview, processes 80 percent of San Francisco's wastewater flow. Built in 1952, the plant

level, much like if you were designing a hospital," said George Engel, the plant's acting superintendent of Bayside operations.

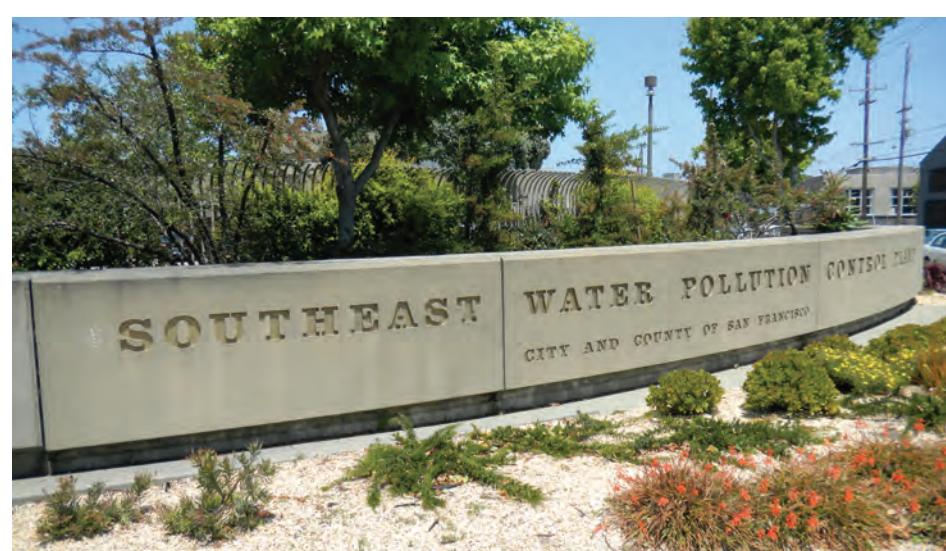
The plan calls for above and below ground modifications, with significant investments in the plant's digesters, the closed tanks

volatile solids, water, and organic acids. According to Engel, "We analyze many elements within the digester for optimal operation." All digesters and solids-handling facilities will remain in full operation during the renovation process.

SEP's pungent odors will be addressed as part of the plan. "One of our goals is not to have any odors at the fence line. This is sometimes impossible to achieve, but it is one of our goals," said Engel. Mark Klaiman, owner of Bayview-based Pet Camp, is comfortable with SFPUC's plans for the facility. "I support building in place using modern technology. I am right across the street from the settling ponds on the north side of the plant, we assume the odor comes from the old digesters. With new technology, the odor complaints will be gone; so then all there is to deal with is the facade issue."

Under the plan, many of San Francisco's underground sewers, some of which are 150 years old, would be rebuilt. "We can utilize an asset management system to identify problem areas and proactively replace sewers before complete failure," said Engel.

see WASTEWATER page 2



Photograph by Paul McDonald

hasn't been significantly renovated since 1980, when its capacity was increased. Earlier this year the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) adopted a new 30-year master plan for the facility, which could cost upwards of \$6 billion to implement. "Our construction techniques have to be at a very high

that use bacteria to treat solids and stabilize raw sludge. SEP has 10 digesters, all dating from the original construction. Nine are currently active, each with a capacity to process 1.8 million gallons of combined primary and secondary (CPAS) substances, which consist of digester gas (65 percent methane),

see GRUBB page 2

WASTEWATER from front page

The plan also calls for wastewater-conscious landscaping – additional trees, sidewalk bulb-outs to help direct water, and day-lighting creeks – in various locations, including at Folsom and Ninth Streets. Under this approach natural and human made features would be used to direct and treat storm water runoff. As ocean levels rise as a result of global climate change, increased amounts of storm runoff could be pushed into draining outlets, elevating flood risks. To maintain the flow of sewage to the plant, water-pumping stations may be constructed in the Mission and South-of-Market neighborhoods. Although these elements are included in the plan, they will require additional funding to be executed.

In the past, SEP has grown by taking over adjacent sites, such as a butchering and tanning facility, saw mill, and metal scrap yard. "All surrounding property is of interest to expand upon. We try to make the community better as we go through our process; we are a pretty good neighbor," Engel.

A new digester complex may be built along the Caltrain tracks, on a site currently occupied by the City's central shops – which provide maintenance services to municipal vehicles, such as fire trucks – and an asphalt plant. The nearby piers could also serve as the new digesters' home, though the expense associated with shifting to this location, as well as concerns about shore-deterioration, make this move unlikely. The total number of digesters may shrink. "By utilizing additional technologies, fewer digesters are expected to be needed," said Engel.

The SEP is one of San Francisco's largest electricity consumers, using up to 4.5 megawatts (MW) a day. The plant has had trouble maintaining its on-site energy production facilities. Its two MW cogeneration facility has worked only intermittently, and is currently down for repairs. The plant hosts a 210 kilowatt solar array. NASA is examining whether freshwater algae could produce biodiesel at the facility. "Alternative energy is a large portion of what we do. Being a green business is something that is important," said Engel. All facilities are built to withstand up to 8.2 magnitude earthquakes.

Built in 1993, the Oceanside Wastewater Treatment Plant, next

to and underneath the Great Highway, is a more modernly designed facility. The plant handles considerably less of the City's wastewater, with the ability to process 65 million gallons a day. The Oceanside Plant layout is similar to a canyon, mostly unseen from sea level, in an attempt to avoid disrupting the existing community and surroundings. "With Oceanside you don't know it's there. Our neighbors know we're here so they are involved and it's best for all to try and live in harmony," said Engel.

The SFPUC also owns the Bayview Community Center, which is overseen by the Southeast Community Facility Commission. "The SEP has programs specifically for citizens that live in the 94124 zip code, training opportunities that allow people the chance to work their way up," said Engel.

Some Bayview activists hope that more than the SEP will be altered. Greg Doxey, who is on the board of nonprofit Osiris Coalition – which works to foster financial stability by supporting affordable housing and education in Bayview-Hunters Point – is critical of SFPUC's employment practices. "Understanding the track record with wastewater, they have African-American employees that have not moved up; after 30 years they're still sitting in the same position. I have at least five names of individuals that have been passed up for higher positions given to people who have been there maybe five years," Doxey said. "We understand how important this is for the whole City, but if you understand the history, they brought the SEP to Bayview with promises for jobs, but we are in the same position."

According to Doxey, SFPUC focuses much of its SEP-oriented community outreach on a few Bayview pastors. "Going to the same few people for community response is not community. If you look at the rest of San Francisco, they don't just go to the ministers," he said.

"Bayview is the only community in San Francisco with their own commission. The community wanted their own commission when the SEP expanded in the 80's. The Southeast Community Facility Commission helps better manage the facility. They develop programs that benefit the community such as health fairs; they help people get apprenticeships," said SFPUC's Tommy Moala, assistant general manager of wastewater enterprise.

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GRUBB from front page

customers. But Grubb gives credit for these innovations to her business partner, Saul Nadler. While she was designing displays, Nadler set up a vertical business structure, in which the company grows much of its own flora on a 30-acre Southern California farm, where it cultivates many of the San Francisco-appropriate plants offered on Jerrold Street. And the company also grows and sells palms and other trees, many for municipal projects.

Castro Commons, a "Pavement to Parks" project at 17th and Castro Streets, incorporated not only the company's trees, but some of Grubb's ideas. Next on her urban agenda is the meridian envisioned for Cesar Chavez Street. Working with San Francisco's Public Works Department, she'll share her experience, and supply a number of trees. "I'm really excited about projects like that. It makes such a difference in the City." The company has played a supporting role in creating new greening projects in Dogpatch, Bayview, and Potrero Hill, such as the network of spaces where nature has been reclaimed in and around Querada Gardens off Third Street, and conversion of California Department of Transportation properties into Pennsylvania Gardens and Progress Park at the base of Potrero Hill.

Though Grubb creates and enjoys stunning floral art on the grounds of

her nursery, she said the most fun is helping people use plants that thrive in San Francisco. "I'm so pleased to see people able to keep a plant healthy, see it growing, instead of dying because it's not right for this climate."



Photograph by Paul McDonald

Flora Grubb's merchandise extends far beyond succulents and natives.

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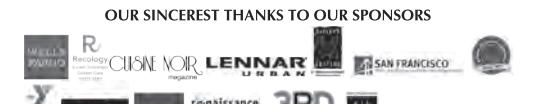
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Green Citizen Makes Recycling Electronics Easy

By Bill Slatkin

Just because it's called the recycling business doesn't mean it reuses old ideas. For a fresh take on the industry, check-out GreenCitizen, a company that employs new concepts, such as operating well-appointed retail facilities in high-traffic commercial settings, like its Howard Street store. The location was chosen so that GreenCitizen could be near its customers. Think of the many electronics retailers serving the larger downtown area representing the final link in the chain from manufacturer to consumer. Now reverse that picture.

"We have to be where the customers are," said James Kao, GreenCitizen's founder and chief executive officer. "If we want people to use our services, we have to make it convenient. And in a nice space. Not like what you think of as the typical recycling center."

Each computer, cell phone, printer, monitor or other electronic item that comes to GreenCitizen – 110,000 people and 10,000 companies use its four retail centers and several recycling kiosks – is tagged with a UPC code and registered into the

company's database. The equipment is then evaluated in the service center – each store has one – to determine its condition. Some items can be recycled



Photographs by Bill Slatkin

Joshua Rego, front office specialist at the Green Citizen Howard Street store, affixing a UPC label to a computer monitor.

back to the public after a bit of repair, cleaning and – in the case of computers and storage devices – a thorough hard drive wipe and reformatting, so nobody's security is compromised. The products given a second chance may be donated to a worthy person or cause, or sold over the Internet.

Devices that have reached what Kao refers to as "the end of life" are partially disassembled, their components sorted based on their re-usefulness, and on characteristics such as toxicity, inherent – precious metal – value, or potential as raw material that can be melted down and

re-formed into a new product. Each remaining piece and part is sent to the appropriate company, depending on whether it'll be salvaged or responsibly disposed of. This final step reverses the distribution process by which components from various sources were collected for assembly into the finished product when it was new.

The UPC marking, together with digital cataloguing, enables the company to employ a tracking protocol, helpful if it learns that a participant in the chain isn't doing their job correctly. Find a computer monitor in a landfill with a Green Citizen UPC sticker, and the company will be able to determine how it got there, and whom to blame.

Kao is advocating for another way to complete the circle. He'd like the remains of a company's products to be returned to the manufacturer for responsible recycling. "The EPA ought to say to the manufacturer: 'okay you sold one million electronic products. You have to prove that you took back one million electronic items that customers didn't want anymore. And then recycled responsibly.'" The penalty for non-compliance, Kao suggested, would be a fine, with the money used to clean-up the environment.

Kao's quest to responsibly handle end-of-life electronics came after a successful career in the industry. A University of California, Los Angeles-educated engineer with a master of business administration, Kao worked for HP, IBM and Oracle, before venturing out on his own, creating and selling high-technology companies. He learned about the growing problem of electronic products irresponsibly discarded – and

the extent to which the practice is harming the environment – from a Bill Moyers program on public television. And he was horrified. "I spent the next two years traveling around the country and around the world to get an idea of how serious the problem is."

GreenCitizen was founded on Earth Day in 2004, with the opening of its first store in downtown Palo Alto. Others outlets are in Burlingame and Berkeley. In addition to service technicians, each store is staffed with two front office employees. All of the later are college graduates with degrees in environmental science. "We do a great deal of outreach," Kao said. "We go to schools and companies and events in different cities. We make people aware of the problem and teach how everyone can do something about it."

Supporting the operation are a number of income streams. The service departments double as repair centers for the general public. They offer loaner iPhones and laptops for customers who can't do without, while theirs are being repaired. Selling refurbished equipment contributes to the coffers, as do fees charged for recycling some items.

Kao plans to expand the company, now with 25 employees, into a total of eight Bay Area stores. "I'm committed to this. We have to solve it. And make manufacturers accountable for what they're selling that might cause problems later." Among Kao's ideas is to collect and circulate data about how responsibly manufacturers deal with the end results of their products. That information would play a role in consumers' decisions about which products to buy. "When companies are held accountable, we can vote for them or not, with our dollars."

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YOUTH from front page

donated time to pay off parking tickets; LEJ is registered with the Project 20 Fine Alternative program, which allows people who are financially unable to pay parking tickets or traffic violations to use community service hours to clear their debts.

"One major benefit of our programs is that they address the need for transitional youth to find meaning in fulfilling work that improves their community. We seek to educate, inform, involve," elaborated Rump. "We don't just teach. What LEJ does is solution-based, by going out and transforming our community. The EcoCenter is a real tribute to that. So is our restoration work. It's about finding people who want to think in deep and positive terms while enjoying meaningful employment." The organization provides free, hands-on environmental education programs for schoolchildren aged five to 18. Most of students are from District 10 public schools, though the programs are available to all interested educators and youth groups. LEJ also offers opportunities to youth between the ages of 18 to 24 who need more job training.

"Like a lot of nonprofits we are faced with the problems of an economic downturn. It's hard to keep the level of staffing we had and still balance our budget," explained Rump. "We reduced management levels to keep our programs and avoid service cuts. These were very difficult decisions. We had to be flexible to survive and weather the storm in order to continue. LEJ feels very hopeful after the recent reorganization about its prospects to expand programs and services."

Heron's Head Park is operated in partnership with the Port of San Francisco, which provides the primary source of funding for the program. Formerly known as Pier 98, the community and educational programs offered at the park have been managed by LEJ since 1999. According to Rump, LEJ's volunteers are the main caretakers of the land, planting native shrubs, weeding invasive botanicals, and cleaning and maintaining the park's wild areas.

LEJ's Bay Youth for the Environment program began in 2004 in partnership with the California State Parks Foundation and California State Parks. Local youth get involved with restoration work in San Francisco's largest contiguous wetlands area. The Bay Youth Program, operating from the Candlestick Point State Recreation Area, provides paid internships to 15 teenagers, who tend the native plant nursery, perform restoration work, and advocate for state parks.

The Food Justice initiative includes the Good Neighbor program, the Good Neighbor Best Practices Guide, and the Healthy Corner Stores Network. The Good Neighbor program is based on a 2002 study of corner stores in Bayview-Hunters Point, which found that less than five percent of the stores' sales consisted of fresh produce, while 75 percent

of purchases were for "junk food," tobacco, and alcohol. Under the program, youth interns work with local merchants to increase the number of fresh produce in their stores, while reducing tobacco and alcohol advertising, and educating Bayview-Hunters Point residents on healthy eating. The Good Neighbor concept was adopted as a statewide model for the Healthy Food Purchase Program in 2007. Last year LEJ launched a collaborative effort with students enrolled in San Francisco State University's public health program to conduct an updated community needs assessment.

LEJ's also publishes "Calling Nature Home," a kindergarten to high school environmental justice curriculum. Teachers can apply for "Understanding the Science of Sustainability," a year-long series of trainings hosted at the Eco-Center in partnership with the Exploratorium.

Youth with a Plan, LEJ's newest program, is a collaborative project with Arc Ecology, another grassroots advocate for peace, environmental responsibility, and a compassionate economy. Youth with a Plan is designed to involve Bayview-Hunters Point youth in the redevelopment of southside San Francisco. Program participants are trained in research, community outreach and policy advocacy. "The newest program is an offshoot," explained Rump. "Last year we were able to extend our nursery operations, so this allows us to further expand our services to transitional age youth. What this means is that they can be part of growing native plants for government organizations dedicated to habitat restoration or job training and employment programs."

Over the past dozen years some of the youth who helped found LEJ have graduated college and returned as staff; others are pursuing environmental and community-based work as their profession. One Americorps member now works at the park. "It's great to see someone five years later and witness how they built upon their experiences at LEJ. In the beginning a lot of youth came to us, and today we still do a lot of programming with local school districts," recalled Rump. "We welcome anyone who wants to be engaged in our services and assist. Educators who want an EcoCenter tour or groups who want to use it as a meeting place can reserve a spot on our website."

Rump himself is eager to get back to being actively involved in land-based projects. "I ultimately want to be in a capacity where I provide services directly, such as the nursery. We have an amazing staff, with a combined total of 20 years of service. Our board members are incredible. LEJ is a tight-knit group with strong connections to one another. Any success we have must also recognize our partners and funders."

To stay up-to-date on the latest news from LEJ, subscribe to their newsletter at : www.lejyouth.org/news/news.html

Food, Music, Fun Scheduled for Bayview Music Festival

By Bill Slatkin

San Franciscans and visitors will discover great music, delicious food and plenty of entertainment at the Bayview Music Festival, coinciding with Sunday Streets in Bayview, on June 12. Headlining the stage at Third and Galvez will be Juan Escovedo – son of Pete, brother of Sheila E – with performances by Clifford Brown III, Rhonda Benin and Ashling Cole. Some 50 exhibitors will offer a variety of foods, arts and crafts, information and health screenings. Festivities get underway at 11 a.m., when the northbound stretch of Third Street will be closed to vehicle traffic.

Launched in 2010 with roughly 500 attendees, this year's festival is expected to attract a larger crowd of families and fun-seekers; some on skates and bicycles, all looking for a good time. Watch for the awards in the best taste competitions for delicious dishes and desserts.



Photograph courtesy of the Renaissance Entrepreneurship Center

Festival participants at last year's Bayview Music Festival.

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Backseat Strangers

By Jason Benlevi

They are sheer torture. They are joyous memories. Road trips. The ultimate shared parent/child experience. The road trip is not just about getting from point A to point B. It, like most of life, is about



Local author Jason Benlevi

the journey itself. Looking out the window onto an unfamiliar world. Seeing life other than the one you live in every day — and seeing it all unfiltered and unedited. No special effects. The boring and the exciting coexisting for young minds to tolerate and interpret, remember and

forget. This is the true widescreen of life. Compare that to the narrow field of experience your child receives through a video or computer screen. In the universe of human experiences, TV is a black hole where no life escapes. If you were going to use technology to create a better life for your children, your first thought would probably not be "Ya know, my kid just doesn't get to watch enough TV. Gotta fix that."

So why on earth are we putting back-seat video systems in cars? This may be one of the stupidest ideas ever conceived. It wasn't an issue back a few years ago when picture tubes were implosive and not exactly what you'd want in front of your kids' faces while driving on the interstate. With the arrival of the cheap LCD screen, the physical hazard disappeared, but the mental hazard has only grown.

TV and video have always been considered electronic babysitters. Do you really need that babysitter when your kids are actually with you? Kids will squirm and complain on long car trips. So what? Adults do, too. What kids actually crave is engagement, not pacification. Gluing their eyes to a video screen and plugging their little heads with earbuds is exactly the wrong thing for them. All you are doing is extending their addiction to entertainment and cutting them off from the critical interactions they need to engage in. They become even more hooked on prepackaged entertainment products and disengaged from the cause and effect of

the real world.

Kids need to learn that not every aspect of life is "fun" or intended solely for their entertainment. They need some time and space to figure out how to engage their own minds. Are all the games that kids have played in the back seat for generations — including the eternal "Out-of-State License Plate" and "Punch Buggy" — doomed to extinction? They need to prepare themselves for a journey, not plug in and vanish from their surroundings into a Hollywood video confection.

A road trip is one of the few opportunities when the nucleus of the family is in one place at one time, interacting with each other, physically unified, and headed in a common direction. It is both metaphor and reality. You are creating lifetime memories as you share a journey of discovery. All the giving, taking, arguing, and negotiating are inescapable; there is no exit to another room to be swaddled in distraction and self-indulgence. A road trip is an indelible life experience.

Even the daily drive to school is a great time to chat, play the radio, sing together, explain the news or have a good private talk. Both of you need this interaction. You need this time to learn about each other. Life is short and time with your kids is even shorter. If your kids have to choose between talking with you and watching video, you're going to lose. In the long run, you both will lose. So tell the car salesman to put those LCD screens up his back seat.

Benlevi, a Potrero Hill resident, recently published Too Much Magic: Pulling the Plug on the Cult of Tech, from which this is excerpted. The book is available at Christopher's Books.

Back from War

By Dave Matsuda

About five years ago I realized that too much time in the classroom, and not enough time researching other peoples and cultures, was turning me into an out of touch anthropology teacher. I decided to take a short-term assignment advising the U.S. military on anthropological issues in Iraq. I thought my work as a military anthropologist would be a quick sojourn in the field, to hit the refresh button and sharpen my classroom content. However my wife, Kristi, knew that time off from the university to conduct conflict zone fieldwork would be a career changer. Only now, after two overseas deployments, do I realize how right she was.

As I initially prepared to leave Potrero Hill for training and deployment, some of our friends and neighbors asked Kristi what kind of husband leaves his wife alone, with a house to run, a job to work, and kids to raise. Her salt of the earth response, "Hardship, Dave is going to war, he is suffering hardship not me. I have the kids with me, I live in a comfortable house, and I don't have people trying to kill me while I am working." Her defense of what I believed to be my highest, if idealistic, calling — to reduce the violence of war by understanding the cultures with whom we are in conflict — comforted me during pitched battles, sniper fire and road side bombs. "I'll someday return to Kristi," I told myself, "the one person in the world who understands me."

During or between deployments Kristi never pressured me to share

see WAR page 18

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A View from the Past: Graduation Day



Photograph courtesy of Potrero Hill Archives Project / Norris Collection

"One Bright Potrero Boy Won an Apprenticeship in the Union Iron Works." Thus reads the fourth-tier headline of a June 7, 1895 *San Francisco Call* story about the Potrero School's graduation exercises, held the previous evening at the Potrero Opera House on Tennessee Street.

The Potrero School opened in 1865 on the corner of Napa – now 20th – and Kentucky – Third – streets, to serve a neighborhood beginning to teem with industry. It was Potrero Hill's first school. Before long, a larger school was needed; in 1877 a two-story wood-frame building was constructed in the 800 block of Minnesota Street. After Union Iron Works moved to Potrero Point in 1883, its general manager, Irving M Scott, took an active interest in the welfare of his employees and their families. Together with his brother, Henry T. Scott, he was instrumental in transforming the Potrero School into the City's primary center of industrial arts training for children of working-class families.

According to the *Call* story, the school's 1895 graduation exercises had a "special and significant character" and that the Potrero School

"...marks the greatest advance that has been made in developing industrial education in the grammar schools of the City. For the girls there is a special teacher of sewing and cooking . . . for boys . . . the use of tools, woodcarving and industrial drawing are among the things taught. . . . It is the hope and expectation of those who are developing practical

education in the schools that many other manufacturing establishments will follow the example of the Union Iron Works and so encourage and stimulate this modern feature of the work of the public schools. School Director Henry T. Scott, who is the president of the Union Iron Works, has taken a special interest in the industrial work of the Potrero School and the offer of the prize named was the result. After a competitive examination among the boys who had pursued the course during the year it was awarded to Benard Hedstrom, a Potrero boy who is thus enabled to go from a grammar school into the draughting department of the big ship-building works where a successful career is open to him."

Marie F. Doyle, Lexie McDonald, and David A. Dickie were also awarded prizes. Richard D. Faulkner, the school's "energetic and progressive principal," presided over an "entertaining programme" featuring vocal solos and piano duets, as well as sundry "declamations" and "recitations," including the Gettysburg Address and "Mr. Brown's Hair Cut," rendered by Thomas Barry. George W. Dickie, superintendent of Union Iron Works, delivered the main address of the evening. He compared the building of a man-of-war ship to the building of human character:

She must go on in her appointed course and it is not to waste time in chasing after small things, but to meet and overcome powerful enemies and must therefore be pow-

erful in offense and defense. She must be large in conception and complete in equipment, and so must the man be who is to successfully meet and overcome the powerful obstacles in the line of duties marked out for him in his sailing orders." If any like words were addressed to the girls the *Call* didn't report them.

The entire class sang several songs, including "Summer Fancies," "The Wanderer," "The Whip-Poor-Will Song," and closed the evening

with "America."

Just weeks after the "bright Potrero boy" and his classmates graduated, a second school building opened on the Tennessee Street side of the Potrero School site. The school – soon to be renamed in honor of I.M. Scott – trained boys and girls in vocational skills well into the twentieth century. By 1975, when I.M. Scott closed its doors as a functioning school, only the 1895 building remained. It was designated a San Francisco Landmark in 1981, and is the City's oldest surviving public school building. It's been home to the Omega Boys Club since 1987.

Later this month, groundbreaking ceremonies for the Friends of Potrero Hill Nursery School will be held in the I.M. Scott parking lot, heralding the return of children and their teachers to this historic site. It's within the realm of possibility, if not probability, that among these children could be a descendant of



A rendering of the Friends of Potrero Hill Nursery School building and outdoor space soon to be under construction at the I.M. Scott facility.

an 1895 Potrero School graduate or of a member of the early-twentieth-century I.M. Scott graduating class pictured above.

- Abigail Johnston
Potrero Hill Archives Project

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2011 Frameline Festival Celebrates 35 Years of LGBT Films

By Jim Van Buskirk

This month the San Francisco International Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Film Festival (Frameline35) celebrates its 35th anniversary, with screenings of more than five hundred films produced internationally – including South Africa, Iran, Belgium, Algeria, and Thailand – nationally, and locally. At least thirty San Francisco filmmakers are represented, with work ranging from three minute music videos to 74-minute narrative films.

The diverse programming includes two short films by Potrero Hill residents. Dain Percifield directed *Running in Heels: the Glendon "Anna Conda" Hyde Story*, a 60-minute documentary chronicling Hyde's 2010 campaign to be the first drag queen—as "Anna Conda"—to become City supervisor, representing District Six. *Tres Gotas De Agua/Three Drops of Water*, directed by Marco Castro-Bojorquez, is a 14-minute short about the experiences of three resilient Latina immigrant mothers who explore the multigenerational impact of their children's coming out process. Their moving stories reinforce the adage that "a drop of water wears away a stone".

Frameline35's opening night – June 16 at the Castro Theater – features first-time filmmaker Rashaad Ernesto Green's *Gun Hill Road*, about an ex-con returning to

his Brooklyn family caught amidst transitions of many kinds. On June 26 the festival closes with *Christopher and his Kind*, a BBC feature about Christopher Isherwood's life in Berlin in the early-1930s, the source for books, plays and the musical Cabaret. Throughout the intervening ten days a wildly diverse selection of short subjects, documentaries, and features will be screened at the Castro, Roxie, and Victoria Theatres in San Francisco, and at the Rialto

Martin Rawlings-Fein's short about the complications of falling for one's ambiguously attractive therapist.

A special focus on transgender cinema features Susan Stryker, historian and Emmy award-winning filmmaker of *Screaming Queens: the Riot at Compton's Cafeteria*. The former Potrero Hill resident, along with filmmaker and film historian Jenni Olson, will present a clip show of transgender representation across cinematic history. Films about LGBT

edy *Mangus!* a teenager yearning to play Jesus in his school's annual production is ultimately united with his family. The Generation Filmmaker Workshop showcases films made by local LGBT youth in cooperation with community elders.

Continuing its tradition of screening insightful and groundbreaking documentaries, Frameline will present *Hit So Hard*, chronicling the life of Patty Schemel, the lesbian drummer of Courtney Love's influential rock band, Hole. *Shut Up, Little Man! An Audio Misadventure* tells the story of two men who moved to San Francisco in the mid-1980s and found themselves living next door to two loud alcoholics. The audio tapes of the flamboyantly gay man constantly tormenting his equally belligerent and homophobic roommate became a pre-Internet viral sensation.

Frameline35 also reflects on the history and legacy of the festival itself. In conjunction with the James C Hormel Gay & Lesbian Center, a series of programs at the San Francisco Public Library will look at the founding of the world-renowned festival and media arts organization, as well as the history of LGBT filmmaking. Known worldwide for programming innovative, socially relevant, and entertaining cinema, the 2011 Frameline festival is not to be missed.



Dain Percifield's *Running in Heels* runs in the Frameline35 Film Festival.

Cinemas Elmwood in Berkeley.

Pearls over Shanghai alumni Michael Soldier and Steven Satyricon appear in Philippe Gosselin's *The Rescue*, in which a man looks for love at the boyfriend pound. Lisa Maren Stein portrays Gillian in

youth, an at-risk population that's recently received increased media attention, will be spotlighted. *Private Romeo*, a retelling of Romeo and Juliet, depicts same-sex attraction among eight cadets in an all-boys military academy. In the dark com-

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Vice Palace an Exuberant, Flashy, Trashy Kick

By Lori Higa

South-of-Market's Thrillpeddlers has outdone itself again with *Vice Palace*, the third in a series of smashing revivals of musical extravaganzas by legendary drag troupe the Cockettes. Purveyor of creepy, fun Grand Guignol cum Broadway musical mash-ups, the 'Peddlers' new show is fresh on the heels of the naughty mock opera *Pearls Over Shanghai*, which just ended an historic two-year run, and *Hot Greeks*.

Vice Palace originally starred trash culture icons Divine and Mink Stole, and was thrown together for a Halloween show at San Francisco's old Palace Theatre in 1972, after the Cockettes had broken up. For this production, original Cockette Richard "Scrumby" Koldewyn embellished the score he composed for the show – initially titled *There's Blood on Your Face* – written by Koldewyn and Martin Worman. This Fellini-esque parody of Edgar Allan Poe's *The Masque of the Red Death*, is a tour de force of delirious, delicious entertainment. Though short on plot, *Vice Palace* harkens back to the days of dazzling Busby Berkeley musicals, but with wild and crazy sendups, clever costume design – by Kara Emry – spine-tingling special effects and cross-dressing galore.

Hats off to the Thrillpeddlers, who've done an astounding job invoking the Cockettes' free spiritedness. Director Russell Blackwood, who has a featured role in *Vice Palace*, casts his usual magic, along with a terrific cast: starring Leigh Crow, Eric Tyson Wertz, Bonni Suval, and many others.

Tickets are \$30 to \$35, with shows Friday, Saturday, and Sunday through July 31 at Hynodrome Theatre, 575 10th Street, near Bryant/Division. Information: www.thrillpeddlers.com, 377.4202, 800.838.3006, or www.brownpapertickets.com. For young devotees

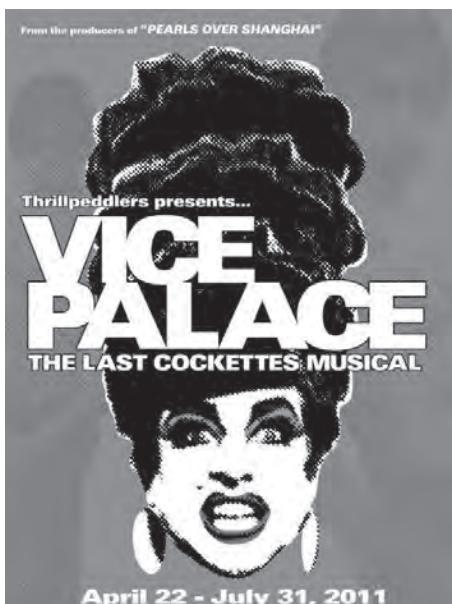


Photo by David Wilson

Steven Satyricon, Tina Sogliuzzo, and Joshua Devore (a.k.a Tober Brandt) in Thrillpeddlers' *Vice Palace: The Last Cockettes Musical*.

of horror, sci-fi and suspense, Thrillpeddlers offers *Creepshow Camps*, a two week summer performing arts program for ages eight to 15. To enroll: www.box.net/shared/hm3jj1j0tj.

WAR from page 15

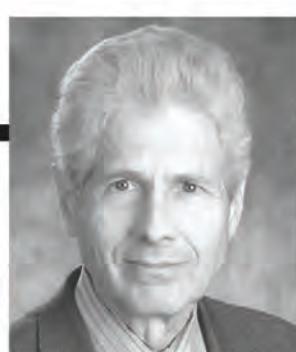
war's gruesome details. Had she asked me, I'd have related my experiences. But telling about the horrors of war before I was ready could have triggered a post-traumatic reaction. Kristi has, instead, been careful to let memories cross the surface of my consciousness in small healing ripples, rather than in large painful waves.

In an effort to understand what I've experienced Kristi rented war movies set in Iraq and Afghanistan. About a third of the way through *Hurt Locker*, an award-winning film with no factual basis, I had an anxiety attack. Not because the movie was realistic, but because it lacked a true understanding of what we went through in Iraq. Kristi stopped the movie. We took a long walk together. I inhaled a lot of cool night air. Just being with Kristi brought me back to the present.

I will over time sort through the mental chaos, and come to understand war and its effect on me. I'll tell Kristi what she wants to know, but is too understanding to ask me to divulge.



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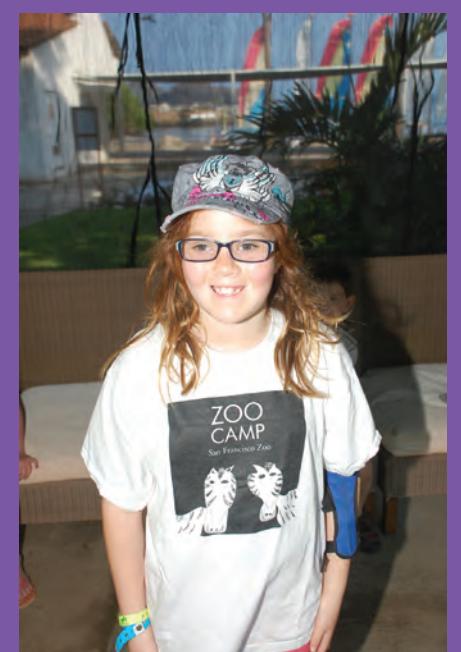
KIDS ON THE BLOCK



Quinn Gettys (2.5 years old) explores the wilds of Potrero Hill.



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Sara Moss turns 10 on June 30; the two-digit adventure has just begun!

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KATE'S from page 9

baby I think there were about 28 girls who came to my shower. I live on a great block and we are close to all our neighbors. I love being on the Hill. It's great." Her husband, Jim, owns Kehoe Trucking, also located on 18th Street.

That sense of community is illustrated by the sign on Petrin's store, which was hand-painted by another longtime resident, Alex Pavloff. Pavloff's father grew-up on the Hill; he lives in a Connecticut Street house that was owned by his grandparents. "I just love the history here," Petrin mused. "It's all just a very small world."

RAMP from page 10

turn hasn't been smooth sailing for The Ramp, though last fall the restaurant's proximity to AT&T Park – and the installation of two large screens to the indoor bar for watching World Series games – brought extra crowds. "During the tough economy we introduced happy hour specials to help people out," Robins said. This year's spate of Arctic weather also didn't help. "Hardest thing coupled with the economic front was the weather," said Robins. But The Ramp has weathered the storm, and is the only remaining restaurant on the waterfront block

after recent closures and evictions at Mission Rock and Jelly's.

Although evenings at The Ramp are more of a bar than food scene, the kitchen still offers appetizers and small plates. Taco Tuesday brings an outdoor taco buffet for \$2 tacos with chicken, fish and carnitas options, and \$3 beer. The toppings – including guacamole, cilantro, cheese, and homemade salsas and sauces – are plentiful, which can make for some overstuffed tacos. For the more traditional eaters, the sautéed tiger prawn crostini, with plenty of zest with its garlic chips and micro arugula (\$9), engenders that ocean taste a diner might expect while looking out at the water. San Francisco's

carnivores will enjoy the tangy BBQ baby back ribs (\$7), which don't skimp on the meat or sauce. Luckily, there's plenty of warm bread to sop up the plate.

Tenderloin resident Franciel Estandarte visits The Ramp for events or just to hang-out. She said in an e-mail, "The Ramp is very relaxing and has a beautiful view – if the weather allows it. I go to The Ramp with friends and order their fried calamari. Their fried calamari is very lightly battered and not overly cooked."

The Ramp is located at 855 Terry Francois Street. For menus and more information: www.theramprestaurant.com or 621.2378.

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Community CALENDAR

June 2011

Wednesdays**Community: UCSF Mission Bay****Farmer's Market**

No need to go far for farm fresh fruits and vegetables - University of California's Mission Bay campus hosts a farmer's market every Wednesday through November 16, featuring more than 15 farmers and other food producers. Live music. Free validated parking at the UCSF Mission Bay Garage. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Gene Friend Way between 3rd and 4th. Information: www.pcfma.com/market_home.php?market_id=66.

Fridays**Music: Vaughn Johnson Jazz****Combo**

Head to where Potrero meets the Mission and listen to live jazz music by the Vaughn Johnson Jazz Combo at Jack's Club. Every Friday night, 7 to 9 p.m. Free. 24th and Utah streets.

Through August 15**Art: Academy of Art Annual****Spring Show**

Explore a showcase of fresh talent and the best student work from Academy of Art University. Gallery open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed Sunday and holidays. Free. 1849 Washington Street at Van Ness. Information: www.academyart.edu/springshow/springshow_2011.html.

June 3**Art: Potrero Hill Tintypes**

Farley's hosts a reception for *Potrero Hill Tintypes*, by David Smith. The tintype process was invented circa 1850, and used into the early 20th century. Especially popular in the U.S. during the Civil War and up until about 1880, tintypes were easy and inexpensive to produce. 7 p.m. Free. 1315 18th Street.

June 4**Health: Silver Terrace****Community Wellness Day**

Join the Neighborhood Parks Council, Recreation and Parks Department, Parks94124, Portola Family Connections and others for a community wellness day at the Silver Terrace Playground. Participate in sports and other activities; receive health and medical information. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Free. Silver Terrace Park, Silver Avenue and Bayshore Boulevard. Information: www.sfnpc.org/wellnessday.

Environment: Bioregional Ecology Workshop at Heron's Head Park

Join innovative environmental educator Peter Berg, Planet Drum Foundation's director, for an inspiring field workshop. Berg presents a bioregional approach to identifying and understanding Northern California's unique ecology, and will be joined by Anthony Khalil, Heron's

Head Park Educator/Ecologist. The workshop includes creation of an easy-to-follow bioregional map of your own life-place, and exploration of native habitats that coexist with urban surroundings. Sliding scale \$35 to \$50, includes materials. Time TBA. Heron's Head Park, Cargo Way and Jennings Street. Information: 285.6556; mail@planetdrum.org to reserve your space.

include Millennium, A16, Hayes Street Grill, LarkCreekSteak and Yield Wine Bar. SummerTini 2011 supports the CHEFS program and Skills Center at Episcopal Community Services of San Francisco. 6 to 9 p.m. Tickets \$100. The Galleria at the San Francisco Design Center, 101 Henry Adams Street. Information: www.summertini.org; 487-3736.

master Stephen Kent and Burmese harp player Su Wai; *Alonesome/Twosome*, a duet created from an air mail drawing sent to Epifano by renowned artist Remy Charlip; and *Solo Lo Que Fue*, a dance-for-video work created in January 2011 at Bar Norteño in Mexicali, Mexico. 8 p.m. Tickets: \$20 general admission; \$15 students and seniors. ODC Theater, 3153 17th Street @ Shotwell. Information: 647.1443.

June 16 through 18 & 23 through 25**Theater: 4GIVENESS: In a Family Way**

Four new short plays by Susan Jackson present a good ol' Southern soap opera, where everyone's related by blood or marriage, dogs rule, the Sonic Drive-In is the place to be, and forgiveness can be found. Directed by Stephen Drewes, Susan Jackson and Ann Thomas, and presented by the Southern Railroad Theatre Company. 8 p.m. Tickets: \$20 general admission; \$15 students, seniors, TBA members and groups of eight+ people. Royce Gallery, 2901 Mariposa Street @ Harrison. Information: 505-2151; SouthernRailroadTheatreCompany@gmail.com.

June 17**Athletics: Fight Night at Third Street Boxing Gym**

Third Street Boxing Gym offers a night of boxing with the gym's fighters and others from Northern California. The evening includes between 10 and 15 matches; snacks and drinks will be available. Doors open at 6 p.m., boxing at 7 p.m. \$20 for seats; \$12 for standing room; \$5 kids age eight to 17. 2576 Third Street. Information: thirdstreetgym.com.

June 18 through July 3**Dance: San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival**

The 33rd Annual San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival comes to Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. The run begins with California's first Big Time Gathering in more than 200 years, honoring the return of Ohlone tribal members, and continues with twelve performances, featuring six different line-ups of traditional dance from around the world. Show times and ticket prices vary. Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 701 Mission Street. Information: www.ybca.org; www.worldartswest.org.

June 23**Literary Art: Reading of Fueled by Ed Milich**

Ed Milich is a motor sports writer, mechanical engineer and championship winning motorcycle road racer. *Fueled* embodies Milich's motorcycle road racing, wrenching and riding experiences. 7 p.m. Free. Farley's, 1315 18th Street.

Tintypes Capture the Hill

Photograph by Peter Linenthal

Dave Smith and a friend, with Christopher's Book's Tee Minot in the background, took tintypes of Hillers in May, to be shown at Farley's this month.

June 7 through 29**Education: Bayview Renaissance Entrepreneurship Center**

Training and classes for small business operators, or those interested in starting an enterprise, including sessions in technology, finance, and launching your own business. Free business legal aid is also available. Find the schedule at <http://www.rencenter.org/services/classes/208>. Most classes are free. Renaissance Entrepreneurship Center, 3801 Third Street, #616. Information: 647.3728.

June 9**Music: Live Jazz with The Adrian Gormely Trio**

The famed Adrian Gormley Trio will perform works by the great Billy Strayhorn. 8 p.m. Free. Farley's, 1315 18th Street.

June 10**Community: SummerTini 2011**

Give to a good cause, eat delicious food, listen to live jazz and drink specialty martinis (there's a scotch bar, too). Featured restaurants

June 12**Community: Bayview Music Festival & Sunday Streets**

Enjoy the second annual Bayview Music Festival, with Juan Escovedo headlining, in partnership with Sunday Streets. The celebration includes healthy family-friendly activities on car free streets, local food artisans, music and entertainment, and community service information booths, including *The Potrero View/SF Southside*; come by to say "hi." Bring your bike, skates or walking shoes. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free. Bayview Opera House to Third and Galvez. Information: www.sundaystreetssf.com.

June 17 – 19**Dance: Kim Epifano's Epiphany Productions Sonic Dance Theater**

Kim Epifano's 2011 Home Season celebrates 15 years of dance, theater, and music. *Sonic Dance Theater* features three new works by the choreographer and director: *Heelomali*, a dazzling multi-media piece developed with critically acclaimed composer and digideroo

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Hill Native

Carl Nolte, whose column Native Son appears in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, grew up on 23rd Street; his family's home had a view of what's now Starr King Open Space. Last month, at a packed Potrero Hill Branch Library room, Nolte told stories about what the Hill was like in the 1930s and 1940s. He recalled steam trains, ships choking the Bay, billy goats, Russians with long white beards, kite season, and lumber yards. The San Francisco Fire Department periodically seemed to set the whole Hill on fire burning weeds. Hill kids called a certain weed the "Pee Plant." If you ate it you were sure to wet your bed. There was a San Franciscan way of talking: phrases spoken quickly and often run together. As Nolte said, "Jeez, you-shoulda-been-there!"



Photograph by Peter Linenthal

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LIBRARY NEWS

By Abby Bridge, Potrero Branch Librarian

POWER YOUR MIND: READ! 2011 SFPL SUMMER READING PROGRAM FOR ALL AGES Sign up at the Potrero Library or online at www.sfpl.org/summerreading. June 1 through July 30.

SEED LIBRARY AT THE POTRERO LIBRARY In partnership with the San Francisco Seed Library, the Potrero Library now has a wide variety of seeds available for "checkout". For more information visit: www.sfseed-library.org.

Library Adult Programs

SEED SAVER 101 Do you want to save your own seeds? Come to this workshop by Antonio Roman-Alcala of the San Francisco Seed Library to learn basic seed saving skills, techniques, and philosophies. From keeping up heirloom varieties to creating new vegetable types suited to your climate, this workshop will get you started in the ancient and satisfying tradition of seed saving. June 4, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

FILM SCREENING – SYRIANA (R) Robert Baer was a 21-year veteran of the Central Intelligence Agency who spent his career investigating terrorists around the world, and watched as warning signs were ignored regarding the future of the Middle East. This thriller follows several characters across the globe as their lives are impacted by the ruthless competition for the incalculable power that comes from the Middle East's energy resources. June 18, 4 to 5:30 p.m.

Library Children & Teens Programs

YOUR SPACE ... all summer long! Gaming, crafts, music listening stations, computers and snacks provided for teens. Bring a friend, meet a friend, hang out in our pop-up teen room. (It's okay to bring your own computers, gaming devices and craft projects.) Contact Dale: djenne@sfpl.org. June 9 and 16, 2 to 4 p.m. and June 24, 1 to 3 p.m.

KOREAN STORY TIME. For families who are interested in learning Korean songs and reading Korean books. For ages birth to five years old. June 12, 3:30 to 4:15 p.m.

BABY RHYME AND PLAY TIME. For infants up to eighteen months old and their caregivers. June 7, 14, 21 and 28, 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. June 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30, 10:30 to 11 a.m. and 11:15 to 11:45 a.m.

FUN FLICKS: ANANSI AND THE MOSS COVERED ROCK, ANANSI AND THE TALKING MELON, DINOSAUR BONES, FREDERICK 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. June 8, 6:30 to 7:15 p.m.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS Visit the library each week for fantastic programs for children throughout the summer.

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

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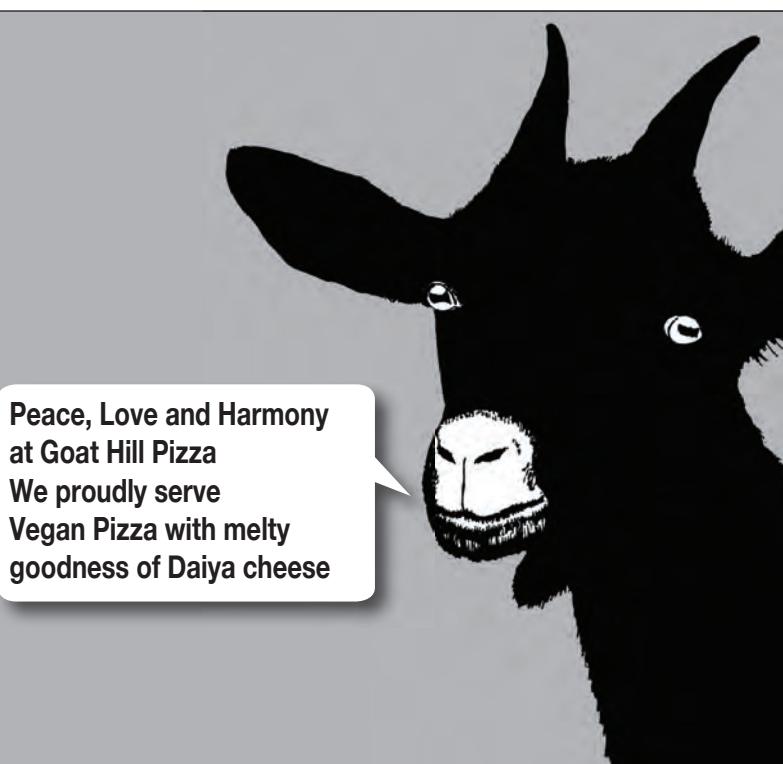
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Kim Epifano Dances to Her 15th Season of Genre-Crossing Performances

By Lori Higa

Sitting in Farley's, local dance legend Kim Epifano stretches out her arms and points to the many people and places she's photographed while traveling through far-flung locales – Tunisia, Nicaragua, and China, to name a few – that grace the walls of the funky café for her upcoming fundraiser. A Hill resident for more than 20 years, Epifano maintains an office at DeHaro and Southern Heights, next door to the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House. This year is special for Epifano; she celebrates the 15th anniversary of her company, Epiphany Productions, with a new home season show that has its roots in her globetrotting work.

One of the evening's pieces – *Heelomali* – is Ethiopian for 'she is unique,' Epifano explained. "It refers to 'Lucy' whose bones were discovered in Ethiopia." Lucy was the name given to the skeleton unearthed in Ethiopia's Afar Rift; evidence of the earliest human ancestors dating back 3.4 million years. "It's interesting how many of the oldest bones they're finding are women's. It's probably because women's bones are stronger due to child bearing, and doing heavy work," she opined. Throughout her travels, Epifano has witnessed working village women heaving gargantuan loads. While in India last year, "I saw women carrying rocks on their heads. It was amazing how resilient women are even when life can be so challenging."

Originally from Boston, Epifano studied dance at the University of

Utah. "School just wasn't working for me then," she said. Epifano drove to Guatemala in the late-1970s. "It was the 'Year of the Child,' and I was hired by the Peace Corps to be part of a traveling circus." She performed in small, remote villages all over the country, places where "mules brought in equipment." This early experience



Photograph by Nina Sazevich

Epiphany Productions' Kim Epifano

is evident in Epifano's life-long interest in cross-culturalism, creating genre-bending, label-defying performances that blend visual art, music, song, aerialist, dance, theater and literary elements.

Epifano's Sonic Dance Theater presents three new works in mid-June in association with ODC Dance Commons. They include *Heelomali*, developed with critically acclaimed

composer and digideroo master Stephen Kent and Burmese harp player Su Wai; *Alonesome/Twosome*, a duet prompted by an air mail drawing sent to Epifano by renowned artist Remy Charlip; and *Solo Lo Que Fue*, a dance-for-video work shot at Bar Norteño in Mexicali, Mexico.

Epifano's 2009 residency and production in Wondo Genet, Ethiopia, inspired her to develop a partnership with Refugee Transitions, a San Francisco-based nonprofit that helps refugee and immigrant families become self-sufficient. The production coincides with World Refugee Day, and includes many performers Epifano met through the organization who are themselves refugees from war torn areas around the world.

Describing herself as "an abstract artist at my core, being true to self," Epifano's art is about shape-shifting, ritual and healing, "investigating deeper angles and layers of metaphor, to counteract the toxicity we're creating in the modern world with things that are ancient," she said.

On October 15 and 16, Epifano will produce the eighth annual San Francisco Trolley Dances along the K, L and M Muni streetcar lines in the City's southwestern neighborhoods, including the Castro, Outer Mission and West Portal communities. Along with other Bay Area

performance ensembles, Epifano will create an original work inspired by the neighborhoods' physical landscapes, cultures, architecture and history.

Epifano has received funding from all of the big name foundations to sustain her work: National Endowment for the Arts, William & Flora Hewlett Foundation, and San Francisco Hotel Tax Fund, among others. Still, "it is a challenging time to be a nonprofit and sustain the work," she said.

Epifano's 15th anniversary performances will be held on June 17 and 18 at 8 p.m. and June 19 at 7 p.m. at ODC Theater. Tickets: \$20 general/\$16 students and seniors. ASL interpreter available. For more information: odctheatre.org/buytickets; 863.9834; www.epiphanydance.org

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CRIME & SAFETY REPORT

SPONSORED BY MAINLINE SECURITY

By Regina Anavy

New Police Chief Adds Sergeants to Bayview Station

Former Bayview Station Captain Greg Suhr is “off and running, happy to have the challenge of being police chief,” according to Acting Bayview Police Captain Robert O’Sullivan. Chief Suhr “is going to do right by the Bayview Station,” he said. “We were short on resources, and he has already sent us two additional sergeants. Until a new captain has been confirmed, the station will be led by rotating acting captains on a weekly basis.

Robberies Up on Potrero Hill

There’s been an increase in robberies on Potrero Hill over the last 18 months, corresponding to spikes that are occurring throughout the City, according to O’Sullivan. In response, Suhr “will institute a centralized robbery unit” that will track robberies in every neighborhood, so that officers in different districts can more readily identify crime patterns and communicate with each other about leads. According to Lieutenant Joe McFadden, “We believe the same people may be committing crimes in different neighborhoods. There are two

or three suspects who are juveniles, probably 15 to 18 years old. They are “slight in build and tall, from 5’8” to 6’2”. They travel in a pack and approach people at random times. There have been a couple of robberies at 8:30 a.m., also at 1 and 2 p.m. We have already detained six people, but we don’t have enough evidence to get convictions. A lot of these crimes revolve around handheld devices. In too many cases, they are turning violent, where the suspects assault the victims. Naturally your first instinct is to hold onto your things, but just let them go.”

McFadden said that more plain-clothes police officers will be assigned to patrol the Hill, but the community needs a “two-pronged approach.” People have to be aware of their surroundings, including witnesses who might see someone running away. “The best thing you can do is get a good description,” he said. “Are their scars, a certain hair cut? Notice their clothing. A lot of these criminals aren’t changing their clothes. When we go in with search warrants, we often find them with the exact piece of clothing described by the victim. These little intricacies are unbelievable for us and excellent for the District Attorney. Little facts are huge in solving



Photograph by Regina Anavy

Rebecca Prozan, Neighborhood Prosecutor, is in.

and prosecuting crimes.”

Neighborhood Courts Debut in Bayview

Last month Assistant District Attorney Rebecca Prozan began working as neighborhood prosecutor at the Bayview Station. On the first day of her assignment, three individuals came into the station – two for possession of an open container containing alcohol, the third for battery in which the parties involved knew each other – to agree to participate in the neighborhood court process. Rather than being charged and prosecuted in the regular criminal courts, they’ll appear before a panel of three community members, who will determine what they must do to make restitution for their offenses.

Under the neighborhood court system, when an individual is cited for a misdemeanor or infraction they receive a card stating that they can choose to have an “instant hearing” with “quick resolution, no jail and no conviction.” To pursue this option the individual must go to their district police station within three days and ask for the neighborhood prosecutor. The prosecutor reviews the citation, and immediately makes a decision about whether to press charges. If they do, the person must appear within a week before the neighborhood court, which will listen to a reading of the police report and hear what the offender has to say. The panel will then deliberate about what tasks the person should perform, which could include paying a fine, performing community service or participating in an educational program, such as anger management. The offender will have 30 days to fulfill the requirement.

“We haven’t totally ironed out the details on what to do with people who repeat,” Prozan said. “We’re not going to allow someone five car break-ins, but we might give them a second chance to make restitution.” Only Prozan will have access to an offender’s prior record; it won’t be mentioned in court. If offenders don’t fulfill their commitment, they can be charged and processed through the criminal court system.

“What makes this different,” she said, “is that we have a new tracking system in place. Studies have shown that if you try to resolve the issue before charging a violation, recidivism rates are lower.”

Offenders who are cited won’t be given Miranda warnings, nor will they have a right to a defense attorney. “District Attorney George Gascón has already worked this out with the Public Defender’s office,” said Prozan. “They agree. It will limit the amount of time that passes before more serious crimes can be brought to trial. As it is, low level car break-ins and graffiti cases clog the courts, and it can take two to four years before a more serious case goes to trial.” Prozan estimated that the City will save \$1,200 per case by using the neighborhood court system. She’ll be at the Bayview Station working with police officers every weekday from 1 to 4 p.m.

Eleven neighborhood courts have been established in San Francisco. The model is based on the old community courts, with two significant changes. Under the old model no data tracking system was in place to make sure offenders followed through on the directives handed down by the neighborhood panel. And there were no sanctions for offenders who didn’t show up before the panel; now they’ll be charged and have to take their chances in the regular criminal court process.

Anyone interested in serving on a neighborhood court should contact Jackson Gee: 575-6328; jackson.gee@sfgov.org.

Illegal Recycling Trucks Parked on Street

According to Deputy City Attorney Yvonne Meré, the owner of the trucks parked around 25th and Wisconsin streets is violating a planning code that prohibits business owners from using City streets as an extension of their business. These trucks, in addition to being used in an illegal recycling business, spread trash on the streets and create a nuisance for neighbors. However, past complaints haven’t resulted in any action being taken against the owner.

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GETTING INVOLVED



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: June 7th, 6 p.m.

Dogpatch Neighborhood Association usually meets the second Tuesday of each odd-numbered month. Next meeting: July 12, 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 Association 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: July 13, location TBD. Board meetings open to the public. Native planting every second Sunday 10 a.m. to noon on the McKinley Square hillside. Visit 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.potrero boosters.org or email president@potrero boosters.org. Next meeting: June 28th.

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.potrero hill.biz or call 341.8949. Next meeting: June 14th, 10 a.m.

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

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

Starr King Open Space The Starr King Open Space Board Meeting is on Tuesday, June 2nd, from 6:30 p.m. in the library of Starr King Elementary School, 1215 Carolina Street. While Board Meetings are open to the public, the Board may reserve some agenda items for closed session discussion. Time will be set aside for public comment. The Starr King Open Space Volunteer Work Party is held on the 3rd Saturday of each month, excluding holidays. Next Volunteer Work Party: June 18th, 9 a.m. to noon. Meet on the Open Space along Carolina Street, across from Starr King Elementary School. For more information: www.starrkingopenspace.org; email the Board of Directors at starrkingboard@gmail.com; voice mail 415-6336-SKO (756).

PUBLIC NOTICE

ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 2011 FROM 3:00 PM TO 5:00 PM THE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY COUNCIL OF SAN FRANCISCO (EOCSF) WILL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING TO GATHER INPUT FOR THE 2012-2013 COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN (CAP). MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO JOIN EOC STAFF AND BOARD MEMBERS IN THIS DISCUSSION. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE POTRERO HILL FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER, LOCATED AT 85 TURNER TERRACE IN SAN FRANCISCO. ANYONE WHO CANNOT ATTEND THE MEETING MAY SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS TO GURPREET DOSANJH, 1426 FILLMORE ST., SUITE 301, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94115. WRITTEN COMMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY FRIDAY, JUNE 10, 2011.

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Tuition: \$950

For information: PotreroHillDaySchool@gmail.com



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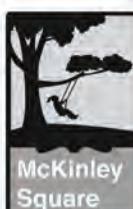
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Maureen DeBoer Your Neighbor Bringing Good Neighbors to Potrero Hill



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