



July 2011

Serving the Potrero Hill, Dogpatch, Mission Bay and SOMA Neighborhoods Since 1970

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Photograph by Paul McDonald

T-Line trains roll along Third Street in Dogpatch.

T-Line Frustrates Southside Riders

By Simon Stahl

Last month District 10 Supervisor Malia Cohen solicited public opinion on the Muni T-line's effectiveness at a City Hall hearing. Along with Supervisor and Land Use Committee chair Eric Mar, a frustrated Cohen sat through Municipal Transportation Agency director John Haley's presentation on the T-line and its challenges. Haley inexplicably left meaningful data out of his introductory speech, promising instead to deliver the statistics at a later date.

The combined K-T is Muni's longest and newest light rail line, operating since 2007. It extends from the Bay Area Rapid Transit's Balboa Park station, up Market, past Embarcadero and AT&T Park, and along Third Street to Bayshore and Sunnydale, making 43 stops on its 14.5 mile route. It takes roughly 76 minutes to travel the entire line, though most passengers use it to commute in and from downtown. The line carries about one-fifth of Muni's riders.

"The single biggest customer complaint is travel time," said Ha-

ley. "Why can't it go faster? It is the fastest line in travel speed." Muni cars have average speeds of 11 miles per hour (mph) from Sunnydale to Mission Rock. The Mission Rock to Folsom segment is slower, at eight mph, below the 10 mph average for other light rail lines. A three mph difference in speed translates into a half hour longer trip over the entire route. To increase speed, Muni cars are equipped with V-Tags: transponders that alert traffic signals in advance of their arrival at an intersection. Without shortening pedestrian walk times, the lights are supposed to change before the trains arrive. "Sometimes they don't work," explained Haley. "Are they on every car? They're supposed to be, but...I'll check."

The T-line is only on schedule 58 percent of the time, well below the system-wide average of more than 70 percent. Equipment failure was responsible for more than half of the 302 delays longer than five minutes that Muni's light rail experienced between last March and May. Failure of the Auto Train

see **MUNI** page 12

Starr King Open Space Elects New Board

By Sasha Lekach, with support from Tim Henry

Five years after embezzlement emptied Starr King Open Space's coffers, the revamped nonprofit is still working to recover its financial footing. Last spring the second batch of board members were elected under the organization's new leadership structure, responsible for maintaining the 3.5 acres of grassy hillside located between 23rd and Carolina and 24th and De Haro streets.

Seven new directors were installed on the board in June, following a May election. The election marked the last time all nine board positions will be open simultaneously; the previous board updated the nonprofit's bylaws, establishing staggered terms for board members in the future. New members include president Julie Shumate – who replaced Caroline Bird – vice president Webb Green, co-secretaries Christina Quiroz and Jannella Stebner and treasurer Daniel Fineman and directors Alexander Jones, Jennifer Serwer, Kathyjean Boise and Christa Conforti. Conforti and Green are returning board members.

Overhauling the bylaws was just part of the former board's legacy as the first board to take over the beleaguered SKOS after the remnants

of the previous board departed in 2006. "Things got tightened up," Green explained. "The old bylaws we were running by before hadn't been tightened for 10 years."

Bird, who will be leaving Potrero

see **STARR KING** page 10

Changes at Farley's, But It's All in the Family

By Sasha Lekach

This summer longtime coffee shop owner Roger Hillyard will retire from Farley's, located on 18th and Connecticut streets. Hillyard won't be moving to Palm Desert, or Florida, but rather to Hayes Valley. But after more than two decades as a neighborhood fixture, stepping away from his beloved café is a big change for Hillyard, his family and the community.

Farley's – named after Hillyard's infamous grandfather, Jack Farley, who disappeared in 1921 and whose silhouette marks the company's logo – has kept the Hill caffeinated since 1989. Two years ago Farley's expanded to the East Bay, with Farley's East on 33 Grand Avenue, in Oakland; last year Farley's flag was planted at 1195 65th Street, in

Emeryville.

While the café has expanded, Hillyard will, perhaps, contract. The café owner will move to the San Francisco Zen Center on Page Street to live and practice meditation. For the past four years Hillyard has been traveling to the center from his apartment above the Potrero Hill coffee shop. At the age of 68, he's fully committing to Zen practice, and handing the business over to his son Chris and daughter-in-law Amy Hillyard. "I'm extremely excited about retiring. I'm happy Farley's gets to stay within the family," he said. "While Chris and Amy are going to make some changes to suit their style, it will always maintain some essence of what Farley's is."

Chris, who helped build the original Farley's 23 years ago as a teenager, will take the helm of the

three Farley's locations, following his experience managing the East Bay outlets. The couple live in Oakland with their four- and five-year-old daughters, but will move into Hillyard's apartment above Farley's for six weeks this summer to get a firsthand view of the neighborhood, meet employees and customers, and implement their "enhancements and improvements," Chris explained.

Amy, Farley's coffee shops' creative director, is in charge of the café's food and interior design. Design and dining changes to be implemented on the Hill this summer may include sales of beer and wine, and an expanded food menu, similar to the East Bay stores, which serve paninis and soups. Changes will be made to table and chair layouts,

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PUBLISHER’S VIEW

Roger Retires

By Steven J. Moss

The Potrero Hill of my heart – where my wife and I have raised our daughter – revolves around neighborly merchants. To me, Philip de Andrade (Goat Hill Pizza), Roger Hillyard (Farley’s), Kayren Hudiburgh and Lester Zeidman (The Good Life Grocery), and Avery McGinn (Klein’s Deli) are the Hill’s “big five,” running establishments that capture the community’s essence: friendly, fun, and spirited, if not spiritual. There are others, of course. Tee Minot runs the essential Christopher’s Books; Mits Akashi has been offering solid sushi at Moshi Moshi in Dogpatch since he was virtually the neighborhood’s only fish restaurant in the sea. Newcomers Sherry Wilson and Irfan Yalcin (Pera), Joel Bleskacek and Maxine Siu (Ruby Wine; Plow), Julia Rivera and Gilberth Cab (The New Spot), and Tina Fisher and Andrea Ortega (Baked), among others, may ultimately take their place in the community’s constellation of merchant stars. But for someone who has been on the Hill for more than a decade, raising a family, it’s the big five that are specially embroidered into the Hill’s soul.

Klein’s can now only be found at the San Francisco airport, driven from its 20th Street perch by a luckless landlord who still can’t manage to rent the space. Goat Hill Pizza is going strong, but Philip is in the middle of a four month European jaunt; his presence missed. Battered by the Great Recession and the arrival of Whole Foods, The Good Life musters on; may Kayren and Lester live forever. Farley’s, celebrating its 22nd anniversary, promises to continue to serve community in a cup for another generation. But it will do so without Roger, who announced his semi-retirement last month.

Roger created a café that goes well-beyond serving hot and cold beverages. Week after week, his establishment offers a space for artists to display and musicians to play. The art isn’t always great, and the

music isn’t always compelling. But, what’s presented is consistently infused with a sense that, whether you like it or not, it’s being offered from a place of deep caring. Being imperfect at Farley’s is perfectly alright, so long as it’s in the right spirit. To top it off, the place has an extensive magazine rack; a post-Internet piece of magic that’s worthy of inclusion in a Harry Potter movie.

I’ve chatted with Roger while he was dressed in a Barney, the dinosaur, outfit, leading his annual pet parade up 18th Street, megaphone in hand; accompanied my daughter to visit him on Halloween, as he sat, Buddha-like, on the steps of his café dispensing sweets; and celebrated the Fourth of July in front of his establishment, where he manages to create an atmosphere that, for a couple hours, transforms the Hill from a dense urban neighborhood into a small Midwestern village. Like many community members, I’ve spent countless hours sitting in his café, rarely without another friendly neighbor passing through or sharing the space.

Farley’s continues, operated by Roger’s son, Chris – who, as a teenager, helped build the place – and daughter-in-law, Amy, both of whom also run the Farley’s outlets in Oakland and Emeryville. Roger has moved to the San Francisco Zen Center, in Hayes Valley, to deepen his Zen practice. He leaves behind a gift to the community for which he can be proud, and a noteworthy life lesson. Whether something, or someone, lasts 22 years or 22 minutes, everything is temporary. But that doesn’t mean it’s not worth doing. Roger did something, for himself, for his family, for all of us who have passed through the small world he created. Whatever path he takes now, the imprint he’s made in the soft sands of our community will linger, made visible whenever a conversation is shared at a café many of us experience as a second home, or a dog waddles by wearing a Halloween costume.



Letters to the Editor

LOVE

Editor,

I just want to say thank you to the *View*. I moved to Dogpatch last summer, and am falling in love with the neighborhood. My new wife and I eat on the Hill and in the ‘patch, patronize community businesses, like The Good Life Grocery, and always read the *View*. You can tell Wes Freas that I’m excited about one of his properties – we’re renting right now – and best wishes to Kate’s Closet, and thank you to The New Spot for now doing dinner, per their ad.

Darin Archer
Minnesota Street

AT&T

Editor,

The above-ground AT&T box controversy has been around quite a while. In the *View*’s December 2008 issue I outlined AT&T’s plans for fiber optic boxes based on the company’s presentation to the Potrero Boosters Neighborhood Association (“AT&T To Provide Fiber Optic Technology To Potrero Hill”). At the time AT&T was proposing about 30 boxes on Potrero Hill, and 150 throughout the City. Hard questioning concerning the boxes’ size produced a lot of excuses from the AT&T suits, basically boiling down to “below ground boxes are expensive.” I’m embarrassed to report that I left most of that discussion out of my article.

Since that time I’ve followed the back and forth on this issue. Lately my senior bulls**t detector has been ringing loudly. From “waterproof” to “oversized vaults” to “private property access,” we’ve heard it all, like “banning yellow pages will destroy the City’s economy.”

We should all encourage the Board of Supervisors to make AT&T do something besides foul the sidewalks with big boxes. I hope the board has the guts to face the full onslaught of corporate pressure, like they did against the yellow pages lobbyists, and be willing to endure their wrath in 2014.

Edward Lortz
19th Street

GRAMMAR

Editor,

In the June “Publisher’s View,” in which author Steven Moss states “It took two rounds of rings to rouse my wife and I from a deep sleep,” you should have used “me.” If we expect our kids to use proper English, we must set a good example. It’s not easy, but important.

Richard Rockwell
Mississippi Street

Editor’s note: It’s challenging to catch all the typos in our publication, although we do our best. If you’d like to be a volunteer copy-editor, email editor@potreroview.net.

Duty to Serve

By Captain Paul Chignell


It’s a unique honor to be appointed captain of Bayview Police Station in the aftermath of Greg Suhr leaving the station to assume his new role as San Francisco Police Chief. I’ve worked as the commanding officer of the Taraval and Ingleside police stations, and have held numerous investigative and patrol positions throughout my San Francisco Police Department career. In the coming weeks I’ll be reaching out to institutions, community groups, businesses and individual residents as an ambassador for the Bayview Station officers.

Service and communication are the two principles that we have here at Bayview. Don’t hesitate to call,

email, write or visit the police station. We offer a weekly newsletter highlighting crime issues, resource guides and community announcements. If you wish to subscribe, email me at Paul.Chignell@sfgov.org.

Service to the community is paramount. Of course we respond to 911 calls and stress our desire to attack violent crime. But we also work constantly to address quality of life issues, and to partner with the Bayview community in crime prevention and assistance, in particular for our youth and the elderly.

I look forward to working with you.



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Editorial and policy decisions are made by the staff. All staff positions are voluntary.
Published monthly. Address all correspondence to:
THE POTRERO VIEW, 2325 Third Street Suite 344, San Francisco, CA 94107
415.626.8723 • E-mail: editor@potreroview.net • advertising@potreroview.net (advertising)

THE VIEW IS PRINTED ON RECYCLED NEWSPRINT WITH SOY-BASED INK.

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Eat

Food trucks, food trucks everywhere, and lots and lots to eat. Hill resident **Cass Pham Thacher** hard-booted the software industry almost a decade ago to follow her food passion. After a brief detour to help her husband launch South-of-Market's **Modern Dentistry**, next month Thacher rolls-out her **Mama Cass** food truck, offering Vietnamese sliders, which fuse the flavors Thacher grew up with into an all-American burger package. Thacher needs a few more permits before she can make her debut. Her Mama's Meatball Slider seems destined to be a sell-out: soy-marinated pork meatballs simmered in caramel sauce. Mama Cass will be parked at 401 Mission Bay Boulevard, South, with more locations to be added. To follow the food: www.gomamacass.com...**American Industrial Center** will soon house a new restaurant, **Gilberth's Rotisserie and Grill**. Just down from the namesake's **Oralia's Cafe** and around the corner from **The New Spot**, owners **Gilbeth Cab** and **Julia Rivera** will offer specialty game meats, like wild boar and alligator. Look for it in late July on Third Street...

Sporty

Ever been to the City's rare bayside volleyball courts, hidden below the 280 ramp off of Berry Street? To get to the courts, walk down the beautiful pathway along Mission Creek and behind the 185 Berry Street buildings. The sand courts are in perfect condition, with closeby bathrooms and frequent pickup games. Bring

SHORT CUTS

your tennis racquet to play on the new courts nearby, and check out the kayak launch and houseboats along the canal...Dogpatch resident **Caroli-**

na Brasil teaches a zumba class at **My Gym**, on Minnesota Street, Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. For information: <http://carolinabrasilzumba.com/>...New

Old Faithful on Potrero Hill?



Photograph by Paul McDonald

Last month it looked like a steam geyser sprung on Utah Street, between 16th and 17th streets. The spurt was caused by a water pipeline problem, which was quickly repaired by San Francisco Public Utility Commission crews.

four-way stop signs are appearing around the Hill, including at Arkansas and 17th streets, and Mississippi and 19th streets. Signs of busier times...Car blocking your driveway? A recent call to **311** indicates that you get to choose whether to ticket it, or have it towed. It's the ultimate test of mercy versus retribution in this parking-challenged City.

Toad

The 81-year-old operator of **Feng's Holistic Healing Center**, located at 1314 Utah Street, has been charged in federal court after he sold pills - purportedly for fighting colds - that contained arsenic and a hallucinogenic chemical found in toad venom. **Edward Feng** sold a vial of pills to Kathleen Millikin of Watsonville in May 2009 that he said would combat influenza. Millikin, now 62, took four of the tablets, and soon developed an earache. Roughly a day later, her hands swelled, peeled and erupted in painful blisters, a condition that continued for a week. Millikin returned to Feng at his clinic, which is located near **San Francisco General Hospital**, and showed him her hands. According to Feng the pills didn't cause Millikin's health problems.

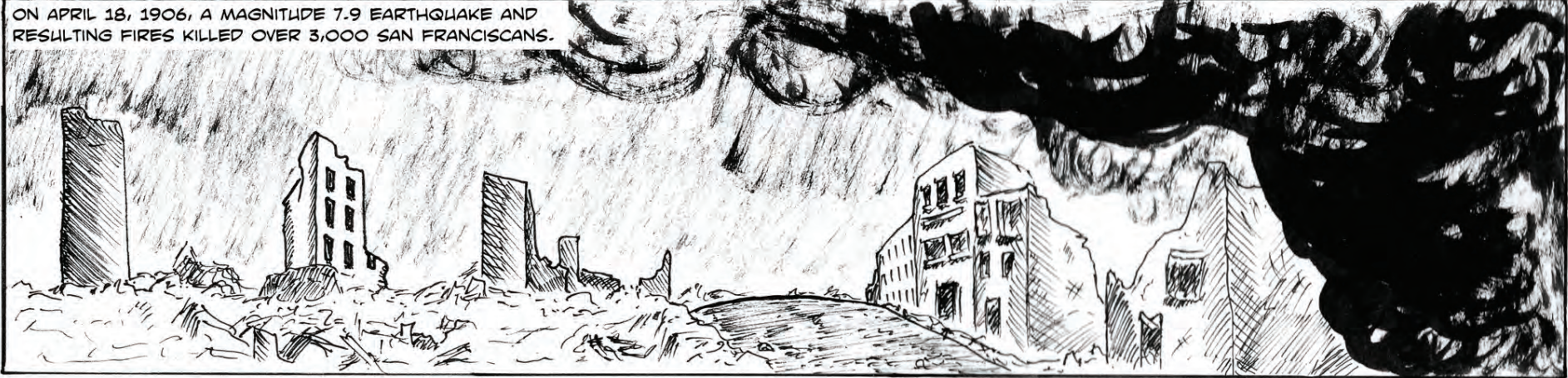
Trees

Mayor Ed Lee has proposed shifting responsibility for caring for San Francisco's thousands of street trees to property owners. The Mayor wants to clip \$600,000 from the \$2.2 million municipal tree care budget next year. Property owners would

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McKINLEY PARK BY SIMON STAHL

ON APRIL 18, 1906, A MAGNITUDE 7.9 EARTHQUAKE AND RESULTING FIRES KILLED OVER 3,000 SAN FRANCISCANS.



AROUND TWO THIRDS OF THE CITY WAS LEFT HOMELESS. BUT THE STRUCTURES ON POTRERO HILL, A SOLID MASS OF SERPENTINE ROCK, WERE MOSTLY SPARED.



THEY STAYED IN ARMY SURPLUS TENTS FROM THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR AND SMALL 'EARTHQUAKE SHACKS', SOME OF WHICH REMAIN ON THE HILL TODAY.



DISPLACED PEOPLE FROM AROUND THE CITY FLOCKED TO THE HILL WITH WHATEVER THEY COULD CARRY.



San Francisco General Hospital Trains Doctors to Become Community Leaders

By Melissa Pandika

“Pediatrics does not deal with miniature men and women,” wrote Abraham Jacobi, MD, considered the father of American pediatrics, in his 1889 book, *Contributions to Pediatrics*. Echoed repeatedly through the halls of pediatric wards during residency training, Jacobi’s words form the guiding principle of modern pediatric practice. Not only do children’s physiologies and disease exposures differ vastly from adults, so too does their capacity for self-advocacy. With little political voice, society’s most vulnerable members are dependent on adults to meet their medical needs.

The need for pediatric advocates is particularly acute in Southside San Francisco, where many of the City’s children are being raised with significant health challenges—such as asthma, obesity, and violence—that arise from deeply entrenched social and economic inequalities. In Bayview, there are 33 doctors per 100,000 residents, compared with 228 doctors per 100,000 residents in the affluent Marina District.

University of California, San Francisco’s (UCSF) Pediatric Leadership for the Underserved (PLUS) residency training program seeks to address social inequities by building a cadre of pediatrician-advocates to create systematic and sustainable improvements to underserved children’s health. In 2003, under the leadership of Robert Kamei, MD, the then-director of the Pediatric Residency Training Program, a small group of pediatric faculty began to think creatively about what was needed to meet children’s health needs. They decided to focus on developing physician-leaders who could transform the health of underserved communities. PLUS launched its first class in 2004. The program is based at San Francisco General Hospital (SFGH), providing residents with the opportunity to work with a diverse patient population facing the City’s greatest health disparities.

“The leadership part is the crux of the program,” said PLUS program director Anda Kuo, MD. “Especially now, amidst widening health disparities and soaring health costs, the need for physician-leaders is self-evident. And if you look at the state of health care, where were

the physicians in leading health care reform?”

According to Kuo, while all physicians would benefit from leadership training, these skills are especially essential for physicians who want to make a significant, sustainable impact on the health of marginalized communities. “I’m not saying everybody has to do this,” explained Kuo. “It’s just that for this subset of people who want to transform health in a systematic way, they need certain training. I think they’re looking for leadership training. These are people who are frustrated. They’ll tell you, after the twentieth kid they see that

rotationally been offered physicians at a junior or trainee level. Yet leadership skills, such as teamwork, consensus building, conflict resolution, and effective communication are in constant demand in hospital wards and clinics.

PLUS is a departure from the short, intensive courses through which leadership skills are typically taught, seeking instead to develop a network of physician-leaders with training that’s local, experiential, and embedded in medical education. PLUS teaches leadership within the framework of standard clinical training, which is integrated with

rotations with meetings with PLUS faculty and other residents to share their clinical experiences, and obtain feedback. Boyd appreciates the discussion forums PLUS provides; in other programs, residents might be limited to informal conversations about clinical situations. Residents complete assigned readings, and participate in sessions on personal leadership development, including team building, negotiation, and conflict management. They engage in small-group seminars with local experts, covering topics such as health disparities, social determinants of health, health policy, and economics.

A key component of the PLUS program is the three-year child health advocacy project, which enables residents to apply their emerging leadership skills to community health challenges. “It’s the same thing as applying leadership to their everyday lives as a resident,” said Kuo. “They’re going to learn a lot better by hands-on doing it, so that’s true also for change in the community; you have to engage and try.” In their first year, residents identify a problem in the community, perform a needs assessment, and define what they can offer. They also work to understand how the problems of individuals and the community interrelate, and learn how to form effective community partnerships and map community assets. Second-year residents focus on approaching the community problem they’ve identified and developing skills, such as project management, grant writing, program evaluation, and budget development. The third year emphasizes creating a lasting, partnership-based solution; residents receive training in developing work plans, ensuring sustainability,

“.....amidst widening health disparities and soaring health costs, the need for physician-leaders is self-evident. And if you look at the state of health care, where were the physicians in leading health care reform?”

- Anda Kuo, MD

day who’s obese in their clinic, that they realize there are limitations to what they can do in clinic.”

Physicians have a social responsibility to hone their leadership skills, said first-year PLUS resident Rhea Boyd, MD. “Physicians and pediatricians have a unique perspective on the impact of social issues as far as health is concerned and how to advocate for social needs for patients,” she asserted. “No one else in the community has that same perspective, and it would be a big disservice to patients and the community at large for a physician to not be a leader.” Kuo pointed to the unique set of attributes physicians have which hard-pressed communities often need, such as analytical skills, familiarity with the research literature, and grant writing.

Medical education has been slow to incorporate leadership training, assuming that physicians will learn leadership competencies “on the job.” “It’s gotten better as there’s been a focus on working in teams and communication,” said Kuo, “but I think explicit leadership development, which a lot of other higher professional level jobs or occupations have... we’ve never really had.” With the exception of training programs for physician-executives and mid-to senior-career level physicians, leadership development hasn’t tradi-

tionally been offered physicians at a junior or trainee level. Yet leadership skills, such as teamwork, consensus building, conflict resolution, and effective communication are in constant demand in hospital wards and clinics.

PLUS is a departure from the short, intensive courses through which leadership skills are typically taught, seeking instead to develop a network of physician-leaders with training that’s local, experiential, and embedded in medical education. PLUS teaches leadership within the framework of standard clinical training, which is integrated with

the UCSF Categorical Pediatric Residency Program. All PLUS residents participate in a continuity clinic rotation at SFGH. “What’s great is that [the residents] are engaged in the ideal Petri dish for learning about leadership, because they’re engaging it on the ward,” said Kuo. “They’re on a team...they have to engage in an interdisciplinary, complex team about complex problems. We have not traditionally taken advantage of these situations to teach about how do you effectively lead a team... negotiate, manage conflict...These are not areas that we are trained in and happen every day.”

see PLUS page 2 Southside

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Neighborhood Groups Work to Improve McKinley Square

By Bailey deBruynkops

McKinley Square is a park in progress. The green space consists of six acres, bordered by Vermont Street to the east and Highway 101 to the west, with various plots under the jurisdiction of the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), California Highway Patrol, San Francisco Department of Public Works (DPW), San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department (RPD), and San Francisco Police Department. This patchwork of government agencies is matched by an almost equal number of community organizations dedicated to improving the park, including the McKinley Square Park Foundation (MSPF), Neighborhood Parks Council (NPC), Vermont Street Neighborhood Association, San Bruno Avenue Safe Group, and McKinley Square Community Association (MSCA). Volunteers organized by these groups have tackled the park's toughest challenges, weeding foxtails – which cover four acres – reclaiming trails, increasing the amount of native plants, rebuilding stairs, and hauling-out debris.

One of San Francisco's oldest and largest parks, McKinley's potential is equal to its demands. According to Joyce Book, MSPF's executive director, "As beautiful as McKinley is up on top where the moms hang out, the reality is that the park is considered home base for local gangs;

they consider it their territory. The lower base part of the park is invaded by foot traffic that comes over from General Hospital, a lot of homeless, gang activity, and drug transactions in what we call the 'back door,' south entrance to the park."

MSPF works closely with RPW, Caltrans and DPW, the latter of

community to raise large amounts of funds. It doesn't make sense to fix up your house and put all this cash into it if you're surrounded by blight conditions." MSPF has raised \$50,000 for the park, and recently deployed 400 volunteers over two days, who removed 3,000 pounds of debris, needles, and waste. As part of that



Photograph by Paul McDonald

The play structures at McKinley Square could be replaced under planned improvements.

which has been particularly helpful. "The DPW have been superheroes," Book said, "Working closely with these government agencies has allowed us to 'secure the borders' before working together with the

effort DPW provided 12 trucks to continually remove debris and green recyclables, as well as professional gardeners and native plant specialists to assist the volunteers.

Foxtails can be exceedingly

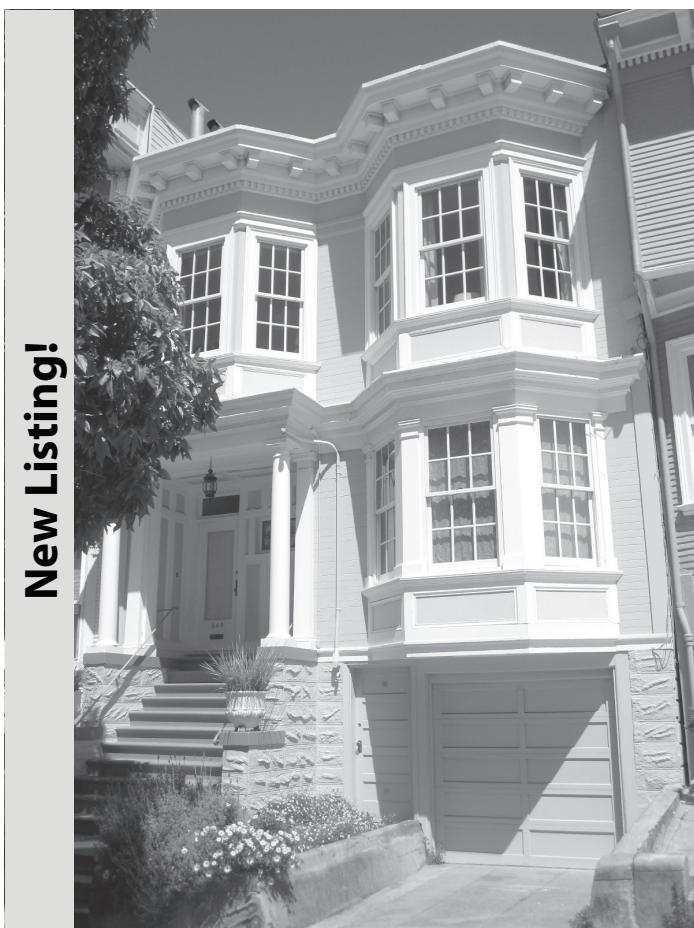
dangerous to pets. The sharp tip of each grass blade dries out and easily adheres to passing objects. While foxtails can be caught in fur and quickly removed, they can also migrate internally, where they can cause abscesses and infections. Lawn mowers typically used to hack down tall grass can't be used to combat McKinley Square's weeds because of the park's steep slope. Herbicides aren't an option given San Francisco's tight regulation of chemical use. MSCA is investigating using sheet-mulching – a low-labor, low-cost method of controlling and decomposing plants with sheets of cardboard, eventually allowing native plants to take over – to tackle the foxtails, and may implement this approach in the fall. MSCA has also floated the idea of introducing goats to the park, as a possible way to control weeds; though the animals couldn't range in conjunction with sheet mulching, since they'd trample all over the cardboard. Long-time Hill residents might particularly appreciate the use of goats. In 1951 Estelle West protested the construction of the 101 Freeway, which cut through her Utah Street and Potrero Avenue home, where she kept a herd of 18 goats.

The park has limited lighting, which makes park-goers wary of visiting after dusk, and challenging

see **MCKINLEY** page 11

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Sales are on an upswing with more activity and buyer interest in the marketplace. Prices are holding steady, and days on market have come down slightly in recent months.

Properties that are in good repair and have nice updates are typically selling more quickly and much closer to the original asking price (and sometimes over). Location is important, so it's no surprise that our coveted neighborhood is doing well.

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



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FARLEY'S from front page

along with some interior painting. "It's a unique challenge, because we want to keep Farley's the way it is," Chris said. "The nice thing about assuming ownership of Farley's is it's a functioning, thriving business, we don't have to do anything immediately."

Most of the staff will stay on, though they'll need training in a new point-of-sales register system. Credit cards will be accepted, and Farley's frequent coffee punch card will become swipeable. Borrowing a successful initiative from the Oakland shop, a nonprofit of the month will get a window display and a happy hour fundraiser. "We will start using the window space for a different nonprofit each month

Valencia and 22nd streets. Hillyard has been working with Amy to design a "community platform," with additional seating and to be used for events. Farley's parklet will extend into the street, and will be built with steel.

Since Farley's is on a slope, and the parklet has to be handicap accessible, the project has been complex. "According to the City, ours was the most difficult one to approve yet!" Roger jokingly bragged. Costing \$20,000 and taking a year to secure the necessary permits, the structure is scheduled to open on July 4. "I've talked to [Hill] residents and neighbors about it, and people are excited," Roger said, about what he considers his parting gift to the community. A parklet is also being planned for Farley's Emeryville location.

Despite Hillyard's departure,



Photograph by Paul McDonald

Farley's will continue to be a community hub on 18th Street, despite changes.

to generate awareness," Chris said. The company may have maxed-out at three locations. "It's a manageable number, being a chain is not what we are about," Chris said. A combination summer retirement-ownership-transition party will be announced soon. "Amy and I feel fortunate that Roger is still around to help with events, music and art," Chris said.

Hillyard hopes to install a parklet in front of the shop before he retires. Parklets are part of the City's "Pavement to Parks" program, in which public areas, such as parking spots or other underused sidewalk and street spaces, are transformed into mini public plazas and parks. Nearby parklets include additional seating in front of Martha & Bros. Coffee Co. on 24th Street, and on

some things won't change at Farley's. The annual Farley's Pet Parade and Costume Contest, held each Halloween, will continue. "Those are incredible and they'll continue," Hillyard said, who in retirement will maintain the title of "event coordinator." "I've gotten some of the most touching and beautiful emails and letters thanking and telling me what Farley's has meant..." to the community, said Hillyard. "It's heart rendering. It's so nice that [Farley's] has cut across a broad spectrum of people. It's amazing the way the influence has spread." New owner Chris plans to keep the community vibe going. "What I love about Farley's in SF is that it is the most neighborhood-like coffeehouse. It is the quintessential neighborhood coffee house."

Fun and Games Keep Family Business Going at South-of-Market Showroom

By Sasha Lekach

When people ask Liesl Ludwig what she does for a living, she doesn't know exactly how to answer. While she sells silly and fun products, she holds the serious role of chief executive officer at Anne McGilvray & Company, or AMCI. Ludwig has been involved in her family's business – wholesaling gifts, toys, books, games and novelty items, with a penchant for things ridiculous and out of the ordinary – since she was a little girl.

Ludwig works from AMCI's Brannan Street showroom; at roughly 2,000 square feet the smallest of four outlets located across the country. She lives at 18th and Texas streets with her daughters, nine-year-old Vivian and five-year-old Eleanor – who attend French American International School – and husband, Christopher. AMCI opened its South-of-Market showroom in 2004. The space is filled with samples; nothing's for sale. The company doesn't sell directly to the public; sales representatives vend to retailers. AMCI products can be found in stores throughout the Bay Area, including at Jeffrey's Toys, Books, Inc., Just For Fun and the Exploratorium.

AMCI was launched in 1975 in Texas, when Ludwig's mother, Anne McGilvray, started selling toys and gifts from her station wagon. McGilvray remains involved in her multi-million-dollar business, along with many family members, including her husband

Michael – now retired – and two of her daughters. While the company has grown to 115 employees, it manages to keep a family feel. In 1996 AMCI opened its first retail store, Froggies, in Dallas, Texas, which won *The Dallas Observer's* "best toy store" in 2010. Based on that success, AMCI is planning more retail outlets.

AMCI's sales representatives travel nationwide pushing products to stores that cater to toddlers, teenagers, adults; anyone. "Our reps can go to any store and sell something," Ludwig said about their diverse inventory, ranging from picture books and stuffed animals to notebooks with racy jokes decorated the cover or a Sarah Palin action figure. Ludwig's favorite items in the SoMa showroom are the PEZ Candy dispensers, which cover an entire wall. After college, when she started off as a sales representative in her parent's company, she sold PEZ, the chalky candy with its kitschy dispensers, and has a soft spot for them. "I love PEZ, everyone loves PEZ," she said.

Ludig also loves the Hill. "We happen to have the best pizza in the City at Goat Hill," she said in an email. "Our favorite sushi restaurant is Rocket Fish," which features Dover coloring books donated by AMCI. "We are members of St. Teresa's church, where Christopher sits on the finance committee. We love browsing through books at Christopher's. Collage is my go to

see **AMCI** page 9

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Community Boards Resolve Disputes

By Bailey deBruynkops

Since 1976, Mission District-based nonprofit Community Boards has facilitated amicable resolutions between San Franciscans in conflict. Over the years, neighbors, coworkers, roommates, school faculty and parents, landlords and residents, and families have relied on Community Boards to resolve disputes.

Community Boards receives up to 20 calls a day from despondent people hoping for a conclusion to their conflict. The mediators discuss the problem, and if both parties in the disagreement agree, a case is opened. According to mediation program manager Liora Kahn, "Some people don't feel comfortable opening a case. We may solve disputes for people over the phone in a non-formal mediation. Sometimes we'll open a case, send a letter to the other person in the dispute, and they talk and end up resolving it on their own." Community Boards charges just \$10 for a panel of their trained mediators.

The nonprofit handles from 400 to 500 cases a year; opening a case is an extensive process. "When someone opens a case we contact the other party, let them know we are a neutral third party; we aren't attorneys, we are here to help," said Kahn. "We are very non-threatening, and make it clear it is voluntary and we are not forcing them to come, we are an

option. If all parties agree, we find a time and date that works for everyone, sit down together and mediate with two or three mediators."

Potrero Hill resident and former mediator Christina Wiellette worked on a conflict involving neighbors. "It brings up the quintessential case for a community-based model of mediation, local people mediating with their peers and neighbors; specifically people in long term relationships, in this case living in the same building. It is archetypal of the Mission and SF history that there is a lot attached to your home, and when people are getting kicked out for condo conversions there are a lot of renters, people live near each other for a long time."

Community Boards regularly handle disputes in South-of-Market and Potrero Hill. In a recent Hill case, a nanny enlisted the nonprofit after discovering that a former employer was slandering her on the Internet, having never been informed by the employer that they'd been dissatisfied with her work. The nanny found Community Boards' website; after a few calls, a mediation between the parents and the nanny was set up. Despite high tensions, the mediators were able to create a sense of comfort so that each party could speak to the real issues at hand. After two and

see **MEDIATION** page 26

Love Reigns on 19th Street



Photograph by Rhee Bevere

Brides and grooms can often be spotted atop Potrero Hill, shooting wedding photographs with the neighborhood's famous backdrop for their keepsake album. But an actual wedding? Rain and an uncommon venue didn't stop Jenna Goldman and Justin Manus and their 175 guests from their appointed task, which took place in the crosswalk at 19th and Texas streets in early June. The Connecticut Street couple, who grew up as close family friends in Philadelphia, chose the location because it was the very place of their engagement. Justin popped the question one night on a walk home from a local restaurant. A neighbor witnessed the moment and brought a bottle of champagne to the lovebirds to celebrate. Wedding planner Jean Marks, working with the couple, secured the necessary street closure permits from four different City departments. It was a first, for the veteran planner and City officials alike. To minimize impacts to the neighbors, guests were shuttled to the undisclosed location, alleviating parking issues. The rain broke right before the ceremony; guests were equipped with individual white umbrellas just in case. The party moved to the dry and equally lovely Julia Morgan Ballroom on California Street for the reception. Breathtaking indeed!

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Asian Specialty Foods Produced on the Hill

By Simon Stahl

Located in nondescript, barely-marked industrial buildings, with frosted windows, and locked gates, the businesses’ offer few clues of what goes on inside. A Potrero Hill resident might drive past the enterprises daily without knowing what they are. The businesses have quietly existed for years, supplying local Asian supermarkets with popular food items.

The Wo Chong Company has been making specialty tofu and growing sprouts in San Francisco since 1935, run by the same family for four generations. The company grew from one man producing tofu in a Chinatown basement to employing 18 San Franciscans, and distributing three kinds of sprouts and a half dozen varieties of tofu products to markets and restaurants as far as Sacramento. It opened its 16th and Missouri streets location in the late-1970’s, and kept its Chinatown location, at 720 Jackson, a popular grocery outlet, until recently, when it moved around the corner to 863 Washington Street. Recently the business has been going green, with an organic line of tofu and on-site water reclamation.

Although sprouts prompted Germany’s recent E. coli outbreak, Wo Chong’s Tedman Louie insisted that local sales haven’t suffered. “We follow all the guidelines from the FDA and HAACP. We do water test-

ing for salmonella, E.coli every other day,” he said. Testing is done by a third party; products aren’t shipped until laboratory results come back clean. In spite of these precautions, lab samples, though no illnesses were reported. The products had passed Wo Chong’s tests; the chance of a false positive is up to 75 percent with some testing methods.

“Even in the best of situations, sprout seed may have small amounts of bacterial contamination. When the seed is placed in a warm, moist growing environment for sprout production, bacteria can also proliferate, causing the product to become contaminated. Since sprouts are not heated or otherwise processed in a manner that would kill bacteria, occasionally sprouts with bacterial contamination will be distributed” said CDPH’s Ron Owens in an emailed statement. “Wo Chong was cooperative in the recall and had no issues before or since.”

Hsin Tung Yang Foods, Inc., located at 19th and Tennessee streets,



Photograph by Paul McDonald

Tedman Louie displays the tofu products made at Wo Chong Company on 16th and Missouri streets.

Wo Chong voluntarily recalled alfalfa and clover sprouts in 2010, after the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) found salmonella in

is the American manufacturing headquarters of a publicly-traded company with more than 70 stores in Taiwan. The company, established in 1967, has been in San Francisco since 1979. Hsin Tung Yang specializes in meat products, such as jerky, Cantonese sausage, and fried pork ruosong. They make mooncakes annually during the Chinese Moon Festival. The company touts its rejection of MSG, and compliance with U.S. Department of Agriculture and Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point food safety measures.

Although it’s never had any health issues in America, Hsin Tung Yang’s Taiwanese headquarters pulled ruosong from Hong Kong supermarkets in 2008 when pork tested positive for low levels of clenbuterol. The non-Food and Drug Administration approved drug is used in other countries to treat asthma, as an illegal athletic performance enhancer, and for its side-effects of weight loss. The Chinese government is currently cracking down on the use of clenbuterol in livestock feed to keep animals lean. Four hundred Chinese were sickened by pork contaminated with the drug in two outbreaks since 2006. However, no illnesses were associated with Hsin Tung Yang’s products. It’s probable that the meat processed and sold by the company in the United States come from domestic suppliers, negating any risk of Chinese clenbuterol contamination, though a representative of Hsin Tung Yang could not be reached to confirm this.

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AMCI from page 6

shop for any girlfriend gifts, and we love Friday Night Flights at Ruby Wine,” she said.

A gift company has to keep tabs on what people love; or at least love at the moment. AMCI has prospered, in part, as a result of McGilvray’s keen eye on trends. In 2010 McGilvray took on Silly Bandz, which Ludwig thought were just weirdly shaped rubber bands. “Trust me these are going to be hot,” her mother said. A few months later, kids around the country were collecting and wearing Silly Bandz all the way up their arms.

McGilvray partnered early on with the Palo Alto-based company Klutz, which makes interactive children’s activity books, such as *Cat’s Cradle* and *Face Painting*. McGilvray added the Klutz account when the company had published just three books. Thirty years later AMCI still works with Klutz, which now offers hundreds of titles.

Despite AMCI’s 35 years of success, Ludwig admitted that even the fun and games industry felt the Great Recession. “I used to say we are recession proof, but this time we did feel it; we dipped a little,” she said. But the decline wasn’t as drastic as some of her SoMa neighbors, furniture and specialty appliance wholesalers who’ve left their showrooms. Even during a recession families give gifts for birthdays and holidays, although presents may be less extravagant or numerous, Ludwig explained. “We sell things that make people happy,” she said.

City Welcomes Urban Agriculture

By Mary Purpura

Last April Mayor Ed Lee signed a new ordinance governing urban growing practices in San Francisco. “The ordinance makes it explicitly clear that gardens, commercial and non-commercial, are welcome in San Francisco,” explained Eli Zigas, co-coordinator of the San Francisco Urban Agriculture Alliance, which promotes food growing in the City, and was central in the effort to pass the

Urban Ecology

urban agriculture ordinance. Prior to passage of the law, areas of Chinatown and elsewhere were zoned “neighborhood commercial,” where gardening was prohibited.

The ordinance legalizes the sale by individual urban gardeners of produce and value-added goods—such as salsas, jams, and pickles, where the primary ingredients are grown and then processed into a more complex product—with some caveats. Urban farmers can sell surplus produce that they grow from their homes or from another site. Previously, produce grown in home gardens couldn’t be sold in a residential neighborhood. “But you still need a permit to conduct business in a residential area,” said anMarie Rodgers, a San Francisco Planning Department planner.

Artisanal food crafters can sell their wares anywhere except in areas zoned exclusively residential. But, “these are just land-use controls,” said Rodgers. “You can’t prepare food for sale in a private kitchen; you must use

a commercial kitchen that has passed inspection by the San Francisco Department of Public Health.”

“An area that’s all houses with an occasional corner store is typically a residential zone,” explained Rodgers. But some areas change zoning from block to block. Eighteenth Street between Connecticut and Texas streets is zoned neighborhood commercial on both sides of the street. But 20th Street, between Arkansas and Connecticut streets, is zoned neighborhood commercial only on the street’s south side. An individual living on the north side of 20th could make plum jam from their Santa Rosa plum tree—assuming they had access to a commercial kitchen that had passed inspection—but they’d need to find a vendor across the street who was willing to sell it for them, because they couldn’t sell a value-added product in a residential zone.

Garden size matters too. The ordinance distinguishes between neighborhood agriculture—defined as less than an acre—and large-scale urban agriculture—operations of an acre or more, which require conditional use authorization from the Planning Department if farmers want to sell from the site. “This distinction was very astute of the San Francisco Planning Department,” said Zigas. “From a Planning Department perspective, there’s a concern about preserving the nature of residential areas by limiting traffic, noise, and smells,” all of which can increase with a large-scale agriculture project, he said. “San Francisco’s ordinance uses size to determine an agricultural project’s impact on its neighborhood, which makes sense. In Chicago, for example, the urban agriculture ordinance distinguishes between projects based on whether they’re selling or not. That’s a much less reliable indicator of what’s

going to impact a neighborhood.”

The ordinance “...opens up the possibility for unique and exciting collaborations in San Francisco,” said Rodgers. She suggested that restaurants that don’t use their kitchens at all hours might make them available, for a fee, to people in the community who want to produce and sell value-added products. Zigas pointed-out that La Cocina, the Mission-based business incubator for low-income food entrepreneurs, rents out its kitchen to cooks who aren’t part of their program.

The Planning Commission hearing for the ordinance was unusual. “Hundreds of people showed up for the hearing. We had to open up the overflow room,” remembered Rodgers. “Usually when we have a long hearing like this one, a lot of people are unhappy,” said Diego Sanchez, Planning Department planner for the southeast quadrant. “We were all amazed that, at the urban agriculture ordinance hearing, everybody who spoke was in support.” Some supporters of the ordinance, such as Jeff Betcher of the Quesada Gardens Initiative in Bayview, hope that the new law will mean more fresh food will be grown and sold in his neighborhood. “We have a dearth of supermarkets and food outlets in the Bayview,” said Betcher. “We want to support City-wide urban agriculture activists to grow healthy, fresh food for people all over the City.”

“There is a huge interest in growing food in San Francisco right now,” said Zigas. “The City can encourage that in many ways; zoning is just one of them.”

To learn more about the San Francisco Urban Agriculture Alliance or to read the full text of the new ordinance: sfuaa.org. To learn about zoning in your area: <http://www.sfplanning.org/index.aspx?page=1569>. For more information about the Quesada Gardens Initiative: <http://www.quesadagardens.org/>.

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STARR KING from front page

Hill to attend graduate school in Massachusetts, is confident that she leaves SKOS in good hands. “We had more enthusiastic qualified candidates than we had spots,” Bird said. “They are qualified, and so many care about the Open Space.”

“[Bird] has put so much time and effort into this,” Shumate said. “The outgoing board is so helpful, they are doing a fabulous job of being organized and supportive.” Shumate, a mortgage broker who works downtown, has never previously managed a nonprofit or park steward group. She lives across from the Open Space, and got involved with board activities as a result of her frequent visits to the space. “I have a dog, so it’s a prime spot for him and me to hang in,” she said. Shumate often brings her 19-month-old daughter, Ella, with her. “She picks the non-native flowers,” she said.

Both presidents, past and current, encouraged greater community involvement in the Open Space. “A board shouldn’t and can’t do everything involving this community-owned land,” Bird said. “The community needs to help out with fundraising and stewardship.” Shumate intends to dedicate her board tenure to reaching out to Hill residents, continuing to serve as stewards of the space, and working with previous board members on issues confronting SKOS, including proposed development nearby and mismanaged funds from prior board actions.

The San Francisco Police Department and other authorities continue to investigate embezzlement of roughly \$110,000 from board funds in 2006 and earlier years, allegedly by former SKOS secretary Suzanne Shields and other people involved with the Open Space. “Everything was in such shambles when we inherited it,” Bird said. “I didn’t know what was going on with the previous board,” Shumate said, after she learned during the election process that there were questions of financial improprieties related to Shields and her board.

“Meanwhile we are trying to operate without that money,” Bird explained. SKOS has increased its fundraising activities, tightened its budgeting and recruited volunteers and community support. The nonprofit continues to fight against proposed development at 1321 De Haro Street, adjacent to the grassy hillside, which threatens to encroach onto the Open Space.

Despite these challenges, Shumate is excited to learn about nonprofit management, how to preserve open spaces and become an effective community steward. “I’ve always been a lover of the outdoors,” Shumate said.

Board meetings are held every second Tuesday of the month at Starr King Elementary School and are open to the public. Hands-on opportunities at the Open Space include volunteer work parties every third Saturday morning of the month. For more information: starrkingOpenSpace.org.

Skates on Potrero Hill?

By Paul McDonald

A large white cement building on De Haro Street, across the street from Anchor Brewery’s loading

The business is fully Internet-based, and could exist anywhere. But according to Carol Sloan, Skate.com’s owner, she and her



Photographs by Paul McDonald

Skate.com occupies a non-descript building on De Haro Street.

dock, and next to St. Gregory’s Episcopal Church, features a couple of roll-up doors, a second floor office and a generic looking address painted in black: “540.” The anonymous-looking warehouse serves as headquarters for Skate.com, a sister company of Skates on Haight, famous for launching the roller dancing craze in 1975. Skate.com has been operating out of its Potrero Hill home since 2007.

staff appreciate the close by opportunities to get their spiritual fill at the church and their beer needs satisfied at Anchor Brewery.

The building is ideal for Skate.com’s purposes. Inside, it’s filled with everything a skater could want. There are huge bins full of skateboard wheels, and shelves of everything skate-related: roller

see SKATES page 17



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The Daddy Handbook: Falling Strollers

By Steven J. Moss

It's my daughter's favorite story. She tells it at dinner parties and family gatherings: her near death experience when I allowed her unattended stroller to careen down one of San Francisco's steepest hills. Even my wife throws in details, and she wasn't there. I'll protest that, no, it didn't quite happen that way. But the particulars aren't important in the face of such cartoon-like daddy negligence. The tale is in the same mythic category as narrowly missing a toddler with a one-ton anvil, or leaving an opened bottle of Tylenol at baby level after a night out drinking (okay, I did that, but she didn't actually eat any).

Here's what happened. I walked my then three-year-old daughter down the two flights of stairs outside our Potrero Hill condominium. At street level – which tilts at something like a 45 degree angle – I strapped her into her stroller. We were set to go to Jackson Park, her favorite playground, a few blocks away when I realized I didn't have my wallet with me. Shoot. What if we needed to buy a snack? I looked at her, happily playing in her stroller with two small stuffed animals. I looked up at the two flights of stairs. I made my decision.

Before I go on, I need to tell you about the stroller. This wasn't one of those \$500 turbo-charged models with a built-in bottle warmer and fold-out diaper changing table; the kind our nanny used to say made her peers so nervous it'd be stolen that they'd spend more time watching the stroller than their charges. This was a \$30 Costco umbrella stroller. No cup holder, no extra carrying case, no skid-proof wheel system, nothing.

I turned the stroller sideways against the hill. Despite what my wife – remember, she wasn't there – or my daughter – who at the time thought sand was edible – say, *I set the brakes*. I ran up the stairs, unlocked the door, grabbed my wallet, ran back down the stairs. And she was gone.

There are a moments in life when time stops. The universe seems to shudder and crack open, creating a new reality in which everything is different. Unless there are drugs involved, this temporary suspension of time is never a good thing. It happened to me when I took a hard tumble down a steep mountain slope skiing at Squaw Valley. And it happened when I came down those stairs, and my daughter wasn't where I'd left her.

Strangely, I looked up the hill. She wasn't there. I looked down the hill, into the street. I couldn't see where she went. I started down the slope. That's when I saw a small knot of Latino men running up the hill toward me, one of whom had my crying daughter cradled in his arms. They'd been gardening at a house a few doors down when she'd flown by in her stroller, before toppling over. I took her from the man, "thank you, thank you," I said, as they placed her stroller and toys next to my house. One side of my daughter's face was scraped from her scalp to her chin, like a skinned knee. Other than that, and the shock of what'd happened, she was fine.

I brought her upstairs, cleaned her up, and put her in front of her favorite video. Soon enough, she was back to her happy self. And then I had a thought, and the universe cracked open for a second time: how would I tell my wife? I'll leave the specifics of that to another time. Perhaps it's enough to say that we're still married.

A version of this story aired on KQED-Radio's Perspective series. Follow the Daddy Handbook blog: <http://daddyhandbook.org/>.

MCKINLEY from page 5

to pick up after a dog or keep an eye on children. MSCA is investigating solar-powered lighting, but the ideal lights would cost \$15,000 per fixture to install. Other park improvement suggestions include pushing the Caltrans' fence that borders the park's western boundary closer to the Bayshore Freeway, as a means to enlarge park trails.

According to MSCA member Cris Rys, "Openness and public discussion in planning is paramount. There might be major discussion of lowering the park's land, which would make the grass area bigger but would also destroy the trees that have called McKinley home for many years." Introducing a drinking fountain has also been suggested, but due to water lines and sewage configuration, a fountain could cost between \$60,000 and \$90,000. "We have to pick our battles, what's more important, a new safety hand rail for seniors, or a drinking fountain?"

"McKinley is a vital neighborhood asset," said NPC executive director Meredith Thomas. "Absolutely every neighborhood in SF depends on its neighborhood parks for stress release and outdoor enjoyment. The City's outdoor budget doesn't allow for realistic needs. McKinley is in need of upgrade and repair, but the money isn't sitting with the City to make that happen, so it's really important for the neighborhood to get together and communicate with volunteers and take it into their own hands."

The Mariposa-Utah-18th-San Bruno Streets Neighborhood Association (MUNA), San Bruno Avenue Neighbors – which host parties for kids and park fundraisers, and operate the community garden on 18th and San Bruno – and Downtown High School principal Mike Alvarado are considering installing cameras on the 18th Street footbridge as a means to prevent graffiti and observe traffic. They'd also like the bridge floor to be repainted, and for Downtown's art students to

create a mural on the bridge's wall. Alvarado was recently appointed to a RPD committee examining how to teach students park restoration and construction skills.

The process of improving the park is likely to be slow, and continually hampered by a lack of resources. "Part of the challenge our department has is we've identified in general that the need for the department is so much bigger than the money we have," said Steve Cismowski, RPD services manager, whose responsibilities doubled to 42 parks this year. "A couple of years ago, a neighborhood parks bond for \$170 million was designated to fund the poorest parks; earmarked for specific properties, renovating existing parks and establishing new ones. We identified over \$1.8 billion of deficiencies. Every bond opportunity is limited; meanwhile we renovate a site and the clock starts ticking on that breaking down. The water is coming into the canoe a whole lot faster than we'll be able to bail it out. It makes it a lot harder with the public consistently damaging the parks. On one site [South-of-Market's Victoria Manalo Graves Park] the last calendar year saw \$100,000 in damages. It just adds to the challenge when parks that are supposed to be serving the public are abused."

Before long McKinley-related groups' attention will turn to an RPD-led master planning process, which will unfold over the course of three or four meetings. Residents of a twelve square block radius of the park will have an opportunity to put together wish lists for how they'd like to see McKinley improve over the next century. "That's when the community needs to get aggressive and go after funding. That's why we're here, that's what we've been waiting for. The park as it is right now discriminates against moms with strollers and seniors, there's not enough space for the dogs to be without leash safely, no places for the older kids to play. We hope to see groundbreaking in a minimum of three to five years," said Book.



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Supervisor Malia Cohen does not appear pleased at a public hearing on Muni issues. Photograph by Simon Stahl


MUNI from front page

Control System – the equipment that regulates cars’ stairs and doors – is responsible for six Muni delays daily. The 14-year-old cars are badly in need of mechanical overhauls.

According to Haley, more train operators are needed, as well as better training in how to quickly troubleshoot delays. He also recommended combining stops, and investing in the creation of a T-

express, similar to the successful N-express line, which has doubled its ridership after being available for just one week.

Hearing participants generally expressed the opinion that T-line service has steadily deteriorated. “I frequently used to ride the 15, but I rarely use the T because I cannot afford those extra 10 to 15 minutes,” said former Muni rider Joe Voss. “I just can’t say enough about my frustration with Muni. Maybe they need more employees, I don’t know.”



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Spanish Wines Come to Potrero

By Paul McDonald

The “Wines Worth Discovering, 2011 Tour” arrived in San Francisco last month, one of only two cities – Chicago was the other – targeted by wine growers from La Mancha, Spain. Some 60 wine industry representatives, and a few media folk, were treated to a tasting of eight reds and two whites at a seminar held at the Robert Fountain Gallery, 80 Missouri Street, hosted by internationally renowned Sommelier Charlie Arturaola. One hundred and fifty individual wines were on offer, along with an exquisite buffet that included a roasted pig.

With 500,000 contiguous acres, La Mancha – “dry land” in Spanish – located in South-Central Spain, is the world’s largest wine region. High in elevation, with long, hot summers and short, cold winters, the area

sees 3,000 hours of sun annually, compared with 2,400 for Napa Valley. The climate results in disease and pest-free grapes.

In describing a particular white made with Airen grapes, Arturaola posited, “This is a fun wine. It doesn’t wait on your palate; it’s clean, a bit stingy on the fruit side with good length. It is love in a bottle, perfect for a Sunday pool party and pairs strikingly with a spicy tomato ceviche or white clams.”

The wines were generally delicious and, at an average retail cost of about \$10, should make quite a splash in the United States wine market once discovered by distributors and restaurants. As the event brochure so aptly put it: “Food-friendly, fun and affordable, the new wines from this old world area are truly worth discovering!”



Casa Gualda from La Mancha is available at The Wine House. Photograph by Paul McDonald

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High-Speed Rail Unlikely to Disrupt Interstate 280's South Beach Spur

By Rheba Estante

Last spring the *San Francisco Examiner* and KGO-TV featured reports of the possible dismantling of Interstate 280's northern end to accommodate high-speed rail. However, assessment of the proposed plans by San Francisco County Transportation Authority (SFCTA) prompted the California High-Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) to change its design to reduce impacts on the City.

Of particular interest to South-side residents is the less than one mile stretch of roadway between Cesar Chavez and Oakdale. "The same area is now being studied as an at-grade, ground level, design alongside existing ground level Caltrain tracks," said Rachel Wall, CHSRA press secretary. "CHSRA has shifted plans to drastically minimize the impact on I-280. At the current time, the transportation agency is reviewing alternatives for the area that the City and County of San Francisco has proposed, and will continue to meet with officials to design a solution... into the community [to meet] its current and future transportation systems. The agency reiterates that they will solicit and welcome feedback from residents to ensure that the best possible transit systems are implemented for the statewide high-speed rail network." According to

Wall, the final route and track design for CHSRA's San Francisco-San Jose corridor along I-280 won't be decided until late-2013.

"We have been working with the state to expand options being studied to bring high speed rail into San Francisco," said Leroy Saage, SFCTA's deputy director for capital projects. "CHSRA is preparing an environmental impact statement/report for the San Francisco peninsula portion of the high-speed rail project, and expects to release a draft of the EIS/R for public review in 2012." According to Saage, under CaHRSRA's initial proposal the high-speed rail's final approach to the under-construction Transbay Terminal would have required structural changes that depressed the grade of 16th Street near Mission Bay. This initial plan, said Saage, would have adversely affected public transit service along 16th Street, and disrupted Mission Bay development plans.

"Working with other City agencies, the San Francisco County Transportation Authority has developed three additional options for bringing high speed rail into the City, all of which avoid the impacts to 16th Street and Mission Bay associated with the concept developed with CHSRA," explained Saage. "Of these three City options, two simply

see RAIL page 24

Sunday Streets Comes to Potrero



Photographs by Tung Wai Yip

San Franciscans danced in Dogpatch at last month's Sunday Streets. Streets were closed from Potrero to Bayview, with music festivals at either ends of the route. Brazz Menazeri, top, played in front of Rickshaw and Abada Capoeira, bottom, performed on Indiana Street. Free rollerskating lessons and a Freedom from Training Wheels workshop hosted by the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition were also part of the local festivities.

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758 Arkansas St..... \$500,000	1136 De Haro St \$840,000	531 Vermont St \$995,000
752 Carolina St \$3,250,000	1470 De Haro St \$520,000	823 Vermont St \$765,000
1056 Carolina St \$795,000	1308 Mariposa St..... \$900,000	1163 Wisconsin St..... \$660,000

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San Francisco Wholesale Produce Market Poised to Expand

By Nicole Spiridakis

A renovated and enlarged San Francisco Wholesale Produce Market could create job opportunities for Southside residents. But it also could increase congestion in an already difficult to transverse area, and plans to close Jerrold Avenue to through traffic angers and worries some Bayview residents.

The Produce Market – one of Northern California’s largest fruit and vegetable terminuses – is currently comprised of five buildings located between Rankin and Toland streets. The market is bounded by Caltrain’s right-of-way to the east, Innes Avenue to the northeast, Toland Street to the northwest, Kirkwood Avenue and Rankin Street to the southwest, and a San Francisco Water Department facility to the southeast. It’s split into two areas: the main site, to the west, and 901 Rankin Street, to the east.

Roughly 650 people work for the 30 vendors operating from the space,

perhaps 250 of whom live in the City, mostly in the Mission, Bayview and Visitation Valley. The market operates primarily in the middle of the night, receiving loads of commodities from the Central Valley and elsewhere, and selling fresh produce to San Francisco restaurants and grocery stores.

Last winter, Potrero Hill resident and architect Brian Liles of Jackson Liles Architecture presented a proposal to expand the market at a meeting of the Southeast Community Facility Commission. According to Liles, the first renovation phase most likely will include the addition of a parcel located at 901 Rankin, which is slated for warehouse and office space. In the proposal submitted to the City as part of its environmental process, all of the existing buildings on the site would be demolished, replaced with four state-of-the-art warehouses on the main site, as well as the Rankin Street facilities. The new buildings would include office space, with some featuring rooftop parking. Under an



Photograph by Paul McDonald

alternative plan some of the existing warehouses would be renovated, rather than demolished. Building improvements would be completed with an eye toward incorporating renewable energy sources – such as solar heating or wind energy – and may include green, or “living,” roofs. If the City approves the project, the first construction phase would begin in 2012, with renovation completed over a 15 year period.

The Produce Market’s general manager, Michael Janis, hopes that market redevelopment will result in jobs for locals, increased access to healthy foods, and an impetus to attract more food-related business into the area. “[A part of] our role is to try to increase the amount of access to fresh and healthy foods here in the Bayview,” he said.

see **PRODUCE** page 3

Betty McGee Works to Create a Better Bayview

By Keith Burbank

Betty McGee has served as the Bayview-Hunters Point Health and Environmental Resource Center’s (HERC) executive director since 1999, working to create a more environmentally just Southside community. “That kind of activist is credible to me,” said Jake Gonzalez, chair of the Public Administration Department at Golden Gate University, who served on McGee’s doctoral dissertation committee. “She knows how the inside works, but works on the outside. She can hold government accountable,” he said. “Plus, she is a woman and a minority.”

According to McGee’s mother, Sadie Jacob, McGee was an ordinary girl growing up. “She was very good at home. Helped me with the kids. She was always in something at school, and she volunteered for a lot of things after school,” Jacob said.

McGee who holds doctorate and master degrees from Golden Gate University in business and public management – spent the first quarter-century of her life in Louisiana, growing up in the small town of Mansura, population 500 people. Her mother has a fifth grade education; her biological father, who abused her mother, was in and out of jail. But her mother’s second husband was a winner. “I was proud to call him my father. He was the first African-

American Chief of Police in Mansura,” McGee said.

Despite being raised in Louisiana, and graduating from Southern University in Baton Rouge, McGee vowed to her mother that she’d never work in the state because there was too much prejudice, against which she constantly struggled. She ordered food from the carryout window typically used only by European-Americans. “We wouldn’t take our food or pay for the food, unless the employees gave us the food we ordered at the window Caucasians picked up their food,” she said. She was the only black woman to attend an otherwise all-white Catholic church, and refused to kneel after a Catholic pastor fired her church school teachers for encouraging her and other African-Americans to violate the community’s racial rules. “Then, we had no teachers,” she said.

“After he fired the brothers, we had to kneel on the hard, carpetless, classroom floor each day all day,” McGee said. “One day, I sat in my desk instead of kneeling on the floor. I encouraged all my classmates to do the same, which they did. Since my desk was closest to the classroom door, the pastor noticed me first when he walked by to make sure we were kneeling. The pastor opened the door to the classroom and said, “On your knees, McGee.”” All of the students

see **MC GEE** page 4

Bowling Alleys Coming to Mission and SOMA

By Bailey deBruynkops

Over the next couple of years San Francisco will double its bowling alley population, from two – Yerba Buena and Presidio bowling centers – to four. Corporate chain Lucky Strikes Bowling will arrive on King and Third streets late this summer, occupying the space that previously housed Borders. With 19 locations and based in Los Angeles, Lucky Strike specializes in package-deal parties, like a business event or bar mitzvah, and even has a dress code. Don’t plan on attempting to bowl at Lucky Strike wearing a Giants jersey or an oversized tunic; their code “strictly enforces” that “oversized clothing” and “sports jerseys” are “not permitted,” among other policies.

Potrero Hill resident Sommer Peterson and Mission resident Molly Bradshaw will open Mission Bowling Club (MBC) at 16th and South Van Ness in the spring of 2012. The pair already operate Mini Bar on Divisadero. “The City of San Francisco has been under-bowled for the last decade, and in other parts of the U.S., bowling

alleys are making a comeback, with smaller, re-designed bowling alleys,” said Peterson. “We wondered why this had not happened in San Francisco, and started to dream up our own concept for the City. MBC is designed with a focus on appealing food and drink, group recreation and socialization for our community.”

The alley will feature six lanes, a large bar with creative yet no-frill drinks, a banqueted dining room, an outside patio and a mezzanine. “We are excited about the food offering, which will be spearheaded by Anthony Myint of Mission Street Food and Mission Chinese Food, whose Mission Burger has a local following all its own,” said Peterson. The kitchen will offer local, nutritious food, rather than the nachos and jalapeno poppers common to most bowling alleys. The alley will boast lane-viewing leather couches, and a substantial covered bike parking area; the walls will feature work by local artists. “We feel that San Franciscans miss the old school fun of bowling and would welcome a new smaller venue that was updated, but cozy,” Peterson explained.

PLUS from page 4 of View

and communicating results.

PLUS residents have tackled a broad range of issues, from health-care access and youth transitioning from detention, to HIV care and treatment in Africa. Second-year PLUS resident Mimi Choi, MD, recently finished implementing a motivational interviewing intervention program for overweight and obese students with her community partner, Lynda Boyer-Chu, a school nurse at George Washington High School, and is now publishing the results of her pilot study testing the program’s feasibility and efficacy. Ilana Sherer, MD, a third-year resident, founded the UCSF LGBT Clinic for gender-variant youth, and is speaking at national forums on the issue.

Partnering with Parent University, a community organization located in Bayview-Hunters Point, third-year residents Sarah Libecap, MD, MEd, and Julie Stein O’Brien, MD, have established pediatric wellness workshops that focus on health promotion topics, such as development and nutrition. Libecap and O’Brien hope to empower parents to advocate for their child’s health. “Our experience in the community has taught us that we can make a difference in the lives of children and their families by strengthening the medical home from within the community,” said O’Brien.

According to Kuo, PLUS’ success can best be measured by the residents’ career paths after they’ve graduated. Several participants have sustained their child advocacy projects after completing the program. Graduates have participated in the Baylor International Pediatric AIDS Initiative to widen access to HIV and AIDS care and treatment, later directing programs in Africa. About half of the graduates are currently serving in some leadership capacity.

The project 2009 graduate Amy Whittle helped found during her PLUS residency, the San Francisco Medical-Legal Partnership (SFMLP), is flourishing. Whittle catalyzed the partnership in 2007 – between SFGH’s Pediatric Asthma Clinic and Bay Area Legal Aid – with founding attorney Sabrina Adler, who had previously been involved with the Family Advocacy Project, a medical-legal partnership at Stanford University. SFMLP focuses on asthma, because of its strong link to social and environmental factors, which a lawyer may be better poised than a physician to address. In part due to elevated stress levels, substandard housing conditions, as well as pollution from its concentration of freeways, Southside San Francisco has the City’s highest pediatric asthma rates.

Following Adler’s departure to pursue medical school, Bay Legal attorney Jia Min Cheng has taken the helm on the legal front, meeting directly with patients and their families in the Asthma Clinic and screening them for problems, such as housing, benefits eligibility, educa-

tion, and family conflict. Depending on patients’ responses to the screenings, Cheng refers them to various community organizations, such as food stamp programs or Healthy San Francisco. Cheng also offers legal representation if necessary.

The medical-legal partnership increases patients’ awareness of the legal issues surrounding their health and the resources available to them. Many SFGH patients find it difficult to make physician visits, or travel to an agency they may not trust, especially if they’re undocumented; people tend to feel safer in their physician’s office. “We’re trying to get around the existing barriers to our patients, getting the free legal aid that is already available to them, barriers like mistrust, transportation, and just not knowing that the services are out there,” said Whittle. “[We’re] helping to educate people and say no, these are what your rights are. [For example], a patient is being cyberbullied...and I really need someone who knows more about the law around this. The cardiologist might repair a congenital heart issue, but the lawyer might help this kid get into a better school situation or stop these people from bullying her, and that might help with her depression.” SFMLP is expanding beyond the Asthma Clinic to the Pediatric Primary Care and Behavior and Developmental Clinics, with funding support from the William G. Gilmore Foundation, Lisa and Douglas Goldman Foundation, and San Francisco Foundation.

Upon entering PLUS, residents are clustered into advising pods consisting of one resident from each training year and one or two faculty advisors, to create a smaller family or home within the program, so that residents can receive one-on-one mentoring. Members see each other weekly. “Even though they’re there for clinic, they can touch base. ‘How did that project meeting go?’ or ‘How should I handle this situation?’” explained Kuo.

Faculty advisor Clem Donahue, MD, volunteered for PLUS in 2005 after Kuo approached him to help residents Tricia Tayama, MD, and Alex Zusman, MD, MPH, with their child advocacy project, which evolved into a nationally-awarded documentary film exploring youth victims of violence. “For me it’s tremendously rewarding to work with these very motivated and inspired young physicians,” said Donahue “They are exceptional residents, and it’s actually an honor to work with them on their projects. They show tremendous dedication to their clinical craft and leadership

Recently, PLUS won a national teaching award from the Academic Pediatrics Association, recognizing its educational innovation. PLUS graduates have received numerous accolades for their leadership and commitment to their communities, including four National Residency Advocacy Awards from the American Academy of Pediatrics’ Community Pediatric Training Initiative for their child health projects. From 2004 to 2009, PLUS residents received 13 of

the 38 annual residency program awards, despite comprising only 13 percent of the total number of pediatric residents. Residents’ endeavors receive financial support, as well, with nine residents being awarded ten grants to fund their child advocacy projects since the program’s inception.

Clinical rotations alone can consume up to eighty hours or more of a resident’s week, yet most graduates emphatically state that they’d go through the program again. “That’s one of the things they comment on in their exit survey,” said Kuo. “This program keeps the fire alive; it keeps them focused on the reason they went into medicine. A lot of them want to change the world now, and it’s really great to see what they can do during residency,” she said “but in all honesty, this is like a launching pad. To me it’s more about the process of what they do in these three years.”

“Working with a neighborhood and community-based organization has been an essential part of our pediatric training,” said O’Brien. “The lessons we learned will undoubtedly enhance our ability to care for children and their families throughout our career.”

“I don’t know if I would have been so deliberately thoughtful about how to structure something, how to make something successful if it hadn’t been for that really concrete teaching,” Whittle said. “How do you lead, how to infuse something with lasting energy. And then a lot of is just having the network and having the community...I don’t know if I would’ve had the motivation to do that if it weren’t for this community of people that I was in and feeling...a little bit pushed but also nurtured in that environment. You just see these other people doing these inspiring things, and it motivates you.”

Since PLUS began, similar programs have cropped up across the country. Kuo often meets with

individuals who want to implement physician-leadership programs at their institutions. “But what I really think has to happen, and what I think will actually happen, is that more of the leadership training will be incorporated into standard medical education,” said Kuo. “And for me, my specific focus is to train people who can really improve the health of underserved communities – that’s our slant – but of course there are many ways that leadership can be applied, whether it’s to a research lab or a hospital.”

In addition to the medical-legal partnership, Kuo wants to form partnerships with social entrepreneurs. In the same way that social media and other technological venues have broken barriers across the globe, she hopes to use these outlets to break down the logistical barriers that exist between departments at UCSF. “And we’ve done that in small ways; we do sessions with Nursing, we’ve had sessions with Internal Medicine,” said Kuo. “But to work on a real problem, like obesity in Bayview-Hunters Point or Potrero Hill in an inter-professional way in real time would be powerful, and we’ve not gone there yet.”

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PRODUCE from front page

Currently public traffic on Jerrold Avenue circulates around a median that houses market buildings and parking spaces. Under the project Jerrold would be closed, with vehicles re-routed onto Innes and Kirkwood avenues, as a way to “improve site access and safety,” according to the proposal submitted to the City. Two new intersections would be created, at Innes Avenue and Toland Street; and Kirkwood Avenue and Toland. A new alignment connecting the east end of Innes to Jerrold Avenue would be created to widen the streets, running roughly parallel to the CalTrain spurs. Traffic would be rerouted around the market from Jerrold Avenue, up and around Innes and back, and both Kirkwood and Innes Street would be two-way streets, with a goal to “minimize the conflict between the public traffic and market operations,” according to the proposal.

Bayview residents have expressed concerned about the effects closing Jerrold Avenue would have on community accessibility and the businesses located there. Kristine Enea, a lawyer, filmmaker, and District 10 Supervisor candidate in 2010, supports the market renovations, but worries that multi-year construction and street changes would negatively impact the area. She said her concern mainly is with the City’s “repeated lack of comprehensive planning, especially with respect to car traffic. I support the Produce Market expansion. I would love to see more Citywide recognition of what a great food resource we have right here in District 10, and I support all efforts to create stronger ties between this amazing food resource and the food desert in the surrounding community,” Enea said. “My concern is the lack of public process about the expansion, particularly around closing Jerrold Avenue to through

traffic. Closing Jerrold would affect all the neighboring residents and businesses, as well as the larger community. One lane each direction was already co-opted without public input, and I was unable to get information on why and how that decision was made even after the fact.”

Matt Czajkowski, a 14 year Bayview resident who lives at the corner of Jerrold and Mendell, is also concerned that the community hasn’t been adequately consulted about the Jerrold Avenue closure proposal. “There was a lack of community notice,” Czajkowski said. “People who don’t use it will care less, but they are closing a public right-of-way without community input. We’re upset about that there was no community input, that someone from the Planning Department just decided to take that away from us.”

According to Czajkowski, the proposed rerouting would direct traffic behind the market where only warehouses exist, an undesirable location to wait for a bus or start a business. “What about the impact on the businesses on Oakdale, Evans and even Jerrold?” he asked. “The Planning Department proposed taking the land without actually looking at the area. It needs to be more sensitive to residents and businesses. They wouldn’t close a major street anywhere but the Bayview.”

Enea pointed to the potential for a drastic increase in both population and traffic once the 17,000 new condominiums approved by the City in Bayview have been completed, which could prompt more than 150,000 more daily car trips through the community. “As much as the City pretends that human nature in the southeast sector will change overnight and we’ll all start taking public transit, the reality of living where we do is that you have to drive places to get what you need,” Enea said. “In this context, closing one of the main east-west arteries makes zero sense.”

Bayview Company Carves Ice

By Paul McDonald

After spending 18 years at the end of Rhode Island Street near Division, 11 years ago the San Francisco Ice Company moved to 45 Williams Street, just off Third, next to the Walgreens. The company is owned and operated by the Wisecarver brothers, Bruce and Brian. Proud sons of a San Francisco union electrician, the Wisecarvers bought their first ice delivery route in 1982, and worked that initial route into the niche business it is today, serving the downtown San Francisco hospitality businesses, as well as selling retail to whoever comes in or calls for a delivery. Bruce’s son, Paul, also works for the company.

The Ice Company distributes for Fremont-based Arctic Glacier. But the company is best known for providing ice sculptures to fancy hotels, luxurious extravaganzas, and, perhaps for the more practical-minded, “Ice Luges,” into which alcohol is poured down a carved chute into a waiting mouth.

The Wisecarvers like their jobs, and get great satisfaction at being unique suppliers to San Francisco’s happening parties. Learning how to carve ice took years of practice. For particular pieces, the brothers engage an artist trained in sculpting to do the cutting. Carved from 300 pound blocks of solid ice, sculptures cost between \$350 and \$400; a more basic drink luge is a bargain at \$100. The brothers can also provide beautifully cut ice bowls to hold fruit and other edibles.

The Ice Company’s business is seasonal, with their number of employees doubling in the summer, from five to 10. The brothers hire a few college interns each summer, showing them the basics of running a small, unique enterprise. Although they’re selling frozen water, the company maintains delivery vehicles, insurance and all the normal trappings of a small business. The brothers have a clever alias in City Search and other search engines: “Ice Carver by the Wise Carver,” a play on the owners’ quite fitting last name.



Photograph by Paul McDonald

Bruce and Brian Wisecarver at their Bayview ice facility.

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MCgee from front page

got on their knees, except McGee. “I just sat there,” she said. “I didn’t notice the others were on their knees until I turned around.” She said to herself, “I thought you guys were supporting me.” Slowly, she also got on her knees. “I did so much there,” McGee said. “The morning I went to the Caucasian church, I took Holy Communion. I was the talk of the town Sunday and all week.”

Local children would periodically visit her family’s home to “...chase me and my siblings. The kids used to beat up my brother.” One day she and her five siblings were walking on the sidewalk, and a boy who’d beat up her brother indicated that he wanted the pathway all to himself. “When we refused, the boy pushed my brother,” McGee said. “My brother was a little afraid. But, I wasn’t afraid. I won that fight.” The boy never chased her or her siblings again. “I’ve always had somewhat of a mean streak,” she said.

McGee was expected to work in the local canning factory after she completed high school. Instead, she became the first person in her family to go to college. “Applying and going to college was viewed as ‘bad, lazy, a goody two shoes,’” she wrote in a personal statement. “Many times friends, neighbors, and even family were critical of anyone furthering their education. When I told my mother I was going to college, my mother told me I wouldn’t finish college.” You’ll

end up pregnant like all the other girls, her mother told her. “I made it a point not to fail.” She harnessed her anger toward her mother, and used it as the spark to help her complete her degree.

“In raising my [own] daughter, I knew my daughter would do whatever I did,” she said. “That motivated me to earn a master’s degree, and then a doctorate. I worked with disadvantaged people in a disadvantaged community, and I wanted to be a role model for them.”

HERC educates Bayview-Hunters Point residents about asthma, breast cancer, prostate cancer, and environmental health. “The Bayview-Hunters Point neighborhood has one of the highest rates of pediatric asthma and breast cancer in San Francisco,” McGee said. “A child died from an asthma attack at a childcare center one day because the teachers were unable to recognize the attack as asthma. This won’t happen again. Not under our watch.” The community “expects and deserves the work we are doing,” she said.

“Betty is a passionate leader for community environmental justice,” said Gina Fromer, group executive director for the Bayview-Hunters Point YMCA, who has been aware of McGee’s work for 15 years. “She is from the community. She understands what’s been happening in the community.”

Last year, the City eliminated \$75,000 in funding to support HERC’s breast cancer program, which had

held an annual educational luncheon on the disease. “Did you know there are zero dollars from local government for breast cancer?” McGee asked. “We had the money at one point. We had the money to address breast cancer. There are no services anymore.” The San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFDPH), HERC’s main funder, cut the center’s asthma budget to \$298,000 this year, from \$438,000 the previous. The wellness clinic’s \$125,000 budget remains intact. Slow reimbursement by SFDPH has periodically forced McGee to dip into her own bank account to pay the center’s employees. “We used to get funds in two weeks,” she said. “Now it takes 30 days. In 30 days we’re practically broke.”

“We’re cutting your budget because you didn’t act right,” McGee said City officials told her, in response to her efforts to secure more funding for the center. SFDPH now requires HERC to report though a fiscal intermediary. “The fiscal intermediary organization develops paperwork that we have to come up with a lot of times before they even honor our monthly invoice.” According to McGee, City officials said to her, “HERC is behind on its assessments. It won’t be able to catch up.”

“But I am telling you, that when they say that stuff to me, it’s like my mother’s voice telling me I don’t need to go to college,” McGee said. “We are going to complete every task that’s being asked of us by the Department of Public Health. We are going to make

our goals and objectives, and in some areas we’ll surpass that.”

Because of funding reductions, McGee’s role as executive director has evolved. She’s now involved in direct services, such as conducting home asthma assessments. “I have gotten to the point where I am discouraged by local government and its way of managing community-based organizations,” McGee said. “I feel the way community-based organizations are being managed is taking away from the resources available to the people in the Bayview-Hunters Point neighborhood. Had it not been for HERC, our children would not sleep as well.”

According to Rhoda Charles – who formerly led the center’s breast cancer program, and continues to work as a volunteer – HERC has helped dispell myths in the community about cancer. “Women in Bayview-Hunters Point used to think having a mammogram caused cancer,” Charles said. “I had breast cancer myself, but I received some breast cancer education, saw my doctor, and I have been cancer-free for 20 years.”

“We’re seeing a level of trust here that no other organization is able to give them,” McGee said. “They’re calling HERC. That, to me, that’s success. If we are going to be successful, then [the City needs to] learn what it is that really happens when we go into a school setting,” McGee said. “People make rules and regulations downtown, and they don’t know diddysquat about what goes on in the community.”



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Hill to Launch Cross-Country Run

By Lisa Tehrani

This month the Jackson Park Recreation Center will serve as the launching pad for Dr. Dennis Godby's 3,258 mile, 107 day jog across the country. "The Run" is being spear-headed by Godby, with help from other naturopathic doctors, to bring awareness to alarming health trends: 30 percent of Americans are obese; one out of three children born in 2000 will develop diabetes.

Americans' inactive, sugar-laden lifestyles are leading to a decline in the nation's health. According to Surgeon General Richard Carmona, in a 2004 statement, "Because of the increasing rates of obesity, unhealthy eating habits and physical inactivity we may see the first generation of children that will have a shorter life expectancy than their parents."

The Run organizers hope to "educate and empower Americans about natural health care options to prevent disease, find and treat the cause of illness, and revitalize the nation's health." Godby, his sons, Isaiah and Jeremiah, and nephew Jonas Ely, plan to run roughly thirty miles a day on the cross-country trek. They'll stop in ninety locations along the way, ending in Bridgeport, Connecticut in mid-November. According to Godby, the ability to run long distances has as much to do with an individual's mental capacity as their physical condition. He walks for 60 seconds

every 1.5 miles, which allows his body time to recover.

Godby practices naturopathic medicine in Sacramento. He'll turn 55 in August, about a month into the run. Isaiah will celebrate his 21st birthday en route. Jeremiah recently graduated from high school. Godby participated in similar long distance runs in the past, including a solo run from Corvallis, Oregon to Alberta, Canada in 1974. His Central America Emergency Run – which brought attention to the sanctuary movement and U.S. policy in Central America, with Saint Teresa's Church spearheading the cause – began on Potrero Hill and culminated in Washington, D.C. in 1985. A February 1985 *View* article, "Hill Church Takes Lead In Sanctuary Movement" explained the run's origins, although it didn't specifically cover Godby's effort.

Godby's inspiration to run across the country for a second time came from Isaiah, who told him ten years ago that he wanted to run across the U.S. with him. His biggest challenge during the run will be muffling his concerns about his patients and his practice, left behind in Sacramento. "In the eighties I was a full time peace activist; this time there is a lot more on the line," he explained.

The Run's inaugural leg is being organized by San Francisco Natural Medicine's Carl Hangee-

see **RUN** page 26

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Monday CLOSED



LIBRARY NEWS

By Lia Hillman, Potrero Branch Manager

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

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

Library Adult Programs

HOME ENERGY EFFICIENCY. The San Francisco Department of the Environment will outline available programs and answer questions about residential energy issues, including low- and no-cost efficiency measures, saving money on home improvement projects, and what residential energy efficiency mean to the City of San Francisco. July 27, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

POTRERO HILL BOOK CLUB. The Potrero Hill Book Club meets every third Wednesday of the month. *Ballistics: Poems* by Billy Collins is the discussion topic on July 20.

Library Teens Programs

BUTT, BUTTON, BUTTONS. Make yourself a button for your backpack or bulletin board. Create your own images or words, or cut them out from old magazines, which will be provided. This program coincides with Crafty Kids. July 7, 3 to 5 p.m.

YOUR SPACE ... ALL SUMMER LONG! Gaming, crafts, music listening stations, computers and snacks provided. Bring a friend, meet a friend, hang out in our pop-up teen room. (OK to bring your own computers, gaming devices and craft projects.) For more information, contact Dale: djenne@sfpl.org. July 14 and 21, 2 to 4 p.m. and July 8 and 29, 1 to 3 p.m.

JEWELRY MAKING WITH CHELSEE ROBINSON. In this fun, free, hands-on workshop, local designer and entrepreneur Chelsee Robinson will guide you in creating your own beautiful bracelet, necklace, or earrings. Come for the fun, leave with a skill! Materials provided. For ages 12 to 18. Space is limited to 25 participants. July 22, 1 to 2:30 p.m.

KNIT PICKERS. Want to learn how to knit? Already an experienced knitter? Come and join us. Practice supplies provided. For ages nine and up. For more information, contact Dale: djenne@sfpl.org. July 28, 4 to 5:30 p.m.

Library Children's Programs

KOREAN STORY TIME. For families who are interested in learning Korean songs and reading Korean books. For ages birth to five years old. July 10, 3:30 to 4:15 p.m.

BABY RHYME AND PLAY TIME. For infants up to eighteen months old and their caregivers. July 5, 12, 19 and 26, 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. July 5, 12, 19 and 26, 1:15 to 1:45 p.m.

FUN FLICKS. 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. July 8, 6:30 to 7:15 p.m.

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

Potrero Library Campaign

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

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Hill House Inspires Generations of Writers

By Lori Higa

Food and travel writer Gayle Keck recalled the day she and her husband, sustainable investment guru R. Paul Herman, learned that the charming, stucco house they own at 412 Mississippi was once the residence of Frank Herbert, the legendary and prolific science fiction author of *Dune*. “It was a few years ago. Paul looked out the window one afternoon and saw some people standing on the sidewalk in front of our house.” Herman went outside to say hello. The lookie-loos were a couple of *Dune* fans from Washington, D.C. They’d come to the neighborhood to take a gander at, or perhaps make a pilgrimage to, the house where the landmark sci-fi tale was born.

The couple told Keck and Herman that Herbert’s son, Brian, had published a biography about his famous dad – *Dreamer of Dune* – in which several grainy black and white photographs of their home appeared, showing both the exterior and an interior study where *Dune* was created. The D.C. couple had located the property by referring to “tracings of our house that they’d made from a photo in the book,” Keck said. We still weren’t sure, because there was a utility pole depicted in front of the house and some other architectural details

that don’t exist today. The couple promised to send us Brian Herbert’s book when they returned to D.C., as one of them worked at a great D.C. bookstore!”

Keck called the Potrero Hill branch library, and asked if anyone there knew anything about *Dreamer*



of *Dune*. The librarian referred her to Potrero Hill resident and archivist Peter Linenthal. “When we got the book, we still weren’t sure it was the right house, though we thought most of the details fit,” she said. “At this point, I decided to track down Brian via the official *Dune* website, and he emailed me back through his granddaughter.” Herbert confirmed that the Keck-

Herman home was indeed where his father had written *Dune*. “I guess that explains the sandworms in our backyard!” she said.

Keck is proud to own the house where Herbert wrote his epic masterpiece. Perhaps Herbert’s spirit has served as a source of inspiration for her and Herman’s own writings, albeit in different fields. Keck’s passion is food and travel journalism; her articles

have appeared in *VIA*, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Washington Post*, *National Geographic Traveler* and *Afar* among other publications. She won a 2008 Lowell Thomas Award for her travel story, “Pirates of the Mediterranean.”

Herman created his “HIP = (Human Impact + Profit)” concept in 2004 to guide investors towards companies that had positive human, social and environmental impacts. His book, *The HIP Investor: Make Bigger Profits by Building a Better*

see **HOUSE** page 17



Potrero resident R. Paul Herman, top, writer and creator of Human Impact + Profit. Bottom, the 412 Mississippi house where *Dune* was written.



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Van Who?

By Simon Stahl

Van Ghost, a Chicago-based band, played to a small crowd last month at the Connecticut Yankee. The group, which debuted two years ago with its album *Melodies for Lovers*, was formed when concert promoter Michael Harrison Berg decided to return to playing guitar, and assembled a six-piece ensemble. Van Ghost's sound is a blend of Alt-Country, Folk-Rock, Americana, and Southern-Rock, among other genres. They've been compared to bands like OAR, Wilco, Widespread Panic, and Whiskeytown.

Van Ghost features three core members: Berg, on lead guitar and vocals; Jennifer Hartwick, also on vocals; and Rocco Labriola on pedal steel. Last month's performances featured guitarist Grant Tye, drummer Greg Marsh, and bassist Klem Hayes; on *Melodies for Lovers* those instruments were played by Dan

Wean, Cory Healy, and John Cwiok respectively.

Berg dominated the performance, with his driving effects-heavy lead guitar. However, he used this effect sparingly; many of the bands numbers leaned more towards acoustic folk-rock than alternative or hard rock. The pedal steel and vocals – usually Hartwick harmonizing over Berg – gave the band a strong country flavor. The contrast between their voices was appealing on the few songs where they sang separate parts, which also allowed Hartwick to flex her formidable pipes.

Van Ghost is a solid band to listen to while at a favorite bar, like the Connecticut Yankee. They're not worth going out of the way to hear, but unless you really dislike country you'll probably enjoy their music. Their songs tend towards a mishmash of generic styles, with somewhat forgettable melodies that blend together. Fortunately, their music can be streamed for free at vanguardghost.com.

SKATES from page 10

skates, inline skates, rollerblades, ice skates, figure skates, multi-terrain skates, roller shoes, skateboards, and t-shirts. There are even "skating lifestyle" items, such as fitness products, DJ and Hip Hop DVDs, protective gear, and lots of related accessories.

With 20 employees – some filling orders; others in front of computer screens offering customer service – the place hums along, shipping to more than 100 countries worldwide. According to Sloan, her products' popularity are seasonal, with ice skates being more heavily shipped in winter, in-line skates in the spring and roller skates in the fall. "We stand on our own two skates," said Sloan.



VOLUME 10 • JULY 2011

Summer is here and June was a busy month for Rebuild Potrero.

The June 12th Sunday Streets drew thousands of people to Potrero Hill, Dogpatch and the Bayview. Local organizations set up tables to distribute information about our area schools, businesses, and services. Rebuild



photo: Emily Weistein

Potrero had a table at 3rd and 24th Streets to promote the Dream Box Project and ongoing tile painting. Over 50 new tiles, to be placed in a mosaic in the new housing development, were made by the Sunday Street walkers and bikers. **Drew Jenkins**, Rebuild Potrero's Job and Life Skills Specialist, kicked off a young men's group, providing mentorship, structured activities and skill building for 15 young men ages 14-24. Over the summer, the young men will participate in a weekly basketball tournament that includes mandatory life skills workshops before each game. **Uzuri Pease Greene**, the Junior Community Builder, devoted the month to building partnerships with employment and educational programs, successfully connecting 20 residents to job readiness and skills programs, and linking over 10 residents

to summer employment opportunities. Through a partnership with the Bayview YMCA, 20 Potrero children ages 5-12 years are getting their first taste of summer camp, with field trips throughout the Bay Area. On Friday, June 24th, five residents of Potrero Terrace and Annex proudly crossed the stage of the San Francisco HOPE SF Leadership Academy at City Hall. This is the fourth year that the Mayor's Office of Housing and the SF Housing Authority have sponsored this intensive, 10-week course in which residents of HOPE SF sites learn about the real estate development process, civic engagement and community organizing. The graduates complete the program equipped with skills to be engaged leaders in their own communities.

Two upcoming Rebuild Potrero meetings at the NABE, 953 DeHaro St.: **July 7th, Thursday, 6:00 pm: Community Building Group** regular scheduled dinner meeting to update each other on ongoing community building activities and plan the next Rebuild Potrero community event. **July 19th, Tuesday, 6:00 pm, community design meeting** — open to the public and all community members — to discuss the blocks bounded by Missouri, Connecticut, 25th and 26th Streets.

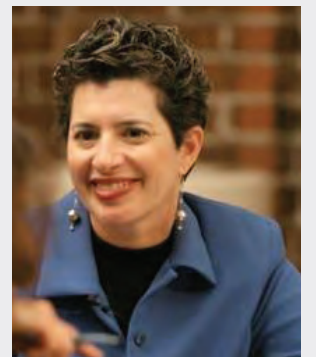
For more information or to join an action team, call 415-806-1429 or email potrero@bridgehousing.com

A MONTHLY UPDATE SPONSORED BY BRIDGE HOUSING

Get a Job

By Mauri Schwartz

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



Q: Everyone says that I should use LinkedIn in my job search. I feel good about the professional profile that I've posted, but I need to ask more of my contacts to connect. Are there any unwritten rules of etiquette about how to do this?

A: I'm so glad you asked this question; it's a big issue for me. How you go about building your network is the key to your success in using LinkedIn. Too many people ignore the necessity for good social behavior when they use this technology. Here are my top three rules:

Never ask someone who isn't a friend to connect as a "friend." Use "classmate" or "colleague," as appropriate. Otherwise use "other" and type in the person's email address.

Never ask a stranger to connect. If you want to introduce yourself, do it in an email or phone

call. Establish a relationship before asking to connect.

Always personalize the request message. Never use the one that LinkedIn provides.

Here are some additional recommendations for using LinkedIn:

Add as many professional connections as possible, especially all former classmates and colleagues.

Join relevant affinity groups. Include alumni groups, as well as those that are related to your targeted industry and/or job function.

Use LinkedIn's Advanced Search feature to identify good networking contacts and potential hiring managers, in addition to learning which of your connections may be able to introduce you to them.

Mauri Schwartz is President / CEO of Career Insiderswww.CareerInsiders.com.

HOUSE from page 16

World, published by John Wiley & Sons, became a top 20 business bestseller in 2010, and was feted at the Potrero Hill branch library earlier this year.

Herbert wrote most of his famous science-fiction novel *Dune* at a roll-top desk in the Mississippi Street home's dining room, according to *Dreamer of Dune*. "In 1960, Herbert, a newspaperman with one novel under his belt and half a dozen more in his head, arrived in San Francisco with his wife and two young sons. They temporarily took up residence in a Mississippi Street rental flat before moving to the house next door," wrote Abigail Johnston, Linenthal's collaborator at the Potrero Hill Archives Project, in a February 2007 *View* article.

"To pay the bills Herbert worked the 4 p.m. to midnight shift as a picture editor at the *San Francisco Examiner*. 'By writing in the mornings, I gave my best energies to myself,' Herbert once explained. 'The Ex got what was left.'"

Dune was originally serialized in *Analog* magazine. "By the time it was published in hardcover in 1965, the Herberts had moved again... to Marin County," Johnston noted. The novel was made into a Hollywood blockbuster in 1984 directed by David Lynch, which, despite its high price tag, was a bust at the box office. Herbert wrote five *Dune* sequels before his death in 1986.

Keck, ever the peripatetic writer, has visited every state except North Dakota, and more than 40 countries. Her favorite trip? A flight from Chicago to San Francisco, when she met her future husband on the plane.

Maureen DeBoer Your Neighbor Bringing Good Neighbors to Potrero Hill



Photograph by Emily Payne

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Festival Presents Jewish-Themed Films

By Jim Van Buskirk

The 31st San Francisco Jewish Film Festival (SFJFF) – the first and largest of its kind – presents the best in independent Jewish cinema, as well as discussion panels, international filmmakers, and special events. The festival takes place July 21 through August 8 at the Castro Theatre and the Jewish Community Center (JCC) in San Francisco, Berkeley Rep’s Roda Theatre, the Palo Alto JCC, and the Rafael Film Center in San Rafael.

The opening night film, *Mabul (The Flood)*, is a dramatic Israeli feature about a family whose balance is disturbed when an autistic boy suddenly returns home. Director Guy Nattiv will attend at the screening, followed by the opening night bash at the Swedish American Hall.

Kirk Douglas will receive the 2011 Freedom of Expression award “not only for his indelible contributions to American cinema, but also for his courageous and bold actions in support of artistic freedom,” according to Peter L. Stein, who is serving his last year as SFJFF’s executive director. The 94-year-old icon broke the Hollywood blacklist in 1958 when he gave credit to blacklisted screenwriter Dalton Trumbo for *Spartacus*, which Douglas starred in and produced.

Jews in Toons: An Uproarious

Evening with Krusty, Kyle and Other Favorites, features classic Jewish-themed episodes of such popular animated series as *The Simpsons*, *Family Guy* and *South*

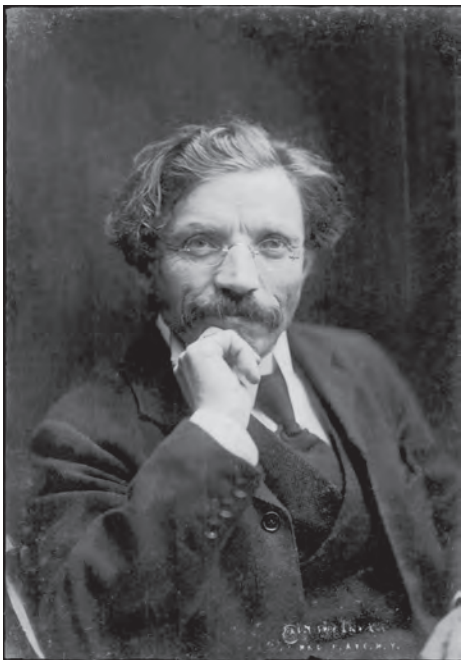


Photograph courtesy of the SFJFF
Mélanie Laurent stars in *The Roundup*.

Park, with an appearance by Emmy Award-winning (*The Simpsons*) producer and writer Mike Reiss. “We are so thrilled to be presenting this night of comedy and the opportunity for collective and cathartic laughter,” remarked program director Jay Rosenblatt.

Several new documentaries feature local connections. Yoav Potash’s award-winning *Crime After Crime* chronicles a years-long struggle by an Orthodox Jewish defense attorney from the East Bay to vindicate a woman wrongfully imprisoned. Berkeley’s Deborah Kaufman – who founded SFJFF in 1980 – and Alan Snitow present their personal essay film *Between Two Worlds*, exploring the fault-lines of contemporary American Jewish identity. Duki Dror’s *Inces-sant Visions* is a revelatory profile of the German-born modernist architect Eric Mendelsohn, whose expressionist vision influenced building styles in Weimar-era Germany, pre-war Palestine, and the Bay Area, where he eventually settled.

Im Himmel Unter der Erde (In Heaven Underground: the Weissensee Jewish Cemetery) is a surprisingly beautiful and utterly absorbing expedition into the headstones, monuments and lush woodlands of Europe’s second largest Jewish cemetery. Despite its location in northeastern Berlin, it survived World War II, only to be damaged by the elements. The cinematography, original music, and use of archival footage contribute to making Britta Wauer’s film a moving journey to a place full of lives. Other documentaries profile the lives of Bobby Fischer, Simone



Photograph courtesy of the SFJFF
Yiddish writer Sholem Aleichem, photographed in 1907.

Weil and Sholem Aleichem.

The raffle du Vel d’Hiv stars in two feature films depicting how Parisian Jews were rounded up by the French police and taken to a bicycling racetrack and stadium in mid-July 1942. After five days of squalid conditions, more than 13,000 detainees were taken to French internment camps, and from there to extermination camps. *La Rafle (The Roundup)* directed by Rose Boche starring Jean Reno, is based on an assemblage of true stories, including that of survivor Joseph Weissman, as it revisits this shameful period in French history.

see **FESTIVAL** page 24

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– Janet J.



KIDS ON THE BLOCK



Izzy Pai, 23 months, basks in the summertime!



Brooke Peters, a denizen of Dogpatch, turned seven on June 24th. Mom and Dad love "The Bunny" very much.



Eddie McCartney, four years old, spends a rainy day at the Exploratorium.



Mason Rabbetz turns two on July 25th. Happy birthday!

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

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Here's how it works. I created a very special program called the 21-day fat loss success sprint...because every year at this time women and men ask me for something they can do to get really fast results for the summer. I'm sure you know by now that there's no "magic bullet" (regardless of what those late night TV weight loss peddlers say), but if you want to look your absolute best this summer season (and make everyone you know crazy with curiosity about what you're doing), then give us a call right now or visit the website.

There's only 10 spots available...and they'll be gone in a heartbeat.

If you've tried everything else and didn't get the results you want, you'll absolutely love how fast and effective the 21-day fat loss success sprint is. Call or visit the website right now while we still have spots available!

Phone: (877)-359-3633

Website: www.SF21DayFatLoss.com

Orientation and Start Date Saturday, July 16th at 9:30am at My Gym, 901 Minnesota Street, SF, CA.

If you want to look and feel better about yourself (who doesn't?), **then this is for you.**

It doesn't matter what your age or current fitness level is...this will work for you. All that matters is that you register right now before all the 10 spots are gone.

It's just 21 days...and it's just \$97 bucks. No further commitment, nothing else to buy, just \$97 dollars...that's it.

Visit this website today to get all the details about this program and register here at:

www.SF21DayFatLoss.com

To your best body,

Kristen Nolan.



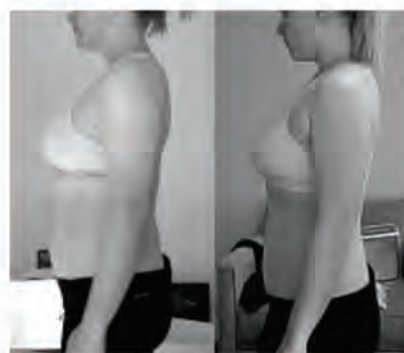
Combining Diet and exercise, Kristin W. from San Francisco lost 13 lbs and 8.5 inches in 30 days. She went from a size 10 to 6.



"I have lost 22.5 lbs and 4 sizes!" Salvador T., San Francisco.



Lost 13.8 lbs.
 "I have more strength and stamina"
 Peter S., San Francisco



Lost 12lbs and 2 sizes.
 Sally W., San Francisco.

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I Luv My Body Fitness: Our Website: www.iluvmybodyfitness.com. Feel free to visit our site to read all about us, see success stories from our clients, visit our blog with lots of helpful fitness tips, and more.

Location: 901 Minnesota Street in San Francisco

Cost: Just \$97 for all 21 days!

Dates: Saturday July 16th to August 6th.

****Just 10 Spots Available. Last Day to Register is Friday July 15th at 12pm. Register at www.SF21DayFatLoss.com**

community CALENDAR

July 2011

Wednesdays

Music: Mental 99 at Madrone Art Bar

Potrero resident and drummer Dawn Richardson, along with guitarist Joe Gore, are Mental 99, a new, instrumental rock duo. The two employ a "live looping" technique, recording passages of music as they perform and then improvising new layers over those passages during their set. Wesley Morgan's junkyard swing opens the evening at 7 p.m. 9 p.m. Free. 500 Divisadero Street. Information: www.swampnoir.com.

Fridays and Saturdays

Children: Yerba Buena's Children's Garden Series

Yerba Buena's Children's Garden Series offers thirty minute performances featuring musicians, acrobats and more for children on Fridays and Saturdays throughout July. Circus Bella dazzles with trapeze rope walking, juggling, contortion and slapstick set to live circus music on July 1 and 2. Pi Clowns perform acrobatics, juggling, mime, dance and beat box on July 8. Chelle! And Friends perform their New Orleans beats; sing along and join a Mardi Gras parade on July 22. Check the schedule for a complete line-up, including August events. Performances at 11 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. Free. Children's Garden Howard @ Fourth Street. Information and schedule: www.ybgf.org.

July 4

Community: Farley's Safe and Sane Fireworks Show

Farley's annual Fourth of July event begins just after dark; the street explodes in a show of lights and colors, accompanied by the music of John Phillips Souza. Spectators welcome; bring your own "safe and sane" fireworks to add to the fun. For kids of all ages. After 8 p.m. Free. 1315 18th Street.

July 8 through August 20

Art: *Light Making Motion*

Electric Works presents *Light Making Motion: Works on Paper and in Light*, a solo show by Elaine Buckholtz. Taking over every square inch of the gallery, the exhibition features video, light-based work and works on paper. Buckholtz' projections and light-bending apparatus change the exhibition space with an otherworldly glow that alters viewers' perceptions. Artists reception: July 8, 6 to 8 p.m. Gallery hours: Tuesday through Friday: 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. 130 Eighth Street. Information: www.sfelectricworks.com.

July 9

Kids: Make It at Museum of Craft and Folk Art

Make your own Korean "bojagi" gift-wrapping that lasts forever. Sew, staple, paste, piece, and attach fabric and paper together, and learn to tie and wrap it as a unique gift that keeps on giving. Ages four years and up. 2 to 4 p.m. \$5. 51 Yerba Buena Lane. Information: mocfa.org.

Family: Norm Jones & Rhythm Child

Recess Urban Recreation presents musician Norm Jones and The Rhythm Child Network, who

on the Unland, an ancient landfill of electronic waste. The castaways stir up what the local unlanders have buried - some of it toxic tragedy, others comic treasure - learning that the prior generation sins and traumas of prior are embedded in their made objects. 8 p.m. Tickets: \$20 General Admission; \$15 CounterPULSE Members. 1310 Mission Street. Information: www.counterpulse.org.

July 12

Theater: *Triangle*

Farley's hosts a one act play commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory

Local Musician Hits High Marks



Potrero Hill resident Ken Berman, a critically acclaimed jazz pianist, has released three CDs, the latest entitled *Looking Forward*. Berman is on the music faculty at the University of California, Berkeley and teaches at Stanford University. For upcoming performances, check his website: www.kenbermanmusic.com

combines group rhythm and soul-stirring music to help promote drumming and creativity for kids. Each child gets a drum and joins in the music making. 11 a.m. Tickets: \$5 for members; \$8 non-members; \$15 member family pack; \$24 non-member family pack. Limited number of tickets available at the door; presale tickets strongly recommended. Recess Urban Recreation, 470 Carolina Street. Information: www.recessurbanrecreation.com.

July 8 through 10

Theatre: *Rare Earth*

CounterPULSE's Summer Special presents *Rare Earth*, a new drama in physical poetry, bringing 16th century forms into a scorched future. A windworn blowhard and an insatiable sailor crash their boat

Fire. Written and performed by Elaine Ocasio, as part of LaborFest. 7 p.m. Free. 1315 18th Street. Information: www.laborfest.net.

July 16

Art: Precita Eyes Mural Walks

Explore the incredible Mission neighborhood murals on a cultural and historical walking tour. Tours launch from the Precita Eyes Mural Arts and Visitors Center each Saturday and Sunday at 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Reservations required; private tours available. \$15 general; \$5 under 17. 2981 - 24th Street at Harrison. Information: www.precitaeyes.org/tours.html.

July 17

Health & Fitness: The Run

Join San Francisco Natural Medi-

cine at the starting line for The Run, a cross-country race promoting public health. The four-month, 90-city journey led by naturopathic doctor Dennis Godby will kick off at Jackson Park with speakers and a performance by Fei Tian Academy of the Arts. Opening events at 9 a.m., run starts at 10 a.m. Jackson Recreation Center, 17th and Arkansas streets. Information: www.therun.org.

July 19

Spoken Word: Stories for the 21st Century

LaborFest Writers presents *Stories for the 21st Century*, an evening of storytelling, solo performance, poetry, song and music featuring Phyllis Holliday, Margaret Cooley, Keith Cooley, Susan Ford, Adele Kearney, Nellie Wong, Jerry Path, and Alice Rogoff. Listen to working class labor stories and songs of the young and aging, from the past to present. What does it mean to fight back with non-violence; what are the stories of hope for the 21st century? Open mic to follow: bring your stories, poetry, song and music. 7 p.m. Free. Farley's 1315 18th Street. Information: www.laborfest.net; suford@earthlink.net; 407.4297.

July 19 through 31

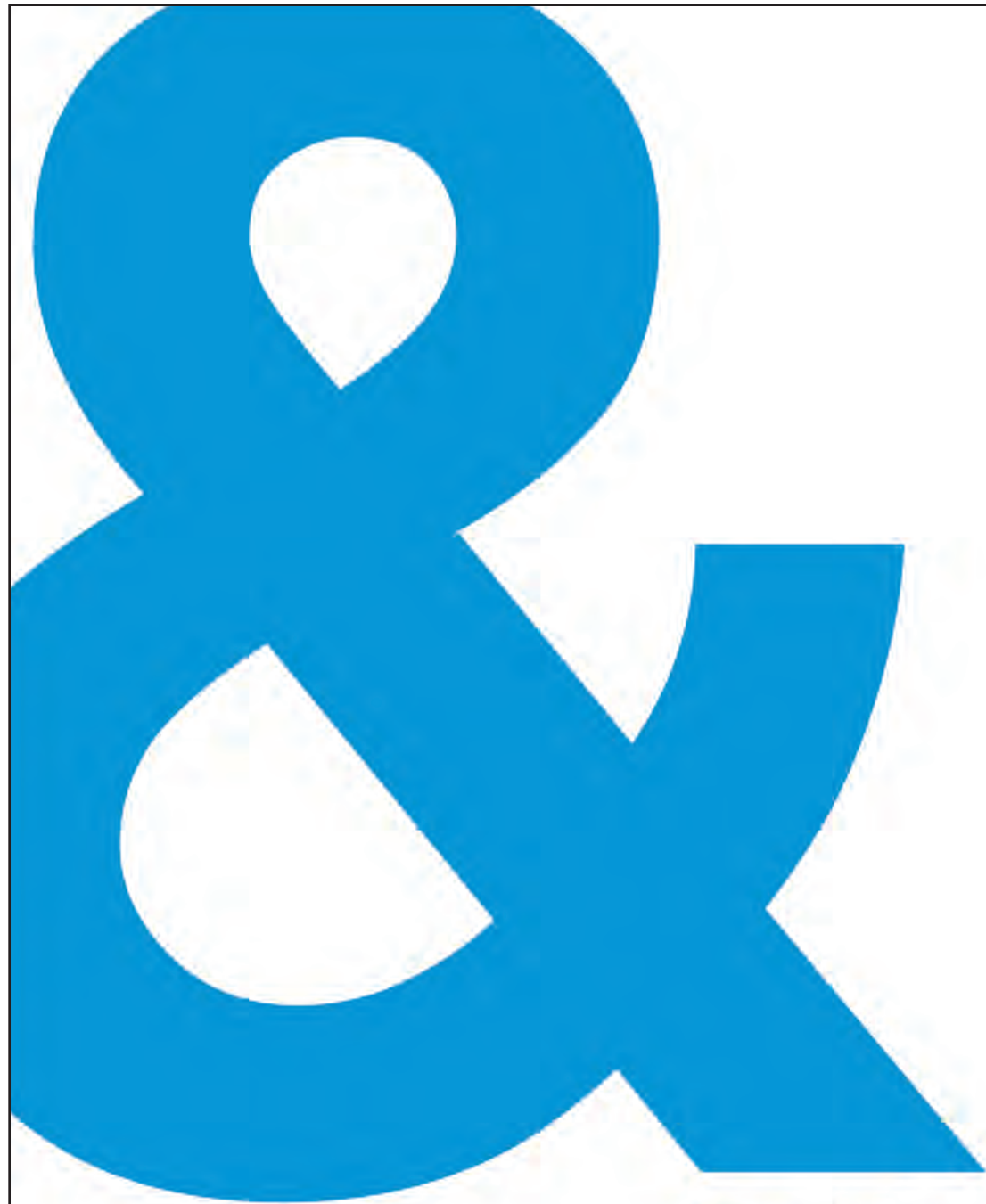
Dance: WestWave Dance Festival at Z Space

WestWave Dance is a choreography showcase providing veteran and newly-established choreographers of all cultures and disciplines, in and beyond the Bay Area, an opportunity to present their work in a professional venue. The season kicks off with the 20th Anniversary Gala Performance on July 19. 6:30 p.m. silent auction, wine tasting and light refreshments; 8 p.m., performance featuring choreographers Annie Rosenthal Parr, Amy Seiwert and Robert Moses. All other performances 8 p.m. See website for schedule: www.westwavedancefestival.org. Tickets: Gala VIP \$50; Gala General Admission \$35; other performance general admission \$25; students and seniors \$18. Z Space, 450 Florida Street. Information: www.zspace.org.

July 23

Spirituality: Meet Himalayan Kriya Master Yogiraj SatGurunath Siddhanath

Himalayan Kriya Master Yogiraj SatGurunath Siddhanath returns to the Bay Area. Listen to the yogiraj discuss life from an enlightened viewpoint and share his mission of earth peace through self peace. 7 to 11 p.m. Free; \$20 donation suggested. St. Gregory of Nyssa Episcopal Church, 500 DeHaro Street. Information: www.hamsa-yoga.org.



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Weekend in Big Sur

By Adam Zolot

Big Sur is enigmatic. Perhaps one of the world’s most attractive stretches of coastline, it’s at once dramatic, stunning and awe-inspiring. Yet to many it’s daunting, rugged and elusive. Many Californians experience Big Sur on scenic drives to/from Southern California, or from a posh retreat at one of the area’s world-class super-spas. But for Southside San Francisco families seeking a weekend escape from big-city life, Big Sur is surprisingly accessible, easily navigable and enjoyable for all ages.

The area is divided into multiple state parks sprawling across the Santa Lucia Mountains, vertically demarcated between Carmel Valley and San Simeon. Highway One is the only way in, out and around Big Sur. Once past Carmel heading south, the terrain is dominated by winding roads and breathtaking oceanfront bluffs.

Highway One has been closed since March, 35 miles south of Big Sur Station. This has cut-off Southern California from Big Sur’s treasures, reducing tourist crowding. Now’s the time to go!

Day One

A three hour drive under the best of circumstances, try to get a jump on 101 traffic by leaving the City by early afternoon. The trip goes a lot smoother if commuters clustering around Silicon Valley are avoided. Arriving in Big Sur around sunset isn’t a bad idea, allowing a family to settle into their accommodations and prepare for a great couple of days.

Day Two

Start out with some treats from

the Big Sur Bakery. Whether you eat-in or take-out, this place delivers with a local vibe. Celebrities can be seen mixing with local artists and weathered backpackers. Don’t miss the citrus morning rolls or the nine-grain iron-skillet pancake. Pack a lunch for a picnic later.

Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park’s McWay Falls is a dramatic natural wonder. The exquisite combination of picturesque beach, jagged cliffs and 80 foot waterfall diving straight into the ocean could burn out a camera’s motor. It’s a short hike from the parking lot to the scenic overlook, which doesn’t have beach access.

Next, head back up the highway

and accentuates the view. Massive waves crash on the beach, but soften just enough for kids to frolic in the gentle wash. A creek cuts across the entry for endless play activities just under a sand dune that’s icing on this cake. Because the cliffs protect the beach, it’s a great place to go when the wind is kicking up everywhere else.

For dinner, Post Ranch Inn’s Sierrita Mar restaurant and Ventana Inn’s restaurant are upscale, stuffy and expensive, but offer dramatic views and local, seasonal food. Nepenthe is another option, and is classic Big Sur, though the menu isn’t terribly innovative.

On the way back to the Bay Area, consider a stop at Andrew Molera State Beach – if the wind is low – or the spectacular Monterey Bay Aquarium.

Big Sur Accommodations

Probably the best way for a family to experience Big Sur, private homes offer flexibility and amenities, including kitchens. VRBO.com has a bounty of amazing homes available for rents ranging from \$125 to \$2,000 a night. Airbnb.com is a great site for cottages and home stays.

Coastal camping in Big Sur is epic. Sites fill-up months in advance; the best locations are in high



Photograph by Greg Vargas

Potrero Hill residents Judah Zolot and Caroline Crisafulli-Vargas enjoy the Big Sur surf.

to the westward turnout about one-quarter mile from the Big Sur Station. This unmarked road sports a sign at the first turn indicating it’s a route to Pfeiffer Beach. Two miles in there’s a parking lot for one of the West Coast’s hidden gems. Cliffs circle the beach and form arches and caves in an island that dominates

Day Three

Check out Deetjen’s Restaurant for a casual breakfast or brunch; their epic Benedict provides a welcome reason to wait for the fog to burn-off.

Work off breakfast by taking a family-friendly hike on the Pfeiffer Falls and Valley View trails. This two and a half mile out-and-back gains just 450 feet in elevation through giant redwoods to a 60 foot high waterfall: a perfect encapsulation of the local topography. Make sure to wear long pants and shirts, as poison oak is rampant in Big Sur.

demand. Call the Big Sur Station to get a lay of the land. The rangers are incredibly helpful in identifying options. Check-out reserveamerica.com well in advance of a trip to book a spot.

Post Ranch Inn and Ventana Inn are the height of luxury, and priced accordingly. Glenn Oaks and Deetjen’s are much more reasonable, and offer comfortable, rustic accommodations. There are a number of smaller hotels, well-reviewed at www.tripadvisor.com.

Adam Zolot is a Dogpatch resident.

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Community Calls for Stop Signs Succeed



Photograph by Aaron Anderson

Nineteenth Street residents Ruby and Simon Bleskacek were instrumental in getting the new stop signs installed at Mississippi and 19th streets. See Crime & Safety Report, next page.

FESTIVAL from page 18

Sarah's Key, adapted from the acclaimed novel by Tatiana de Rosnay, stars Kristin Scott-Thomas as a contemporary Parisian journalist investigating the life of a young girl arrested in the roundup.

A selection of Polish-themed films sheds new light on the country's Jewish history and storytelling. Jan Kidawa-Blonski's drama *Little Rose* is a bold fictional account of the Polish government's harassment and expulsion of Jewish intellectuals in 1967 and 1968. Loosely based on author Pawl Jasienica's autobiography, the film follows young Siren, who is recruited by the secret police to disgrace a "suspected Zionist" professor. Within this psycho-sexual spy thriller is a candid depiction of anti-Semitism under Soviet-era Polish rule.

The festival closes with 100 Voices: A Journey Home, co-written, produced and directed by Danny Gold and Matthew Asner. This rich, contemporary portrait of Polish Jewish culture chronicles the communal odyssey embarked upon by a group of American cantors to Poland, the birthplace of their unique tradition of soulful Judaic ceremonial singing. Part historical exposition, part musical feast, and

part reconciliation tale, the film is a moving and uplifting journey into a living musical tradition. Following the screening, various visiting and local cantors will offer a soulful vocal performance of Jewish ceremonial melodies, accompanied by the Castro's Wurlitzer organ.

For more information and/or tickets: 415.621.0523; www.sfjff.org.

RAIL from page 13

depress the rail to go under 16th Street. A third option developed by the City of San Francisco Planning Department would provide a contingency in case the tunnel structures associated with the first two options would not fit under the I-280 freeway. Based upon a review of Caltrans' as-built drawings for the I-280, it appears that the two underground options will fit. Space is fairly tight, however, and as-built drawings can be inaccurate. So having a back up concept such as the I-280 option is useful."

There's currently no active proposal to remove a portion of the I-280, though it could be considered in the future. "Should other options under consideration for high speed rail become unfeasible," said Saage "the option to remove a portion of the I-280 freeway is being looked at in case of that."



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CLASSIFIED ADS

Community Activities

NO PARKING ON YOUR BLOCK DURING THE WEEKDAYS? North Western Potrero Hill seeking block volunteers to get signatures to extend "X" Residential Parking Permit to the following contiguous blocks: 400-700 Vermont & Kansas, 500-700 Rhode Island, 600-700 DeHaro, 1800-2000 Mariposa, 1500-2100 18th St, 1500-2100 19th St. Contact Kit for more info: kit@kitmorris.com.

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CRIME & SAFETY REPORT

SPONSORED BY MAINLINE SECURITY

By Regina Anavy

Suspects at Large After Robbery

A spokesperson for the University of California San Francisco (UCSF) police reported that on June 15, at approximately 7:50 p.m., a UCSF employee was walking west on 17th Street at Mississippi when he was approached by two males who blocked his path and robbed him of his cellphone, wallet and cash. One of the suspects threatened the victim with a box cutter during the mugging. The victim described his attackers as a black male, approximately 17 years old, 5’8” tall, 120 pounds, with short dark hair; and a Hispanic male, roughly 17 years old, 5’8” tall, 240 pounds, with short hair. Both were wearing dark clothing.

A Potrero Hill resident reported that “We saw a person acting suspiciously around 19th and Connecticut streets last night around 6 p.m. that fit the description of Suspect 1. He was walking around and between cars from the sidewalk to the street and seemed bothered, almost stressed, after several people began to arrive in the area. It could have been nothing at all, but keep an eye out for yourself and others. Stay off your phone.” Another resident

reminded everyone to “call the cops next time if you see something that does not look right.”

Anyone with information regarding this incident is encouraged to contact 553.0123, referencing case number 110-482-584, or the UCSF Police Department at 476.1414. To report suspicious activity: 553.0123.

Arrests After Guns Fired at 20th and Sun Bruno

On May 27th at around 1 a.m., Bayview officers responded to a call about gunfire in the area of 20th and San Bruno. According to a witness, five youths – three males, two females – were parked in a red mini van in front of the San Bruno Avenue community garden. Four other males approached, and an altercation ensued. One male pulled out a gun and shot into the air. After more words were exchanged, the four males left, firing more shots. When officers arrived, they located the suspects in the area of 20th and Vermont streets, along with an additional five individuals, who were apparently part of the group, in a van parked at 20th and San Bruno. All were detained, and were shown to the witnesses at the scene (a “cold show” in police parlance). The shooter was positively identified, though he didn’t have

the gun in his possession. A search revealed a .357 Magnum hidden in the bushes in front of McKinley Square, mid-block between Vermont and San Bruno, about 10 feet from where the positively-identified group was detained.

The suspects, all potential gang members, were transported to Bayview Station, their hands secured in paper bags, where gunshot residue tests were conducted to determine if any of them had recently discharged a firearm. Residue can be deposited on a shooter’s skin, hair, clothing, and most typically, on the hands. During questioning, the suspect who was identified as the shooter admitted that he’d done it. The gun was apparently fired into the air with no intended target. He was booked on numerous weapons violation charges as well as gang enhancements.

Neighborhood Court Up and Running in Bayview

The Bayview Neighborhood Court is off to a good start, with a few seasoned panelist-arbitrators presiding at weekly, two-hour sessions held in the Southeast Community Center, located at Oakdale and Phelps. The panel typically consists of at least one “seasoned” panelist, in addition to two or three newcomers. Observers who have gone through the orientation and training are also present, on their way to becoming panelists themselves.

If offenders are already on parole or probation, they’re referred to criminal court at 850 Bryant. According to Bayview Station Officer Ricky Rodriguez, more people are now being cited for boarding the T-line illegally; these cases will come before the Neighborhood Court.

Bayview Captain Paul Chignell Introduces Himself

District 10 residents met the new Bayview Station Captain on June 7, at an event held at the Bayview Opera House, located at Third and Newcomb. Paul Chignell, who formerly served as captain of the Ingleside and Taraval stations, told the crowd, “This isn’t just about the captain. I may set the tone, but the viability of the station in this district is the community and the police working together to prevent crime and solve problems. In particular, we need to work with young people, give them positive activities, so they don’t go down the wrong track.” Chignell would like to rotate Bayview community/police meetings around the district – he’s looking for an appropriate venue on Potrero Hill – and intends to regularly dispatch Bayview Station personnel to neighborhood meetings. “Whatever social event you have, please let us know.”

Police Chief Greg Suhr, who attended the event, thanked the community for “a couple of relatively safe years.” As for Chignell, Suhr said, “He has been everywhere in the department, and I “handpicked” him for Bayview because of his work



Photograph by Regina Anavy
Bayview Station Captain Paul Chignell

with communities wherever he’s been. He’ll be a great fit!”

Hill Residents Happy with New Stop Signs

Residents near the corner of 19th and Mississippi streets have secured the stop signs they’ve been requesting, after community activists circulated a petition. The new signs make the intersection a four-way stop, surprising some drivers who still cruise past the sign as they come down the hill on 19th. The intersection at Arkansas at 17th Street also has a four-way stop. “I wish they’d put one at 16th and Connecticut, or anywhere along that stretch of 16th, where pedestrians have to constantly dash across the street, dodging speeding cars,” said a Hill resident. “I asked the City for one years ago, and they said ‘no’ but didn’t really give any reason for denying the request. I just don’t have the time to petition in that area and do all that you have to do to get it to happen.”

Running Gunman Alarms Resident


Twentieth and Mississippi streets resident Bob Kimball reported that last month, “At about 6:30 p.m. today, our dog really started barking. We went to see what was going on and saw a black male teenager in white tee shirt and black jeans, holding a gun in his right hand, run past our house and jump into a waiting double-parked black Dodge van with an automatic passenger side door. A middle-aged black male was driving. They left very fast, and we couldn’t get a license plate number. Hopefully no one nearby has been burglarized or robbed.”

Police Department Contacts

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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 Williams Street. Enter through the Newhall Street door. Next meeting: July 5th, 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 Group is a communication and discussion group regarding events and activities, clean up days, improvement and beautification, and other concerns, such as crime in the neighborhood. Next meeting: July 13, 2011, location TBD, 693 Vermont Street. Board meetings open to the public. 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.potreroboosters.org or email president@potreroboosters.org. Next meeting: July 26. See www.PotreroBoosters.org for more information.

Potrero Hill Association of Merchants & Businesses meets the second Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. at Goat Hill Pizza, corner of Connecticut and 18th streets. Visit www.potrerohill.biz or call 341.8949. Next meeting: July 12th, 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: July 5th, 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, Tuesday July 12th, 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the library of Starr King Elementary School, 1215 Carolina Street. The Starr King Open Space Volunteer Work Party is held on the 3rd Saturday of each month, excluding holidays. Next Volunteer Work Party: July 16th, 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).

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SHORT CUTS from page 3

be tethered to 23,715 of the 38,559 trees now under the City’s jurisdiction, pruning, tending them when they’re sick or injured, and paying for sidewalk repair caused by root damage. In 2005 then-Mayor **Gavin Newsom** directed the City to plant 25,000 trees over five years to help beautify the streetscape, remove air pollutants and reduce storm water entering the sewer system. But that program didn’t include money for long-term maintenance. Street tree privatization would be phased-in over at least seven years. Among the dozens of streets that would be affected are portions of Vermont and Folsom streets. If property owners are going to be responsible for public trees, perhaps they should be allowed to plant new, ecologically appropriate, varieties, such as citrus...

Corrections

We incorrectly identified **Denise Kessler**, a long-time *View* contributor, in last month’s issue (“Library Art Show Brings Familiar Faces”). Sorry, Denise.

MEDIATION from page 7

a half hours, the parties left with a written agreement: the parents would desist posting about the nanny on the Internet; the nanny agreed not to pursue legal action. Mediators undergo a 40-hour training process, which can be valuable as part of other career tracks. “Especially in this economic environment, a lot of employers really like to hire those with conflict resolution skills under their belt, it is a highly desired skill set,” said executive director Darlene Weide. Community Boards is the longest-running community mediation program in the country. “People were really thinking about how they can empower themselves in the 70’s, mediation is a form of liberation,” said Kahn. “The nonprofit started out with satellite offices in neighborhoods all over the City. The small offices and its mediators were individual to the neighborhood. The idea is to empower the community and allow citizens to solve their own disputes and not pay court fees; people can really do it themselves.”

RUN from page 15

Bauer, and Frank Gilson of Potrero Chiropractors and Acupuncture. Hangee-Bauer, a Hill resident, is the American Association of Naturopathic Physicians’ president, and a national leader in naturopathic medicine. He’s served as a mentor to Godby over the years. The Run will cost more than \$250,000; in an effort to cover expenses individuals are being asked to pledge a penny a mile, equating

to just \$32.50 a piece. Corporate sponsors include Nordic Naturals and Professional Formulas. The kick-off event at Jackson Park will feature Herb Schultz, regional director of Health and Human Services Region IX, David Schleich, president of the National College of Naturopathic Medicine, as well as a performance by the Fei Tian Academy of the Arts and other guests. *The Run starts at 9 a.m. on July 1 at Jackson Park. Visit therun.org for more information.*

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