



August 2011

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Dirt on Southside Gardens Uncovered

By Sasha Lekach

A study of soil in vegetable gardens found that Potrero Hill may be filled with not-so-safe dirt. Jennifer Gorospe, working on her master's thesis at San Jose State University's Environmental Studies Department, tested 20 Hill gardens, along with plots in four other neighborhoods, including Bayview, the Mission and Noe Valley.

Gorospe sampled soil in community, school and – primarily – backyard gardens, recruiting participants through a series of meetings held at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House. “I did this study because I wanted to clean up backyards, but first I had to find out what was in people's backyards,” she explained. “I had fun taking pictures, walking around and checking out gardens.” According to Gorospe, few studies have looked at vegetable garden soil composition; analyses have mostly focused on the presence of lead in public spaces. Gorospe's research was oriented toward private property, and tested for a suite of metals.

Gorospe found that raised bed gardens contained fewer metals than in-ground gardens; and older properties tended to have higher amounts of lead in backyard gardens than newer places. Most shocking for Hill gardeners was Gorospe's determination that the 94107 zip code area was more likely to have unsafe levels of lead and other metals compared to the other eastside neighborhoods tested. She didn't examine gardens west of Noe Valley or north of South-of-Market. “I'm not surprised to find what I found; I knew gardens would have high lead levels,” she said. “In some cases residents shouldn't be gardening.”

Among the 20 gardens included in Gorospe's study, Potrero Hill had the highest average amounts of cadmium, cobalt, lead and nickel, and the second highest average amount of arsenic. Many Hill gardens had potentially hazardous levels of cadmium and arsenic. In contrast, Bayview gardens – adjacent to newer homes than Potrero

Hill – had lower metal levels, which posed no health risks. Bayview homes were typically built in the 1940s, with an average age of 65 years. Most Potrero Hill, Noe Valley and Mission houses were built more than 100 years ago, with Hill homes averaging 88 years. Gorospe thought that the differences in lead contamination could be related to the greater length of time in which the land was exposed to lead paint.

Gorospe also found Potrero Hill backyards to be typically quite steep and rocky, with little naturally occurring soil, inducing people to bring in dirt. “People want to garden, but there's not a lot of flat space,” she said. The rocky soil is dominated by serpentine, which

see **SOIL** page 5

August is Back to School Month



Photograph by Stacey Bartlett

Sadie Crawford and Annabel Bartlett on their first day of kindergarten at Daniel Webster Elementary School last year. Public schools start on August 15th. See pages 4 through 7 for more back to school topics.

Southside Demographics Signify Changing Times

Population Becoming Older, Wealthier, More Diverse, and Less African-American

By Melissa Mutiara Pandika

The past decade saw dynamic demographic change and development in Southside San Francisco, according to the 2010 U.S. Census. The recently released data depict a Southside in transition, with residences and businesses sprouting up in areas once occupied by factories, and a growing population that's older, wealthier, and more racially diverse.

The Southside experienced significantly more growth than the City as a whole. While San Francisco's population rose by a meager 3.7 percent since 2000, the population in the City's southern sector – in this case defined as the swath of land south of Market Street, Portola Avenue, and Sloat Street – increased by 10.5 percent, from 334,562 to 369,853 individuals. Potrero Hill's population swelled from 10,542 to 12,111 people, a nearly 15 percent increase, while the population in fledgling Mission Bay skyrocketed more than tenfold, from 676 to 9,083 people.

Similarly, while the number of households – single family homes, apartments, or single rooms – and

families – a homeowner or renter and one or more other people related by birth, marriage, or adoption – grew modestly citywide, this population rose considerably in the Southside. San Francisco saw a five percent increase in its number of households and families since 2000. Southside experienced a 16 percent jump in households, and a 10 percent rise in the number of family households. Family households continue to make up a greater proportion of Southside homes than in the rest of the City, accounting for more than 51 percent of households, compared to 44 percent of households in San Francisco. However, as is true citywide, the number of people below 19 years old living Southside has remained stagnant.

Hans Johnson, Ph.D., the Public Policy Institute of California's director of research, attributes Southside's growing population, but flat child population, to the construction of high-cost housing units, comprised mostly of apartments and condominium developments, particularly in the Mission Bay and South Beach neighborhoods. “The type of housing was not particularly affordable, not

housing most families would find attractive, and certainly the marketing was geared towards professionals,” said Johnson.

On the other hand, the number of people older than 19 years rose significantly in Southside, echoing the trend of an aging population seen throughout the United States. In the southern sector, the 50 to 64 year old Baby Boomer generation witnessed the greatest growth, surging nearly 40 percent since 2000.

Shifts in racial demographics are further transforming Southside. The area's African-American population is one-fifth smaller than it was a decade ago, reflecting an escalating citywide exodus that's been underway for several decades. In 2000, African-Americans made up 11 percent of Southside's population; today Blacks are just eight percent. The shift is especially evident in Bayview-Hunters Point, whose once thriving African-American population dropped by nearly a third. Johnson attributes the trend, once again, to the City's high housing and living costs. “Even

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PUBLISHER'S VIEW

Food

By Steven J. Moss

San Francisco is a sensual City, dedicated, in large measure, to the pleasures of the flesh. But we like our indulgences to be marinated in politics. To the Left Coast way of thinking, nothing is sinful so long as it's done with an eye toward some greater good. Through the final quarter of the last century, techno-dancing to music, having gay or straight sex and taking drugs were acts of liberation, from the salary man-military industrial complex-bigoted-Judeo-Christian shackles of our fore parents. Doing it for the cause was reason enough to frack with our own, and others, minds and bodies. Good times, even if, in the end, change tended to blow away in the wind.

Today our sin of choice is glut-tony. We search out the choicest, most local, chemically-free and best tasting bites to swallow as if by so doing we'll create nirvana. And, this time, maybe we will. Unlike civil rights or environmental justice, the food movement splendidly, if perhaps accidentally, marries ideology with economics in a way that could alter our ecological and social systems. Hipsters, back-to-earthers, upper-income families, and the rich are putting their money where their mouth is. By buying handmade products grown close to home with earth-friendly practices, we're helping to create back-to-the-future enterprises that are more financially and environmentally sustainable than the current dominant food industry.

The emerging locavore food economy is fueled by the Bay Area's substantial wealth, and, in San Francisco, 20- and 30-something's willingness to spend every dime of their Zynga paycheck on slow-cooked organic eggs garnished with backyard spices tended by a rock star chef. As with early solar adopters, these gourmet pioneers are helping to drive costs down, increasing access for the less well heeled. It's economics 101: rising demand is steadily

drawing in more suppliers, reducing prices. However, while economies of scale may lower the price for a box of Annie's organic crackers, and consumer preferences has prompted Kellogg's to offer gluten-free rice crispies, there's a limit to how low hand-crafted foods can, or should, go. Taco Bell will always be cheaper than Tacolicious. Our income divide is mirrored by a food divide, in which poor children subsist on Dorritos and sodas, while their better-off peers dine on free range chicken and organic juice.

The irony, of course, is that what's being demanded today is precisely what - 40 acres and a mule - farmers used to produce less than one hundred years ago. Beef from cows grown in small herds, slaughtered by farmers who know each of their animal's names. Homemade dishes based on slow food recipes handed down over generations. Today's concoctions are more improvised and cross-cultural - Vietnamese flavors meet American hamburgers - made possible, in part, by the sex, drugs, and rock and roll civil rights liberation ushered in century last. But, fundamentally, they're based on mom - today perhaps in the guise of a gay African-American - whipping up something delicious from stuff raised within a long walk of a well-loved kitchen.

And that, in the end, is the brilliance of the food movement. In a way that far exceeds innovation in our energy markets, it has the potential to decompose our existing, capital-intensive, labor-loathing, and environmentally destructive food industrial complex into something much more friendly. It's at once radical and conservative, fighting one kind of progress - industrialization - with another - sophisticated, hand-crafted, production. We're lucky that eating what now tastes good to us is also great for our world.

A version of this article previously aired on KQED-Radio's Perspective series.

View Intern Heads Home



Photograph by Paul McDonald

View intern Zita Dong holds an Emmy Award she encountered while meeting a neighboring business in the American Industrial Center. The Hong Kong Baptist University student helped the newspaper and its office mate, San Francisco Community Power, for six weeks this summer on a variety of projects. Thanks, Zita.



Letters to the Editor

Gratitude

Editor,

I want to thank Regina Anavy for her excellent coverage and reports in her "Crime and Safety" column. I have been reading her reports since she began the series, and have found them to be very informative. And they have helped me to avoid areas on the Hill where crimes are being committed.

I want to thank Sasha Lekach and Tim Henry for their report on the Star King Open Space ("Starr King Open Space Elects New Board," July issue). In particular, this is the first time I am aware of that the *Potrero View* has included information on the 2006 embezzlement of the Board's \$110,000 in funds allegedly by the former SKOS secretary named in the *View*. It seems to me that the San Francisco District Attorney Office is dragging its feet in prosecuting the alleged individual who embezzled the funds.

David D. Stokley
Carolina Street

new stop signs at 19th and Mississippi streets. As 34-year residents of Mississippi Street, we can remember when there were no stop signs at all at the intersection; that was fun! Then came the signs on Mississippi, and now the signs on 19th. Progress happens when enough people care.

Carol Dondrea
Donald Henry
Mississippi Street

PLUS Program

Editor,

Thank you for your thorough and well-written article about the University of California, San Francisco's Pediatric Leadership for the Underserved program ("San Francisco General Hospital Trains Doctors to Become Community Leaders," July issue). I want to note that in addition to Doctors Tayama and Zusman, Kajal Khanna, MD, JD, was a key contributor and leader on the project that created the documentary film exploring the impact of community violence on youth.

Anda K. Kuo, MD
Director, Pediatric Leadership for the Underserved
University of California, San Francisco

Stop Signs

Editor,

Many thanks to Ruby and Simon Bieskacek and all the others who were instrumental in getting the



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Recession

In another indication that Dogpatch has grown-up, the **Potrero Hill Association of Merchants and Businesses** – an unwieldy moniker at best – has changed its name to the **Potrero Dogpatch Merchant's Association**...An uptick in demand for corporate team-building services – and private parking garages – suggests that the Great Recession may be ending, at least in San Francisco. Dogpatch-based **Hands on Gourmet** and San Francisco Garage Company report increasing demand for what they sell, most likely due to the steady import of well-paid workers at Twitter, **Zynga**, and other high-technology companies. While the trend may not be much solace to the unemployed, it bodes well for City tax revenues next year... Not everyone is on the rebound, though. **Big Think Studios** will be leaving its perch on 18th Street, laid low by sluggish demand for the nonprofit communications material the graphics firm specializes in. Both the *View* and **Jackson Liles Architecture** took a hard look at the well-located space before passing it up as unaffordable... Last month Michael Bauer gave the new incarnation of **Piccino** a glowing three stars. With **Poquito**, **Papito** and **Piccino**, to mind a few p's, among others, in the neighborhood, why not keep it local for dinner tonight?... **St. Teresa of Avila Church's** three buildings, as well as the **American College of Traditional Chinese Medicine** Connecticut Street campus – property

owned by the church – are getting fresh paint.

Busted Buses

The **Potrero Booster Neighborhood Association** has filed a complaint with the **San Francisco Planning Department** against the **Academy of Art University**, for parking their fleet of black buses at their 121 Wisconsin Street lot. The Academy has used the space to house its buses for the past several years, in violation of the area's urban mixed use zoning designation. The parking site should be identified in the Academy's *Institutional Master Plan* or *Draft Environmental Impact Report*. However, it's rumored that the Academy may not have produced these legally required documents. Is this supposed to be performance art?

Supervise This!

More than an eighth of the way into her four-year term, District 10 Board of Supervisor **Malia Cohen's** policy priorities are beginning to emerge. In June Cohen proposed that San Francisco become the first California municipality to require crisis pregnancy centers to prominently disclose whether they're actually anti-abortion facilities, which don't offer comprehensive health care. According to NARAL

Pro-Choice California, the legislation is needed because the facilities give the impression that they offer women facing unplanned pregnancies a full range of medical services and counseling, though many of the clinics try to talk patients out of terminating their pregnancies, and don't provide any care or referrals beyond limited pre- and postnatal services. Similar laws have been struck down by courts in Baltimore and New York as being contrary to free speech. Last month the supervisor proposed a non-binding resolution to express concern over U.S. Airways' treatment of Deshon Marman, a 20-year old San Franciscan and African-American college football player who was arrested for trespassing, battery and resisting arrest aboard a U.S. Airways flight for his alleged refusal to pull up his saggy pants. Marman's attorney claimed his client had been unfairly stereotyped by the airline as a thug, and accused the carrier of racial discrimination. No charges were ultimately filed. "It's not a saggy-pants resolution," Cohen is reported as saying in the *San Francisco Chronicle*. "It's a very serious matter." Perhaps civil rights are high on the supervisor's agenda, though attending to the supporters who put her in office – which prominently included women's advocacy groups

– may also be on her mind.

Trash

Speaking of politics, former District 10 Board of Supervisors candidate **Tony Kelly** believes **Recology** is doing everything it can to derail a ballot initiative that could upend the garbage company's monopoly. According to the *San Francisco Examiner*, Kelly accused Recology of retaining two signature-gathering firms to block him from hiring those companies for his own petition-signing effort. He also suspects that Recology agents offered to buy signed petitions from the signature gatherers he did hire. "It's more dirty tricks and sleaze than anything else," Kelly said. Nonetheless, the initiative appears to have secured sufficient signatures to qualify for the June 2012 ballot. Recology spokesman Sam Singer dismissed Kelly's suggestions that his client interfered with signature collection. "These guys are full of conspiracies," Singer said. The initiative's main financial backer, San Francisco Bay Railroad president and chief executive officer **David Gavrich**, who operates the rail transport line and Waste Solutions Group, contributed \$20,000 to the campaign.

Magic

Jurors deliberated less than two hours before finding 41-year-old Eric Meoli not guilty of one mis-

see **SHORT CUTS** page 7

McKINLEY PARK BY SIMON STAHL



Webster’s Principal Dedicated to Children

By Linda Chang

Over the past several years Daniel Webster Elementary School has come to exemplify how a group of determined parents – initially organized under the Potrero Residents Education Fund (PreFund) – can turn around an educational institution that had been on the verge of closing. Today, the campus sports new exterior paint; a large mural; and a full slate of enrichment programs, including a preschool



Principal Machado

that feeds kindergarteners into Webster.

Webster is led by Moraima Machado, whose personality doesn’t match the booming-voiced principal featured in movies and television. There’s nothing strident about Machado; she’s soft-spoken, and walks with a quick, delicate gait. She could almost be characterized as shy, maybe even a wallflower. But get her talking about education and her firm commitment to children shines through.

Machado has been Webster’s principal since 2006. She previously spent seven years as a special education teacher in San Francisco, before embarking on a career as an administrator. She received her administrative credentials from the University of California, Berkeley, and worked as an instructional coach before becoming a principal.

A native of Caracas, Venezuela, Machado started her professional path as a teacher, and then trained as a lawyer, working on behalf of children’s rights for a short time. She returned to education after realizing that it was her passion, and allowed her to advocate for children as much as any attorney.

Machado moved to the Bay Area when she was in her early thirties, having married someone with roots in the region. She began teaching in San Francisco’s Spanish bilingual classrooms, even while she was developing her own capacity for English. The experience gave her a deep understanding of how bilingual education influences a student’s learning process and their connections to the world around them, and underlies her support for

Webster’s Spanish Immersion program. Machado’s own two children are enrolled at Webster.

According to Machado, students in Venezuela and the United States are mostly similar: curious, eager to learn, needing love, encouragement, and multiple engagement pathways to maximize their potential. Venezuela provides free education through university, as well as some professional training. Machado feels that she was lucky, having opportunities to study that many Americans don’t get. But the scale of resources in the two countries is vastly different. American elementary schools have their own libraries, while Venezuelan schoolchildren have to rely on a single, centralized facility.

There’s greater emphasis on cooperation and collaboration in Venezuela, in contrast to the American focus on individualism. Venezuela has no standardized testing. Students are provided essay books, and asked to respond to high-level thinking questions beginning

as early as second grade. Answers are given in essay form, as opposed to multiple-choice tests. Venezuelan students engage in more projects in which comprehension has to be demonstrated through research and large-scale representation, as a way of encouraging literacy. According to Machado, research provides students an opportunity to formulate questions and give discipline to their curiosity.

Machado cites Linda Darling-Hammond as a leading thinker she follows on educational reform. According to Darling-Hammond, standards and testing are at odds with the whole child philosophy – which seeks to provide more three-dimensional educational support and assessment – but there’s no consensus on how to balance the two approaches. Machado doesn’t believe in silver bullets, favoring the careful building of everyday steps. The immediacy of a principal’s job requires addressing daily emergencies, and not getting lost in sweeping theories of change which are frequently context dependent.

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Kindergartners Ready for Mandarin Immersion at Starr King Elementary

By Bailey deBruynkops

Many of the tykes entering one of Starr King Elementary School’s four kindergarten classes this month eased into their new scholastic careers by attending organized playtimes at various Potrero Hill parks. In July at Potrero Del Sol Park, five-year old Kevin was scampering about, having just returned from soccer camp. Kevin’s older sister will be entering fourth grade at Starr King; he’s excited to have homework of his very own. Like his sister, Kevin has a spot in the school’s Mandarin Immersion program.

According to Kevin’s mom, Lonnie Way, having an older sibling in the same school makes things easier. “There are still anxieties, but they’re different than they were with my daughter. When she entered the program, one day she came home and said, ‘Mom, they speak English in Lily’s class! What’s that about?’ But kids are so adaptable,” she said.

“Usually about half of our kindergartners already have siblings at Starr King,” said staff member Christina Quiroz. “Our whole community, Spanish, Mandarin, general ed and special ed, take recess and lunch together. Some kids

are tri-lingual, and one thing our school has always led to promote is diversity.”

Starr King draws families from all over San Francisco, who are attracted by the school’s language programs and cultural diversity. “For parents of incoming kindergartners with Mandarin Immersion intent, the choices are few, magnet and private schools being a couple of the other options,” said Quiroz. New kindergartners entering immersion programs have unique challenges; their teachers speak a language that may be completely foreign to them. “Chinese teachers are very traditional, there are less and less U.S.-born Chinese that are fluent enough to have the credentials to teach a program like this,” said Way.

Alex, another Potrero Del Sol playtime participant, is also entering the Mandarin Immersion program. He’s most excited about being in school with his big brother, Nicholas, also in Mandarin. “When Nicholas started, he started a few days late, so there was no easing into it and he didn’t know the language. Now we know the kids and the teachers and know what we’re getting into with Alex, and it makes me feel a lot more comfortable,” said Alex’s mom, Mary.


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Local Resident Connects Students, Tutors

By Jim Van Buskirk

Tutorpedia Foundation offers free educational services to students from low-income families and underperforming schools. The nonprofit is one of a number of Bay Area Supplemental Educational Service providers – funded by Title I of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act – that

Inc., a related for-profit enterprise, caters to families who can afford extra, individual attention to improve their children's education.

Both Tutorpedias help kindergarten through high school students improve their academic performance, and encourage lifelong learning. In addition to tutoring in all subject areas and ability levels, Tutorpedia

University with a Bachelor of Arts in human biology, taught for a couple of years – including at Sacred Heart Cathedral Preparatory – and then obtained a master of arts in teaching secondary education and science from Brown University.

Linden founded Tutorpedia in 2005 as a way to connect students with tutors. According to tutorpedia.com, “I found plenty of tutors, and plenty of students who needed and wanted tutoring, but not a very effective way of connecting the two. I hoped Tutorpedia would bridge this disparity in access by providing one resource where students could find exceptional tutors to meet any academic need they faced.” Linden initially operated Tutorpedia from his home; he now shares Rhode Island Street offices with SPARK, a nonprofit which facilitates apprenticeships for youth in underserved communities across the United States. Tutorpedia Foundation was established in 2009, after David Taus joined the company as its director of operations and education.

According to Linden, Tutorpedia's future is bright. “Tutorpedia tutored over 200 students this year, and next year we hope to tutor close to 300 students in the SF Bay Area, with specific schools in Potrero: Daniel Webster, ISA, and Live Oak.” Tutorpedia employs more than 60 tutors – including graduate students, recent graduates, and retired teachers – who have worked with in excess of 800 students in more than 110

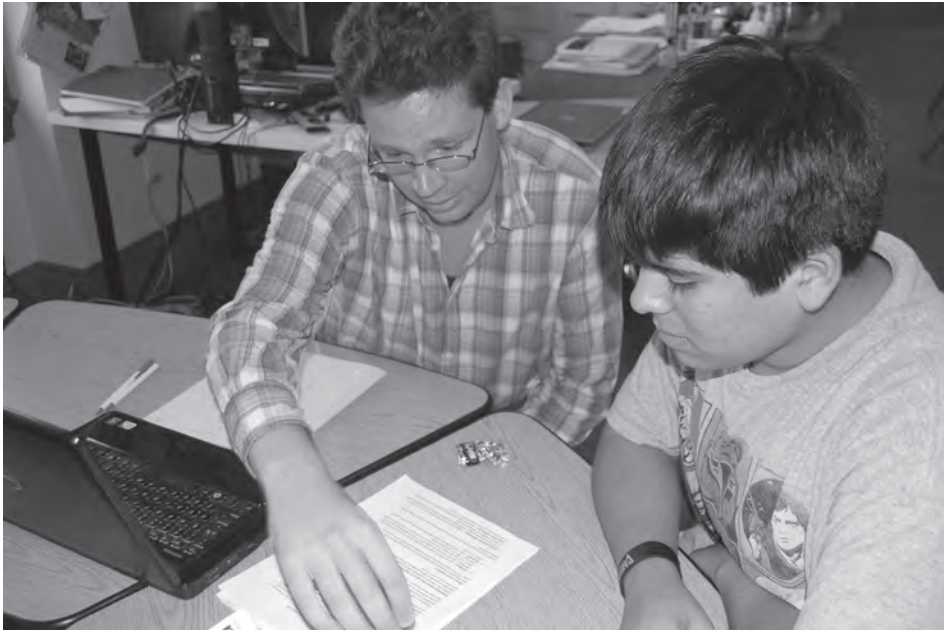
SOIL from front page

might influence metal levels.

Gorospe, a longtime gardener, hasn't decided how best to continue her project. “I have no grand plans, though I would like to get help to clean soil,” she said. She's inclined to bring study participants together to talk about what they can do to keep soil safe, but hasn't detected much interest in this type of gathering. “But residents who have high levels of metals, this was big news (for them) and they had to take action,” she said. Gorospe is interested in bioremediation: using plants or mushrooms to clean soil or water. Some plants absorb metals and help rid toxins. “I'm really interested in do-it-yourself home bioremediation stuff and what someone without a science background can do to clean up their backyards,” she said.

In the meantime, the Bayview resident – who tested her own garden, and was content with its metal levels – is finishing her thesis and adding more to what she's posted on her website, which launched in June with funding from the California Environmental Protection Agency's Environmental Justice Small Grants program. Gorospe is concerned that there are no regulations in place for safe vegetable gardens, and would like to see more accessible guidelines for the common gardener.

For more information and study details: [https://sites/google.com/site/healthygardeners](https://sites.google.com/site/healthygardeners) or email sfGardeners@gmail.com.



Photograph by Seth Linden

Tutor Frans Roukes working with Freddy Toscano, a ninth grade scholarship student, at Sacred Heart Preparatory in Atherton.

provides one-on-one tutoring. NCLB requires schools that don't meet met academic performance standards, as measured by standardized tests, for two straight years to contract for outside tutoring services, to be offered at no cost to students and their families. In addition, Tutorpedia,

offers personalized preparation for standardized high school, subject, and college admission tests.

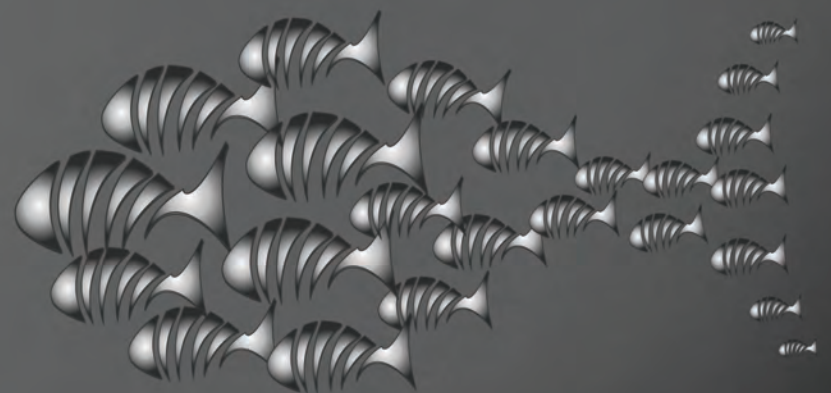
Missouri Street resident Seth Linden, 32, an outgoing young man with a neatly cropped blonde beard, is the company's founding director. Linden graduated from Stanford

see TUTORPEDIA page 6

Back to Skool Restaurant

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Fei Tian Academy Offers Arts and Academic Programs

By Linda Chang

Opened last year in Potrero Hill, Fei Tian Academy of California offers six through 12th grade academic instruction coupled with intensive training in traditional Chinese arts. The school is the second institution in what's intended to become a system of independent secondary schools. Each Fei Tian school will integrate a focus on Chinese arts with additional pedagogical approaches of their own choosing. For Fei Tian California, academic excellence and character education are the additional pillars of the school's curriculum.

According to Academy trustee Sherry Zhang, she and other co-founders were inspired to start the school after seeing a performance by Shen Yun Performing Arts in 2007. They visited the recently established Fei Tian Academy in New York, whose students were feeding into the performing company. "We were impressed with the students' high artistic achievements, as well as their discipline and endurance," Zhang said. Not only did the students excel in the arts, the Academy was graduating top-notch students in academics, who posted high scores on the New York Regents exams.

A native of China, Zhang was a chemistry post-doc and researcher at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory before starting a high-technology company in Silicon Valley. Her parents were educators; she was drawn to building something meaningful in the field. Fei Tian New York's waiting list of almost 400 students demonstrated that there was high demand for what the Academy was offering.

Fei Tian students begin studying for the SAT and ACT tests as early as the eighth grade. Thirty percent of the Academy's California students scored in the top one percent in the latest round of ACT testing, with all students scoring above national averages. Students who need it receive extra tutoring and support.

Families from as far as San Ramon and the Peninsula send their children to the school. Some families live even further afield, in different states or in China; their



Fei Tian Academy students learning calligraphy.

Photograph courtesy of Fei Tian

children board in nearby dormitories. One parent relocated from Seattle to enable her daughter to study Chinese classical dance while in middle school.

With the rise of China's significance in the world economy, Zhang sees a need to offer an educational experience that's more holistic than common pedagogy. Fei Tian's approach is to incorporate the wisdom gleaned from China's 5,000 year history through artistic practices that conveys important cultural values, such as honesty, tolerance, respect, and benevolence. "Many ideas and expressions in Chinese culture and language are tied together," she asserted. "Experiencing this connectedness is something that has gone missing in education, even in China."

The Academy is a candidate for accreditation by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). Meanwhile, Fei Tian students have been performing at many community and performing

arts venues throughout the City. They also participated in the 2011 San Francisco Young at Art Competition, and won all three first, second, and third place finishes for the Middle School Short Story writing contest.

TUTORPEDIA from page 5

Bay Area schools. Linden locates prospective tutors in much the same way he attracts potential students, through "word of mouth." In addition to speaking with teachers, principals and other educators, Linden offers talks, presents workshops, and donates free tutoring hours to school auctions to increase awareness of his company's services.

"...every kid could use a tutor, regardless of what scholastic tradition they follow. There is just not enough personal attention to see them through their academic career, including, intellectual success, character development, time management skills, and organizational strategies," said Linden.

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DEMOGRAPHICS from front page

though prices have come down over the past couple of years, they still remain very high compared to other counties in the state,” he said. Hing Wong, senior regional planner with the Association of Bay Area Governments, added that African-Americans may be foregoing the City’s high rental market, opting instead for cheaper housing in the surrounding inland suburbs, such as Antioch, Pittsburgh, and Elk Grove.

San Francisco’s African-American trends mirror what’s happening statewide, with similar patterns in Oakland and Los Angeles. Not only are African-Americans moving out of urban areas, but, for the first time, census results revealed an increased migration of Blacks out of California and into southern states. The shift is a reversal of the Great Migration that occurred during the early to mid-part of the last century, when large numbers of African-Americans from the South settled in the Midwest, Northeast, and West to escape racism and secure jobs in industrial areas.

Asian-Americans are replacing Southside’s African-American residents. While the Asian-American population rose 11 percent citywide, it soared by almost 25 percent in the Southside. Bayview-Hunters Point is now home to as many Asian- as African-Americans, with each group making up more than a third of residents. According to Wong, Asian-Americans are moving from other parts of San Francisco to Bayview-

Hunters Point, as well as Visitacion Valley and Excelsior. “The housing is cheaper than in the Sunset and the Richmond,” said Wong. “Perhaps these people weren’t homeowners then, and are now looking to buy homes.”

The number of Latinos living Southside climbed nearly nine percent, slightly slower than the citywide average. Still, Latinos make up a greater proportion of Southside’s population than the City as a whole, with almost a fourth of the area’s residents reporting Latino ancestry, compared to 15 percent throughout San Francisco. While the European-American population shrank by 0.5 percent citywide, their numbers grew by 11 percent Southside, another nod to increasing development. In terms of raw numbers, though, Whites, along with Asian-Americans, are the majority ethnicity in the southern sector, making up nearly a third of its population. European-Americans represent 40 percent of the population citywide. Southside’s economic characteristics have also changed, with average per capita income rising, as high-earning professionals migrated into Potrero Hill, Mission Bay and South Beach.

Taken together, the trends – a stagnant child population, decline in the number of African-Americans, growth in the Asian-American population, and increases in income levels – point to a “kind of gentrification,” as Johnson put it. “These are all consistent with a picture of a wealthier, more educated, higher earning population displacing a preexisting population.” However, the steady gentrification

transforming Southside is different than the demographic changes that have buffeted the Mission District, which has been spurred by an influx of trendy, primarily European-American, yuppies and hipsters. “That’s not the right way to think of it,” said Johnson. Instead, the Asian-American population, a fair portion made up of immigrants, is playing as large a role as upwardly mobile young professionals in displacing the area’s African-American population.

The weight of demographics portends an increase in Asian-American political clout – two of the top six candidates in last year’s District 10 Board of Supervisors election were Asian-American – and a decline of African-American influence. The elderly age wave could also influence housing trends and the need for social services over the next decade. Wong predicts an increase in senior accommodations, such as construction of ground-floor housing units and housing with elevators, to allow greater access to the Social Security cohort.

Although safety is an issue for all ages, the increasing presence of elderly individuals in public spaces might fuel greater demand for security measures. Wong cited last year’s incidents in Bayview, when teenagers hurled a 57-year old woman off a Muni platform, and an 83-year-old man was fatally assaulted on another platform. “I think that just has a reverberating effect, especially for people who want to live or walk or go to areas that are deemed unsafe in the perception of the public,” said Wong.

SHORT CUTS from page 3

demeanor count of possession of psilocybin mushrooms. According to his attorney, deputy public defender Kimberly Lutes-Koths, Meoli had long forgotten about the mushrooms in his backpack, and therefore could not have knowingly possessed them. “The elements of the law require that Mr. Meoli know about the illegal mushrooms in his possession,” Lutes-Koths said. Meoli, a San Francisco cannabis club worker, was arrested at the Powell Street Bay Area Rapid Transit station in May. BART police stopped Meoli for riding his bicycle on the platform, and asked to search his backpack for identification. While examining a small internal pocket of the backpack, police found less than four grams of psilocybin mushrooms. Meoli told police that a year earlier he’d given \$10 of legally-obtained medical marijuana to “a hippy in Golden Gate Park” who was suffering from insomnia. The grateful, sleep-deprived hippy gave him the mushrooms in return. Meoli, who had no prior convictions, told the jury that he’d completely forgotten about the mushrooms. “Jurors took their deliberations very seriously and followed the law to the letter,” Lutes-Koths said. Following the acquittal, a relieved Meoli assured jurors they’d receive stellar customer service if they were ever to visit his cannabis club. Meoli faced up to a year in jail if convicted.

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KIDS ON THE BLOCK



Big brother Charlie would like to announce the birth of his baby sister Kathryn "Kate" Adele, born July 12th at seven pounds, five and a half ounces, 21 inches.



This little darling - Sierra Goodwin - was born July 2 at 9:26 p.m. to Brian and Serena Goodwin.



Joni Malone Russakoff (left, born May 13, 2011) and Griffin Friend Allen (right, born April 21, 2011) are two sweet babies whose families have recently moved to Potrero Hill in search of others to share the wonders of eat, poo and sleep.



Potrero Hill resident Olivia Victoria enjoyed her five month birthday on the swings at McKinley Square.



Siena Madeline Moglen turns 1 August 7th.



Ivey Maudell Tirman is two years old!

Left: It's commonly thought that the July 4th fireworks are for the national holiday, but here's the real scoop: it's actually to celebrate Melody Alduy Berman's birthday! She's now three, to the complete amazement of her parents, Wisconsin street residents Cécile Alduy and Ken Berman.



Mission Bay and Potrero Hill residents who attend Brandeis Hillel Day School, as well as their siblings - Sara (10), Morgan (six), Natalie (11), Jessica (three) and Zia (five).



Happy birthday to Cal (nine), Audrey (six), Gavin (seven) Thacher!

The Daddy Handbook:
Dating Rules

By Steven J. Moss

“Um Dad...?” my daughter, Sara, said. She was sitting in the back-seat of the car, as we drove home from elementary school. During the twenty minutes a day we spend in my Mini Cooper, hurling down the 101 freeway, she’s especially loquacious, like a friendly stranger after their third drink at a neighborhood bar.

“Yeah, pumpkin?”
“Oh, nothing.”
“What is it?” I asked, eyeing her through the rearview mirror.

“I really should talk to mommy about this,” she paused. “There’s this boy at school who I kind of have a crush on...”

“Uh, huh,” I said, “Everybody gets crushes, sometimes.”

“No, but, what should I do?” she countered, exasperated. “I knew I should just talk to mom about it.”

Yes, I thought, you should. “Tell me what the problem is,” I said.

“Well, how do I tell him I like him? I mean, like like him.”

“You could invite him over for a play date.” Wrong thing to say, my brain shouted. I hurried on. “Or maybe next time we have tickets to something fun, like a concert, or movie, you could ask him if he wants to come along.”

I could see Sara eyeing me, like I was an idiot. Which of course on this topic, I am. “The problem is that three other girls also like him. And Maya said she has dibs.”

“Dibs?” I asked, “You can’t put dibs on a boy. The boy gets to decide who he wants to be friends with.”

“No, no, she got dibs. She said it first,” she countered, sounding like a lawyer familiar with schoolyard ordinances.

“Hmm,” I replied. I searched for something to say. I came up empty. For a few moments the car was quiet but for the swooshing sounds of high-speed travel in the background.

Sara broke the silence. “I don’t think I’m ready yet,” she said. “I’ll just wait until fifth grade.”

“Sounds good,” I said, battling my desire to pump my fist and shout “Yes!” “You’ll know when you’re ready. There’s no hurry.”

The next day after school, we were walking to the Mini. “It’s going well with my crush. We’re talking with each other,” she said, in a voice that suggested this was the beginning and the end of the conversation.

“That’s good,” I said. I got into the car and buckled my seat belt. We pulled out of the parking lot, and picked up speed. Sara gazed out the window. “Can we go to Jackson Park? I want to play on the monkey bars.”

“Sure,” I said, as we slowed for a traffic light. We got on the freeway. “I’ll take you wherever you want to go.”

Follow Steven Moss’ blog at <http://daddyhandbook.org/>

Axis Cafe Hosts Potrero Hill Babies

By Jim Van Buskirk

On a recent sunny afternoon a convivial coterie of moms and their babies gathered in Axis Café’s back

City. Their babies range from five weeks to eight months. Many have one child; others have two.

The group meets at Axis because



Photograph by Jim van Buskirk

Left to right: Leo, Cora, Elizabeth, Zoë, Ben and Ryan - some of the regular patrons at Axis Cafe.

patio. They chatted, nursed, and reveled in their motherhood around a large table filled with food and drink surrounded by a sunburst of strollers. Christian, the sole dad present – and apparently the only man among the group’s twenty members – sat beaming.

Calling themselves “Potrero new moms,” most of the women hadn’t met before they started gathering last February. They were introduced to one another by Caroline Kerhervé, a local doula, a Greek word used to refer to a woman who assists other women during labor and after childbirth, providing support to her, the infant, and the family.

In addition to their weekly rendezvous, members of the informal group frequently contact one another for a spontaneous cup of coffee or walk. The group has also organized formal outings, like a hike in Marin or a meeting at Yield, a Dogpatch-based wine bar. They characterized themselves as “a nice, friendly group,” some of whom are new to the

of the café’s welcoming atmosphere, which includes changing tables in both the men’s and women’s restrooms. Axis is also legendary for previously hosting a Potrero Hill moms’ group that went on to found the Friends of Potrero Hill Nursery School. Catriona Syme, the group’s reluctantly designated spokesperson, suggested a photograph of the babies; most of the moms were quick to cooperate. Syme introduced her Portuguese water dog as the group mascot, later confessing that Suki wasn’t really the mascot, but that Symes wanted to see her dog’s picture in the paper.

Kerhervé has formed a Yahoo group, “Potreronewmoms,” the welcoming description of which reads, “allows new moms in Potrero Hill to communicate, share information and facilitate meetings or activities together. Babies are typically 0-6 months old. Dads are more than welcome, expecting moms too!”

see **AXIS** page 17

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San Francisco Board of Supervisor Districts to be Re-Drawn

By Nicole Spiridakis

San Francisco’s population grew by 3.7 percent during the past decade, to a total of 805,235 residents last year. Newcomers find homes throughout the City, inevitably disrupting the population balance between Board of Supervisor districts. This phenomenon, in turn, prompts the need to readjust the boundaries of the board’s 11 districts.

San Francisco isn’t the only political jurisdiction affected by population changes. Redistricting post-census is taking place across California, as well as in other states, including Texas and Massachusetts. The state knew redistricting was coming – typically new electoral district boundaries are redrawn every 10 years, after the U.S. Census Bureau releases its latest statistics on where Americans live – but that doesn’t make it any easier to equalize district populations. For example, the state senate districts represented by Mark Leno and Leland Yee may be redrawn in ways that harm one or the other’s chance of being reelected, should Yee be unsuccessful in his bid for mayor.

The responsibility for redrawing California’s 53 congressional districts rests in the hands of the Citizens Redistricting Commission, which is made up of 14 people: five Democrats, five Republicans, and four individuals who aren’t affiliated with either party. The Commission

isn’t supposed to factor politics into its decision-making, such as where incumbents and potential candidates reside. A revised draft of proposed new boundaries was released last month, with some analysts predicting that the shifting lines could give Democrats at least three more congressional and two more state legislative seats. This month and next the Commission will conduct public hearings to vet possible boundaries, with the final map decided by September 15. Nine commissioners must approve the map for it to be adopted.

San Francisco’s new supervisor district boundaries must distribute the City’s population equally among 11 districts, with no dilution of the voting power of a racial or demographic group that speaks a specific language. Each district, in keeping with the new census numbers, must include roughly 72,300 people. If possible, recognized neighborhoods are supposed to be placed within a single district. Districts 10 and six must ‘lose’ residents to meet the population quota, with six in particular – with its skyrocketing growth – of particular concern.

Boundary changes to growing districts will create a domino effect that will carry over to other districts. It’s likely that every district’s shape will be altered at least somewhat, with notable political implications. Because new district lines will be based solely on population – rather

than number of voters – some districts, such as the one including the Marina, which tends to have fewer children – will be comprised of more voting-age citizens than a district that includes Bayview, which is home to a younger population with less voting age individuals.

David Hooper, a San Francisco native who has lived near Balboa Park – District 11 – for the past quarter-century, is particularly concerned about neighborhood cohesion. “We want to maintain a sense of community, but how do we do it if we have to lose between 5,000 and 6,500 people [as a result of redistricting],” he wondered. “Some say where Potrero Hill goes, so goes the district,” Hooper said. “It’s evolving. You have to constantly adapt. Many don’t want to see the borders change any more than they have to, of course. There’s a sense of limiting the damage to keep the core of the community intact as much as possible.”

Recently, the Elections Commission, San Francisco Board of Supervisors, and Mayor Edwin Lee appointed representatives to the Redistricting Task Force, which will redraw supervisor district boundaries based on census data. Choosing from 28 candidates, the Commission selected David Pilpel, a Muni advocate who has served on the Sunshine Task Force; Mark Schreiber, a managing partner at the law firm Cooper White & Cooper, and a 33-year San Francisco resident who

has served on the San Francisco Civil Grand Jury; and Melissa Tidwell, a corporate lawyer for Google, and a five-year San Francisco resident.

The Board of Supervisor’s Task Force appointees include Jenny Lam, director of community initiatives for the civil rights group Chinese for Affirmative Action; Eric McDonnell, chief operating officer of United Way in the Bay Area, who serves on the boards of the San Francisco School Alliance, Leadership San Francisco and the Museum of the African Diaspora; and Mike Alonso, a San Francisco native and security guard who has a law degree.

Mayor Lee appointed Myong Leigh, deputy superintendent for policy and operations for the San Francisco Unified School District; Sonia Melara, executive director of Saint Francis Memorial Hospital’s Rally Family Visitation Services, part-time instructor at San Francisco State University’s School of Social Work, and a co-founder of La Casa De Las Madres, California’s first shelter for survivors of domestic violence; and Marily Mondejar, a businesswoman and president of the Filipina Women’s Network. None of the Task Force members appear to be District 10 residents.

The new districts are slated to be in place in time for the November 2012 election, which will include supervisorial races in the City’s six odd-numbered districts.

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– Janet J.



Relay Rides Debuts in Potrero Hill

By Mary Purpura

As more people become interested in the sharing economy – and its emphasis on building community while pooling resources and reducing consumption – a steady trickle of for- and nonprofit enterprises are

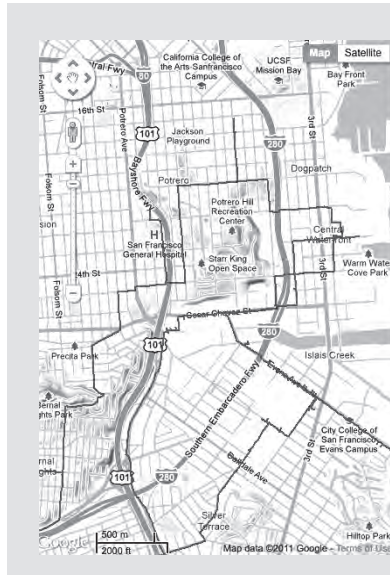
Urban Ecology

Urban Ecology

emerging to make sharing easier. One such venture is Relay Rides, a new car-sharing company that launched on Potrero Hill last month. Relay Rides is already established in Noe Valley, the Mission, Castro, Laurel

Heights, and Bernal Heights, and will eventually expand into other neighborhoods, supported by \$4.5 million in backing from Google Ventures and August Capital.

Founded in Boston by Shelby Clark in 2010, Relay Rides relocated its headquarters to San Francisco last December. While a Harvard Business School student, Clark reserved an automobile with Zipcar, which he'd been using for years. "It was a cold, snowy Boston winter day," said Clark. "All the cars near me were booked. I ended up having to walk two and a half miles to access a Zipcar I could use. As I



Pipelines Surround Potrero Hill

The three Pacific Gas and Electric Company natural gas pipelines that run through the City have historically operated at lower pressure than their technical capacity, reducing the risk of catastrophic failure. However, in 1963 one of the pipelines, Line 109, ruptured in Bernal Heights. The resulting blast injured nine firefighters, and led to the heart-attack death of a battalion chief.



Photograph by Caterina Rindi

walked, I passed all these cars that were just parked on the side of the road. ‘What if I could just use one of these?’ I thought.” And thus was born the idea for Relay Rides.

“Relay Rides is a peer-to-peer, neighbor-to-neighbor car sharing program,” explained Clark, who previously worked with Kiva, a nonprofit that links donors to those in need of micro-financing. “We’re facilitating sharing resources in a hyper-local network of neighbors.” Potrero Hill resident and Relay Rides user Pasadini Brown agreed. “It’s not like I see a car parked on the road that’s not being used and I have to negotiate setting up a share situation,” said Brown. “Relay Rides provides a convenient interface that allows people to share resources easily.”

While Zipcar and City Car Share rely on new cars for their fleet, “Relay Rides uses cars that are already on the road,” said Hill resident and Relay Rides car owner Caterina Rindi. That creates an important environmental benefit, as it reduces the demand for new manufacture, with its intensive use of energy and other resources. According to Clark, 14 cars, on average, are taken off the road for every shared vehicle, reducing the demand for a finite number of City-wide parking spaces.

Brown, who uses Relay Rides once or twice a month, pointed out another important difference from other car sharing programs. "Relay Rides doesn't have an annual membership fee, which Zipcar does. And the hourly rates charged for using a car are cheaper than Zipcar's," usually about 10 percent less. While the company's Potrero Hill launch was held in July, Rindi's car was the first in San Francisco to be enrolled in Relay Rides. "I follow Shareable [an online magazine about sharing] on Twitter. They posted a story on Relay Rides after it got started in Boston. I loved the idea, and believed that the project had goals similar to what I am trying to do professionally." Rindi founded a small business called Mo Foods, which turns surplus produce in San Francisco into seasonal, local artisanal food products. "I emailed Relay Rides, communicating my enthusiasm for the project, and told them that I wanted to enroll if they ever came to San Francisco, which of course, they did."

Under the Relay Rides model a car owner who wants to enroll their

vehicle contacts the company. A Relay Rides representative has the car inspected for safety. If everything checks out, a small box – which includes a global positioning system to track the vehicle's whereabouts – is installed on the lower inside driver's side of the windshield. The box also reads the fobs – credit card-like plastic badges that are issued to users when they join the system – and disables or enables the ignition. The car is returned to its owner the same day the box is installed.

Users sign on to the Relay Rides website, which tells them when and where they can find available cars, and reserve the desired car for a specific time period. At the appointed hour, the user shows his or her fob to the box, which is connected to Relay Rides' computer. The box only unlocks the car and enables the ignition if the fob is presented during the reserved time. The user finds the keys in the glove compartment, and is ready to roll.

Car owners have to reserve their own cars when they want to use them, just like any other user, and present a fob to gain entrance to their vehicle. "At first, this seemed a little ridiculous," explained Rindi. "But if you think about it, it makes a lot of sense from a security standpoint. It took me about two months to get used to it. I'd be at lunch with a friend and go over the time I had reserved, and then I'd have to communicate frantically with Relay Rides to let them know what had happened. They were always very responsive and easy to deal with. Now when I use my car, I just reserve extra time to give myself some margin."

Owners are responsible for parking their car in a publicly accessible space; owners who use a garage provide the access code to borrowers with a reservation. Borrowers are expected to return the car to the place they picked it up, for example, back to the driveway or parking lot space it was retrieved from. If the car was parked on the street, a map of acceptable parking locations is kept in the car. Borrowers agree to park the car in a legal space, that won't trigger a parking ticket within 24 hours. Owners receive an email message telling them where and when their vehicle is parked. If a car gets ticketed



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758 Arkansas St..... \$500,000	1308 Mariposa St..... \$900,000	823 Vermont St \$765,000
752 Carolina St \$3,250,000	407 Missouri St..... \$1,050,000	600 Wisconsin St..... \$1,595,000
1056 Carolina St \$795,000	628 Missouri St..... \$480,000	636 Wisconsin St..... \$1,201,000
646 De Haro St \$1,060,000	654 Pennsylvania St ... \$717,000	1163 Wisconsin St..... \$660,000
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Homeless RV Encampments Plague India Basin

By Lori Higa

Arelious Walker is a tiny street that dead-ends at a desolate open space preserve in what may be San Francisco's most forgotten neighborhood. India Basin, bordered by Bayview and Hunters Point, is characterized by crumbling boat docks, dilapidated warehouses, historic structures – such as the New Albion brewery – newer condominium-lofts and Burning Man-type artist studios. It's also become the latest battleground between the near homeless and residents.

Once known as Fitch, Arelious Walker is one of the few San Francisco streets re-named after a living person: the African-American activist-minister of True Hope Church of God in Christ in Bayview. A cul de sac, the street serves as an entrance to the India Basin shoreline, the last remaining natural habitat in the City fronting San Francisco Bay.

India Basin Neighborhood Association (IBNA) members are apoplectic about the caravans of “illegal RV encampments” on Walker, which they believe have been an ongoing source of numerous quality-of-life crimes, including dumping bodily waste, garbage and stripped wires in the street, and vicious dog attacks. “This has been going on for 10 years, but it's gotten to the breaking point,” said Courtney Da Veiga, who owns property on the corner of Innes and Arelious Walker, with a bird's eye view of the encampments. “We are fed up.”

Two months ago, after a blistering cyberspace conversation in which IBNA members argued over what to do, the association called an



Photograph by Lori Higa

Motor homes parked along Innes Avenue in India Basin.

emergency meeting to debate ways to drive out the campers, inviting the San Francisco Police Department (SFPD), the City Attorney's office and other municipal representatives to share ideas. “The only activities going on at night are prostitution – I've seen men delivering women, men bringing around young boys – drugs and dumping. And, sorry to say, the dumping of two murdered young boys,” Da Veiga asserted. She recently saw a naked woman running down the street screaming in broad daylight.

Despite a stream of complaints to local authorities over the years, “Nobody cares. This is a ghetto, right? This kind of thing would never be allowed in any other neighborhood...I've called 911 a million times but it doesn't do any good,” Da Veiga recounted. “It doesn't seem

fair, or right. We pay taxes like every other San Francisco resident, but our neighborhood is ignored by the City in terms of services and support.”

At the meeting, some of the blame for ongoing problems was placed on the Coalition on Homelessness

(COH), a social justice nonprofit that advocates for long-term solutions to poverty and housing issues. “Their pro bono attorneys defend these cretins and advise them not to open their doors, so the cops can't issue citations!” said IBNA founder and activities chair Michael Hamman. Under municipal law, unless a camper opens his door to prove someone is living inside, SFPD can only issue warnings to move the vehicle within 72 hours. “It's a terrible thing to inform people of their rights,” Jennifer Friedenbach, COH's executive director, responded dryly.

Da Veiga said she was hospitalized as a result of a vicious attack by a dog belonging to one of the RV campers. No one was arrested for the crime; police couldn't find the dog that attacked her. “I'm kind of surprised to hear about vicious dogs attacking residents,” said Freidenbach. “Since Diane Whipple, the City's been very aggressive in getting dogs like pit bulls. They don't need witnesses anymore to confiscate a

see **ENCAMPMENT** page 4

Community Schools Attempt to Address Achievement Gap

By Tim Henry

In the midst of the Great Recession, and deep cuts to the state's budget – education funding has been reduced by roughly \$20 billion over the last three years, according to the California Teachers Association – the San Francisco Unified School Dis-

trict (SFUSD) is working to develop public schools with the capacity to provide comprehensive services to communities in need. The district is relying on a mix of federal funds, near-dead state programs, and private contributions – including prominently from the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation – to nurture hard-pressed students and their families, and create a more supportive learning environment.

Under the community schooling model education is tailored to the specific needs of the community being served; for example, providing food and emotional support to children and their parents. “Their basic needs are not being met,” said Leticia Hernandez, SFUSD's director of family and community and engagement. “A lot of times, low performing students aren't learning because of other factors and other needs. Sometimes they don't get enough to eat.” Many San Francisco students have suffered trauma in the country from which they immigrated, in their neighborhoods or in their homes. “The focus and the goal of Community Schools is to recognize that students come to school with all the things in their life carried with them,” said Gentle Blythe, SFUSD's director of outreach.

see **SCHOOLS** page 3

Candlestick Point State Recreation Area May Close, or Re-Open Better than Ever

By Carole-Anne Elliott

Juan Noyola, 33, doesn't know where he'll go with his family for fresh air adventure if Candlestick Point State Recreation Area is closed, as currently planned, next summer. “It would be hard to find a place like this to have fun,” he said, on a recent sunny Saturday, with one of his young sons translating. “There's not another park like this, with nature,” near his Bayview home. “We can see the ocean and everything. It's beautiful.”

Candlestick is on a list of 70 parks throughout the state that are scheduled to be closed next year as a result of \$33 million in cuts to the California State Parks budget. Candlestick supervising ranger

Ann Meneguzzi, who has worked at the park for seven years, worries about visitors like Noyola. “It really deprives the public of a wonderful place to go,” she said. “A safe place to go.”

Even as the state's budget woes threatens its recreational areas, plans to redevelop the Hunters Point Shipyard and surrounding area offer hope that resources to keep the park open will be found. “That's a ray of hope, it really is,” said Stephen Bachman, acting district superintendent for State Parks' Diablo Vista district, of which Candlestick is a part. Nine of the parks in his district – or three-quarters – are on the state's closures list. “I have people coming into my office every day almost in tears.”

Planning for a redeveloped Candlestick began two years ago when, amid similar warnings of impending park shut-downs, Senate Bill (SB) 792 was signed into law authorizing the exchange of 23 acres of state park land at Candlestick Point for \$50 million in funds to maintain and renovate the park. With the help of consulting firm AECOM, and with community input garnered from three public workshops, State Parks is finalizing a combined general plan/environmental impact report for Candlestick that's expected to be issued in November, with a hearing before the State Parks Commission next summer, according to Steve

see **PARK** page 3

Mother Brown’s a Labor of Love for Gwendolyn Westbrook

By Rheba Estante

Gwendolyn Westbrook grew up in Haight-Ashbury, with four sisters and a brother, during the free-spirited 1970s. After spending a year in college in Washington State, Westbrook returned to California, and graduated from San Francisco

State University with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Speech Communications. In 2004 Westbrook was selected by “Mother Brown” – Barbara Jean Brown – to serve as interim chief executive officer of United Council of Human Services (UCHS) and Mother Brown’s Dining Room. A year later she was formally appointed to the position.

Westbrook took charge of UCHS after Mother Brown – who started a mobile feeding operation for homeless and impoverished San Franciscans in the early-1970s, which eventually expanded to include a drop-in and homeless center – was hospitalized with cancer. “My mom was a social advocate, and I was born to do my job. I feel blessed that I am able to take this career on. Our clients are people with nothing,” said Westbrook passionately.

When Brown contacted her Westbrook was working at San Francisco Community Power, a nonprofit organization that was replacing outdated household equipment with energy efficiency appliances, and installing light sensors in and outside homes in Bayview and Potrero Hill. “I loved

that position because I was really helping people in the community,” remembered Westbrook.

“Mother Brown suggested I take over the program,” recalled Westbrook. “It has been a humbling experience. The overall mandate of the UCHS is to provide services to homeless residents in Bayview. This

has been very different than any of my previous jobs, but I love making this difference to others,” she said. Brown trained Westbrook throughout her first year of the job. “She taught me how to always be humble and show compassion for all people. Really between my grandmother, mother and Mother Brown I have been so blessed,” recalled Westbrook fondly.

Westbrook first met Brown, who died in 2005, when she was a high school student working in Brown’s home kitchen. Back then, Brown and her staff delivered food to Tenderloin residents seven days a week. “Mother Brown used her Social Security checks to buy food,” said Westbrook. “This was part of the food not bombs movement during the 1970s. Even today we can buy food at much lower prices than a store. For example, four cases of cooked chicken cost us \$73.” UCHS purchases its supplies from the San Francisco Food Bank, Restaurant Depot, Smart & Final, and Costco.

Mother Brown lobbied then Mayor Willie Brown to extend the services she provided in the Tenderloin to Bayview-Hunters Point. Mayor

Brown ultimately funded drop-in and employment centers in the Mission and Bayview. The Dining Room, which opened in 1988, evolved into UCHS in 1993.

UCHS’ Hope House provides assistance and support services for homeless residents with disabilities, and offers programs to help veterans find stable housing and employment. “The assistance that homeless people get, such as a place to shower, eat, change clothes, access job postings and transitional housing, are critical not just for them, but the City itself,” asserted Westbrook.

UCHS’ \$3.1 million budget is supported by the San Francisco Department of Human Services, the Mayor’s Office of Community Services, U.S. Housing and Urban Development, and the Department of Veterans Affairs. Like most social service providers,

Westbrook is concerned about funding cuts. To supplement government monies, she spearheads three or four fundraising campaigns a year. “Our services are essential,” she said.

According to Westbrook, UCHS’ services keep the homeless and community safe. “The social conditions we deal with are part of life. These people have nowhere to go. Government agencies don’t recognize that.” Those in need can access Mother Brown’s Dining Room from 7 to 9 a.m. for breakfast, and from 5 to 7 p.m. for dinner. Everyone must wait in line for their meals. UCHS food and clothing bank accepts donations daily. In September the organization will hold its annual tea at the Southeast Community Facility.

For more information on Mother Brown’s and other UCHS services: www.uchsmotherbrowns.org.



Nutritious meals served daily at Mother Brown’s Dining Room.

Photograph by Paul McDonald

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SCHOOLS from front page

The 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) – also known as the stimulus package – allocated \$4.35 billion to the Race to the Top initiative, which rewards states that reform their lowest achieving schools. The funds are distributed through School Improvement Grants (SIGs), which provide \$1 million a year or more over three years to schools that qualify, to pay for infrastructure improvements and teaching staff. The U.S. Department of Education frequently advocates that troubled schools be shut-down, or the principal and much of the staff laid-off. The Administration also favors the use of charter schools, directing SIGs funds to support them.

SFUSD maintains 104 schools. The ten lowest performing institutions are located in the Bayview and Mission neighborhoods. “The achievement gap is a nationwide problem,” Blythe said. “When you look at our test scores, we have a very high average urban test score, but the gap between the average and lowest performing is one of the widest in the country.” According to Blythe, African-Americans, Latinos, and Pacific Islanders test especially low, though the gap is narrowing. “It signals to us that we don’t have this crisis solved, and we have to ask: how do we make schools work? It’s not something schools can do alone, but schools do need to take responsibility for,” she said. “We are seeing some progress, but it’s not fast enough or big enough,” Blythe said.

San Francisco’s lowest performing schools are located in the City’s poorest neighborhoods, in which a significant percentage of parents may be unemployed, or work several jobs to pay for food and housing. Gangs thrive when there’s an absence of parenting, and violence emerges where gangs are present. The pressure on students at home makes a teacher’s job far more difficult. “Community schools are trying to meet all the needs of a child, and that is taking it to another level by making the school a community center. That takes a lot of burden off the teacher,” said Leticia Hernandez, SFUSD’s director of family and community and engagement for the Mission Zone.

Community schooling isn’t a new concept. Before becoming Secretary

of Education, Arne Duncan helped reform low-performing schools located in hard-pressed neighborhoods by fostering after-hour programs. “Community Schools give different kinds of services,” Blyth said. “Parents can get resources and information, and a [Community School] can serve as a center and resource in community. And some schools in the district are far along in achieving that.”

Under the San Francisco Beacon Initiative, SIG funds have been used to create youth and family centers in public schools, based on a model pioneered in New York, and tested by the San Francisco Department of Youth and Community Development in the early-1990s. Beacon Centers are typically located at middle schools, and provide out-of-classroom activities, recreation, field trips, sports, and leadership development. Beacon Centers also provide services to parents, including training, low- or no-cost clothes, and yoga classes. San Francisco’s eight Beacon Centers are located in Bayview, Visitacion Valley, the Western Addition and the Mission.

A New Day for Learning was launched in 2009, after the SFUSD passed a resolution to promote full service community schools, building on the Beacon Centers model. The goal was to engage students in a more holistic and culturally tailored way. “We worked with the school district to look at how SF could be a district wide community school model,” said A New Day for Learning’s Jamie Harris. “We’ve found that community schools have resonated with folks at a national level.”

According to Tracy Brown, Everett Middle School’s community school coordinator, community schools can quickly pay for themselves. “Look at what a community school coordinator can save you. If we keep just one kid per grade level out of prison, our position costs less than what it costs to incarcerate that person. If we were to save two kids, it would pay for our services. But we save more kids,” Brown said. “Really it’s not that much of an investment, because education is so underfunded. There should be a CSC at every single school. My office is right next to the principal, and I’m the first person they might see, it’s not the principal, it’s the community school coordinator.”

PARK from front page

Musillami, an associate landscape architect with State Parks.

The proposed designs include expanded community gardens, outdoor classrooms for nature-based education and interpretation, additional piers over the water, an amphitheater for community events, a boating center offering programs, including one in small wooden boat construction, and the expansion of Jackrabbit and Hermit’s Cove beaches. “It’s going to be a whole new park,” Bachman said. “It’s kind of exciting. It’s got that kind of exciting feeling that Crissy Field had right before they started that work.”

According to Tiffany Bohee, San Francisco’s Mayor’s Office of Economic and Workforce Development project manager, the first infusion of SB 792 funds to State Parks will be triggered once an initial six-plus acres of “dusty, weedy” parking lot land is transferred through the City and County of San Francisco and its Redevelopment Agency to Lennar Urban, the developer of the massive Hunters Point Shipyard/Candlestick Point redevelopment project. The land transfer is expected to occur at the end of 2012. “If we can time the land transfer, that would be ideal,” she said. “But the park could close for six-months or more. It will be up to State Parks to decide when and how to use the first installments of \$10 million in operations and maintenance money,” Bohee said. The remaining \$40 million is slated for park improvements, but “there may be a way to reprogram or do something [such] that we can limit even partial closure.”

For some local activists, any closure of Candlestick, of whatever duration, is an affront. “The deal was, the park would remain open,” said Saul Bloom, executive director of Arc Ecology, which, along with the Sierra Club and Friends of Candlestick, worked with State Senator Mark Leno to amend SB 792 to reduce the park acreage to be sold from 43 to 23 acres, among other changes. “This is one more example of how practice and promise do not work out,” he said.

According to Bloom, when the park was created in the late-1970s, revenues from overflow parking lots serving the nearby stadium were

supposed to be used for maintenance and operations at Candlestick, but that, instead, between \$600,000 and \$700,000 annually went into the State Parks general fund for wider dissemination. “The park would look very different” had it received that money, Bloom said. “If the past is prologue, whatever the legislation says, we may not necessarily see the benefits.”

Candlestick “provides people in this neighborhood with the opportunity to get away from the urban environment,” Bloom said. “And it enables them to enjoy a bit of nature where nature is functionally at a premium.” A six-month closure “is not acceptable,” he said. “Twelve months is not acceptable.”

Patrick Rump, acting executive director of nonprofit Literacy for Environmental Justice (LEJ), is also concerned that SB 792 funds won’t be quickly and properly invested in Candlestick, but is hoping for the best. LEJ offers paid internships to Bayview youth who gain work experience and environmental and advocacy training while performing restoration work at Candlestick Point, among other projects. Participants in its Bay Youth for the Environment program collect native plant seeds and grow them in a nursery at the community garden for future planting in the park.

LEJ is prepared to step up if Candlestick closes, Rump said. “If need be, we’re willing as an organization to help soften the blow,” he said. LEJ could take care of opening, closing and maintaining the community garden, and conduct ranger programs, as well as continue habitat restoration and kindergarten through high school environmental education programs. “In a worst-case scenario, the park is still getting some level of stewardship and care,” he said. According to Bachman, LEJ provides “a critical service to the community and to the youth there.” State Parks would likely work out an operating agreement to provide LEJ with access to water and electricity in the event of a Candlestick closure.

With \$100 million in cuts to the State Parks budget over the past decade, and \$1.2 billion in deferred maintenance ahead, Bachman remains hopeful about Candlestick. “I have to be optimistic,” he said. “Because there’s so many dark clouds on the horizon.”

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ENCAMPMENT from front page

vicious animal, you call Animal Care & Control, they take the dog away, then they need a hearing, they have to prove their innocence to get them back.”

Hamman who’s lived in “The Barn” at the end of Earl Street for two decades, alleged he lost a pet to a pit bull from the encampment. Even with a witness the police were powerless to respond because they couldn’t find the killer dog. “There’s other folks in the neighborhood who’ve had their pets killed by dogs in the encampments. They’re so intimidating, people don’t feel safe, it’s scary, they can’t even walk around their own street anymore. I know an elderly couple who used to walk everyday at Heron’s Head for years. Now they stopped doing it,” he said.

Many of the RVs “don’t even run, aren’t registered, don’t have engines. When they have to move, they tow them in a caravan of up to seven or eight vehicles together, across the street or around the corner,” Hamman said. The latest neighborhood outrage has been the unrelenting buzz saw noise emanating from a portable generator. “It’s a mini-PG&E station. They’ve string up wires between the vehicles and hooked them up to a generator so they can watch TV,” said an exasperated Hamman. “It makes tremendous noise and runs all night. And it’s not as if they have no money. One of them has a really nice motorcycle, like a BMW, parked between two of the RVs, covered up with a tarp.” Other residents have observed “nice, late model cars come and go, picking up and dropping off people.”

In response to reports of the generator setup at India Basin, a COH staffer exclaimed, “Shades of Berry Street!” Shifting encampments have been a persistent problem in Southside San Francisco for years. RV campers have been pushed from Mission Bay, Mission Rock, China Basin and Dogpatch to Bayview’s Revere, Fairfax and Hudson streets. Speakeasy Brewery, located on Evans, has had campers in its parking lot, break-ins and burglaries. “The group that’s in India Basin now, I think they were evicted from some other area,” an IBNA member surmised.

While the City’s recently released biennial homeless count showed a small decrease in homeless numbers – 6,455 in January 2011, down from 6,514 in 2009 – the locations where this demographic group congregates has changed. Bayview-Hunters Point’s homeless population has more than doubled – from 444 to 1,151 – over the past two years. The shift could be related to efforts to reduce visible homelessness in commercial districts like Union Square, mid-Market and Fisherman’s Wharf, where the City claims the homeless population has declined by 14 percent. In addition, the Great Recession has ushered in a steady rise in the number of homeless families. The number of homeless aged 50 or older has nearly doubled, from 146 in 2009 to 290 this

year. According to Friedenbach, though the count includes both sheltered and unsheltered homeless, the numbers aren’t accurate when it comes to those living in vehicles. “They’re instructed not to knock. They see a vehicle, judge whether someone is living inside or not, and then apply a set number of people to the count,” she said.

Bad economic times and ongoing gentrification have pushed more individuals into living in vehicles Friedenbach said. “They’re forced to reside inside their vehicles, because they can’t afford the increasing rents. There’s families with kids, artists, disabled, elderly couples, scavengers, recyclers, working people, all different kinds. There’s also a whole lot of police harassment, some of it illegal. There’s excessive ticketing, which leads to vehicles being illegally towed,” she said. “The biggest issue of course is access to water and sanitation.” According to Friedenbach, the key driver of homelessness is rooted in decades of federal cuts and destruction of affordable housing stock.

“NIMBYs, neighborhood associations, residents in gentrifying areas, are becoming increasingly intolerant of destitute folks’ rights,” Friedenbach said. “A lot of their actions are due to fear of poor people. People tend to villainize homeless. They’re the last frontier of people it’s OK to hate.”

Meanwhile, community anger continues to percolate. “It’s illegal to live in your vehicle. They should go to an RV park and pay fees to stay in a RV park like everywhere else. Why should India Basin be the victim for all those other neighborhoods who supported each other and got them out?” Veiga railed. The fastest solution to the vagrancy issue, according to Da Veiga, is to post “no overnight parking” and “no sleeping in cars” signs, which “neighbors in Dogpatch did at Illinois near 22nd.”

Last month, the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency considered establishing a no stopping zone for 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. on both sides of Arellio Walker Drive, from Hudson Avenue to its easterly terminus. Such an action would cause problems for residents who park their cars, retorted Jill Fox, a former City employee and India Basin homeowner. “It would push the campers onto Innes, which will have even more of an impact on the neighborhood. We already have one RV parked permanently in front of 900 Innes. The City has quick-fixed the problem in other neighborhoods with these signs, which has just pushed and pushed these RV dwellers from Pacific Heights to SoMa, to our own Fairfax Avenue. Now they are here and there is nowhere else for them to



Photograph by Lori Higa

One motor home owner’s take on the illegal parking situation.

go if we did get signs put up. Signs are not a solution,” Fox insisted.

A suggestion that parking permits be required for the area, at a cost of roughly \$100 a year, was met with a lukewarm response from IBNA members, as was a suggestion to create a temporary RV park on private or public property that could provide jobs in security and maintenance. “I’m shocked people want business and life to come to this neighborhood. Would anyone in their right mind seeing these RVs on public streets really want to come here?” Da Veiga responded. “I don’t know if it would work or not, but at least it is solution-, rather than punishment-, based. There are KOA RV parks in regular residential neighborhoods in other places,” Fox pointed out.

SFPD officers Sue Lavin and Hall offered help with procuring a variety of restricted parking signage, and advice based on what’s worked in other neighborhoods. “We can start doing sweeps, we’ll come down here with DPT and DPW, whom we work closely with,” Officer Lavin urged. “Best thing to do is call us, call us, call us. If you see anything, call.” Beyond ticketing and towing, the

police acknowledged that their hands were tied. “It’s really hard to get warrants or prosecute for quality-of-life crimes, they’re not felonies. The City Attorney can’t do anything. The first goal we have is to get them out of the neighborhood,” said Hall. As for out-of-the-box ideas, Hall told IBNA “a lot of what you’re asking us to do is above our pay grade.”

“Is it really a police officer’s power to decide who can be present in a neighborhood; and is that decision based on class or race or disability?” Friedenbach wondered. “It is a power that is fundamentally illegal. Looking at the big picture, it doesn’t serve anybody to use police. It’s a failed strategy, there’s so much wasted money. Homeless haven’t decreased. With all the police arrests, they start getting a record, then it’s harder to get a place to live, a job. We’re pushing them farther away from services,” she said.

IBNA members unanimously pointed to a “long-time lack of leadership on this issue; not just Malia Cohen, who to be fair just got started, but all levels of officials and especially staff for many years,” Fox said. “It seems as if the people approving the signs didn’t anticipate the issue of pushing the campers to other neighborhoods. What are they being paid to do?”

After the meeting a single RV was parked on Walker, with a half-dozen others on Innes. The vehicles were plastered with crude, hand-made signs, asserting taxpayer rights to parking spaces, and protesting DPT and SFPD harassment.

“The signs are absurd,” Hammon said. The question is how as a community can we support each other, address the issue collectively, break down the barriers of fear that exist between humans? When people are angry, it’s hard to get to a place with answers. The way to do it is to focus on solutions,” Friedenbach said.

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Synthetic Turf Threatens San Francisco's Natural Fields

By Bailey deBruynkops

In San Francisco, where foggy dew is plentiful, fields of glistening grass blades are increasingly being replaced with shiny synthetic turf. More than 30 acres of City fields have already been synthetically turfed, with grass areas located at the Potrero Hill Recreation Center, Mission Playground, Ocean View Playground, and Golden Gate Park's Beach Chalet fields being eyed as the next synthetic frontier. This fall the Planning Department will publish an environmental impact report (EIR) examining the potential consequences from trading grass for rubbery plastic on San Francisco playgrounds.

The proposed Beach Chalet renovation is particularly controversial because of the area's size, history, and wildlife that make their home nearby. Golden Gate Park's west end has long been regarded as the green space's natural side, compared to the more developed east end. Potential stadium lights in a remodeled Beach Chalet area would create light pollution, impact driving conditions on the Great Highway, and notably affect existing habitats.

According to Golden Gate Audubon Society's conservation director Michael Lynes, "During migration, these lights pull the birds off course, especially tall stadium lights. Lights effect how birds nest, breed and forage at night, and make it easier for predators to find the birds. Next, it will throw off their timing for breeding and behavior. Most of the City is lit up, but this park is dark, and one of the last refuges for birds, and they want to take that away; it will

undoubtedly change breeding and behaviors." Under the renovation 55 trees would be cut-down; paved sidewalks and parking – and traffic – would be added.

In addition, under the plan Golden Gate Park's natural grass would be replaced with synthetic turf. The material isn't akin to the Astroturf of the olden days, but consists of two to three inches of pulverized tire crumbs. According to a preliminary report questioning synthetic turf issued by Charles Vadair, a staff toxicologist at the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, and Chris Geiger, the San Francisco Department of the Environment's municipal toxics reduction coordinator, "To date, San Francisco has introduced over 16 billion pounds of pulverized tire crumb into its public spaces; the equivalent of 4,392 barrels of oil...Artificial fields have been found to be 8 to 10 decibels noisier than natural grass." Tire crumb contains 15 metals which are listed as oral carcinogens. Synthetic turf is vulnerable to vandalism, as well as bacterial build up – associated with gum, food, and bodily fluids – that adhere to the obliterated tire rubber. The report also criticizes the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department (RPD) and City Fields Foundation for ignoring previous EIRs that identified adverse outcomes from synthetic turf.

"The ideal situation is for them to do a renovation out there with natural growing grass the way it is in the polo fields; considerably less money without having to install

see **TURF** page 21



VOLUME 11 • AUGUST 2011

The Rebuild Potrero team is moving forward on the design of the two blocks that are expected to be part of the first phase of construction, as well as continuing the exciting work of the community building program.



photo: Emily Weinstein

In July, the Community Building Group met for its regularly scheduled meeting and participated in an interactive exercise to review the successes of various activities and initiatives. Inspired by its accomplishments to date, the group began planning for an upcoming community-wide event in early fall. Details are still being worked out and will be shared in the coming month. If you would like to find out more about the Community Building Group, join an action team or help plan the next community event, please contact Emily at 415-806-1429.

We are happy to report that the Potrero Sustainable Living Group successfully competed for a \$25,000 Community Challenge Grant from the City of San Francisco!!! This money will help jump-start the construction of a community garden on Texas Street. The garden will

consist of 1/3 acre of organic vegetables and fruits, areas for workshops and plenty of space to relax and enjoy the views. Stay tuned for future garden workdays and information about the hiring of a Garden Manager and Program Director. We are also excited to see the continued enthusiasm for the Potrero Barrel Garden Program. Approximately 8 Potrero Terrace and Annex residents are now tending to their personal gardens and reaping the rewards of fresh produce and herbs at their doorstep.

On July 19th, BRIDGE Housing and the architects working on the first phase building designs met with community members to preview initial design concepts. Though phasing is subject to change, the first blocks are expected to be those bordered by Wisconsin, Connecticut, 25th and 26th. Approximately 75 people attended the meeting and asked questions about issues such as building height, impact on views, parking and accessibility. BRIDGE will continue to respond to questions and comments from the community at additional meetings after Labor Day when more detailed building designs will be presented.

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

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

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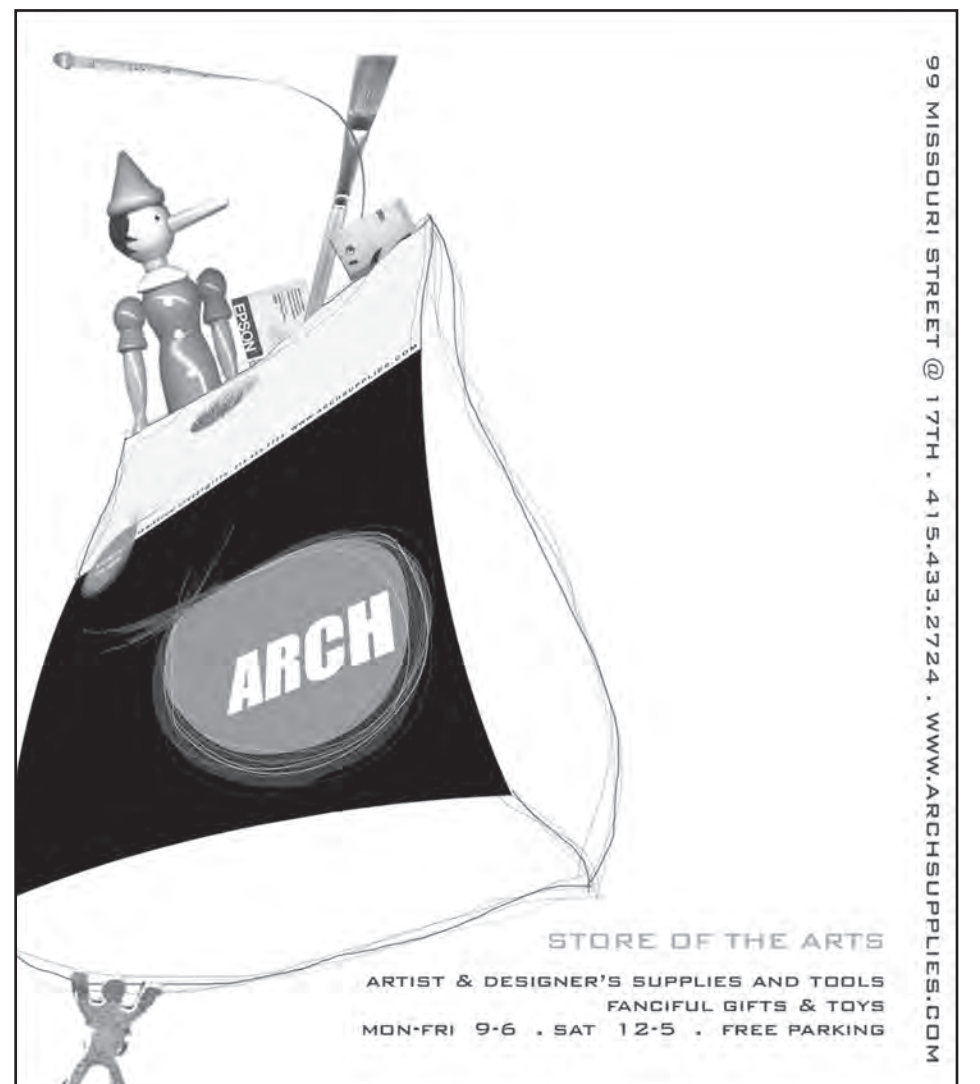
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community CALENDAR

August 2011

Performance: Words First

3 Produced by Thao P. Nguyen, *Words First: A Solo Performance Showcase*, presents a monthly series of Bay Area solo artists. Each performance consists of a dynamic line-up of four short pieces, written and performed by the soloists themselves. The August show features Vanessa Khaleel, Marta Schultz and Kurt Bodden. 7:30 p.m. \$15 general admission. CounterPULSE, 1310 Mission Street. Information: <http://counterpulse.org/programs/words-first>.

Family: Play Day on the Green

Take the family to a free play day at the west end of the Marina Green. Featuring kite flying, music, inflatables, tasty treats and live entertainment. 12 to 3 p.m. Free. Marina Green, Marina Boulevard.

Theater: Awkward Dinner Party

4-6 In this fully improvised show, a couple invites another couple over for dinner, but only one of the two shows up. As the play unfolds, the couple and their guest reveal uncomfortable truths. The awkward moments lead to unrelated scenes and songs. 8 p.m. \$18 general admission. Noh Space, 2840 Mariposa Street. Information: <http://awkwarddinnerparty.com>.

Dance: San Francisco

5&6 **Conservatory of Dance Student Showcase**
Seventy talented young dancers, aged 14 to 23, were selected by audition from around the United States to attend the Conservatory's summer intensive program. They'll perform a selection of existing and original works, including by Ohad Naharin, Bobbi Jene Smith, Christian Burns, Alex Ketley, Malinda LaVelle and Robert Moses. 7:30 p.m. on August 5; 2 p.m. on August 6. \$15 general admission. Z Space, 450 Florida Street. Information: <http://www.sfconservatoryofdance.org/events-and-performances>.

Literary Arts: He Said What?!!!

6 **Reading**
Readings from *He Said What?!!! Women Write About Moments When Everything Changed*, edited by Potrero Hill resident Victoria Zackheim. The new book presents 25 women writers who share profoundly personal moments in which men in their lives said something – good or bad – that changed them irrevocably. Participating authors, including Rose Guibault and Kathi Kamen Goldmark, will discuss their stories and answer questions. Books will be offered for sale at the event. 4 p.m. Free. Potrero Hill Library, 1616 20th Street. Information: <http://www.victoriazackheim.com>.

Music: CCH&D Band

Headed by Potrero Hill's own Julian

Diamond, the CCH&D band includes Jacob Clinton on keyboard, Simon Clinton on drums, Ben Holiday on bass and Diamond on guitar. They'll be offering jazz standards and originals. 7 p.m. Free. Farley's, 1315 18th Street.

Theater: The Final Scene

10 The San Francisco premiere of *The Final Scene*, by playwright Gene Abravaya, a comedy about Gretchen Manning, a long-running soap opera star and creator whose show ratings are not what they once were. Join her and a crew of funny, insightful characters on the studio set as they attempt to tape Gretchen's final scene. Show runs through September 4. 8 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday; 2 p.m. Sunday. \$25 general admission. Thick House Theatre, 1695 18th Street. http://www.the-final-scene.com/The_Final_Scene_Website/Home.html.

Fitness: Physical Education Speaker Series

11 Dr. John Ratey, author of *SPARK: The Revolutionary New Science of Exercise and the Brain*, explores the connection between exercise and the brain's performance, and how exercise improves our ability to learn. After a new physical education (PE) program was initiated in an Illinois school district, test scores soared, to first in the world in science, and sixth in math. Ratey's research makes the case that PE should be an integral part of a well-rounded education, as well as a strategy for combating childhood obesity. 6:30 to 8 p.m. Free. 1590 Bryant Street. Information: www.shapeupsf.org/pe/outreach.

Art: 70th Annual American Craft Show

12-14 One-of-a-kind handmade works from 200 of the country's best artisans will be offered for sale at the annual American Craft Council (ACC) Show. The West's largest juried craft show includes work in a vast array of mediums and genres by artists from around the nation. Celebrating ACC's 70th birthday, the show features artist-inspired cake designs by select Bay Area confectioners; the popular Handmade Under \$100, showcasing artists who create work for sale at \$100 or less; and the Green Craft, offering works sourced and crafted from sustainable and recycled materials. 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. \$14 one day pass; \$5 after 5 p.m. on August 12 only; \$20 three-day pass; free for children under 12 and ACC members. Fort Mason Festival Pavilion. Information: www.craftcouncil.org.

Family: American True Youth Day

13 Join America True and the India Basin, Bayview and Hunters Point communities for a day of sailing and kayaking at India Basin Shoreline



Petra Class, silversmith and Potrero Hill resident, will display her jewelry at the ACC Show. Class' pieces are made from precious materials, such as gold, silver and gemstones, and focus on "the rhythmical arrangements of several elements, repetition of similar forms or colors, the unexpected contrasts of differently textured materials." More information: www.petraclass.org.

Park. Dawn Riley, a champion America's Cup sailor and other sailors and kayakers will be available to lend a hand. Open to youth aged four to 16 years old; parent or guardian must be present to participate in water activities. Life jackets, drinks and lunch provided. Bring a change of clothes. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free. RSVP to Dan Leininger, 689.4878; dleininger@americatrue.org.

Community: Party and "Shop Local" Silent Auction

14 Potrero Hill Democratic Club hosts its third annual members party and shop local silent auction at Bottom of the Hill. Live jazz, great food from Club members and local restaurants, no-host bar, outdoor patio, fabulous items to bid on from local merchants and neighbors. Open to members and their guests, but you can join at the door (or sooner online: PHDemClub.org). 2 to 5 p.m. Free for members; \$25 non-members, includes admission and Club membership. Bottom of the Hill, 1233 17th Street. Information: email_contact_us@PHDemClub.org.

Literary Arts: Storytelling at Farley's

16 Farley's presents an evening of *Stories of the Sea*, with Alice Watts, first mate of the 82-foot scow schooner *Alma*, operated by the San Francisco Maritime National Historic Park at the Hyde Street Pier. Watts weaves lively tales of sailing the San Francisco Bay and beyond, the history of Potrero Hill's dry docks and personal adventures

on the *Alma*. Open mic to follow. 7 p.m. Free. 1315 18th Street. Information: [email suford@earthlink.net](mailto:suford@earthlink.net); 407.4297.

Health: Free Acupuncture Treatments

19 Celebrate Potrero Community Acupuncture's grand opening with a free treatment. The clinic offers affordable, sliding scale acupuncture – prices range from \$25 to \$45 for two treatments – enabling patients to get more frequent care. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. for complimentary treatments; party to follow. Corner of Carolina and 18th streets. For more information: 658.5132; PotreroCommunityAcupuncture.com.

Theater: San Francisco Mime Troupe

21 San Francisco Mime Troupe comes to Yerba Buena Gardens. Fasten your seatbelts for another wild yet thought-provoking ride with the ensemble's annual new musical addressing contemporary America. Prepare for laughter, tragedy, snappy dialogue and live music. Pre-show music begins at 1:30 p.m. 2 to 4 p.m. Free. 4th Street at Howard. Information: <http://www.ybmgf.org>.

Community: McKinley Square Park

23 Participate in the first of a series of two or three meetings to discuss McKinley Square Park's future, including community preferences related to re-design, enhancements and possible significant alterations. Co-hosted by San Francisco Parks Trust, and John Merten, a landscape architect at Studio Green. 6:30 p.m. Downtown High School, on Vermont Street between 18th and 19th streets. Information: www.sfpt.org; www.studiogreen.com.

Music: Matt Lax Live at Farley's

28 Enjoy tunes by Matt Lax and Nearly Beloved, including Paul Olguin on bass, Erik Pearson on banjo and guitar, Pete Lax on harmonica, Matt Lax on guitar and David Rubin on drums. 5 p.m. Free. 1315 18th Street.

Community: Mayoral Candidate Forum

30 Co-sponsored by the Potrero Hill Democratic Club and Potrero Boosters Neighborhood Association, eight candidates have been invited to challenge each other on a variety of crucial issues. 6:30 to 9 p.m. Doors open at 6. Free. International Studies Academy, 655 De Haro Street. Information and to check for any change in schedule or venue: www.PHDemClub.org; contact_us@PHDemClub.org; 648.6740.

Old Clam House Under New Ownership

By Paul McDonald

If it's been a while since you visited The Old Clam House – San Francisco's oldest same location restaurant, since 1861 – it may be time to try the establishment again. Much has been written about the history of the place. Originally called The Oakdale Bar and Clam House, it sat at what's now the corner of Bayshore and Oakdale avenues for 150 years. A century and a half ago it was a waterfront establishment, perched along aside Islais Creek, and accessible to

downtown San Francisco via two miles of wooden plank road. Over the years a number of different owners have come and gone. Prior to its more recent makeover it was known as a quirky place full of 49er memorabilia, old license plates on the walls, tractor seat bar stools and a car hood over the bar. Dark and dingy, it was popular with locals and regulars who knew what to expect time and time again. Earlier this year, The Old Clam House was taken over by Jerry Dal Bozzo and family, who redid the Cliff House in 1973, and is known

for such North Beach institutions as Bobo's, The Stinking Rose and Calzone's. Dal Bozzo has lightened-up both the restaurant and its dishes. Fried calamari is off the menu, as is Clam Bake and the Lazy Man Cioppino, replaced by a smaller Seafood Cioppino, changes that that may not go over well with regulars used to their favorite dishes. Off the walls is much of the character – clutter – that served as the restaurant's ambiance. A new indoor patio has been added just off the bar area, which is the original room dating from 1861. A few traditions remain, such as greeting each customer with warm clam juice – think Mizo soup – Acme

sourdough bread and Strauss butter. The new menu, featuring “adjusted” prices, is laid out clearly, and has decadent seafood offerings, including crab, shrimp, mussels, oysters and of course clams; steamed, casino and escargot style. A lunch suggestion would be to share many of the appetizers and then split a delicious crab sandwich, served warm on a fresh roll with avocado and onion; yum! There'll undoubtedly be grumbles of what used to be, but the only constant in life is change. The Old Clam House needed an experienced restaurateur to continue to honor a San Francisco establishment. Give it a try.

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Local Musician Releases New CD

By Simon Stahl

Eighteenth Street resident Curt Yagi may not be a household name, but the singer-songwriter is reaching a steadily growing audience. Yagi's band, Curt Yagi & The People Standing Behind Me, has a folk rock-meets-ska sound, pairing mostly acoustic guitar with driving bass and a three-piece horn section. Ben Harper, Jack Johnson, and Sublime are clear influences. A Fremont native and University of California, Davis alumni, Yagi has performed at many of San Francisco's favorite small venues: The Fillmore, Yoshi's, Hotel Utah, Red Devil Lounge and the Rokit Room. His recently released second album, *Close My Eyes*, is the type of music you'd hope to hear sitting at your favorite café. It's great to have on in the background while relaxing or working, but also stands up to closer listening.

Surprisingly, Yagi has only been writing music and performing for roughly five years. He still works his day job, as executive director of Real Options for City Kids, a nonprofit serving Visitation Valley youth. ROCK partners with schools

to organize afterschool and summer sports, outdoor adventure activities, homework help, and music programs. (See "Community Schools" in this Issue) Yagi hopes to expand the organization's music-related program offerings. "There is so much talent here, I have middle schoolers who can play all sorts of instruments, who have a much better voice than myself. I like to tell them it's all about enjoying the music and having fun with it... make sure first and foremost you're having fun doing this cause it translates into what the music sounds like, what your stage presence is like," he said.

Yagi's song "Sweep Me" was selected for KFOG's Local Scene #8, a recently released anthology of works by notable local artists. Yagi now plans to focus his efforts on marrying his love of music with his dedication to youth. "I want to help our kids write some good songs and record them, get them performing in front of some people they don't know," he said.

More information about Yagi and links to his music: www.curtyagi.com. More information on ROCK's programs: www.rocksf.org.



Photograph by Judy Mize

Curt Yagi in Potrero Hill.

AXIS from page 9

Looking forward to meeting you! Caroline." Her site is different from "NewMomFebMar09," another Yahoo group "for new moms living in and around Bernal, Mission, and Potrero, whose babies were born in February or March of 2009. The goal is to get new moms out of the house for exercise, friendship, and support." Several of the Potrero Hill women referred to the Golden Gate Mom's Group (ggmg.org), an organization founded in 1996, indicating that they were dissuaded by that organization's membership fee, the fact that it was open only to women, and an anecdotal episode of censorship.

When asked if there were any lesbian or gay parents in the group, the women looked at each other before confessing that the question "had never come up in conversation." Several participants expressed curiosity about Potrero Hill's changing demographics, and wondered if there were statistics to support their observations that the number of new families seemed to be increasing.

This afternoon the moms exchanged baby tips, event information, and other topics of interest. Mention of the prenatal services at University of California, San Francisco developed into a conversation about the relative temperature of swimming pools in the area, information which might prove challenging to obtain in other ways.

RIDES from page 11

because the borrower didn't follow the rules, Relay Rides pays the fine and bills the borrower.

Car owners establish when their vehicles will be available, at what cost. Sixty-five percent of the fees earned are paid to the owner, 20 percent goes to insurance, and 15 percent is collected by Relay Rides as a transaction fee. According to Clark, the average Relay Rides car generates \$250 per month for its owner, with some owners making more than \$1,000 a month. "It's expensive to own a car, but cheap to drive one. With Relay Rides, car owners can monetize a vital asset, while borrowers pay only for what they use. It's a win-win, and people like to see their money going to an individual in the community. It's like supporting a small, local business," said Clark.

Rindi earns roughly \$200 a month. "It covers gas, insurance, and car washing for me, with a little left over each month," she said, though it may not fully cover the additional wear and tear on her car resulting from its being driven more often. "For me, this was more an issue of how to make better use of a wasted resource. I need my car enough to keep it, but not enough to justify having it sit in front of my house three days a week unused. I've been very happy with Relay Rides."

To learn more about Relay Rides: <https://relayrides.com>.

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Local Filmmakers Document Graffiti Vigilantes

By Lori Higa

A new documentary *Vigilante Vigilante: The Battle for Expression* – produced by South-of-Market resident and San Francisco State University graduate Nate Wollman; directed by Oakland resident Max Good – examines the phenomenon of graffiti vigilantes, with entertaining and quirky results. The film was partly shot in the Dogpatch, SoMa and Mission neighborhoods, and features the historic graffiti murals at Warm Water (“Tire”) Cove. It premieres on August 16 at the Mission District’s Roxie Theater, where the film will screen for one week.

“Buffers” are anti-graffiti zealots who, in taking matters into their own hands, become outlaws themselves. Some even get arrested for causing more property damage blotting out graffiti. Not your typical documentary, *Vigilante Vigilante*’s filmmakers insert themselves into their film as they go undercover to unmask and stop the Silver Buff, a mysterious graffiti vigilante who has painted over graffiti in Berkeley, California for more than a decade. Silver Buff’s true identity is revealed as ex-Berkeley city planner and preservationist Jim Sharp, whose activities challenge conventional wisdom about who the villains are in the fight over graffiti. Offering perspectives from psychiatrists to urban theorists, *Vigilante Vigilante* exposes the motivations behind graffitists and those who do battle against them. The film uses original and archival footage, combined with whimsical, imaginative animation and engaging indie pop music tracks, to create an engrossing 86-minute ride through an underground phenomenon.

Good recently worked on another high-profile, local documentary, as assistant producer of the Academy

Award-nominated film *The Most Dangerous Man in America: Daniel Ellsberg and the Pentagon Papers*. Good was drawn into exploring buffers, having himself been a street art practitioner for more than 15 years on two coasts.

The film unveils a number of notorious buffers, and presents interviews with local graffiti writers, posters and sticker artists, including the Bay Area’s own comic treasure, Ed Holmes, inventor of St. Stupid’s Day and a San Francisco Mime Troupe member; and photographer Steve Rotman, co-author of “Bay Area Street Art.” In so doing it attempts to correct widespread misunderstandings about graffiti, shedding light on graffiti’s significance to free speech and political expression in public spaces.

According to Wollman, the film was produced for roughly \$100,000; cheap by today’s standards. The filmmakers initially raised about \$8,000 on kickstarter.com to launch their project. “One investor made a donation to us, and the rest was all self-funded,” said Wollman. “We received terrific help and mentoring from a film producer who had worked on many feature films and had given us inspiration on a previous documentary,” he said. “Even though we were broke, experienced professionals worked with us because they believed in our project. Without their help, our film could not have been made.” The film’s distributor, Palisades Entertainment, came through a family friend.

Good and Wollman hope to break-even, maybe even make a small profit on the movie, but *Vigilante Vigilante* is obviously a labor of love, impressive in its sophistication and skill.

For more information: vigilante-film.com.



Photograph by Dav Yaginuma

Graffiti abatement at Warm Water Cove.

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Barber Shop Temporarily Closes Due to Emergency



Photograph by Lisa Tehrani

Flo Cimino of Flo's Barber Shop, a 20th Street institution since 1958, suffered a heart attack on the morning of July 14th. As the *View* went to print he was back at home recuperating.

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Monday CLOSED



LIBRARY NEWS

By Lia Hillman, Potrero Branch Manager

Temporary Branch Closure Potrero Branch will be closed for waterproofing repairs from August 16 to 19. Bookmobile service will be available outside of the branch on all four days between 2:30 and 4:30 p.m. Children's regularly scheduled programs will be offered at St. Teresa's Church on Connecticut Street near 19th Street. Please see the schedule below.

One City One Book 2011 The San Francisco Public Library, in partnership with the Bay Area Science Festival, is excited to announce that *Packing for Mars: The Curious Life of Life in the Void* is the seventh annual One City One Book selection. Book discussions will be held throughout San Francisco, including by the Potrero Hill Book Club. The Potrero Hill Book Club meets every third Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. They'll be discussing *Methland: The Death and Life of an American Small Town* by Nick Reding on August 17. *Packing for Mars* will be the topic on September 21.

San Francisco Seed Library at the Potrero Branch Library In partnership with the San Francisco Seed Library, the Potrero Branch Library has a wide variety of seeds available for "checkout". For more information www.sfseedlibrary.org.

Library Adult Programs

HE SAID WHAT? BOOK DISCUSSION. One little word, one casual lie, one devastating announcement and our lives are turned upside down forever. In *He Said What? Women Write About Moments When Everything Changed*, 25 gifted women writers share profoundly personal moments in which a man in their life said something good or bad that changed them irrevocably. Funny, provocative, touching, and thrilling, *He Said What?* illustrates the powerful impact words can have on a person's life. Join authors Victoria Zackheim, Rose Guilbault, Kathi Kahem Goldmark and others, in discussion of their book. August 6, 4 to 5 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

GET READY FOR KINDERGARTEN TRAINING. Parents for Public Schools (PPS-SF) understands how difficult transitions are for parents and their children. Families need support in preparing their children for the big academic and social step associated with entering public school kindergarten. "Getting Ready for Kindergarten" provides parents with an understanding of the developmental stages, academic expectations, parent responsibilities, engagement strategies, and practical school tips. August 2, 6 p.m.

Library Teen Programs

YOUR SPACE. Gaming, crafts, music listening stations, computers and snacks provided. Bring a friend, meet a friend, hang out in our pop-up teen room. (it's okay to bring your own computers, gaming devices and craft projects) For more information, contact Dale: djenne@sfpl.org. August 5, 1 to 3 p.m. and August 11, 2 to 4 p.m.

HENNA FOR TEENS. Want a free, safe, temporary tattoo? Choose your own design and learn how to apply it with natural henna. Taught by henna artist Rachel-Anne Palacios. For ages 10 and up. August 12, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

KNIT PICKERS. Want to learn how to knit? Already an experienced knitter? Come and join us. Practice supplies will be provided. For ages nine and up. For more information, contact Dale: djenne@sfpl.org. August 25, 4 to 5:30 p.m.

Library Children's Programs

KOREAN STORYTIME. For families who are interested in learning Korean songs and reading Korean books together. This program is offered by community member Hannah Chung, in partnership with the library. For ages birth to five years old. August 14, 3:30 to 4:15 p.m.

BABY RHYME AND PLAY TIME. For infants up to 18 months old and

see **LIBRARY** page 22

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CRIME & SAFETY REPORT

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By Regina Anavy

Robberies, Burglaries Down

Michael Maffei, assistant district attorney, reported that “robberies and burglaries have decreased as a percentage this month from the prior year for the District.” He offered these tips: “When you’re walking along with your iPhone, iPod, radio, entertaining as that may be, we would ask, particularly when you’re on Muni or other public transportation, always maintain situational awareness. Focus on your surroundings. If something doesn’t seem right, it probably isn’t. Trust your instincts. If you don’t feel comfortable someplace, go to a well-lit place or to a place where there are other people.”

To prevent car theft, “Always lock your vehicle. Don’t leave windows cracked. That’s an easy in for a trained car burglar. Don’t keep valuables in your car where they’re readily apparent to someone walking by.”

Young Men Seen Loitering, Looking into Cars

Two young men with hoodies were seen loitering at 20th and Texas streets on July 11. Police were called, and cruised by. Possibly the same two young men were seen looking into parked cars at Rhode Island and Southern Heights the next evening. No arrests have been made. Any suspicious behavior should immediately be reported by calling the non-emergency number: 553.0123.

Tips for Victims of Car Theft

Arkansas Street resident Rebecca Ryan reports that “our car was stolen a while back from right in front of our house (Arkansas and Mariposa). The police basically said there wasn’t much they could do. But we ended up finding the car ourselves. It had been abandoned in the Safeway parking lot up at 16th and Potrero. Granted, it was covered in garbage, had a dead battery, and contained stolen computer parts in the trunk, but still, we got it back. So it might be worth taking a look around the neighborhood to see if yours has been abandoned somewhere as well.”

Another spot where thieves often abandon stolen vehicles is in the parking lot at the far-east end of 20th Street. Cars that appear to be abandoned on your block can be checked against the database of stolen vehicles by calling 781.JUNK (5865).

Bayview Station Gets 10 Additional Officers

Last month Chief Greg Suhr transferred 10 additional officers to the

Bayview Station, six of whom will be permanently assigned to the station.

Bayview Officer John Norment rides the Third Street beat on a



Photograph by Regina Anavy

District 10 residents welcome Captain Chignell at the July Bayview Station Captain’s Community Meeting. The next meeting will take place on August 2 at St. Teresa’s Church, located at the corner of Connecticut and 19th streets.

bicycle. “We spend time on the Muni T-line. We check for passes, and that can be a hassle, but for us it’s a really

good tool to find people who are wanted and also people who are selling drugs and who have guns. A lot of times when we check for tickets the people who don’t have tickets have weapons, and then they’ll just take off and run from us. Usually we’re able to catch them. Over the winter we were having problems with robberies. We made two arrests and since then we haven’t had a robbery, so we think we might have found the right two guys. We work closely with people who mingle around there and the shop owners along the street. One of the biggest things we do is cite for drinking in public. We are doing the best we can.”

It was just this type of activity that last month led to the police interaction with Kenneth Wade, a suspect in a Washington State murder investigation, resulting in a shoot-out, and Wade’s death.

Police Improve Communication with Community

Potrero Hill residents can meet Bayview Station Captain Paul Chignell, and voice their concerns about crime and safety, at a meeting scheduled to take place at St. Teresa’s Church, 19th and Missouri streets, August 3, at 6 p.m. “We’re trying to move around the community rather than have the police meetings at the station,” said Chignell.

The Bayview Station emails

its newsletter three times a week, including maps of burglaries, robberies, auto boosts – smashing a car window to grab something – and auto thefts in District 10. Eventually, the newsletter will be issued daily, detailing every crime on every block in the district. If you’re interested in receiving this information, email sfpdbayviewstation@sfgov.org.

“One of the problems is that

we’re not informing the public about everything going on,” said Captain Chignell. “We want the officers to be ambassadors for the Police Department and the station so they can tell you what’s happening. Some officers say, ‘Well, you don’t want to tell them everything’, but yes, you do. If there’s a homicide or a shooting, we don’t need to hide that. It may be a little scary but I can’t imagine anyone wanting to be kept in the dark. A lot of the information will be pretty bland, like reporting a daytime burglary. We’re not going to put domestic violence in or other issues that have statutory privacy rights, but in terms of the violent crime, you will know everything that’s going on.”

Captain Chignell plans to assign police sergeants to community groups. “The sergeant will be a point of contact, so if someone has a question about procedure or what happened he will have someone of a supervisory nature at the station to ask. And he will get a straight answer. Along with that, if there’s an issue in the community, like squatters, it’ll be the same if it comes from a community group as if it comes from the individual, and then the sergeant will recognize that problem if it’s something where we’re responding over and over again. We have lists of community groups, merchant groups, neighborhood watches, and longstanding groups, and we’re contacting them directly to see if they want a liaison.”

If your organization would like a liaison sergeant to attend meetings, email Paul.Chignell@sfgov.org.

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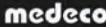
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Snapshot



Photograph by Tristan Schnetzler

The Japanese television show *The World's Funniest Moments* filmed on 19th Street and San Bruno Avenue last month. The scene involved the robbery of a pizza delivery man; perhaps not that funny in a neighborhood with a slow-simmering crime wavelet. The production team assured onlookers that the guns on the set were fakes; traffic was diverted to allow for the filming. Local photographer and *View* contributor Emmanuel Schnetzler and his son Tristan caught some of the action, and were particularly entertained when it turned out that the "pizza man" was unable to drive a shift stick. It took awhile for him to get the hang of it.

TURF from page 13

synthetic turf that requires replacement every eight to 10 years," said San Francisco Beautiful's Milo Hanke. "They want to put lights in so people can play late at night, what they want to build there is an athletic complex that can be used throughout the day and well into the night, 365 days a year. We acknowledge that the City needs that, but Golden Gate Park is the wrong place to do it. There's a long history of people intending to make money on the western end of the park, there's always a desire to take away open space and turn it into a money making venture."

City Fields Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization, is leading the effort to install synthetic fields throughout San Francisco. According to the nonprofit's website, the Playfields Initiative, under which grass fields are being replaced, is a partnership between City Fields and RPD, with \$45 million in funds; \$20 million from the City and County of San Francisco and a \$25 million "gift" from the City Fields Foundation. City Fields' leadership includes John J. Fisher, president of Pisces Inc., an investment management company, and Matt Lockary, of Baycor Builders, a construction firm which at one time listed on its website a business arrangement with City Fields and the City and County of San Francisco worth more than \$50 million.

According to City Fields' direc-

tor of communications, "The Beach Chalet as it is now is a failed site, the fields cannot accommodate the level of play needed. What we've proposed with Rec and Park will provide a greater capacity. Synthetic fields will save 1.5 million gallons of water per field each year."

"We're evaluating the environmental impacts of the turf projects as they are proposed, evaluating the impacts of the projects and looking at alternatives for this fall's EIR," said San Francisco Planning Department senior environmental planner Sarah Jones.

"The Golden Gate Park master plan is very clear about the original intent of the park designer's, and the intent in that plan is that the eastern end of the park is the developed end and the western end of the park should be as natural as possible, and that would suggest that the meadow where the soccer fields are remain a meadow, and should be striped for soccer games but can be used for ecological values and wildlife purposes," said Lynes. "We believe the Rec and Park Department should follow their own master plan, that this should be a natural meadow. The Beach Chalet is in great shape; it doesn't need renovation. The soccer fields should be renovated as a natural meadow – re-graded, re-drained and grass replaced – and so on that occurs in any artificial park, but it shouldn't be developed for a single use and any use that conflicts with a natural process."

Send your photos of the neighborhood to the View

High resolution photos, with captions and photo credits, please

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NO PARKING ON YOUR BLOCK DURING THE WEEKDAYS? Seeking North Western Potrero Hill block volunteers to get your neighbors' signatures for a Residential Parking Permit for the following contiguous blocks: 400-700 Vermont & Kansas, 500-700 Rhode Island, 600-700 DeHaro, 1900-2000 Mariposa, 1900-2100 18th St, 2000-2100 19th St. Contact Kit for more info: kit@kitmorris.com.

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Bayview Police Station Captain’s Community Meeting is held on the first Tuesday of each month. August meeting will be held at St. Teresa’s Church at the corner of Connecticut and 19th streets. Next meeting: August 2, 6 p.m.

Dogpatch Neighborhood Association usually meets the second Tuesday of each odd-numbered month. Next meeting: August 9, 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. MSCA board meets approximately quarterly on the second Wednesday of the month. Look to the online discussion group for postings of upcoming meetings. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/McKinleySquareCommunity>. Locations vary between the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House and Downtown High School. For updates, including sustainable gardening and park workdays, and our grant progress, check out the MSCA blog at: <http://mckinleysquareblog.blogspot.com>.

Potrero Boosters Neighborhood Association meets the last Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. (social time begins at 6:45 p.m.) in the wheelchair-accessible Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro Street. For more information: www.potreroboosters.org or email president@potrero-boosters.org. Next meeting: August 30. See www.PotreroBoosters.org for more information.

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

Potrero Hill Democratic Club meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro Street. For more information: 648.6740, www.PHDemClub.org. Next meeting: August 2nd, 7 p.m.

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

Starr King Open Space The Starr King Open Space Board Meeting is on Tuesday, August 9th, 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the library of Starr King Elementary School, 1215 Carolina Street. The 3rd Saturday of each month neighbors and friends of SKOS are welcome to get down and dirty while sprucing up the open space. The next Land Stewards Work Party is August 20th, 9 a.m. to 1p.m. Meet at 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).

LIBRARY from page 19

their caregivers. August 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30, 1:15 to 1:45 p.m. The program on August 16 will be held at St. Teresa’s Church on Connecticut Street near 19th Street.

FAMILY STORYTIME. Storytime featuring stories, songs and rhymes. For children from birth to five years old and their caregivers. August 4, 11, and 25, 10:30 to 11 a.m. and 11:15-11:45 a.m. A special program will be offered on August 18 at 10:30 a.m. at St. Teresa’s Church, in lieu of both storytimes that day.

FUN FLICKS. This film program 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 three to eight. August 10, 6:30 to 7:15 p.m.

Special Programs

THE KNUCKLE KNOCKERS. Join us for a musical morning featuring the brilliant voices, fiddle, banjo and guitar tunes from Appalachia. This program will be held at St. Teresa’s Church on Connecticut Street at 19th Street. For children of all ages. August 18, 10:30 a.m.

CRAFTY KIDS. Join us for fun crafts activities for children of all ages. August 4, 3 to 4 p.m.

PLANT A SEED. Make a paper pot and plant your favorite seeds. Start a garden. Plant your fall crop. For children five and older. August 13 at 4 p.m.

Donate to Potrero Branch Library

The Friends of the Library accepts donations. If you’d like to make a contribution to Potrero Branch for programming, equipment, or supplies, please call: 626.7500, or email Mary Abler at mary.abler@friendsssfpl.org.

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