Southside inside - Enhanced coverage of San Francisco's southern communities

THE POTRERO VIEW

November 2011 | Serving the Potrero Hill, Dogpatch, Mission Bay and SOMA Neighborhoods Since 1970 | FREE

Zynga Fuels Local Economic Growth

By Katrina Schwartz

The Internet game company Zynga was launched less than five years ago. The new enterprise capitalized on a world increasingly driven by online interaction and social media. Now headquartered at a 345,000 square foot building located on Eighth and Townsend streets, the company has grown rapidly, today employing more than 2,000 people.

Zynga creates "freemium games;" free to play, but with charges for premium content. One of its most well-known products, FarmVille, simulates the experience of farm management, enabling players to experience planting and harvesting crops, or raising livestock. Developed in 2009, FarmVille was the most popular game on Facebook until recently, when another Zynga product — CityVille – surpassed it. The company makes more than nine games that can be played on a variety of platforms in addition to Facebook, including Google+, MySpace and the iPhone.

Like many Bay Area technology companies, Zynga demands long hours from its employees in exchange for a cushy work place. A private chef offers complimentary food at the cafeteria, which, spied through the headquarters' large glass doors, features highly stylized signage, and a stationary food truck. A gym is located in the building, supplemented by free memberships for every Zynga employee at the nearby World Gym.

"We do business with Sega and lots of different companies in the neighborhood, and they are our biggest corporate account without a doubt," said Joe Talmadge, World Gym's owner. Talmadge, a Potrero Hill native, opened World Gym in 1989. He's delighted about the recent influx of businesses into the area. "The residual effect is that people are discovering this neighborhood. It's still got that industrial feel, but with more and more retail outlets and restaurants. I think Zynga was part of that, but not the only thing," said Talmadge.

Photograph by Tristan Schnetzler

Zynga employees and their dogs come and go from their new, pet-friendly headquarters at Townsend and Eighth streets.

Zynga employees enjoy what the neighborhood has to offer as well. "I love working at Zynga," said Max Martinson, a quality assurance specialist. Martinson uses World Gym instead of the onsite facility because it offers more classes, and he doesn't have to work-out with the same people he sees daily at the office. Four years ago Martinson worked for Sega, the video game maker; he too has seen the neighborhood become livelier. "I can definitely see the contrast from before," he said. "In the middle of the day, it was a ghost town. Now there are always people around." Martinson noted

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Parking Meters May Be Coming to Potrero Hill

By Keith Burbank

At a recent Potrero Boosters Neighborhood Association meeting, San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) and SFpark manager Jay Primus presented the City's plan to field variable pricing parking meters in and around Potrero Hill. The meters would be installed in Dogpatch – in the area defined by Pennsylvania, Illinois, Mariposa, and 23rd streets – along the 18th Street commercial corridor, and north of 17th Street. The SFMTA board of directors will consider the proposal at their December meeting. If approved, the meters would be in place sometime next year.

According to Primus, the proposed plan reflects a broad consensus among transportation professionals about best practices in city parking. "The SFMTA is demonstrating a new approach to parking management on a pilot basis," Primus said. SFpark's goal is to have at least "one open space on every block most of the time. What we're really shooting for," he said, "is

see **METERS** page 13

Homeless Population Growing near Showplace Square

By Katrina Schwartz

Residents of condominium buildings near De Haro and Berry streets have recently noticed an increase in the number of homeless individuals living nearby. Some are frightened by what they perceive as a "criminal element" that's developed alongside the long-term homeless who've always camped in the area. They report a rise in car break-ins, vandalism, piles of unsightly garbage and small fires. None of that used to exist, they say, and they want to know why things have changed for the worse.

A number of reasons may have prompted Showplace Square to become, or be perceived as, a favorite spot for the homeless. The University of California, San Francisco-Mission Bay campus has brought an influx of traffic and development to the area. That, coupled with the arrival of Zynga, Adobe, and other high-technology companies, has drawn in more workers and residents. The homeless have long lived in the formerly industrial area, congregating under freeways or in vacant lots because they're less likely to be bothered in those places. As development has changed the neighborhood's character, many homeless have moved on, others have moved in, and those who remain have become more visible.

San Francisco's homeless typically search for places where they can live undisturbed by citizen complaints or police harassment. The industrial, freeway-ridden area near where Seventh Street meets Division provides a perfect homeless oasis. It's just out of the jurisdiction of the San Francisco Police Department's Bayview District, who many homeless people believe are particularly set on ousting them and destroying their property and makeshift shelters.

"The officer keeps threatening to take my tools, she keeps threatening to put me in jail. If she even sees me on Hooper Street she goes way out of her way. I ain't got no felonies; I ain't got no outstanding tickets, no cases pending, nothing," complained Lewis, a homeless man who lives on Berry Street. Other homeless

see **HOMELESSNESS** page 14

PUBLISHER'S VIEW

Conflict

By Steven J. Moss

In between sixth and seven grades I went on a summer school camping trip to Yosemite. One of the activities was a steak grilling contest; each group of a half-dozen girls or boys were to prepare their best cooked meat, to be judged by the camp director. My small knot of boys grilled some pretty tasty slices of steak. But, boys being boys, as the director arrived we were in the middle of a fracas over who was responsible for the recipe, an Alpha-adolescent arguing he was, while his normally compliant sidekick insisted otherwise. Squinting his eyes, the director gamely tasted the meat, and quietly moved on. Our group did not win any awards.

Bitter arguments over whom is responsible for what outcomes, and how best to solve problems, have been a part of our social fabric since the first humanoid bared his teeth at the second over a dispute over who got first bites on a found animal corpse. Much energy and creativity has been invested in creating ways to avoid or resolve conflicts, engendering complex prayer rituals, duals, ever-evolving social etiquette, and diplomacy. While the violence associated with conflict – whether bar fights or wars – has substantially subsided over the past fifty years, it's been increasingly replaced by a stubborn unwillingness to drop our complaints – about whether a problem actually exists, and how to address it – and solve our differences.

This stalemate saturates our society. We can't collectively decide what to do about global climate change, chronic budget deficits, high unemployment rates, or our expensive health care system. We can't even agree whether these issues are, in fact, public problems that merit a collective response. Nor can we have amicable discussions about how best to accommodate dogs and children in public spaces, renovate our parks, or manage homelessness. While private sector decision-making – made less susceptible to deadlocks by autocratic corporate structures – rushes by on the information highway and other speedy avenues, the public sphere is left standing by the side of the road with its hands in its pockets, trash blowing in its face. Only baby steps are allowed: legislation that mandates a cloth be draped before sitting naked on a public chair, rather than outlawing nude behavior entirely outside the relevant festivals; pension reform that requires extensive, intensive negotiations between the City and labor, yet leaves the City vulnerable to bankruptcy. And if an advocate for even incremental change forgets to say "mother may I," the entire debate goes back to the starting line.

When democracies get to these impasses – which they regularly do – people defend the political system by asserting that, like aging as compared to death, it beats the alternatives. But, as the magnitude of the dangers we face grows, to include the potential for global economic and environmental collapse, that argument becomes less compelling.

It's a matter of faith, and the United States' historical experience, that democracy provides the best chance for collective decisions – or, in some cases, the right leader – to emerge that creates the future most of us want. But the kind of democracy we're currently practicing isn't working. Too few of us are willing to do our homework before engaging in complex public dialogues. The weight of public dialogue has tipped away from transparency, personal integrity, and compassion in favor of angry one-liners and backscratching politics. As a result, even solid solutions to hard problems are left hidden behind rancorous debate over who cooked them up and why.

There's only one good way to reduce social and political conflict in a manner that will result in better

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THE POTRERO VIEW

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Letters to the Editor

Festival

Editor,

Last month's Potrero Hill street fair was the best place to renew old acquaintances. Old timers, who met at the fair, were able to catch up. It would go on forever to list everyone I was able to see and speak with.

Babette Drefke
Kansas Street

Curb Ramps

Editor,

I've watched as our local government becomes more and more incompetent and wasteful with limited tax dollars. This latest example takes the cake. On the corners of 18th and 19th of Vermont Street, private contractors, at taxpayer expense, replaced the curbs with yellow ramps so skate boarders can easily enter the street. I was outraged at the expenditure of City funds on this boondoggle. When I called the Department of Public Works and complained, I was told that the ramps are being installed all over the City, and are for handicapped people. Well, I don't know about you, but, really, handicapped people shouldn't even be using skateboards. It's just another example of our government at work.

Helen Jenkins
Vermont Street

Sara Moss, a ten-year old who lives on the corner of 18th and Vermont streets, told the View *that she was equally outraged that the contractors left a dozen unsightly large plastic barriers at her corner and across the street without first notifying the neighbors that the barriers were coming, and what their purpose was. – Editor.*

EDITORIAL

It Must be True; I Read it on the Internet

By Abigail Johnston

I was surfing the Net the other day, in search of photographs of the Hill's beloved Neighborhood House, and happened across a travel site that afforded these intriguing bits:

"Place: Potrero Hill Neighborhood House
Kind: Building
Height above sea level: 72 meters
Related town: Victoria Mews

"Potrero Hill Neighborhood House is a place of kind Building belonging to the County of San Francisco. The closest populated place is that of Victoria Mews that is 0.13 miles far from Potrero Hill Neighborhood House.

"Potrero Hill Neighborhood House is also 1.10 miles far from the closest airport or heliport, the Hall of Justice Heliport.

"The weather forecasting are available for the town of San Francisco, that is 1.65 miles from Potrero Hill Neighborhood House. (ZIP Code 94101)

"Besides Potrero Hill Neighborhood House in the County of San Francisco there are the following places of kind Building. These are reported in what follows in alphabetical order:"

Below this list of about two hundred "places of kind Building" – from Alcatraz to Yerba Buena Senior Center, with Sutro Baths and many libraries, police stations and firehouses in between – are representations of the California state flag and seal, and "some data":

Capital: Sacramento
Inhabitants: Californian (Raisinhead)
State's Motto: Eureka
English translation: I have found it (Greek)

Next up is a "detailed and zoomable map of Potrero Hill Neighborhood House with free text search for finding bar, restaurants, pubs, pizzerias, dancings, night clubs, banks, jewellers, beauty centers, hair stylists, supermarkets, pharmacies and so on." Just "type in the text field" for finding these amenities "in Potrero Hill Neighborhood House." The map locates the Nabe on the southwest corner of De Haro and 20th streets. The webpage concludes with an odd assortment of photographs, none of them of the Nabe, or of its "related town" Victoria Mews, and links to six curiously irrelevant YouTube videos.

Check it out: http://usa.indettaglio.

News and Tips? Call us @ 626.8723

EDITORIAL

Go Green

By Edward Lortz

The greenest family I ever read about recycled everything, and rarely bought anything that was prepackaged, relying on their own containers carried to the store. I've not reached this shade of green, but I'm getting there.

Several years ago my partner and I took out the disposal in the kitchen and replaced the area under the sink with a three-can system: green for compost, blue for recyclables, and black for trash. We keep a paper shopping bag in the closet for small cardboard, a paper bag next to the desk for junk mail and waste paper, and a basket for newspapers. We even have a small basket for nose tissues, which are compostable, as are paper towels with only food soils. When they're full, we take them to the container area under the deck, out of sight of the street. We've reduced our trash to one 20 gallon can, which qualifies for Recology's 23 percent discount off their normal rate. Even that only goes out twice a month, and is mostly cat litter, which isn't compostable.

To further reduce paper recycling, we're downloading all of our credit card, utility, and investment materials, rarely printing out hard copies. I keep this information in a separate computer folder, which I annually burn to a compact disk to keep for seven years. I even get my automatic teller machine receipts as emails. I have a client with old legal depositions in his basement, which make great printer paper. Only 10 percent of our printing is on unused paper, which we make sure has a high recycled content.

Hard plastic goes into the blue bin; we recycle soft plastic into a plastic bag, which we take to Safeway or another store that has soft plastic recycling receptacles. We rely on a variety of places to find a good home for things we no longer use, including Freecycle and Craigslist. E-Recyclers, such as Green Citizen, get unwanted electronic stuff, like monitors and printers, and even e-junk, like old phone cords, compact discs, and various phones, hard discs, and gadgets. Used printer cartridges, including cartridges from Daniel Webster Elementary School, are recycled at an office supply store, which has provided the school with more than $200 in store credits in return. We installed solar power and solar hot water last year. Our electric bill has averaged $3 for each of the last six months; our gas bills have been reduced 45 percent.

While we're trying to do our best to create a better planet, it's frustrating to see that some coffee shops throw out more trash in an hour than we do in a year. Why not skip that kind of place, and tell them why they've lost your business.

Resources mentioned in this article: recycle and compost, www.sunsetscavenger.com; soft plastic, www.plasticbagrecycling.org/plasticbag/s01_consumers.html, http://tinyurl.com/n33523; unwanted items: www.sfenvironment.org/our_programs/interests.html?ssi=3&ti=4&ii=258, http://tinyurl.com/3emyn9j; www.greencitizen.com; hazardous waste, such as batteries, paint, and oil: www.sfenvironment.org/ecofinder/index.php.

View Election Recommendations

Mayor: **Dennis Herrera**
Consider Jeff Adachi and David Chiu for your second and third choices.

District Attorney: **George Gascon**
We also like David Onek.

County Sheriff: **Chris Cunnie**
Paul Miyamoto is our back-up.

Proposition A - School Bonds - $531 million: **Yes.**

Proposition B - Road Repaving and Street Safety Bonds - $248 million: **No.**

Proposition C - City Pension and Health Benefits (Mayor): **No.**

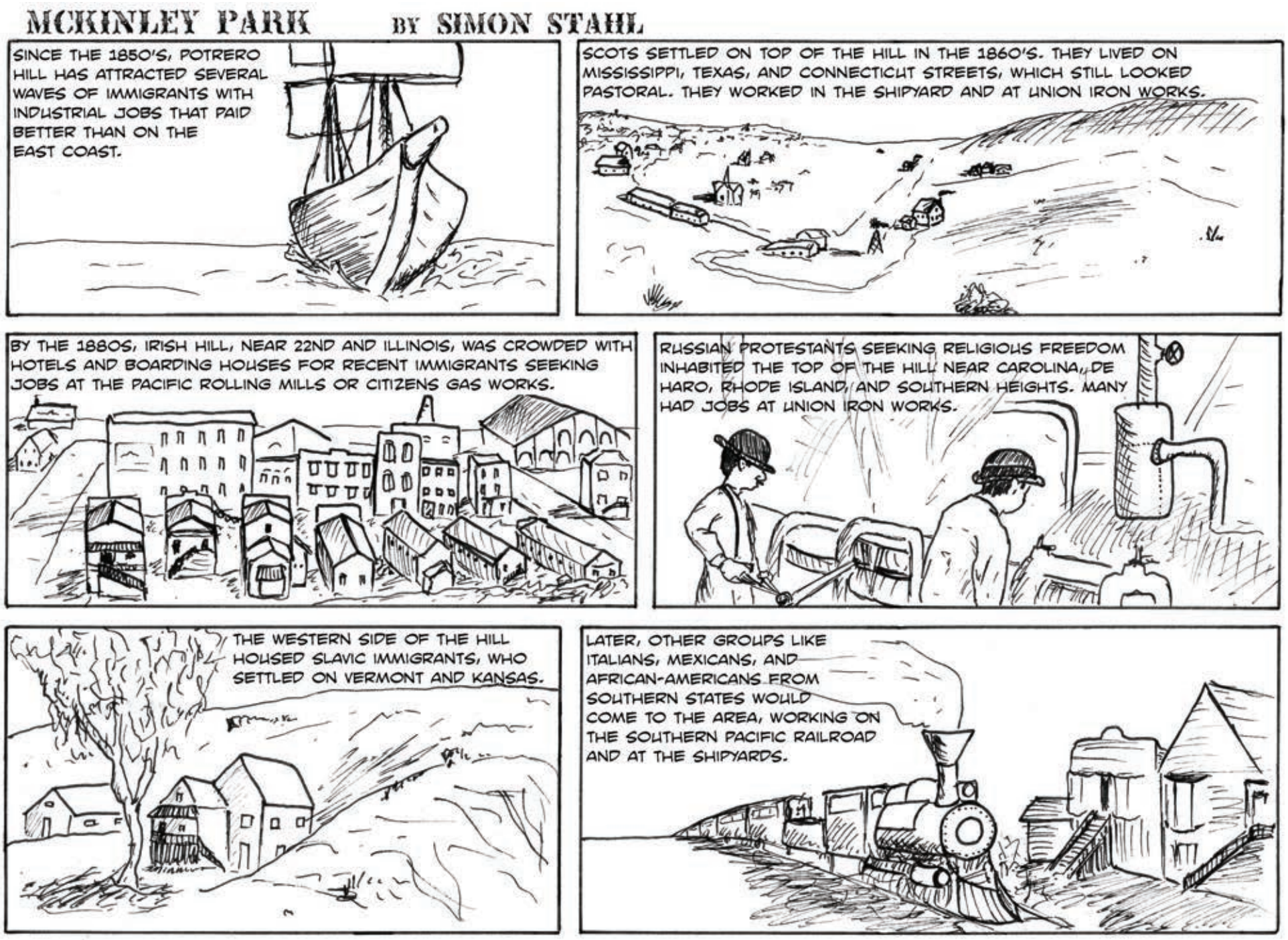
Proposition D - City Pension Benefits (Adachi): **Yes.**

Proposition E - Amending or Repealing Legislative Initiative Ordinances and Declarations of Policy: **Yes.**

Proposition G - Sales Tax: **No.**

Proposition F - Campaign Consultant Ordinance: **Yes.**

Proposition H - School District Student Assignment: **No.**



McKinley Planted

Upwards of 40 volunteers – some accompanied by canine companions – with support from the **San Francisco Department of Recreation and Parks (RPD)**, planted hundreds of plants along McKinley Park's western edge last month. RPD laid out a variety of plants native to the Hill; volunteers dug holes and planted. Within two hours aster, phacelia, lupinus, gum plant, and western yarrow had been planted, weeded and watered. **Chiotra's Market** and **Goat Hill Pizza** helped fuel the effort, supplying beverages and a dozen extra large pizzas, served on the hood of an aging Volvo.

Lake Webster

It's raining, it's pouring, the parents are roaring. An October downpour resulted in flooding at **Daniel Webster Elementary School's** parking lot, a common occurrence when the skies open-up. The ailing facility's original clay pipes and basins are close to the surface, and easily overflow. In past years the District's facilities department regularly snaked the pipes, and deodorized and sanitized the water. This time the mixture of fed-up parents who've been repeatedly assured the problem would be fixed and the spry energy of kindergarten parents resulted in an influx of complaints to the San Francisco Department of Public Health and Unified School District. A call to the District from the *San Francisco Chronicle* may have been the final straw that triggered action; construction to fix the problem commenced last month. Whether or not students had to walk through raw sewage in the meantime is up for debate; the District contends that the overflowing pipe only carried waste from the cafeteria drains, not the school's bathrooms. The kids may tell a different tale; the stench and floating toilet paper certainly did. Perhaps Proposition A passage will lead to a lasting solution.

Short Cuts

Photograph by Chris Rhys

Community members plant natives on the McKinley Square hillside.

Exercised Dog

Last month a Potrero Hill mom gave a shout-out on the neighborhood listserv about a man and his dog. Here's the tale. As the mom walked across Rhode Island Street a man drove by in a 1980s Champagne-colored Buick with a small dog – a Chihuahua mix – running behind on the left side. If a car came the other way, it would have hit it. The dog had no collar, looked scared, and was running fast. A woman in a black BMW pulled alongside the mom. Since it was hot her windows were open. They looked at each other incredulously. "I think that guy is trying to dump that dog," said the mom. The BMW driver shook her head, disgusted. The mom jumped into her car and followed the Buick. He pulled over at the end of Rhode Island at 26th. The mom pulled in front of him, the BMW in back. He opened his door and let the dog in. The BMW driver said "I'll take the dog for you." The mom said, "You won't be in trouble. We just want to take the dog." "You ladies better mind your own business, I'm exercising my dog," responded the Buick driver. The mom telephoned the police while the BMW driver continued to plead with the Buick driver. He sat for a long time, not listening or talking to her, looking down at something. Then, he pulled away, followed by the mom, who was still on the phone with the police. The Buick traveled west on Cesar Chavez and onto Bernal Hill. At the top, where it's steep, he let the dog out again so that it had to run up a steep hill. Twice. The police made the mom promise to stop following the driver after she gave him the Buick's license plate. The end?

Sharing is Caring

The City and County of San Francisco is providing **City CarShare** with dedicated street parking on Carroll and Third streets in Bayview, and Third and 22nd streets in Dogpatch, among other neighborhoods. If there's sufficient demand, multiple municipal parking spots throughout the City will be made available to car sharing vendors…After leaving his sous chef position at **Serpentine**, French culinary trained **Eric Ehler** spent a week in Seoul, Korea, immersing himself in that country's food and culture. Upon his return to San Francisco he showcased what he'd learned at a well-received pop-up at Serpentine. In September Ehler launched **Seoul Patch** at **Rocketfish**, offering such Asian-American-French riffs as Korean fried chicken po' boy sandwiches, *kimichi* deviled eggs, and chicken liver *ssam*. Monday through Friday, 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Seoul Patch is also offering late-night treats at Asiento, on 21st and Bryant, 10:30 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Cows have Bulls

The City is now home to the San Francisco Bulls, the National Hockey League's 21st minor-league affiliate. "It's very exciting," said Pat Curcio, San Francisco Bulls president, general manager and head coach. "There hasn't been pro hockey in San Francisco in 15 years, so we believe we can provide an affordable entertainment for the families of San Francisco." The City last hosted professional hockey in 1996, when the San Francisco Spiders played one season in the International Hockey League before folding in the face of poor attendance. Starting next year the Bulls will play their home games at the Cow Palace.

Construction Date Yet to Be Set for Salesforce.com's Mission Bay Campus

By Rheba Estante

Last year San Francisco-based Salesforce.com announced that it would build a new global headquarters in Mission Bay, partially or fully occupying lots 26, 27 and 29 through 34. Almost two million square feet of commercial space will be sited on 14 acres of land that's included in the Mission Bay Redevelopment Area. However, no date has yet been set to begin construction. "Unfortunately we do not have any new updates to provide at this time," said Whitney Biltz, senior account executive at Hill & Knowlton, Salesforce.com's public relations firm.

www.salesforce.com/company/news-press/press-releases/2011/06/110606.jsp

A rendering of the Salesforce.com campus.

Over the summer Salesforce.com unveiled preliminary design plans for its new headquarters drafted by world-renowned architects Legorreta + Legorreta. "Our new campus will be a place where our employees and the community can connect, collaborate and be inspired by the world around them," said Marc Benioff, Salesforce.com's chairman and chief executive officer. "Legorreta + Legorreta's stunning design gives physical evidence of Salesforce.com's philosophy of innovation."

"The design of the Salesforce.com Mission Bay headquarters captures the innovative spirit of San Francisco and promises to be a bold addition to our skyline," said Mayor Ed Lee. "The new headquarters and its vibrant design are proof that San Francisco is the place where the next generation of technology leaders wants to work and live."

The eight building campus is being designed by Legorreta + Legorreta and Flad Architects – the project's executive architects – in collaboration with the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency and Planning Department. "Designing the salesforce.com campus is both an incredible opportunity and an incredible responsibility to create a new urban center for the City of San Francisco," said Victor Legorreta, principal architect, Legorreta + Legorreta. "The goal is to build an open and lively urban campus that both the community and Salesforce.com can enjoy."

The campus will include space for retail shops, dining establishments, and a park for employee and residents. It's likely to be Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certified at the platinum level, and include advanced water and energy conservation measures, alternative energy supply sources, and eco-friendly materials.

Building Blocks

Photograph by Amy Gregg

Construction has begun at the future home for Friends of Potrero Hill Nursery School, located on Tennessee Street. The project includes building new facilities, as well as rehabilitating existing outbuildings, with significant effort being made to maintain existing moldings, siding and detail in a historically respectful way.

S.F. Wholesale Produce Market Handles City's Fruits and Vegetables

By Jim Van Buskirk

While most of us sleep, a beehive of activity occurs nightly in Bayview. Semis, box trucks, and pick-ups converge on the San Francisco Wholesale Produce Market, unloading fruits and vegetables to be purchased by retailers, restaurants, hotels, and other institutions. Kayren Hudiburgh, co-owner of The Good Life Grocery – or one of her associates Juan Torres or Jorge Bueso – shop "the market" every morning at 3 a.m., selecting produce to sell at her Potrero Hill and Bernal Heights stores. "Friday is the busiest, since we are buying for the weekend," said Hudiburgh. "Wednesday the lightest." According to Hudiburgh, it's challenging to predict her customers' needs. "It's a crap shoot." A hot spell, for example, may create an unanticipated run on grapes. "Sometimes you win, sometimes you don't."

Hudiburgh, formerly a high school English teacher in Texas, was unable to secure a teaching job when she arrived in San Francisco in 1970. She got involved with the People's Food System, a loose federation of autonomous buying clubs – known at the time as "food conspiracies" – based on neighborhood or political affiliations. "The Mission had Seeds of Life, Noe Valley Community Store, Inner Sunset Community Store, Community Corner – a.ka 'Commi Corner' – Haight Street Community Store, Good Life Grocery, Rainbow Grocery and Other Avenues. There were probably other stores too, but the last three of those still remain today as part of the original network of community stores," said Hudiburgh.

The movement was headquartered just south of Potrero Hill, at the corner of 20th and Alabama streets. "The People's Food System formed collectives, People's Bakery, Red Star Cheese, Ping Pong Poultry, and the SF Common Operating Warehouse; all the stores and buying clubs bought from these places and from the SF Produce Market. Veritable Vegetables, which began as a woman-owned trucking company, picking up and delivering organic produce from small farms to their warehouse, was one of the first pioneers of the organic produce movement, getting the produce from farm to market," noted Hudiburgh. A group of households would agree to split a case of fruit, or a 100-pound sack of flour or rice. Representatives took and placed orders and exchanged money. The food was collected and brought to a central location; members picked up their orders or had them delivered.

By the early-1970s there were hundreds of such clubs across the City. The system revolutionized distribution of foodstuffs and exposed many participants – used to canned or frozen food – to fresh vegetables for the first time. The Good Life Grocery emerged from this model in 1974, initially at 1457 18th Street – now Pera – reopening on 20th Street in 1986. Other buying clubs morphed into worker-owned cooperatives Other Avenues and Rainbow Grocery.

In 1974 Earl Herrick was selling produce out of a small converted beverage truck at the entrance to Golden Gate Park. After a stint as produce buyer at a natural market in Marin, Living Foods, Herrick opened a stall on the San Francisco Wholesale Produce Market in 1988, from which Earl's Organic Produce has expanded over the years.

San Francisco's produce district, originally centered around Washington and Davis streets, moved to its present location at Jerrold and Toland in 1963 to become the San Francisco Wholesale Produce Market. The land is owned by the City and County of San Francisco, which jointly operates the market with 29 produce merchants. The original warehouses' rear doors, designed to accept deliveries directly from trains, were never used; it was cheaper and more efficient to use trucks. A new facility was built in 2000, but demand for space continues to outstrip availability. The market is planning to, over the next ten to fifteen years, increase its size, address its deteriorating infrastructure, and make changes to meet the demands of a dynamic industry.

"The market's changed a lot," since Hudiburgh began shopping there in 1971. At one time there were three restaurants on site, including a hofbrau where truckers, merchants and shoppers could get the hearty meal they needed to fuel their hard work. Only J and V Catering remains, where Hudiburgh grabbed a cup of coffee as she wended her way through the market.

Each "house," as the purveyors are called, has an area of specialization. For example, Coosemans San Francisco is known for imports from Belgian and Holland, and mushrooms; other houses may specialize in Asian produce, organics, greens or fruits and vegetables, or some combination. Some of the houses are family-owned, where three generations of families work together. Tony Leutza used to get off the school bus at age five, and get taken to work at Washington Vegetable. Hudiburgh has developed warm working relationships with many of the men in this largely all-male environment. They joke about the coarse language that's the pervasive style of communication, and wink that "what happens in the market, stays in the market." She has great respect for the "hardest working group of people you've ever seen," including the lumpers who unload the trucks, salesmen, and porters.

Weather is the single most influential element in the complex dynamics of getting product from the field to the consumer. A cold, wet spring affects quality, harvest-

see **PRODUCE** page 9

Free Food Distribution to Continue at Parque Niños Unidos

By Ben Terall

The Free Farm Stand, which distributes locally grown food and baked bread Sundays from 1 to 3 p.m. at *Parque Ninos Unidos*, located at the intersection of Treat and 23rd streets, is experiencing growing pains. In late-September, the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department (RPD) informed the stand's primary organizer, Dennis "Tree" Rubenstein, that several complaints had been lodged about the project. According to Dana Ketcham, RPD's permits and reservations manager, "Families feel overwhelmed by the crowds [drawn by the food distribution] as they use this park with their children."

Rubenstein, who founded the Stand in 2008, met with RPD officials in early October, armed with 57 letters of support. "I was still receiving emails from neighbors and park users an hour before I left for the meeting," he said. Rubenstein also brought along a petition supporting the park as a location for the food program, having collected 82 signatures in two days.

One October day the farm stand, staffed by Rubenstein and fellow volunteers, gave-away 648 pounds of apples and pears. Various greens and vegetables were also distributed, along with loaves of bread. Mission District resident Greg Zifcak – who took a number and patiently waited for produce with a diverse mix of young, old, white, and people of color – said that weekly hauls from the stand have cut his food budget in half. Rubenstein also delivers an assortment of produce to a community member who is battling cancer.

"I live on the Van Ness edge of Russian Hill. I found the Free Farm Stand while pursuing my interest in urban agriculture, public agriculture, and food/social justice in the City," said volunteer Catherine Ashworth. According to Ashworth, the main complaint about the Farm Stand seemed to be congestion at the park's northeast entrance. To alleviate that problem, volunteers instituted a system of distributing numbers to people waiting for food.

Michael Fong has known Rubenstein "for about ten years," and has helped with the Free Farm Stand for the past year and a half. He met Rubenstein after "I saw an avocado tree on his property," and realized they were kindred spirits. The two have worked together on several community gardening projects. Fong spoke highly of the Free Farm Stand. "This brings people together," he said, and educates community members about growing and preparing food.

According to Fong, the number distribution system made the food giveaway more efficient. By mid-October, there were several sets of numbers given; people who wouldn't be served until 2 p.m. knew they could leave and return later. While food was being distributed, kids kicked around soccer balls nearby. Stand supporter John Kremer carved up an enormous pumpkin, pieces of which were given away with other produce. There didn't seem to be any tension between those picking-up food and other park users. Kremer said he felt there was a "reflexive fear of everything that has some people worried about this operation."

According to Connie Chan, RPD's deputy director of public affairs, an agreement was reached last month to allow the Free Farm Stand to continue operating from noon to 3:30 p.m. on Sundays. "We are encouraging Free Farm Stand to coordinate with the Department of Public Health for a health permit to ensure the Stand is in compliance with public health and safety regulations," Chan said. "Free Farm Stand will set up tables in designated area and will be responsible to open the full gate to avoid congestion at the entrance way. SF Rec and Park Department has waived the permit fee and issued a temporary permit for Free Farm Stand to operate for the next six months. Then we will regroup and re-evaluate based on community feedback."

History Night Makes...History

Photograph by Peter Linenthal

Neighborhood buzz suggests that last month's Potrero Hill History Night - the 12th Annual - was one of the best ever. A large crowd enjoyed a pre-show barbeque dinner accompanied by a jazz band on International Studies Academy's (ISA) patio. Potrero Hill Archives Project's Peter Linenthal and Abby Johnston, joined by ISA's new principal, Paul Koh, welcomed the crowd. Hill resident Rose Marie Ostler, with Potrero Chiropractor's Frank Gilson outfitted in a goat mask, made a special presentation to Goat Hill Pizza's proprietor Philip DeAndrade: a concrete square saved years ago with goat hoof prints circa 1925. Next, Hill resident and pioneer pop music critic Joel Selvin and his long-time buddy Country Joe McDonald led the packed auditorium in a rousing *I Feel Like I'm Fixin' to Die Rag*, the biting anti-war anthem Country Joe's sang at Woodstock. There was a large show of hands in response to the pair's query about who in the crowd had ever taken acid. DeAndrade then interviewed Josephine Firpo Alioto, who was born 90 years ago on the Hill, Alioto tended goats on 20th Street, including the goat whose prints were immortalized in concrete. The event raised $1000 for the Potrero Hill Archives Project and $750 for the ISA student travel program. More photos from that night are on the Archives' website, potreroarchives.com

Hill Resident Dedicated to Volunteering

By Keith Burbank

Twentieth Street resident Valerie Bianquis loves to volunteer, and she wants others to catch her enthusiasm. "If I was given the opportunity to choose between two hours on the beach and two hours of volunteering at ISA, I would choose ISA," Bianquis said. Located at 655 De Haro Street, ISA – International Studies Academy – is a sixth through twelfth grade school that requires coursework beyond the San Francisco Unified School District's basic requirements, including two years of a foreign language, three years of college-preparatory classes in science and math, and international relations.

Bianquis started volunteering at ISA roughly a year ago, initially assisting in the arts program, and then shifting to ethnic studies. Sosefina Suisala, now an ISA senior, was in an art class Bianquis volunteered in. "I was doing a painting and Mrs. Bianquis changed my ways of doing my art. I think she would be a great teacher. She has a very uplifting spirit. I wish I had more classes with her," said Suisala. After Suisala graduates this year she plans on joining the National Guard. Her favorite subject is math. "It's challenging, and I like challenges," she said.

Bianquis first started volunteering at GLIDE in 1994, after encountering Dwight Saunders, a San Francisco community activist. "Valerie brings to bear about 25 years of volunteerism and community activism," Saunders said. "She came to GLIDE in personal crisis, and she's been rolling ever since, bringing education to young people. She has worked as part of a board of directors, and she has worked tirelessly in the classroom. She's a woman who has a child in school. So she has a significant interest in children."

"She's interested in different people, different cultures," said Tom Twietmeyer, Bianquis's husband. "She's very passionate about that. She really likes to make a difference. That's really at the core. That's why she gets involved. She learns as much from the experience as she gives, if not more."

Bianquis feels privileged to able to send her son, Lucca, seven, to the French American International School, which motivates her and her family to help people who are less fortunate. "My world is such a rich world," she said. "Rich in the sense of people I know, things I do, and the life that I live, in non-monetary ways. And that's what it is like at the French American School too."

"I have also volunteered there," she said. "There are people from all over the world at the French American School. I'm using their 50 years of experience, their rules, programs, priorities, as I volunteer at the International Studies Academy. The French American School puts their priorities on their faculty, which ISA does too. I'm still weak at enrolling people [to volunteer], though."

"Valerie and her husband recognize the disparities," Saunders said. "And they try to make a difference. They recognize the disparities in wealth and education, and they are passionate and real about improving things."

"...she's a champion of the underdog," said Heather Wagenfeld, a South African native, who met Bianquis after she moved to San Francisco in 2003.

Photograph courtesy of Valerie Bianquis

Valerie Bianquis

Bianquis spent her first 26 years in Paris, France. After moving to San Francisco, she earned a degree in interior architecture at the Academy of Art University. Over the past decade she's applied her education to renovate her house; she takes students on field trips to her home and associated gardens. "My mother wanted us [my sister and I] to be independent," she said. "My father had a lot of style, and my mother was an unbelievable person. She taught me everything I know."

"When Valerie and her husband moved to Potrero Hill, they set out to improve the neighborhood and protect the investment they made in their home," Saunders said. "When she started volunteering at Daniel Webster Elementary, the City had

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PRODUCE from page 6

ing schedule and shelf life, as well as price. Many houses sell both organic and "conventional" – not certified organic – produce. Vendors depend on the honesty of their suppliers. "Produce may look the same," said Hudiburgh, "but it is not. It may ripen too fast, become mealy, lack sugar content, or be ugly." In order to meet customers' demand for year-round produce, fruits and vegetables may come from nearby Watsonville, Modesto, and Half Moon Bay, or be shipped from Ecuador, Mexico or Bolivia.

"You buy with your eyes," Hudiburgh said with the authority of forty years' experience. "Is it beautiful?" Hudiburgh may phone in orders at 10 and 11 the night before, having established camaraderie with the owners of What a Tomato, "JMB" – Jacobs Malcolm & Burtt – or Earl's Organic Produce, where she buys 90 percent of her organic produce. She gets organic bananas from Parkview Produce.

The synergy of the marketplace manifests itself in a myriad of ways. "Honesty, integrity and paying your bills on time," said Herrick. The profit margin is narrow, as growers, truckers, distributors, and buyers compete for business. Houses like Yuet Cheong Produce and Mercado Latino, Inc. supply small ethnic stores, while other houses sell to venues like Rainbow Grocery, Whole Foods, and Safeway.

Some of the houses have automated their operations; others still rely on handwritten invoices. There are faxes of availability; computerized price lists. Trucks and forklifts have mechanized some of the work so it isn't quite as backbreaking as it once was. Overripe or slightly bruised fruit is picked up by the San Francisco Food Bank to be distributed to low-income families. Herrick, embodying the passion of everyone committed to getting the best produce from farm to fork summed it all up: "More people should eat good food."

UCSF's Dyche Mullins Searches to Understand Cells' Structure

By Erin Currie

Cells have shape, structure, and move in complex ways. Watching these rich behaviors under a microscope can induce an observer to think cells have a personality, and are making decisions. Cells are actually made of molecules, or building blocks, that have simple rules. When many different molecules and rules are combined, complex behaviors emerge.

Dyche Mullins

Dyche Mullins, a University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) scientist, is interested in how sets of building blocks – which are simple and well understood – make living systems that are complex, surprising, and poorly understood. Mullins studies a part of the cell called the "actin cytoskeleton." "Cytoskeleton" means the "skeleton of cells." Mullins likens the actin cytoskeleton to the steel girders under a building's framework. If actin was expanded to one million times its size, it'd make a seven millimeter rod with properties similar to steel, flexible over long distances but stiff in short distances.

If a contractor builds in the wrong place, can the building be moved without profoundly disturbing the structure? Cells face a similar problem when they want to move without severely disturbing their actin cytoskeleton. They solve this challenge by taking pieces off of the back of the actin chain and adding them to the front in a constant process of creation and destruction. Mullins' laboratory studies the blueprints for this process; the molecules that specify the rules for construction and deconstruction.

Mullins bicycles to his UCSF Mission Bay labratory from his Bernal Heights home. He has a garage full of bike parts and bicycles, including two bikes that he built entirely from pieces rescued from the trash. He says the garbage-part bicycle helps him blend in on his morning ride through the Mission, where he often stops at Ritual Coffee Roasters along the way.

Mullins started a UCSF book club 12 years ago with fellow faculty member Henry Bourne after they talked about Shakespeare and poetry during his job interview. The club is currently reading works by Isaak Babel and Ernest Hemingway. Mullins likes to weld, and has a welding setup in his basement. He makes furniture and artsy objects. He's made a collection of pieces themed on Arp2/3 – his favorite protein complex that regulates the actin cytoskeleton – including a table for his back deck, a *chuppah* for his wedding to Jenna Phillips, and a backyard trellis.

KIDS ON THE BLOCK

Ethan G, six, celebrates losing his front two teeth!

Joshua Gill celebrated his eighth birthday on September 30th.

Dogpatch resident Zachary Grossblatt celebrated his first birthday with a traditional Korean Dol celebration. Zach was born five weeks early, just in time to see the Giants win the 2010 World Series.

Happy birthday Joshua! Six years old and an awesome hip-hop dancer! Love Mum, Dad and Jecca xxx

San Francisco native Connor Barton celebrated his second birthday on October 2nd with his favorite things: cake and bubbles! We wuv woo Connor! Love, Mommy & Daddy

Leila celebrates her sixth birthday this month! Happy birthday to our wonderful, sweet and amazing girl. We love you endlessly, Mommy and Daddy

Poppy Allen, budding pianist, turns two years old in November.

Happy second birthday, Gracie! We love you, Mom and Dad

Happy fifth birthday, Kaden! Your family and friends love you and hope you have a fantastic birthday!

Olivia is turning ten this month and ready for a new decade of adventures! We love you! Mom, Dad, Adam and Joy

Happy fifth birthday, Ava! We love you more each year, Mama, Dada, Dashiell and the pets

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

BIANQUIS from page 8

slated the school for closure. She and others saved the school with 'sweat equity,'" Saunders said. "She's also worked to green the community by planting trees and other vegetation."

"At Daniel Webster Elementary in Potrero Hill, I worked with first grade teacher Ana Lunardi for two years, and this was challenging," said Bianquis. "First graders were beyond my experience." Her assistance enabled Lunardi to spend more time reading to the students. "She was wonderful because she managed the whole class," Lunardi said. "She assisted individual students, and did such things as encouraging the children to stay quiet, so I could help small groups of students. She loved to volunteer."

But Bianquis's enthusiasm can also be overwhelming. "The problem for me is it's never enough. I always want to be doing more, which can lead to an unbalanced life," she said. "I haven't stopped volunteering since 1994. It's almost like I have a degree in volunteering...Working at ISA can also be challenging. The language is very difficult. The kids can curse a lot. When I go to ISA, I'm not sure what to say or what to be. The one thing I can count on, is that I care for them."

"Valerie is very concerned about people and whether people are treated equally and fairly," Wagenfeld said. "Valerie is almost political in her causes."

According to Bianquis, ISA students frequently are taught different values at school than at home. Outside school, the students, as well as their parents, may be "venting against the oppressor." They end up oppressing each other. "As soon as an African-American male gets employed, he is figuratively lynched by others in the African-American community, because they will say that he has given in to the whites. They're hard with each other. There's jealousy and despair. They wonder about their future," said Bianquis.

"She's a real connector," Twietmeyer said. "She has connected the community the way the library has. That helps bring the community together. This year it's a new focus for her, which is exciting. This is broadening her range in terms of volunteering."

"She's focused on ISA like a laser beam," Saunders said. "She's concerned about poverty and the educational impact on poverty. ISA directly affects the community, and Valerie is interested in young, poor girls getting an education. She's involved in the administration at the French American School. She is trusted by the teachers. She's young, and she's learning."

"The idea at the ISA...is to have the children be happy in school," Bianquis said. "At the French American School, there is no problem for the kids. There are many, many interests the kids can pursue in and after school. ISA is trying to do the same. ISA teaching staff is really awesome."

Festival Fun

Photograph by Emily Payne

More than 5,000 participants were drawn to the Potrero Hill Festival last month; the New Orleans Brunch at the Neighborhood House sold 300 tickets. District 10 Supervisor Malia Cohen wowed the crowd when she joined Pure Ecstasy in a rendition of *I Will Survive* on the main stage.

PUBLISHER'S from page 2

public decision making: improve our democracy. Like it or not, we're in a committed governance relationship with one another; divorce is not an option. Republicans and Democrats, those holding leashes and those herding children, nudists and the clothed, need to listen to one another with compassion, and take the time to learn the empirical and emotional basis for opposing positions. We can and should argue about things, especially things worth arguing about. But these arguments shouldn't become the social equivalent of a filibuster. When the time is ripe, we need to decide what we're going to do, and move on. Otherwise, whoever ultimately castes judgment on us – whether it be our children, or some more mystical authority – will squint their eyes and walk right past us, disappearing into a future that was chosen by nobody.

Why Did This Potrero Hill Home Sell After Just Twelve Days?

This dramatic home at 265 Arkansas Street sold after just twelve days on the market for well over the listing price.

The shortage of homes for sale is a key factor. The many well-qualified buyers who are eager to live on Potrero Hill have had very few homes to choose from in 2011.

If you have been thinking of selling your home, this may be an excellent time to take advantage of strong demand from buyers.

Sales Prices for All Potrero Hill Homes Sold in 2011*

2009 17th St $750,000
1566 19th Street $831,500
2005 19th St $2,150,000
1306 20th St $825,000
758 Arkansas St..... $500,000
752 Carolina St $3,250,000
1056 Carolina St $795,000
380 Connecticut St..... $900,000
646 De Haro St $1,060,000
706 De Haro St $1,437,500
860 De Haro St $1,960,000
890 De Haro St $920,000
1136 De Haro St $840,000
1151 De Haro St $960,000
1470 De Haro St $520,000
519 Kansas St..... $1,100,000
1308 Mariposa St..... $900,000
357 Mississippi St ... $1,817,000
437 Mississippi St ... $1,105,000
407 Missouri St..... $1,050,000
628 Missouri St..... $480,000
654 Pennsylvania St ... $717,000
1013 Rhode Island St . $1,040,000
1429 Rhode Island St... $855,000
538 Utah Street..... $710,000
531 Vermont St $995,000
823 Vermont St $765,000
905 Vermont St $699,000
600 Wisconsin St..... $1,595,000
636 Wisconsin St..... $1,201,000
1163 Wisconsin St..... $660,000

In 2011 the average sales price for a home on Potrero Hill has been $1,077,032*.

If you'd like a free report on the value of your home, call Tim Johnson at 710-9000

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*Sales information as of October 25, 2011 in SFAR MLS.

NOVEMBER 2011

southSFside

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS FROM SOMA TO BAYVIEW

Bayview Town Center Slowly Emerging

Photograph by Paul McDonald

Bayview Town Center slated for development as a cultural, dining and entertainment area.

By Bill Slatkin

Bayview Town Center, a central component of the Bayview Hunters Point Redevelopment Plan, is slowly taking shape. Despite the challenges of a difficult economy, threats to redevelopment-based financing triggered by the state's budget woes, and persistent criminal activity in the area, the San Francisco Housing Development Corporation (SFHDC) continues to push efforts to develop the Center.

According to Katherine Williams, SFHDC assistant project manager, the Town Center will stretch along Third Street between Jerrold and Williams/Van Dyke. But the project's heart – a cultural and entertainment node – will be on the campus planned for the Third Street block between Newcomb and Oakdale. "We're not talking about huge changes in the area," Williams said, acknowledging uncertainties about whether buildings are to be razed to make room for new structures. "The development has important historic elements, like the Bayview Opera House. It's not a matter of taking on big construction projects. The idea is to reprogram the space so that it can get much more usage."

An architect who has been with SFHDC for three years, Williams noted that the Bayview Town Center is meant as a gathering place, offering a variety of programs for the community. "People in the southeast part of the City don't have a destination. This will be the destination."

The Town Center will be created, in part, by upgrading the Opera House, Leola Harvard Elementary School – formerly Burnett School – and Joe Lee Recreation Center. The plan calls for consolidating three existing parking lots along Oakdale into a single, easily accessible lot with an adjacent park. The San Francisco Redevelopment Agency (SFRA) has earmarked $13 million for these projects.

Plans for the Opera House include renovating Mendel Plaza, modifying facilities to improve accessibility – and comply with American Disability Act requirements – and creating an open-air lobby at the front of the building featuring a box office, art gallery and cafe. In addition to ADA upgrades, Harvard's auditorium will be converted into a multimedia center. Vacant classrooms will be re-purposed to create a learning center for job training and other instructional programming and offices for use by arts organizations. A "movement center" is envisioned for the school's gymnasium, with upgrades to make the space more useful for yoga, dance, boxing and martial arts. "These resources are underutilized. The objective is to create a space that attracts people, that makes full use of these facilities," said Williams. "There's no reason not to have a thousand people here" benefiting from the services and facilities.

Parts of the plan have already been implemented, including the Providence Senior Apartments, located at the corner of Third and Newcomb streets. The building, completed in 2008, consists of 50 fully occupied one-bedroom, service-enriched apartments for low-income seniors. Likewise, the 4800 Third Street project – at Oakdale – consists of 18 below-market-price condominiums – seven of which are already owned and occupied – above the Radio Africa Restaurant, soon to be opened on the ground floor. The Providence Foundation and Christian Church Homes of Northern California co-sponsored the Providence Senior Apartments. 4800 Third Street was financed by the Redevelopment Agency, SFHDC, and Wells Fargo Bank. SFRA also provided a commercial loan to Radio Africa.

Under the plan a management company will be retained to manage Town Center facilities. According to Williams, it's important that program staff are able to focus on their projects and "not spend time taking care of a problem with the

see TOWN CENTER page 2

Family Housing Not Part of Private Sector Plans

By Katrina Schwartz

San Francisco, the densest city west of Chicago, is steadily squeezing in more housing, particularly in the cracks left behind by the subsidence of Southside's industrial base. But as currently planned much of the new housing built by the private sector won't be suitable for families, and virtually none will consist of single-family homes. Any hopes for the development of family-style housing appears to rest with the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency (SFRA).

According to AnMarie Rodgers, San Francisco Planning Department legislative affairs manager, the City is largely already built, with little room for additional single-family homes. Even after the nationwide collapse of the real estate market, the City's limited housing supply means that few Americans have the means to buy a home in San Francisco. The Planning Department estimates that only one out of ten San Franciscans can afford a median-priced condominium or detached house in the City, which now hovers in the $600,000 range.

Southside – including Bayview, Visitacion Valley and Excelsior – has historically hosted larger households than North Beach, Telegraph Hill, and the Tenderloin, in part because most of the existing housing stock has more than two bedrooms. However, according to

see HOUSING page 3

Port and Arts Commission Partner on Southside Beautification Project

By Rheba Estante

The Port of San Francisco and San Francisco Arts Commission are collaborating to identify an artist to beautify an unused grain elevator located along the Blue Greenway. The project will be paid for through the Port's South Waterfront Beautification Fund. The Port expects to announce guidelines for proposals by the end of this year.

The grain elevator is located near Islais Creek, on the northeast corner of Illinois and Amador streets. The elevator consists of two silos. One was built in the 1950's; the other roughly ten years later. The elevator was last used during the 1970's, when the United States was exporting grain to Europe during a wheat shortage.

The elevator may have the same potential as the artistic makeovers given to aging grain towers located in Omaha, Nebraska. Instead of demolishing their elevators, the City of Omaha collaborated with Emerging Terrain, a research and design collaborative. Founder Anne Tumble came up with the idea – named Stored Potential – to enlist local artists to create art with an agricultural-theme that could be designed onto the side of the silo-shaped towers. Roughly 500 submissions were received; 13 artists were selected to execute their designs. The final results received an overwhelmingly positive response.

"The Art Commission has a process in place for art enrichment projects, so we are very pleased to be working with them," said David Beaupre, Port of San Francisco senior waterfront planner. "They have a system for doing a call-out for projects using a selection panel and later working with an artist to implement their concept. Our goal is to improve the view of San Francisco at the entry to the Bayview community." According to Beaupre, a single artist or a team may be selected to undertake the work, with an award made roughly six months after the opportunity is formally announced. He also indicated that the grain tower is a dominate structure in the neighborhood's landscape, and deserves visual enhancement given its location.

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TOWN CENTER from page 1

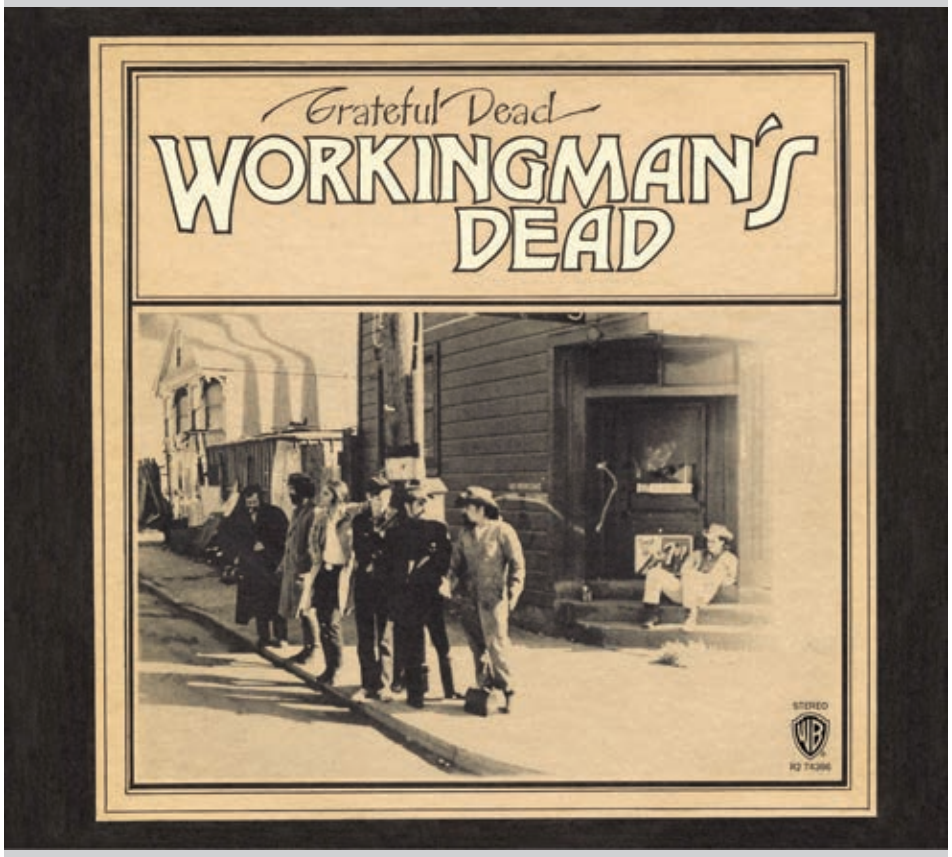
plumbing. That's the function of the management company." Because there would be daytime, afternoon and evening activities "we'll see people here at all hours. That's the best way to get the most out of our spaces and have people on the "campus" morning and night," said Williams.

SFHDC is collaborating with the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD), Arts Commission and Recreation and Parks Department (RPD) to introduce new activities and expand existing programs in Town Center facilities. The Arts Commission and RPD, for example, could run programs at the recreation center and Opera House. SFUSD would be responsible for programs at the learning center. "We're working on getting the City departments to the table," said Williams. "One thing we need is for them to agree to let a property management company run their facilities so they can focus on their programs…we've been talking to the Mayor's office, Supervisor Cohen and other City officials to get support." SFHDC holds regular community meetings to discuss the project.

SFHDC is a nonprofit organization established in 1988 by community leaders in Bayview and Western Addition to fight gentrification and the displacement of African-Americans. It currently offers programs related to financial literacy – with credit counseling and workshops – homeowner assistance, aiding homeowners facing foreclosure, and assisting displaced citizens obtain preferential status for new housing. In the past three years SFHDC helped roughly 200 first-time homeowners. Each year it helps clients originate more than $10 million in mortgage loans, and conducts more than 700 financial counseling sessions for low and moderate-income San Franciscans.

Williams hopes to see much of the Bayview Town Center become reality in the next 12 months. She noted that funding for many of the building upgrades and facilities conversions has been allocated. And she's firm in response to community concerns about criminal activity. "These things happen in other neighborhoods. Not just this neighborhood. And it [crime] isn't the only thing that happens here. Our goal is to see more people with positive activities here. That's the way to push out the negative."

Deadhead Trivia



The above photograph was probably taken at the now defunct Barney's Beanery Bar and Restaurant, near a meat rendering plant, most likely in Bayview. If you know the exact location, please tell: editor@potreroview.net

City and County of San Francisco
November 2011

VOTE November 8, 2011 Municipal Election

Department of Elections
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 48
San Francisco, CA 94102
Phone: (415) 554-4375
Fax: (415) 554-7344
TTY: (415) 554-4386
Website: www.sfelections.org
For questions about voter registration and vote-by-mail voting, (415) 554-4411
For Voter Information Pamphlets, (415) 554-4375
For information about candidates or campaign disclosure reports, (415) 554-4375
For election results on Election Night, (415) 554-4375 or this website
For information about polling places and ADA issues, (415) 554-4551

BE PREPARED

In a major disaster, it might be several days before vital services are restored. Use the information on the 72 Hours website to be prepared. www.72hours.org

Port of San Francisco

As-needed Real Estate Economics and Planning Services RFQ: The Port is seeking to qualify a pool of as-needed consulting teams with expertise in the following five core areas: real estate economics, site and master planning, urban design and architecture, historic preservation, and transportation planning. Successful respondents must have experience working with ports, municipalities, or similar government agencies in specialized fields, and be familiar with San Francisco's waterfront and its regulatory environment, including local, regional, and state regulations affecting waterfront development. Please visit http://www.sfport.com/index.aspx?page=18, http://sfgsa.org/index.aspx?page=359, or contact Linda Battaglia at Linda.battaglia@sfport.com.

WIC Can Help You

The San Francisco Department of Public Health Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Supplemental Nutrition Program offers benefits to low income pregnant women, breastfeeding mothers, postpartum mothers and women with recent pregnancy terminations; infants and children under the age of 5 years. Benefits include nutrition, breastfeeding education and support, supplemental foods and referral services. WIC staff speaks English, Spanish, Cantonese, Mandarin, Vietnamese and Cambodian. For more information, please call (415) 575-5788. WIC is an equal opportunity provider.

San Francisco Airport Commission

The Airport Commission has commenced the RFP process for the Retail Development Program, Phase II Lease, for retail locations at San Francisco International Airport. The Informational Conference is 10:00 a.m., November 16, 2011, at SFO, International Terminal, Aviation Museum. Written comments and recommendations will be accepted until 12:00 p.m., 11/30/2011. Please see http://www.flysfo.com/web/page/about/b2b/conces/ for additional information or call Mr. Tomasi Toki at (650) 821-4500

Not getting the financial child support you need from your child's mother or father? Have friends or acquaintances in this situation? We can help!
The San Francisco Department of Child Support Services offers the following
Free services:
Establishment of an order for monetary child support, health insurance, medical expenses and child care costs.
Modification (increase or decrease) of existing orders.
Collection of unpaid child support, with interest.
Consultations - please call (415) 356-2754 or e-mail us at sfdcss@sfgov.org
San Francisco Department of Child Support Services, Karen M. Roye, Director
Main Office is located at 617 Mission Street, San Francisco, CA 94105
Open Monday - Friday, 8:00 AM-5:00 PM., www.sfgov.org/dcss

November and December 2011 Board of Supervisors
Regularly Scheduled Board Meetings

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC – Come see your San Francisco government in action.
Tuesdays, 2:00pm, City Hall Chamber, Room 250.
November 1, 8, 15 & 22
December 6, 13

The City and County of San Francisco encourage public outreach. Articles are translated into several languages to provide better public access. The newspaper makes every effort to translate the articles of general interest correctly. No liability is assumed by the City and County of San Francisco or the newspapers for errors and omissions.

HOUSING from page 1

the 2009 Housing Element adopted by the City earlier this year, more than 40 percent of new residential construction in the last decade consisted of high-density developments located South of Market. During that period Bayview-Hunters Point's housing stock increased by three percent, with growth in Visitacion Valley somewhat higher, at seven percent.

New housing construction in the City has slowed dramatically since the economic downturn. The majority of new development is associated with projects underwritten by the SFRA, which is financing projects throughout the City, including at Rincon Point-South Beach, South-of-Market's Transbay project, and at the Hunters Point Shipyard, which is being separately redeveloped from the Bayview Hunters Point project area.

Bayview's redevelopment plan was adopted in 2006, but wasn't implemented until 2008 because parts of it were litigated. The Bayview Hunters Point Community Revitalization Concept Plan outlined the main goals for Bayview redevelopment: economic development, affordable housing, and community enhancements that improve quality of life, like parks, transportation infrastructure and better signage.

Two Housing Authority projects located within the Bayview redevelopment area are being renovated: Alice Griffith and Hunter's View. After years of federal divestment in public housing, these two housing complexes have deteriorated badly. Of Hunter's View's 267 units, only 148 house families. The rest are too dilapidated to be habitable. All of the existing units being replaced with additional housing and retail space being constructed. The project includes efforts to improve transportation to the remote neighborhood, which is located on Hunters Point Hill.

Under Alice Griffith's redevelopment plan, which recently received federal funding, all of the complex's existing 256 two-story townhouses will be replaced, with a total of 1,126 units to be built. The Housing Authority has repeatedly assured existing public housing residents that they won't be displaced during the redevelopment process.

"It's a question of competing priorities, which we get a lot from communities," said Vanessa Dandridge, a SFRA development specialist. "We recognize that families are leaving the City because of a lack of affordable family housing. That's not lost on us." According to Dandridge, the Agency will add units to increase density at Alice Griffith. Some of the new units will be sold to low-income families, others will serve as Section 8 housing, and still more will be offered as affordable housing for higher income people. The City hopes to transform Alice Griffith from an isolated public housing island to a healthy community through economic integration.

Bayview will soon be home to at least one new condominium complex designed with families in mind. The Redevelopment Agency helped finance a building located at 5600 Third Street, which predominately consists of three- to four-bedroom units. The inclusion of family-oriented housing at the development was at least in part in response to recommendations from the Bayview Project Area Committee, which advises the Agency on neighborhood needs. The complex features a large courtyard and playground to help create a family-friendly environment. The condos will be offered to first time homeowners.

Other Southside developments, particularly those financed by the private sector, are less likely to include significant amounts of family-sized housing; it's harder to make a profit from larger units that are affordably priced. Developers prefer to build studio-, one-, and two-bedroom units offered at market rates to young professionals. This development pattern will reinforce a well-worn pattern in the City: twenty- and thirty- somethings flock into the City for jobs, partying, and to find themselves, only to pour back out of City once they're ready to have families. San Francisco already has the dubious distinction of having the fewest children in any major American city; that situation may not get better anytime soon.

BEAUTIFICATION from page 1

"It takes six months to develop a design, and then six to 12 months to install a new piece of artwork. The leadership at the San Francisco Arts Commission will be essential to helping improve the environment of the South Waterfront," said Beaupre. "They are an asset in promoting this project to local artists throughout the City. We are going to rely on them to evaluate the artist entries, work with our stakeholders and selection panelists to decide on what is best for the City." The Port will also launch an outreach effort to attract local artists.

The Port will retain discretionary authority to reverse artwork that it considers to be in bad taste even after a commission is granted. The project is expected to cost $250,000, $50,000 of which will be allocated to manage the competition, develop the concept, and produce the art. The remaining $200,000 will be paid to the artist selected to create and install their work.

"We are very excited to participate with the Port of San Francisco," said Kate Patterson, the Art Commission's Public Art Program project manager. "This process allows community involvement, and we are looking forward to this project. Our hope is that the press stays in touch as it moves forward and that people will be involved in this important and valuable initiative for San Francisco."

For more information: www.sfport.com; www.sfartscommission.org.

Hill Parents Put Work on Hold to Raise Their Children

By Katrina Schwartz

Potrero Hill residents Brianna and her husband -- who preferred to keep a low profile -- have spent an unusual amount of combined mommy and daddy time raising their young children. After their first child, Chloe, was born in 2008, Brianna took the standard 12 week maternity leave from her job as a project manager at Levi-Strauss and Company. But before her leave was up she decided to stay home with her daughter indefinitely. A year and a half later, their second child, Matthew, was born. While Brianna remained a full-time mommy, her husband decided to join her, becoming a stay-at-home dad for almost two years.

"It's been great. We had the opportunity to enjoy our kids and just live, taking care of them. And seeing them grow in their first couple of years, which we've completely enjoyed," said Brianna. She admitted that her family was unique in its ability to make the situation work financially, though they did sacrifice day-to-day luxuries like going out and getting babysitters. "We were lucky enough to be in the position where it wasn't too stressful. So we made the choice to do that and be with our kids," she said. Her husband is a consultant for technology companies, which made it easier for him to take-off for an extended time period.

"A very small percentage of dads choose to stay home. Our culture is really set up to encourage men to work outside the home. Men get paid more, they get less flexibility at work to take time off, and there is still cultural stereotyping," explained Philip Cowan, a professor of psychology at the University of California, Berkeley. "Part of the problem is that it's not just a decision between two parents. It's also economic. Money plays a large role, and if they are hurting for money that hurts the family." Few families can afford to forgo salaries from both parents.

The stay-at-home arrangement impacted the couple's marriage. Typically at least one parent works outside the home daily; often both. Frequently, after working couples retire they find it difficult to adjust to being together most of the time. "There were times when I was thinking it would be better if he was working," laughed Brianna. "But I think we grew together as a family. The kids got used to it, and it's good for them to know that this is our family." Despite the idyllic years of child rearing, it couldn't last forever. "It was also an adjustment when he had to go back to work. They missed him. And everyday for the first few weeks was, 'where's daddy and why does he have to go to work'?" remembered Brianna.

Brianna isn't sure if she'll go back to work. If she does it will be only after her kids are in school. Her boss was so supportive of her decision to become a full-time mother that she isn't worried about finding employment once she decides to rejoin the workforce. And, she doesn't care if other people look down on her for being a stay-at-home mom. "My perspective on the feminist movement is that it's about having a choice. It's not about women taking over the world. It's about women having a choice. I think people forget that," she stated defiantly. And for Brianna that choice pays off daily. "It's always the unexpected moments that catch you off guard that are the best," she insisted.

Dinner Music

Dogpatch denizens Katherine and Imogen Doumani and Brooke Peters don flatware and perform on Tennessee Street.

METERS **from front page**

making parking easier to find." The new parking meters would accept coins, credit or debit cards.

SFpark proposes to deploy meters that change the rates charged depending on demand for the spot; prices would rise at spaces when demand increases. The result, according to Primus, would be less traffic, because people who would otherwise be circling to find parking will be able to find it more quickly.

Some meeting participants expressed concern that the new demand-based system would result in a decline in parking ticket revenue. But, according to Primus, the SFpark initiative will generate the same amount of funds as the City is currently collecting from it's traditional meters. Plus, he said, obtaining revenue from parking meters is a more friendly way of helping the City pay for costs. "Tickets are punitive," Primus said.

Seniors at the meeting told Primus that they couldn't read one type of the new meters after dark. Primus responded that those meters stopped charging at 6 p.m., prompting the seniors to wonder how they were supposed to know that, since they couldn't read the meter. Primus acknowledged their concern, and said that the next generation of meters will be easier to read.

HOMELESSNESS from front page

individuals living nearby confirmed Lewis' assessment. They claimed that police routinely hassle them, degrade them, and throw away their meager possessions. Berry Street is located just outside Bayview's jurisdiction, in the Downtown District. If the Downtown cops run them out they shift to the Bayview side. It's a constant shuffle back and forth.

"If you take what we have, which is hardly anything, and you throw it away, well, then that puts us at ground zero. So we've got to go out and get it again, and build it again," explained Jaime Crisco, who has been living on the street for three years. "Most of the time you've created a crook. Now you've got a person who's got nothing, is trying to get stuff again, and they're going to steal things because they need it."

Aside from those complaints, the people living on Berry Street seemed content. They've developed a community, in which they help each other out. Greg, an eighteen-year-old runaway from Tahoe, lives with his girlfriend and Crisco in one small structure. He'd been on the street for two weeks this time, but was homeless for a few months ago when he met Crisco. He came back to Berry Street because he knew he could trust the people camped there. "The people here is a lot better than the people downtown, I think. The people down here I can trust more, I think." "The people downtown are just more drug fiends," confirmed Bryan, a shy and slightly jumpy youth who busied himself crushing recyclables.

Lewis is a mechanic and often has money, which he frequently spends on food for his neighbors who don't have anything. "I work for $10 an hour, but I could be working for $75 an hour. But that's robbing people. I help people out. If they can't afford to take it to the mechanic, I help them out," said Lewis. He's even worked for the many people living in RVs or out of their vehicles in the area. He's been on the street for fifteen years, and says that it's much better than most of the Downtown shelters, which have rats. He knows that people have their prejudices, but claimed that living on the street will open one's eyes to true human nature.

"I'm not causing trouble. I'm just trying to live. And as far as I know anybody around here aren't causing trouble," said Lewis. "A lot of guys come down from Potrero Hill. I seen 'em. They park their car, get out, walk up and down the street, break into the cars, and then leave. They just come in and do their dirty work and then leave," Lewis explained.

"If people looked at the big picture and thought it through it a bit clearer, having street people around is unpaid security. We have to live here; we don't want to have any kind of trouble or ruckus around here because that means the cops come out. And if the cops come out then we have to move. And it's a bear to move," Crisco lamented. He confirmed that he's seen youth from the Hill come down to cause trouble, and then ride away, leaving the people on the street to take the blame.

The assumptions and scapegoating that Lewis and Crisco complained about isn't new. "The homeless are one of the last few populations society says it's ok to hate," mourned Jennifer Friedenbach, the Coalition on Homelessness' executive director. She added that Supervisorial District 10 – which includes Bayview, Dogpatch, and Potrero Hill – has the City's highest rate of homelessness, with 1,151 counted in 2011, up from 444 in 2009. She noted that first time homelessness is on the rise; 53 percent of respondents to the City's point-in-time count and survey admitted that they'd never been homeless before. Homeless families are also at an all-time high; 227 families are on a waiting list for shelter.

"We are seeing increased need across all of our programs," agreed Sean Brooks, San Francisco Food Bank's director of programs. "All the social service organizations are stretched super thin. As you try to do more with less people are falling through the cracks." The Food Bank mostly serves the working poor, who rely on food pantries for their groceries. Brooks cited state cuts to social programs, including Cal Works, the state's welfare program, as increasing pressures on social service organizations. It doesn't surprise him that some working poor might now be homeless.

That's what happened to Crisco. He used to fix and reprogram computers for a living. When the economy went sour his work dried up, and his long-term romantic relationship ended. Soon enough he was on the street. He says he's met many other people on the street whose homelessness was caused by the economic downturn.

The point-in-time count and survey indicates that the total number of homeless in San Francisco remained stable between 2009 and 2011, at roughly 6,500 people. Advocates like Friedenbach cautioned that the count underestimates the real number of homeless, and chronically misses youth and families. However, she said it's a good point of comparison because it's always done the same way. Anecdotally, most homeless advocates, soup kitchen managers, and administrators of other social programs said that they've seen many more new faces at their tables, in line at shelters, and taking cans off food pantry shelves. The Great Recession hit the whole country hard, and even affluent San Francisco, the West Coast's financial center and technology haven, is feeling it.

"It opened my eyes to society, I guess you could say. It made me see things a lot clearer," said Crisco of his homeless stint. "Everyday working people look down their nose at people out here. They've got their own preconceptions of people on the street and nine out of ten times they are wrong. It also showed me that people out here are good and decent too," he concluded.

community CALENDAR

November 2011

Through November
Art: Watercolors by Larry Yamamoto
Yamamoto presents a variety of images, displaying his range of artistic talent. 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Free. Jolt 'n Bolt Bakery & Café, 2325 Third Street, Suite 100.

Sundays in November
Dance: On1 Salsa Dancing Lessons
Learn to salsa dance with Tianne Frias, a World Salsa Championship finalist. Open to everyone—from beginners to advanced dancers—interested in salsa. No partner needed. Four-week progressive dance sessions. November 6, 13, 20, and 27. Beginners, 5 p.m.; intermediates, 6:30 p.m. Series: $18 drop-in; $60 advanced online registration. Metronome Dance Collective, 1830 17th Street. Information: DanceSF.com.

3 Environment: Growing a Garden City
Join 18 Reasons for a discussion of the community-supported agriculture model as applied to our neighborhoods and cities. Author Jeremy N. Smith will begin with a presentation, followed by a panel conversation among individuals representing Urban Sprouts, Garden for the Environment, and other local food organizations. Wine and snacks included. 6:30 p.m. Admission: $10. 18 Reasons, 3674 18th Street. Information: 18reasons.org.

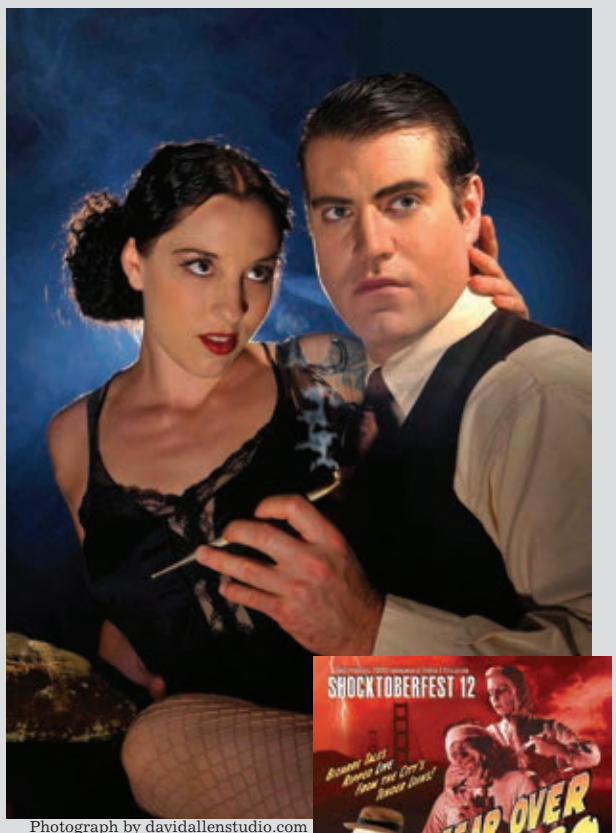
4 Family: First Friday Night Jive
Bayview Koshland Fellows, in partnership with the YMCA and Bayview Opera House, present First Friday Night Jive at the Bayview Opera House. Featuring live music, dancing, and food for the whole family. 6 to 10 p.m. Free. 4705 Third Street. Information: bayviewoperahouse.org.

5 Family: SFUSD Public School Enrollment Fair
Start your public school enrollment search at this free, annual event. The Enrollment Fair helps families learn about the schools and educational programs available to their children. All public schools will have representatives to answer your questions. Parents for Public Schools and other community organizations will also be present. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free. Concourse Exhibition Center, 620 Seventh Street. Information: sfusd.edu.

6 Performance: *It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad, Amazing Race Around the World in 79½ Days*
Lamplighters Music Theatre presents its 46th annual Champagne Gala and Auction with a topsy-turvy Victorian reality game show where some of your favorite authors, including Charles Dickens, Jane Austen, Mary Shelley, Robert Louis Stevenson, and W. S. Gilbert, as well as a few of their most famous characters, battle for the right to live in the real world. Along the way they'll match wits in competitions of dance, fashion, cooking, and love, meeting an unexpected collection of people from the real world. Come early to bid at the silent auction and join the cast after the show for a complimentary champagne reception. 4 p.m. Tickets: $55 to $97. Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness Avenue. Information: lamplighters.org.

Fear Over Frisco Continues

South of Market's Thrillpeddlers presents Fear over Frisco, an "extravaganza of terror & titillation," consisting of a trio of plays presented as part of the troupe's 12th annual Shocktoberfest. Thrillpeddlers offers kitschy, campy Broadway musical numbers, with excellent singing and dancing, before and between the "straight" drama, that dazzle and entertain. With a musical score by Richard "Scrumbly" Koldewyn, an original member of the legendary Cockettes, this theatrical production has many moments of blood-drenched black comedy, spectacle and laughs that make it perfect for Day of the Dead celebrations. Through Nov. 19 at the Hypnodrome, 575 10th Street, at Bryant. Tickets: $25/$30 general, $35 for premium "Shock Boxes" and "Turkish Lounge" seats. Information: thrillpeddlers.com; 377.4202.



Photograph by davidallenstudio.com

11-13 Art: Celebration of Craftswomen
The Women's Building Annual Celebration of Craftswomen returns for its 33rd year at a new venue in the Fort Mason Center. The show is San Francisco's largest holiday fine crafts retail fair, and with over 160 participants, the largest national event celebrating the craft of women. Potrero artist Terry Ow-Wing will display her glass works. Benefiting The Women's Building, a community center serving women and girls in San Francisco. Festival Pavilion at the Fort Mason Center. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission: $9 adults; $7 seniors, students, and disabled; free to children under 12. Information: celebrationofcraftswomen.org.

12 Music: Artist Reception for Farley's Window Artist of the Month
Enjoy window art from Jakub Kalousek and music by Petr Tittelbach and the Goat Milk Band. 7 p.m. Free. Farley's, 1315 18th Street.

13 Fundraiser: Starr King Elementary Book Fair
Starr King Elementary will hold a book fair at Book Passage's Ferry Building store. The bookstore will donate a percentage of sales to the school, and other Ferry Building businesses have joined forces to make the event even more fun for participants: Ciao Bella will have ice cream scoops for the children, Scharffen Berger will offer chocolate squares, and Mijita Mexican restaurant will provide salsa and chips. There will be story time with Starr King's principal, Greg John, and a book talk by Book Passage's children's book buyer, a former children's librarian. In addition to shopping for books to support Starr King, Book Passage customers will be able to donate select books to the Starr King library through a giving-tree program. Book Passage is open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Sunday; story time will be at 1 p.m. Free. 1 Ferry Building. Information: bookpassage.com/kids-books-fairs.

13 Kids: Lanternfest
Join the German School for a century-old tradition of songs and brightly-colored lanterns in remembrance of Saint Martin, the Roman soldier who dedicated himself to helping mankind. Meet at the Jackson Playground Clubhouse and parade through the neighborhood. Refreshments provided. 6 p.m. Suggested donation: $5 adults; $2 kids. Jackson Playground, 1501 17th Street. Information: info@germanschool.com; www.germanschool.com.

16 Music: The Soul Delights
The ever-popular Soul Delights return to Farley's. Join the crowd and enjoy the tunes. 7:30 p.m. Free. Farley's, 1315 18th Street.

17 Art: Metropolitan Arts and Technology High Exhibition
Metropolitan Arts and Technology High, a free, college-preparatory high school with a mission to help traditionally under-served students go to college, is now located in the Bayview. On this day, the school will host an exhibition of interdisciplinary projects, where students share what they've learned about Bayview's history and discuss the contributions they can make as community members. The 11th graders' research papers will be on display as giant newspaper articles, and the students will be available to answer questions. 6 to 8 p.m. Free. Gloria R. Davis Building, 1195 Hudson Avenue. Information: es-metro.org.

24 Thanksgiving: Farley's Gives Back
Farley's long-standing tradition of donating its tips to the San Francisco Food Bank will continue on Thanksgiving Day. The Food Bank provides food to more than 400 local nonprofit groups. 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Farley's, 1315 18th Street. Information: sfoodbank.org.

30 Community: Photo Take-Down Show
Help take down the photos from the 21st Annual Farley's Pet Parade and Costume Contest. If a photo of you or a loved one is on the wall, you are welcome to pick it up. Donations for photos welcome; funds will be contributed to Daniel Webster School. 7 p.m. Free. Farley's, 1315 18th Street.

Hill Resident Pursues Show Business

By Jim Van Buskirk

With his curly salt and pepper hair, chubby cheeks, and wire-rimmed glasses, Bruce Pachtman may not look like a circus performer, drummer, comic, solo performance artist, kindergarten teacher, producer, and publicist, but he's been all of these things, sometimes simultaneously. The loquacious raconteur, who moved to 18th and Utah streets a couple of years ago, has pursued a show business career that took him from Pennsylvania to New York, Los Angeles, and San Francisco.

Pachtman began his trajectory with "Comedy Clinic," a trio of Penn State alums who took their shot at performing in New York. Early success brought him in contact with Larry David, Carol Leifer, Paul Reiser, and Andrew Dice Clay. Pachtman encountered Jerry Seinfeld at an important, early audition; the two occasionally ran together in Central Park. Pachtman became familiar with various comedy styles – improv, sketch comedy, standup – the hierarchy of major and minor league comedy clubs – The Improv, Catch A Rising Star, The Comic Strip – and the steps to being "discovered" and offered a prime slot at an important club. "There are only six time slots at each of the three best clubs, so everyone is vying for those eighteen spots."

After appearing in a 28-minute student film, *I Think I'm Gonna Like it Here*, directed by soon-to-be famous Chris Columbus, Pachtman received a call from the prestigious Creative Artists Agency. He moved to Los Angeles, imagining he'd become a star. But the window of opportunity quickly closed. He ended up teaching the children of stars, and handing out towels at a hot tub establishment. "After six years I'd had it with LA." He relocated to San Francisco 22 years ago.

Patchman shifted his professional focus to child care advocacy and training. A friend talked him into attending a show at The Marsh, "a breeding ground for new performance." Pachtman ended up seeing Charlie Varon's *Rush Limbaugh in Night School* ten times, and was ultimately invited by founder and artistic director Stephanie Weisman to introduce the show. While playing drums with a circus, he participated in classes with David Ford, where he developed his one-man show, *Don't Make Me Look Too Psychotic*. Originally scheduled for eighteen performances, the play took off, and ran for 68 weeks at the Bannam Place Theater in North Beach. Through his involvement with the theater, he also began producing and promoting friends' productions. "Once you have magic, people just start coming," Pachtman explained.

In 2005 he founded, with W. Kamau Bell, Solo Performance Workshop, in which over the course of eight sessions students develop and perform a fifteen- to twenty-minute solo performance piece. He met Ty McKenzie, who, with her sister Cory, founded Stage Werx Theatre in 2007 to "provide a forum in which theatre artists – actors, directors, playwrights, designers – may further develop their talents and skills." The theatre's website translates this as, "But really, we're here to open opportunities for freaks, starving artists, newcomers, and old hats to get their stage on."

In mid-October, Stage Werx Theatre moved from 538 Sutter, a building it shared with the San Francisco Playhouse and Shelton Studios, to 446 Valencia at 16th Street, which was formerly occupied by Intersection for the Arts, which had moved to Fifth and Mission Streets. The new Stage Werx space, in addition to operating as a rental house, is currently offering three monthly shows. *Previously Secret Information*, described by producers Joe Klocek, Ty McKenzie and Pachtman as "funny people telling compelling stories," falls somewhere on the continuum of stand-up and traditional storytelling. *Underground Sound* is a "new eclectic music series," with Tom Sway as artistic director. *Solo Sundays* bills itself as "Hilarious, Heartbreaking & Provocative Solo Performances."

Pachtman encouraged potential performers to contact him. "If you've got a good idea for a show, any kind of performing: comedy, improv, sketch groups, circus community, musicians showcase. You have to have craft," he qualified. "We're looking for producers, publicists, marketing people, technicians, interns even more then we're looking for performers. It's far easier to find a good performer in this town than it is to find any

see PACHTMAN page 23

POTRERO BRANCH 1616 20th STREET 355.2822
Tuesday 10 am - 8 pm, Wednesday 12 noon - 8 pm
Thursday 10 am - 6 pm, Friday 1 pm - 6 pm
Saturday and Sunday 1 pm - 6 pm
Monday CLOSED

LIBRARY NEWS

By Lynne Barnes, Potrero Branch Librarian

The library will be closed on November 11 for Veteran's Day and on November 24 and 25 for Thanksgiving.

November Programs for Adults

Learn a Language Online (Mango Languages). Brush up on or learn a new language, with instruction by Richard Le. November 6, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

The Potrero Hill Book Club meets at the library every third Wednesday. November's selection is *Heart of a Soldier*, by James B. Stewart. November 16, 7 to 8:30 p.m.

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

November Programs for Teens

Your Space. Gaming, crafts, computers. Bring a friend; meet a friend; hang out in our program room. Okay to bring your own computers, gaming devices, and craft projects. November 3, 10, 17, 3 to 4:15 p.m.

November Programs for Children

Karen Quest, Cowgirl Tricks. Cowgirl Tricks is a vaudeville-style comedy Western act with trick roping, whip cracking, and kooky cowgirl shenanigans; perfect for the whole family! Come see why Karen Quest is "America's Funniest Cowgirl." Space is limited; call for a reservation: 355.2822. November 5, 4 to 5 p.m.

Baby Rhyme and Play Time. For infants up to 18 months and their caregiver. November 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 1:15 to 1:45 p.m.

Family Storytime. Storytime features stories, songs, and rhymes. For children up to five years and their caregiver. November 3, 10, 17, 10:30 to 11 a.m. and 11:15 to 11:45 a.m.

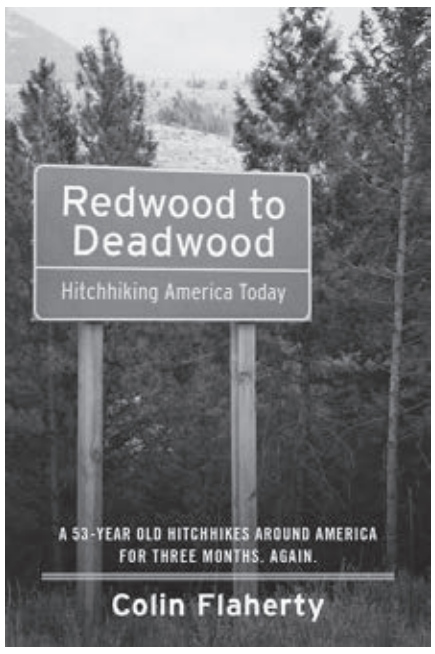
Fun Flicks. This film program is offered every second Wednesday of the month and includes short films based on children's books and stories. November's films will be G*iggle Giggle Quack, Miss Nelson Has a Field Day,* and *Molly's Pilgrim*. Bring a snack. For children ages three to eight. November 9, 6:30 to 7:15 p.m.

Korean Storytime. For families 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 children up to five years old. November 13, 3:30 to 4:15 p.m.

Redwood to Deadwood Worth a Read

By John Stryker Meyer

People don't hitchhike anymore. At least not like the glory days of the 1960's and 1970's, when hitchhiking was popular, fun, and maybe even safe. Writer Colin Flaherty decided to find out why this informal transportation option has become virtually extinct, by setting out on three-month adventure with a pack and an extended thumb.



"It was after the economy tanked, and I was kind of bored," Flaherty said. "So I wondered what it would be like to hitchhike around the country and write a book about it." The result, *Redwood to Deadwood* follows 53-year old Flaherty as he hitchhiked cross America, seeing the country in a way is increasingly rare.

Flaherty started in Colorado, where he'd spent the winter teaching snowboarding at Loveland resort. From there, staying to the back roads and squiggly lines on the map – in the spirit of Zen *and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance* – he hitchhiked through Wyoming, the Dakotas, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Nebraska, Colorado, Nevada, California, Arizona, and points east, traveling 5,000 miles in three months.

"Before I tucked my thumb in for the final time, I'd run with wild horses, visit a pot farm, hunt big game, poach big game, get chased by a helicopter, get into crazy family feuds, ride in cop cars, reconnect with old friends, make new ones, get tired and exhilarated and lost and found and scorned and accepted, kicked out and invited in," Flaherty writes. "That and a lot more. I now know how to cook muskrat, squirrel and rockchuks. And, oh yeah, I almost got murdered."

One of the book's themes is Flaherty's quest to see the people who were with his brother the night he died a hero in Vietnam. The accounts of his brother and his comrades are touching and tearful, as are his tales of his family in San Diego. Ultimately, every travel book is a journey of self discovery. Much like Bill Byrson's *A Walk in the Woods,* Jack Keraouc's *On the Road*, or even Pirsig's *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance* Flaherty writes in a way that enables his readers to feel as if they're with him on the ride, sharing the fun, laughter, adventure, danger, and sadness.

For more about the book: www.RedwoodToDeadwoodBook.com.

Final Beam Placed on Children's Hospital

Photographs by Paul McDonald

Above, left to right: Michael Dell, CEO of Dell, Inc., Cindy Lima, Executive Director of Mission Bay Hospitals Project, Marc Benioff, donor and CEO of Salesforce.com, Sarah Moussa, former patient, Mark Laret, CEO of UCSF Medical Center, Herb Moussa, project architect and father of Sarah, District 10 Supervisor Malia Cohen, and Sam Hawgood, Dean of UCSF School of Medicine gathered for the one year anniversary of ground breaking for the University of California, San Francisco's Benioff Children's Hospital. The facility's placement of the final structural steel beam commemorated the event.

Teatro ZinZanni Forced Out of Embarcadero Location

By Jim Van Buskirk

Teatro ZinZanni's current show will be its last, at least at the location it's enjoyed since arriving in town from Seattle in 2000. The theatrical troupe is being forced to move from Piers 27 and 29; the prime waterfront property is being redeveloped as part of the 2013 America's Cup yacht race. A permanent new home has been identified, but won't be publicly revelaed until plans are finalized. According to managing director Susan Outlaw, the situation was "bittersweet." Outlaw expressed her hope that the 100 ZinZanni employees will return to the organization when it reopens next year.

Originally produced by the Seattle-based nonprofit performing arts company, One Reel, Teatro ZinZanni is now an independent 501c-3 organization, committed to "preserving, nurturing and supporting the centuries-old tradition of European circus arts."

Even if you've already enjoyed one of Teatro ZinZanni's previous performances, the impending closure provides the perfect excuse to see the current show, *On the Air*, which runs through New Year's Eve. Using the conceit of radio station KTZ, "the voice of the Barbary Coast" struggling to remain on the air, the show deftly combines elements of vaudeville, cabaret, cirque and opera. The eclectic mix of singers, juggling acts, acrobats, and clowns offers something for everyone. A live five-person orchestra performs music from a variety of styles and eras, including a Theremin accompanied version of "When You Wish Upon a Star," Karen and Richard Carpenter impersonators, and rock, blues, and opera divas. The shtick plays out inside an antique-style Spiegeltent, a large tent constructed of wood and canvas and decorated with mirrors and stained glass, creating a magically intimate setting.

TZ's founder and artistic director, Norman Langill, is an award-winning writer, playwright, director, producer, actor and founding member of the One Reel Vaudeville Show, serving as its president since 1972. Potrero Hill resident Beaver Bauer has designed costume for the show since it opened in 2000. Her designs have been worn by Joan Baez, Thelma Huston, Sally Kellerman, as well as many acrobats and specialty acts. Bauer regularly designs costumes for the American Conservatory Theater and the Brian Boitano Skating Spectacular.

TZ features an array of international performers, many of whom play multiple characters. Acclaimed actor, writer and comedian Geoff Hoyle, once a clown in the Pickle Family Circus, has performed at ACT, Berkeley Repertory, the Eureka Theatre and Cirque de Soleil. Actor, dancer, and comedian Wayne Doba met Andrea Conway Doba while performing at Teatro ZinZanni, and subsequently married the talented actress, dancer and acrobat. Bernard Hazens' unique act is described as "a dynamically choreographed combination of acrobatics, juggling and Rolla Bola." Rhythmic gymnast Elena Gatilova left a professional sporting career in her native Ukraine to perform internationally.

Manuela Horn, known as the "Austrian Amazon," is billed as "a yodeling, dancing, acting comedic force of nature." After attending Notre Dame de Namur in Belmont on a musical theater scholarship, Christopher Phi divides his time between Los Angeles and the Bay Area, performing with Cirque du Soleil, on television, and in commercials. Mat Plendl, known as the "World's Greatest Hula Hoop Artist," has been a member of the TZ family since 2002. Vocalists include recording artist Duffy Bishop and lyric soprano Kristin Clayton.

And if that's not enough, throughout the three-hour extravaganza the audience is treated to a delicious five-course meal, created by Restaurant TZ, an arm of renowned Taste Catering, with a choice of beef, chicken or vegetarian entrees. Comely servers offer a wide variety of beverages, alcoholic and non-, available from the full bar. In TZ's eleven years in San Francisco, hundreds of guest artists in forty different shows have entertained more than 800,000 visitors. Don't miss the final fun before a hiatus and reopening in a new location.

Decompression Party

Photograph by Richard Christian

Burning Man attendees and supporters packed the Decompression party held last month in Dogpatch at Esprit Park and Cafe Cocomo. One young passerby was overheard asking, "Mommy, why are they all wearing their Halloween costumes so early?"

ZYNGA from front page

that several years ago the neighborhood economy was struggling; shops closed down and restaurants went out of business. Now he knows coworkers who've moved to the Hill to be closer to work. They see the community as a fun place. "Zynga moves in force. There are a lot of us, and we go to the businesses around here. And that matters," concluded Martinson.

Zynga refused to comment on the number of its employees living on the Hill or on much else about the company. However, other businesses in the area – like World Gym and Source – agreed that they're steadily attracting more Zynga patrons. And Zynga is part of a larger technology community growing in and around Showplace Square, which includes Sega, Adobe and other smaller companies. The young techies, along with workers drawn to the University of California, San Francisco, are revitalizing Mission Bay and Showplace Square. "They are young people doing well so they have money to spend," said Source's owner Andrew Fox. Talmadge remembered a similar feeling right before the dot com bubble burst in 2001, but is optimistic that the changes he's seeing now aren't the result of an inflated market, but rather the long-term development of a neighborhood close to his heart.

Photograph by Tristan Schnetzler

Zynga employees pass through a light-up tunnel after showing their badges when entering the building.

Get a Job

By Mauri Schwartz

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

Q: I have an interview coming up soon. I read your column awhile back, and feel like I'm prepared for any question they may ask me. Is there anything else I need to think about?

A: That's a great question. Congratulations on landing the interview and good for you for getting prepared! Here's a few additional tips related to dressing, and behaving, for success.

Attire – You want the interviewer to focus on how you can do the job, and not be distracted by the way you look. Regular attire at any particular organization varies- figure out the norm before the interview. You should always dress a level up from what's typical, unless usual attire is a business suit; then you should wear one, too. And no matter what they're wearing, the lowest level of dress for you should be business casual: nice, pressed slacks and long-sleeved button shirt for men and nice skirt or pants and matching blouse for women. Be sure that your shoes are clean and polished.

Hair, Makeup, Fingernails – Your hair should be clean, neat and out of your face. Women should wear light makeup, don't overdo it. No makeup for men. Your nails should be clean, short, shaped, and with clear or no polish.

Fragrance – This is a hot topic for me, but most people don't even think about it. Most products you use in your daily routine - bath soap, shampoo, conditioner, hair gel, deodorant, shaving cream, body/face lotion, after shave, and cologne/perfume - are scented. The resulting smell can be overwhelming. It's best to use unscented products, or take care to rinse off all shower products and avoid using cologne/perfume altogether.

Jewelry – Keep jewelry simple - nothing garish or noisy - or wear none.

Smoking – Of course, you know not to smoke during the interview, but you should also refrain from smoking before you go in and on the way. Your clothes will retain the smell if you do.

Bring a few copies of your resume and a professional looking portfolio with paper and a pen. Don't take detailed notes, but you'll need a place to jot down a few words and contact information for follow-up.

If possible, leave your cell phone behind. Otherwise, ensure that it's completely turned off - not on silent or vibrate - and not visible to the interviewer.

One last tip or two – Listen to your favorite, most uplifting music on your way - it'll boost your confidence. Smile at everyone you see as soon as you enter the building or parking lot. They'll smile back, and that'll make both of you feel good.

Good luck!!

Mauri Schwartz is President / CEO of Career Insiders www.CareerInsiders.com.

Thelma Calvillo, Dedicated Community Member

Thelma C. Calvillo, a San Francisco native and life-long Potrero Hill resident, passed away peacefully in her home on October 16, 2011, at the age of 75, surrounded by friends and family.

Thelma Calvillo, 75

Born on the Hill as Thelma Figueroa, Calvillo was the youngest of 13 children born to parents who immigrated to the Hill from Puerto Rico before she was born. She attended Commerce High School, where she met Ralph Calvillo, the love of her life, in 1952. She and Ralph were married in St. Joseph's Church. They lived first on Arkansas Street, then on Rhode Island and 20th streets. One of her first jobs was at the Corner Creamery, now home to Chez Papa. She loved to share the Hill's history with others.

Raising her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, and building community, were her greatest achievements. She organized block parties and neighborhood celebrations, bringing people from diverse backgrounds together. As a childcare provider for 30 years, she was "mother" to several dozen children from the neighborhood, who knew her as 'Nana.' Nana's children were taught good manners; many returned to visit her, even as adults.

Calvillo was known for her love of cooking and decorating her house for the holidays. Halloween was particularly special; family and friends would flock to her home for her famous pumpkin cookies. She was remarkably crafty, making clothes and costumes for family and friends, and assembling favors for baptisms, weddings, showers, and other celebrations. For many years she supported Hepatitis C research, working to increase awareness of the disease and supporting the search for a cure.

Calvillo is survived by her husband of 56 years, Ralph, her children, Rose Marie Calvillo-Nadell (Barry), Linda Calvillo (Porter Moss), Edward W. Calvillo and Ernest R. Calvillo; her grandchildren, Edward P. Calvillo (Heidi), Celina Harrington (Reed), Elena, Wyatt, and Chance Calvillo; and great-grandchildren, Brianna, Kayla and Cologero Harrington; as well as four sisters, and one brother. She also leaves behind sister in-laws, brother in-laws, nieces, nephews, and cousins. Thelma's family extends their deepest gratitude to the doctors, nurses, and staff at California Pacific Medical Center.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to the California Pacific Medical Center Foundation, in memory of Thelma Calvillo, to support the work of Dr. Natalie Bzowej, who made such a difference in her life. The Foundation's address is 2015 Steiner Street, second floor, San Francisco, California 94115.

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CLASSIFIED ADS

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TUTORING Get help with tests & homework. See www.myStudyBuddy.org. Jane Radcliffe, M.A., CA Credential #150007. 415.586.4577.

Employment

VIEW PRODUCTION MANAGER POSITION The View is looking for a community-minded individual with experience in graphic design, writing and project management. The production manager will coordinate, plan and execute monthly publication of the newspaper in a timely manner; write some feature columns and other contributions as needed and maintain and coordinate advertising accounts. The position also includes ad sales, community outreach and general information management and projects. The ideal candidate will be organized, detail-oriented and committed to community-based journalism. The position is available starting in early December. Email resume and cover letter to graphics@poteroview.net by November 10, 2011.

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CRIME & SAFETY REPORT

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A Day in the Life of a Public Defender

By Sasha Lekach

The San Francisco Office of the Public Defender represents the accused – also known as "the defendant" – who can't afford to pay for a private lawyer in criminal cases. On a September weekday morning in Department 22 of the Justice Hall, men in orange sweats with their sizes written in black sharpie on their backs filed in from a back hallway past an empty judge's seat, some in handcuffs. Lawyers, sheriff's deputies and what seemed like an endless stream of people milled about the benches in the front of the room. Family members arrived; the orange-clad men waved and smiled at people they recognized. Once Cynthia Ming-Mei Lee, assistant presiding and supervising criminal judge arrived, things started moving.

Deputy public defender Doug Welch whispered from the "attorneys only" bench in front of me that what was to ensue was the "master calendar," a marathon of cases that the judge called to check on their progress. The cases spilled out in no apparent order. According to Welch, a sign-in sheet at the front of the court that the participating lawyers had signed as they arrived that morning was supposed to systemize the process. Still, he expected to wait for an hour or two before his case was called.

Welch was checking on the status of an appeal; a three-minute interaction with the judge, who had dispatched a few such cases in her first hour. Lee was efficient if not a bit sharp-tongued; if a lawyer dawdled, or a defendant didn't speak up, she let them know. Dates were set for the next step in cases. If there was a delay to decide a date, Lee picked one. The legal lingo was so dense that only someone experienced in such proceedings could effectively track what was going on.

On the Hall's first floor preliminary hearings were being held. Although deputy public defender Eric Quandt's office is across the street at the public defender's Seventh Street office, he spends half his time in 850 Bryant's courts. Today was unofficially dubbed "preliminary hearing day." Quandt was working three cases, all of which were in the preliminary hearing stage, in which prosecutors and defendants brief a judge to determine if a case will go to trial. One of Quandt's cases involved a man charged with selling two Vicodin tablets in the Tenderloin. The accused faced up to a year in jail, an outcome Quandt was working to avoid.

The first "prelim" heard focused on another of Quandt's cases, involving a man in his early twenties on parole who was found with a gun and marijuana in the Tenderloin. The prosecutor first questioned her first witness. Unlike witness testimonies on television, many mundane questions were asked to confirm basic facts, "How many feet away from the defendant were you when you first talked to him?" "When did you first smell marijuana on the defendant?" "How many years have you been a police officer?" Eventually Quandt was up to question the police officer; he too asked a lot of questions about the order of events. An episode of *Law and Order* this was not, though there were many "objections" and "overruleds" yelled out.

According to Quandt, in cases where it seemed that the defendant had no way to avoid the District Attorney's charges, there's "a lot of strategy, a lot of moving parts." Although he couldn't share specifics of the case, he implied that details matter. If he could make it seem that the officer had apprehended the defendant a moment too soon, or some other small indiscretion, a potentially effective defense could be mounted.

After a courtroom break, Quandt's second case about a robbery was up. An older man, the alleged victim, was sworn in at the witness box, and answered questions about what had happened at his home when he said he'd been attacked by his housemate, Quandt's client. Family and friends of the victim and defendant crowded the court. Prompted by the prosecutor's questions, the older man claimed that he'd arrived at his apartment to find all his possessions boxed and outside his room. One of his housemates started fighting him, eventually kicking him in his throat. The man told his side passionately, hurrying to make sweeping statements about an attack that sent him to surgery on his throat. But the court needed to hear the details. The judge told him to slow-down, and go through every last detail, from the arrangement of the house to describing each moment of the physical fight.

After roughly an hour, the judge called an hour recess; it was lunchtime. Lawyers, court officials, defendants and victims streamed out of the dark courtroom – made even more claustrophobic from the surplus of stuffy legal language – into the streets, conversations reverting to the everyday matters of life.

Mayoral candidate Jeff Adachi serves as the City and County's public defender, with 93 lawyers and 60 support staff. He's the only public defender to be publicly elected in a California county. Quandt had lunch in the office he shared with two other people, including a third-year law student intern from Golden Gate University. Eating a salad and leftover flatbread pizza, Quandt talked about the office's comfortable feel, where everyone collaborates and where Adachi still tries cases.

"The system works," Quandt, who received his law degree from University of California Hastings College of the Law in 1999, said. Although he often works with convicted criminals and people who may have committed the crimes they're accused of, he rarely feels threatened. "They realize you are the only one helping them," he said. Quandt started as a lawyer in the Contra Costa County Public Defender's office, moved onto private practice, and then joined the San Francisco office in 2006. Since last fall he's been teaching criminal law as an adjunct professor at UC Hastings.

Quandt admitted that the trials are where the drama is, especially with a jury involved. "You still get butterflies [before a trial]," he said. Otherwise, he has no time for butterflies; he juggles two to six cases simultaneously. While justice can be slow, as a defense lawyer he's always moving. "This job is fast-paced, and super stressful," he added. He said his five years in private practice was a lot less about being a lawyer and more about running a small business. "I missed being in the trenches," he said.

According to Quandt, the City provides great resources to his office, including paralegals, investigators, volunteers, and interns. He called the public defender's office the "most cost effective solution to crime." With a $24 million budget, the office serves people who are often dealing with difficult backgrounds, offering a drug court, clean slate expungement services, and a full-service juvenile division.

Every nine days Quandt is randomly assigned new cases, which range from rape, murders to "three-strikes." Even within what he considers a well-organized office, Quandt said there's an emotional toll from the job. The "irony is to be successful, you have to put 100 percent of your heart into it," he said. "If you don't care, the jury won't care."

Our Crime & Safety section is a little different this month. Regina Anavy's regular column will return in January 2012.

GETTING INVOLVED

Bayview Police Station Captain's Community Meeting is held on the first Tuesday of each month. The November will be held at the Bayview Station, 201 William Street. Next meeting: November 1, 6 p.m.

Dogpatch Neighborhood Association usually meets the second Tuesday of each odd-numbered month. Next meeting: November 15, 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@potreroboosters.org. Next meeting: November 29. See www.Potrero-Boosters.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: November 8th, 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: November 1st, 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.

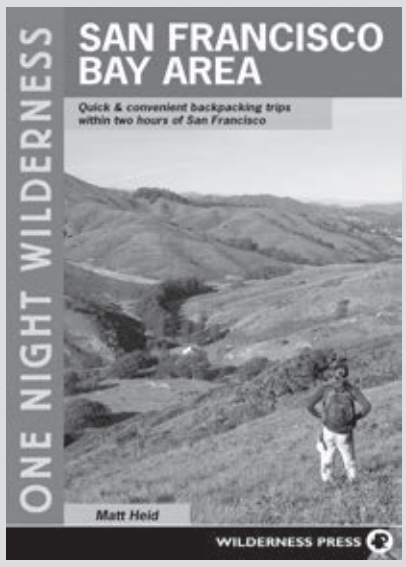
Starr King Open Space The Starr King Open Space Board Meeting is on Tuesday, November 15th, 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the library of Starr King Elementary School, 1215 Carolina Street. The third Saturday of each month neighbors and friends of SKOS are welcome to get down and dirty while sprucing up the open space. Come learn about our native flower's while being a steward for our land. The next Land Stewards Work Party is November 19th, 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).

PACHTMAN from page 17

of the people who can help mount a show. Ideally, we're looking for people who can do both." Pachtman's decades of dedicated work as publicist, producer, and performer belies his claim that "I was not right for show business; I never developed a thick skin."

Pachtman can be reached at brupach@gmail.com. For Stage Werx Theatre show times, visit www.stagewerx.org.

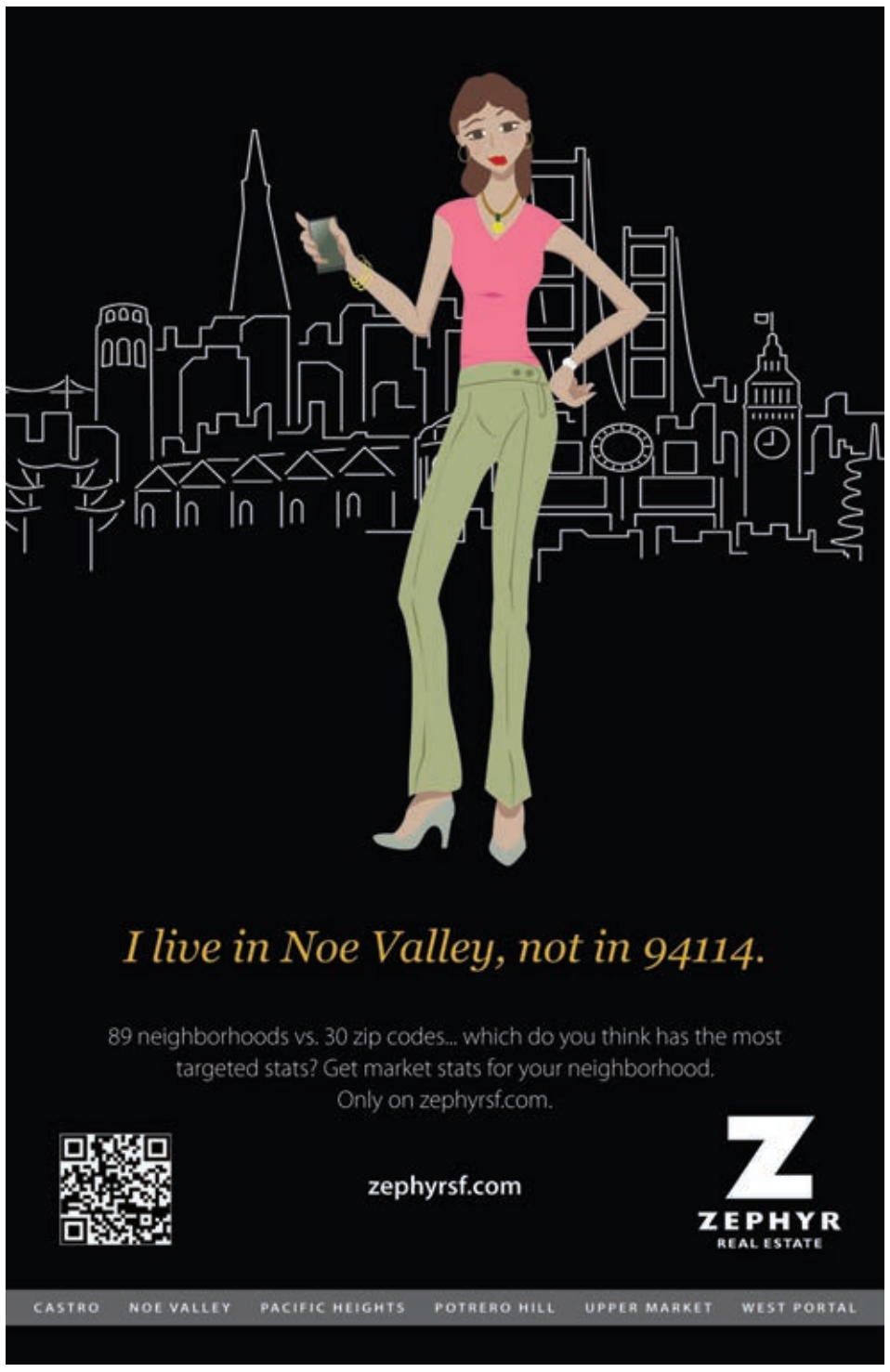
Get Outta Town



One- and two-night backpacking trips that are within a two hour drive of San Francisco are featured in Matt Heid's *One Night Wilderness.*

Photograph by Debbie Findling

The training bra display at Kohl's, in Colma. Send your random, high resolution snapshots to editor@potreroview.net.



A MONTHLY UPDATE
SPONSORED BY BRIDGE HOUSING

REBUILD POTRERO

VOLUME 14 • NOVEMBER 2011

photo: Peter Linenthal

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

Rebuild Potrero and the Sustainable Living Group (SLG) made great progress in October on the Texas Street Community Garden. In addition to funding for the garden continuing to take shape, a group representing BRIDGE and the SLG interviewed five excellent candidates for the Garden Manager/Program Director position. Now, we are working to formalize relationships between all of the organizations and groups involved in the development and ongoing maintenance of the garden to ensure its long-term success.

Emily Weinstein and Uzuri Pease-Greene the Rebuild Potrero Community Building team, are working on a variety of initiatives including coordinating a Financial Literacy Program for residents of Potrero Terrace and Annex. Generously funded by Citibank, this program will focus on residents who have taken part in job training and other activities through the community building program. Participants will learn fundamental aspects of managing their finances and creating a personal financial plan.

On October 18, the Rebuild Potrero team held a second community meeting for blocks A&B, bounded by 25th, 26th, Connecticut and Wisconsin streets. The purpose of the meeting was to present building designs for these blocks and to respond to questions and concerns expressed at the first meeting on July 19th. Over 60 Potrero Hill neighbors attended the meeting and Supervisor Malia Cohen also participated.

The response to the proposed building elevations and interior courtyard landscape designs shown by the architects was generally positive. While the new housing will include both public housing eligible residents and working families making up to $64,000 for a family of four, Parkview Heights residents are concerned that there is no market rate housing proposed to be included on these blocks. The project team will continue to meet with neighborhood residents to discuss their concerns and address the challenges of trying to bring this ambitious undertaking to fruition.

Rebuild Potrero wants to thank the NABE and the Potrero Dogpatch Merchants Association for the wonderfully planned and well attended Potrero Hill Festival on October 15th.

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

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