



# Rain, Soil Contamination, Delay Bayfront Park Opening

BY JESSICA ZIMMER

Bayfront Park, 5.4-acres located between the Chase Arena and the Bay, is likely to open by the end of the year. Construction was delayed by the need to remove contaminated soil a crew discovered while auguring a hole to install a light pole. The City didn't disclose the nature of the pollutants. Since it was located deep in the ground it may have been present for a while.

Completion of the space is contingent on Public Works inspection of work done by the developer, Mission Bay Development Group (MBDG), as well as formal acceptance of the new park by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors (BoS).

Public Works is tasked with ensuring that workmanship is completed correctly, fixtures like benches are built and installed properly, and grass and flowers are taking hold.

"We were trying to get the concrete poured before the rainy season started in the winter. That's when we ran into an environmental issue. There was a spot on the southern end of the park where contaminated soil was discovered and needed to be removed. Then we had to wait for tests to indicate there was no more contamination. We resumed



*BAYFRONT PARK continues on page 4*

# Community Garden Gives City Dwellers a Place to Grow



Potrero Hill Community Garden. PHOTO: Chaitanya Tondepu

BY CHAITANYA TONDEPU

Situated at the corner of 20th Street and San Bruno Avenue, alongside a quaint red bench and picnic table, are 53 highly sought after urban garden plots encircled by a rustic wooden fence. Founded in the early-1970s, Potrero Hill Community Garden has a waiting list of almost 400 San Franciscans eager for a small piece of dirt that offers views of the

Golden Gate Bridge, Sutro Tower, Twin Peaks, and Downtown San Francisco.

"I had been waiting for six to seven years," remembered Jessica McCall. "When I got a call for a spot available, my family and I went over, and we were charmed by the place."

"It took us seven years," said Mark Heinbach. "I used to live on 22nd and

*COMMUNITY GARDEN continues on page 8*

# Esprit Park Expected to Reopen in September

BY JESSICA ZIMMER

Esprit Park is scheduled to reopen in September, roughly eight months after the completion date identified in the original renovation plans.

According to San Francisco Recreation and Parks (RPD), rain accounted for some of the delay. There were also unanticipated remediation needs. RPD had to remove and replace three trees – a beech, poplar, and sycamore – that weren't in good condition, and make adjustments to minimize disrupting tree roots.

"This includes modifying the alignment of the new irrigation and domestic water lines as well as the layout of piers for the two boardwalk decking areas. No substantive design updates have been made since the concept design approval," said Daniel Montes, San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department spokesperson.

The project remains within its \$8.5 million budget. The University of California, San Francisco contributed \$5 million, with \$3.5 million provided from Eastern Neighborhoods Infrastructure Impact Fees.

As of last month, RPD had almost finished the irrigation system and was doing final grading. Most new trees had been delivered. The park's granite and concrete walls were built. RPD had mounted adult exercise equipment and was installing pathways. It was also putting in new electrical wiring and lighting, completing raised boardwalk decking, planting vegetation, and laying sod.

The new landscape requires 90 days of "plant establishment maintenance," during which RPD weeds, water, and replaces florae that doesn't take hold. Next up is placement of picnic tables, benches, and signs.

The two-acre park includes a designated off-leash dog play area in the north meadow and a dog-free south meadow. Dogs must be leashed in other areas.

"Our teams are working hard to address any issues that come up during construction and ensure smooth communication for future projects. We've given construction updates this spring to neighborhood groups, including the Dogpatch Neighborhood Association,

*ESPRIT PARK continues on page 8*

SHORT CUTS

Assault

Last month, a Potrero Hill resident was attacked inside Kansas Food Market, located at the corner of 23rd and Kansas streets. Kate Ryken, 45, was buying a bag of chips when she felt blows to the back of her head, imparting bruises all over her scalp. The **San Francisco Police Department** identified the suspect as 26-year-old Jessica Blazee, who may have been recently discharged from nearby **San Francisco General Hospital**. Blazee was booked at the San Francisco County Jail on suspicion of assault with force likely to commit great bodily injury and for a parole violation.

Shelter

An April municipal count found a 21 percent citywide decline in the number of vehicles believed to be occupied by unhoused people, from 908 to 719. Neighborhoods that experienced the steepest drops were the Central Waterfront, 115 to 48, Produce Market, 141 to 79, and Outer Sunset, 70 to 28. Areas with the biggest jumps in vehicles were Outer Richmond, which doubled from 18 to 36, Mission, 28 to 48, and Potrero Hill, four to 23. **Faustino Choc**, 54, was paying \$1,000 for a shared bedroom above a liquor store in Potrero Hill when he became sick and was forced to stop working. Choc, who emigrated from Guatemala 10 years ago, held down

three jobs to pay rent and send money to his family. After he was hospitalized with a fungal infection, he lost his jobs and used his last paychecks to buy an RV. Choc, who parks his vehicle on the same block as his former apartment, said he tried to get a spot at the city’s safe parking site but was turned away. “We try not to make too much trash and the neighbors don’t complain, but I’m not going to feel comfortable here because I live on the street,” he told the San Francisco Chronicle. “I don’t want to stay (here) all the time. If I become better, I will work again and then I can pay rent.”

Amazon

As its plans to build a massive logistics center in Showplace Square are being vetted by municipal authorities, **Amazon** ceased operations at a small fulfillment facility it established as an UltraFastFresh site to deliver groceries at 888 Tennessee Street, across from Esprit Park, according to a **California Employment Development Department** WARN notice. The move will impact 85 workers, according to the announcement. An Amazon spokesperson indicated that employees will be offered other jobs, and that it’ll continue to fulfill customers’ orders from alternative locations. In response to complaints from neighbors, in 2021 Amazon made

SHORT CUTS continues on page 10

OP-ED  
Dedicate Unused  
Small Public Parcels to  
Compact Residences

BY DANIEL IDZIAK

Owning a single-family home is an iconic American aspiration. Yet acquiring a house is prohibitively expensive to all but the wealthy, those in line to inherit property, or someone able to secure a 30-year mortgage with a decent interest rate. Even then, “owners” can become akin to indentured servants to the house’s never-ceasing upkeep requirements, ever-rising utility costs, insurance, taxes, and special assessments.

The American dream is founded on securing personal space and possession of land, upon which one can garden or sit on a porch. The desirability of the single-family home over such alternatives as renting, condominiums, or mobile homes lies principally in its privacy, the fee-simple ownership of the property upon which the dwelling exists, and a separate entrance/exit.

A single-family home is a complex mechanism that requires skilled specialists to maintain it, and increasingly depends on a globe-spanning network of inputs for interior and exterior finishings. It often features more bedrooms or bathrooms than occupants, is expensive to heat and cool, and originally emerged from a long-gone period of low-cost labor and cheap land.

A few hundred years ago the predominant dwelling in San Francisco, one that’d been relied on for thousands of years, was the Ohlone thatched house, a modest-sized conical home with a circular base, several meters across. The residence effectively shielded its inhabitants from the elements and was inexpensively constructed from local materials. Without suggesting a return to the traditional abodes of our area, it’s time to consider decreasing the size,

complexity, and cost of the residences being built today.

A November 2023 *View* article (“Publisher’s View: Homes”) noted that there are 18,000 parcels of un- or underutilized publicly-owned land in San Francisco, a subset of which would be suitable for constructing modestly sized homes. Additionally, there are many thousands of privately owned parcels which under current regulations are classed as “non-buildable” due to smaller-than-allowable lot sizes. Residences spanning 700 square feet or less could be developed on many of these lots. Such dwellings would be less expensive to build, service, and maintain than larger homes and would help meet the City’s requirements to foster 82,000 new units by 2031.

Deploying excess properties to build small homes would allow more people to achieve their American Dream, to have a fee-simple piece of land to cultivate and cherish. Our “machines for living” as the architect Le Corbusier insisted houses must be, can and should serve us better than they do today. Smaller, yet still dignified and solid dwellings, would be a step towards sanity in what has long been a profoundly dysfunctional housing situation in California and throughout the nation.

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# “Split Incentives,” Lack of Price Transparency, Slow Pace of Decarbonization

BY VISHAKHA PATEL

A host of state laws have been adopted to reduce climate-modifying air emissions, accelerating the need to shift away from petroleum and natural gas and expand access to electrical appliances and vehicle charging facilities. Last year, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District adopted regulations that gradually ban the sale of new gas furnaces and water heaters, in 2027 for single-family residential water heaters, 2029 for residential furnaces, and 2031 for multifamily and commercial water heaters.

California’s electrical grid is increasingly powered by renewables; more than 40 percent of supplies purveyed by Pacific Gas and Electric Company. Still, inefficient appliances induce carbon emissions that could be avoided by switching to newer models. Reliance on gas for heating and cooking creates emissions through leaks in the distribution system, and during combustion in the home.

Yet, installing efficient appliances and rooftop solar and swapping natural gas for electricity is challenging in multiunit buildings, particularly in rent-

controlled San Francisco. Established by the Rent Stabilization and Arbitration Ordinance in 1979, rent control muffles landlords’ incentive to invest in upgrades that mostly or entirely benefit their tenants, such as replacing an old refrigerator with an energy-efficient model, thereby reducing the occupant’s electricity bill.

It can be even more challenging to deploy electric vehicle (EV) chargers in multiunit buildings. If the property only has access to street parking or limited garage space, EV chargers may not be an option.

Debbie Findling, who co-owns a four-unit building near Dolores Park, is confronting this exact scenario. Although the property is a two-minute walk to a Muni stop, without a multi-car garage she can only point her tenants to curbside parking. When she recently attempted to rent an apartment several prospects passed on the space, opting for larger buildings that provided onsite electric vehicle charging.

The HVAC and EV charging market also suffer from a severe lack of price transparency.

“I called five vendors and got five different prices for a new water heater,”

said Findling. “They ranged from around \$1,500 to almost \$6,000. And when I asked one of the vendor’s, who have been recommended by an energy efficiency group, about replacing a gas heater with a heat pump, he basically said, don’t even think about it.”

Similarly, depending on the vendor installing EV charging can cost from \$1,000 to \$10,000 or more.

Economists call the disconnect between improvement costs borne by landlords and benefits reaped by tenants a “split incentive.” While electrifying rental housing can lower energy bills and improve tenant comfort, property owners struggle to pay for upfront investments that provide them with little short-term returns. Although occupants might be willing to contribute higher rents to live in a more energy efficient apartment, with lower utility bills, rent control makes passing on capital costs complex. And when comparing the ongoing costs of living in a unit, utility bill savings aren’t fully transparent, and may not translate into market demand.

Under Section 37.7 of the San Francisco Rent Ordinance, if a property owner wants to raise rents to pay for decarbonizing costs she must obtain Rent Board approval. If the expense is endorsed, the Board creates a rent rise

amortization schedule spanning up to 20 years, depending on the nature of the improvement. The Board evaluates capital requests on a case-by-case basis, accounting for the upgrade magnitude, impact on energy efficiency, and financial implications to tenants.

Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations sets stringent energy efficiency standards, necessitating investments in energy-efficient appliances, lighting, and insulation in new construction. Compliance with the California Electrical and National Electrical codes – which dictate specifications and safety standards for electrical installations – further adds to the complexity and cost of electrification projects.

Landlords also must ensure their properties comply with accessibility standards outlined in the Americans with Disabilities Act and the California Building Code. Modifications to existing infrastructure may be required to make electric charging stations and other electrification measures accessible to residents, another layer of expense and complexity.

As a result of these challenges, typically if an appliance isn’t broken, absent a regulation or incentive, property owners won’t invest in energy-related improvements.

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# Clinic Provides Hemodialysis on Potrero Hill

BY ROHIT PRASANNA

For more than a decade, the clinic located at 626 Potrero Avenue, at 18th Street, has provided hemodialysis to patients with kidney failure. Previously operating as Renal Advantage Incorporated, it merged in 2012 into the Fresenius Medical Care under which it now operates.

The facility’s entrance – which faces west, on Hampshire Street – opens into a small reception and waiting area with colorful posters depicting kidney-disease-friendly diets and a variety of signs in a half-dozen languages. The bulk of the 15,000 square foot facility, spread across two floors, consists of a large room with the quiet buzz of efficiency and cleanliness. On a typical weekday staff in masks and aprons move quickly and with purpose among patients at the clinic’s 25 dialysis stations.

The center operates on three shifts daily, six days a week, with up to twenty-five patients and around fifteen employees in each shift. It focuses on patients with chronic kidney or end stage renal disease, who usually require dialysis indefinitely, typically three times a week with each session lasting three to four hours.

While many of the center’s patients

live in the area, others travel from Daly City or North Beach, including former Potrero Hill residents who have moved away but continue to visit for dialysis sessions. Some are brought by medical transport service vans, including Mobility Express, based in San Leandro, whose wheelchair-accessible van is regularly seen in the parking lot.

The facility’s California’s Department of Health Care Accessibility and Information filings indicate that it has been operating at a loss for many years, while its parent corporation, with annual revenue of more than \$20 billion, serving in excess of 330,000 patients, is financially healthy. The clinic has generally scored above average on Medicare quality of care assessments, avoiding unnecessary blood transfusions and maintaining preferred forms of surgical access to patients’ blood vessels.

The dialysis center is the property’s third significant use. Built in the late-1940s, the building served as the headquarters of an extermination company for many decades, then leased to the San Francisco Police Department. It was vacant before its permit for a modest expansion and use as a dialysis center was approved unanimously by the Planning Commission.

BAYFRONT PARK from front page

construction, but then the rain started,” said Marc Slutzkin, deputy Office of Community Investment and Infrastructure (OCII) executive director.

Rain had saturated the ground, making it difficult to install utilities and pour concrete.

“It’s not feasible to tent a space just over five acres. Water flows everywhere, including off tarps or tents on the ground below. Also, the groundwater rises close to the Bay when it rains. There were times when we had brief periods of sunshine. Short periods like two days of full sunshine aren’t enough

to dry out soil to pour concrete,” said Slutzkin.

When Bayfront Park opens, the Port of San Francisco will assume responsibility for its maintenance, operations, and activation, according to Eric Young, Port of San Francisco director of communications. The Port is accountable for other commons along Terry Francois Boulevard in Mission Bay, including Bayfront Park North and the Corinne Woods Boat Launch.

Bayfront Park was conceived as part of the *Mission Bay South Redevelopment Plan*, which the BoS approved in 1998. It’s designed to integrate with and increase access to nearby open

# The Park Market Returns to Crane Cove Park

BY JESSICA ZIMMER

Last month, The Park Market, an open-air food, music, and maker soooq, re-launched at Crane Cove Park, to be held on the last Saturday of the month through October. The Park Market typically hosts more than 40 vendors, featuring family-friendly activities like paddleboarding lessons from Dogpatch Paddle and health and wellness classes offered by Bayview Hunters Point YMCA.

Garage Sale Extravaganza is a new element, in which people can sell items from in a flea market-style setting.

Park Market is managed by San Francisco Parks Alliance (SFPA), a nonprofit that partners with municipal agencies to improve public spaces. SFPA founded The Park Market in 2023. The Port of San Francisco is responsible for Crane Cove Park.

This year’s participating merchants include artists, clothing and jewelry, and pet-oriented enterprises, such as nibi + toko, a children’s clothing retailer, Amps Record Shop, a Black-owned vinyl store, The Faight Collective, from the Haight, Mahal Scent, a Filipino candle company, and Flora Grubb Gardens. Almost half the 2024 vendors are based in the 94107 or 94124 area codes.

“Our goal is to bring more folks to the park while making the experience of spending the day at the Market even better than last season. We are hosting more food and drink vendors than last season. Ultimately, The Park Market should feel bigger, better, and more community oriented,” said Jake Ramirez, SF Parks Alliance associate director.

“The Park Market is an exciting event for the community and has helped me grow a customer base in Dogpatch,” said Yuchun Cheng, founder of S for Sparkle, a gemstone and wire wrapping jewelry business and Dogpatch resident. “It is important to bring events like this to the area. Many City events are held in large parks in other parts of the City, like Golden Gate Park. This may be a smaller park, but we usually have beautiful weather.”

“I loved selling my enamel copper and fine silver jewelry at The Park Market because of the great location, high attendance, and positive energy,” said Sandy Koepf, founder of ijewelry, a Sunnyside resident who was vended in the market last year. “The Park Market was well-attended by both merchants and customers. I had customers come from as far as Foster City to enjoy the event.”

spaces, including Agua Vista Park and Mariposa Bayfront Park to the south and southwest.

Lotus Water Engineering, a San Francisco civil engineering firm, is providing support services, including reviewing contractor materials and product data to ensure it meets specifications and participating in site meetings.

“Our site visits to date have been focused on the construction of the bioretention basins, site drainage systems. and overall site grading. When unexpected conditions arise during construction, we also collaborate with the design and construction teams to recommend design modifications to help address the issue,” said Shauna Dunton, principal civil engineer for Lotus Water Engineering.

Lotus worked with landscape architect, SurfaceDesign, Inc., a San Francisco-based firm, to integrate passive stormwater management systems into project. The company designed the system so stormwater runoff will be conveyed through shallow swales and trench drains, traveling through several bioretention basins for treatment to the extent topography allows. Bioretention facilities naturally remove pollutants from runoff as it filters through plants and engineered soil. The system allows visitors to see how runoff moves from paved surfaces to natural treatment before it’s directed to the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission storm drain system and, ultimately, the Bay. Lotus also helped determine how the site will handle sea level rise and storm surges and led design of grading, drainage, and demolition plans.

Mission Bay residents are frustrated that it’s taking so long for the park to open, especially in comparison to other nearby commons, like China Basin Park between South-of-Market and Mission Bay. This five-acre park is a part of The San Francisco Giants’

Mission Rock project, a mixed-used community south of Oracle Park.

According to Ralph Anavy, a Mission Bay resident, Bayfront Park was supposed to be completed long ago, in tandem with the Chase Arena.

“Instead, they blocked access to the Bay for years with nothing going on. I drive by the site on a regular basis. They’ve had a skeleton crew out there for months, with no activity,” said Anavy.

Mission Bay resident Adelaide Hulbert said weather-related construction delays are understandable.

“Still, there’s a sense among residents that the building of Bayfront Park is going very slowly, especially in contrast to The Giants’ new China Basin Park, which was built and opened much more quickly,” said Hulbert. “It would help if OCII communicated the park’s status more broadly within the community.”

Bettina Cohen, a Mission Bay resident, and frequent user of the neighborhood’s parks said a great deal of public infrastructure has suffered from extended delays over the years.

“Nothing new there. It’ll be a great park once it’s open because look at what a great park P3 has turned out to be,” said Cohen.

“P3” refers to the Mission Creek Park extension between Third and Fourth streets fronting over the water.

Cohen added that Bayfront Park will serve additional people moving into the neighborhood. A new residential building at 400 China Basin and several residential buildings at Mission Rock will soon open.

“Our existing open spaces are already full to capacity sometimes with families, seniors, and dog owners enjoying the parks. We’re a densely populated corner of the City. I’m definitely seeing the parks increasingly more crowded as word gets out that Mission Bay’s parks are the jewel of the City’s parks system,” said Cohen.

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**Community: San Francisco Immigrant Leadership Awards**  
Join the San Francisco Immigrant Rights Commission and Office of Civic Engagement & Immigrant Affairs to honor local immigrant rights leaders, supporters and champions for excellence in the following categories: Entrepreneur Leader; Grassroots Leader; Youth Leadership; Vera Haile Champion of Justice; Special Recognition. 5:30 p.m. Free. Interpretation is available upon request; email [civic.engagement@sfgov.org](mailto:civic.engagement@sfgov.org). San

Francisco City Hall, North Light Court, 1 Doctor Carlton B. Goodlett Place. For more information and to reserve your place: <https://bit.ly/3URCUx8>

**6/19 Wednesday through 6/29 Saturday**  
**Film: Frameline 48 Festival**  
Founded in 1977, the San Francisco International LGBTQ+ Film Festival is the world's longest-running, largest, and most widely recognized LGBTQ+ film exhibition event, with an annual attendance of 60,000+. Individual tickets: \$24 for screenings at the Palace of Fine Arts and Herbst theater; \$19.50 per ticket at neighborhood venues. Also available: the Festival's "Palace Pass," \$200, which grants holders access to all public screenings at the Palace of Fine Arts sand Herbst Theatre. For more information: <https://www.frameline.org/>

22 sat

**Art: Continuous Line Drawing Workshop**  
In this workshop, artist/instructor Meagan Burns will demonstrate exercises, techniques, and tips that assist artists in becoming stronger line makers by using the concept of continuous line drawing. Meagan has designed a specific curriculum with three powerful benefits: moving past drawing fears, increasing composition comprehension, and building confidence that will enables artists of all skill levels to enhance their creative drawing expression. After a brief introduction, drawing warm-up exercises will strengthen line conditioning and confidence, followed by a series of timed short sketches with opportunities for review, then continuous line urban sketching. The workshop will finish with a sketch

throw down. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. \$85. ARCH Art Supplies, 1490 17th Street. For more information: <https://bit.ly/3WQf2wk>

28 fri

**Film: Television Event (2020)**  
Weaving together contemporary interviews and archival footage, *Television Event* revisits the making of the 1983 television movie *The Day After*. *The Day After* was a "television event" unlike any before or since. How would ABC sell ad revenue for a film that promises to bring the nuclear holocaust into American living rooms? Would anyone watch? *The Day After* was a cauterizing moment in American culture, eliciting national debates and inspiring an arms reduction agreement between then President Ronald Reagan and Soviet Premier Mikhail Gorbachev. 6 p.m. Tickets: \$10 (free for Mechanics' Institute members). Mechanics' Institute, 57 Post Street. For more information: <https://bit.ly/3UVVZvA>

30 sun

**Civil Rights: San Francisco Pride Party at City Hall**  
SF Pride Party at City Hall features a hosted bar, delicious bites, and three rooms of non-stop entertainment. Meet the 2024 San Francisco Community Grand Marshals and an array of fabulous folks from the LGBTQ community. 1 to 5 p.m. Tickets: \$100 to \$150. San Francisco City Hall, 1 Doctor Carlton B. Goodlett Place. For more information: <https://bit.ly/3ywwE2a>



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# What's in Your Closet?

BY STEVEN J. MOSS

These photographs surfaced from my sister's, Elise's, closet. Though the lineage is uncertain, in 1918 my Jewish great-great grandparents, Israel Moskovitz and Elka Aspis, lived in Kelse, Poland with their children, Ruth, Golda, Gimpel, Esther, and Estelle. That year a riot – a pogrom – erupted in Kelse in which four Jews were killed and a large number wounded. It was part of a spasm of sporadic violence in Poland and throughout Eastern Europe that laid the groundwork for the Holocaust a few decades later.

The stressful and dangerous environment in which my forebears lived may account for the hollow ghostly eyes of everyone in the image, except for the two younger sisters, who retain a youthful glow, their souls perhaps not yet touched by their difficult realities. Israel looks like he's carrying everything he owns under his great coat, ready to heavily flee

when inevitably forced to do so. Years later, Israel and Elka are photographed at what may have been a wedding, given the flowers stuffed in their lapels. Their faces and bodies suggest a hard-lived life, full of disappointments and tragedies barely escaped, or perhaps not fully escaped at all. Jews were not alone in being discriminated against. In 1877 a three-day pogrom was waged against Chinese immigrants in San Francisco by the City's majority white population. The ethnic violence that swept Chinatown resulted in four deaths and destruction of thousands of dollars of Chinese immigrant property. During the mid-20th Century, the practice of "redlining" was prevalent, in which banks would deny loans to African- and Asian-Americans. Non-white populations were financially segregated to the Western Addition, Bayview-Hunters Point, and Chinatown. On September 14, 1961, San Francisco police officers raided Tay-Bush Inn, a gay nightclub, arresting 103 people, citing them as "visitors to a disorderly house." Harassment of the gay community continued through much of the decade. As far as Israel and Elka, hopefully their lives, constrained by poverty and prejudice, were touched by the pleasures of family and religious belonging. Their names to me are a blessing. Tell us what's in your closet: [editor@potreroview.net](mailto:editor@potreroview.net).

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Courtesy of Yenebi's Drive to School, Chronicle Books

ESPRIT PARK from front page

the Potrero Boosters, and the Dogpatch & NW Potrero Hill Green Benefit District. We're also posting updates to the project page of the Rec and Park website monthly," said Tamara Aparton, San Francisco Recreation and Parks deputy director of communications and public affairs.

Donovan Lacy, Dogpatch Neighborhood Association vice president, said he and other community members are tired of the park closure and endless discussions of delaying factors.

"We just want to see the park reopened so that we can finally all start to enjoy the renovated park, which is such a vital green public space in our community," said Lacy. "There is still a significant amount of work that needs to be done before the park can be reopened. We have seen some good progress over the last several weeks...focusing our attention on its completion and the positive impact that will have on Dogpatch and the surrounding neighborhoods."

Emma Shlaes, a DNA board member and 22nd Street resident, said she'd like to better understand the reasons for the delays.

"I walk by often and rarely see anyone working there, though I have noticed changes in the past couple months. There isn't clear information posted. This is coming from someone who is fairly involved in the neighborhood," said Shlaes.

Richard Romero, an Indiana Street resident, Green Benefits District board member, and the *View's* marketing manager, said he's trying to be patient.

"I'm hoping they don't run into any more delays. The renovation is going to be great. (It) will add more value to an already great neighborhood," said Romero.

Romero, who has two grandchildren in the area, would like more play areas for children, particularly those between the ages of five and 12.

"The Woods Yard Park is really for toddlers. There was a suggestion that the children could play on the adult exercise equipment in Esprit Park. I don't think that's ideal. That's designated exercise equipment. I have grandchildren who want to be able to play on kids' playground equipment," said Romero.

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**COMMUNITY GARDEN from front page**

De Haro, we put our name in, and seven years later we finally got a plot. We just moved to the Mission, so it wasn't that far, just a 10 minute walk up the hill. That was pre-pandemic. I think the plots turned over a little quicker post-COVID, but the list used to be two pages long instead of just one."

Most plots, 31, are tended by Potrero Hill residents. A dozen are cultivated by Mission or Bernal Heights inhabitants. The rest are reserved by San Franciscans living in Hayes Valley, South-of-Market, Haight-Ashbury, Bayview, Financial District, Castro, Mission Bay, Twin Peaks, and Stonestown.

"There are 391 persons on the waitlist," said Berille Legrand, the Garden's list manager. "We are now offering plots to people who signed up in 2018, and we have four vacancies so far in 2024. Only about one out of five people is usually still interested in getting a plot in the garden when I reach out to them. If people want to sign-up, they need to contact the Park and Recreation department directly to have their name added to the waitlist."

San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department (SFRPD) owns and helps maintain the land on which the garden

sits, along with more than 40 percent of community gardens in the City under the Urban Agriculture Program. The department publishes a 31-page policy book for community gardens which identifies good practices and operating rules. For example, gardens should have regularly scheduled workdays and annual dues.

The San Francisco League of Urban Gardeners (SLUG) previously managed many of the City's urban commons along with SFRPD-owned plots. SLUG dissolved in 2003 after an Office of the Controller report found the nonprofit had mismanaged municipal funds, with improper expenditures. Former SLUG Executive Director Mohammed Nuru, who was later installed as the head of San Francisco Public Works by Mayor Ed Lee, was tied to the scandal. Nuru is presently incarcerated in the United States Penitentiary in Lompoc, California, convicted of committing fraud while leading Public Works.

"I have been at the garden since 2012," Legrand recounted. "Some people do not last a year and some a very long time. The difference is big. It is almost as if some people make it, and some don't. Gardening takes time and work all year long in the Bay Area."

Marianne Horine is one such enduring horticulturist. She's been a Potrero garden member for 30 years, during which she gained friends and served twice as garden coordinator.

"I was the first female GC in over 10 years when I came on, and I had a good run. I was with the original members for so long and they're the ones that taught me. We had two of our founding members until they passed away in 2016. The other people have moved away. My favorite garden buddy Lee and I would spend Saturday's gardening, but she also moved to Maine to start a flower farm, so I miss her."

Horine's most recent stint as coordinator was from 2014 to 2017, during which she, along with Sheree

Kaslikowski, won the Unsung Hero Award from San Francisco Beautiful, a nonprofit that advocates for "civic beauty, neighborhood character and accessible public art for all in San Francisco."

The garden coordinator role was replaced by a Steering Committee when Horine's tenure ended. Members must enlist in the Committee within the first four years of joining, and stay on for at least two years, with the option of engaging longer. Heinbach, McCall, and Legrand serve on the Committee as member, secretary, and list manager, respectively.

Membership dues are \$25 a year, which helps pay for compost, topsoil, and mulch. There are two mandatory in-person workdays annually, for general upkeep, remulching of common areas, and weeding.

"I really enjoy walking up here often," said Heinbach, who is in his third year at the garden. "It's very nice and quiet, and a nice way to get into the dirt. It's early, but we're growing a lot of herbs like rosemary, thyme, oregano, and some sage. The raspberries are starting to bud and getting bigger now. I plan to put in some tomatoes, a blackberry bush, and a blueberry plant. You run into people from the garden out in the City and it's always nice to say hello."

"I love the garden, it's a great place and I've seen it change over the years," said Horine. "I still have my plot and I live right down the street so it's so easy to come down."

"I wish we'd have more organized rules, and that people would make it more of a priority," said a gardener who wanted to remain anonymous. "It would be nice if plots could turnover faster to give more people an opportunity, like younger members that want to come in and make a change and make it more beautiful. I wish there was more of a community. Some people just don't know how lucky they are."

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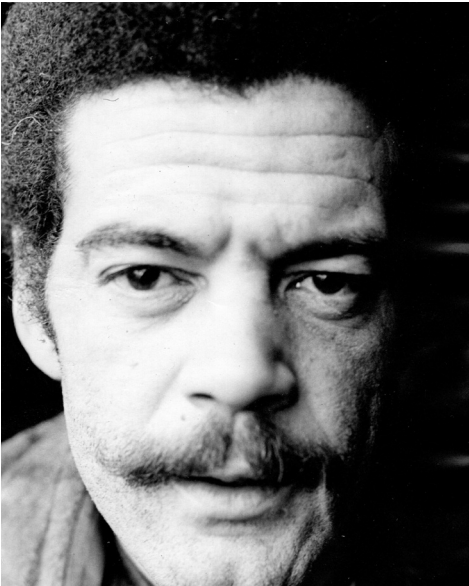


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In the middle of the night last month a large branch broke off a tree on 19th Street. Nearby residents made a 311 report at 7:30 that morning. At 9:30 a.m., two Department of Public Works trucks rolled up. The supervisor, who coincidentally had been planting a tree nearby, said he thought he could deploy a crew next week to trim and thin out the tree. PHOTO: Potrero View Staff

# Bob Hayes at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House



BY PETER LINENTHAL

Bob Hayes served as the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House’s photography teacher, operating from a cramped darkroom with donated chemicals and paper from the early-1970s until his death in 2006. Tall and soft-spoken, Bob seemed to be at every Nabe meeting or event, camera hanging from his neck, capturing what was happening. In his wake kids called out for him to “take my picture!” Hayes’ shot theatrical performances, political events, The *Potrero View* staff – the newspaper had offices in the building throughout the period – portraits, candid moments, and often former Nabe director Enola Maxwell. Present director Edward Hatter

described Hayes as “an integral part of the Nabe, and Enola’s publicist, chauffeur, janitor, editor and ready to do any other thing necessary”.

Bob Hayes was born in Washington, D.C. in 1931, served in the air force in England, and shot photographs for movie studios in Hollywood. He met Enola Maxwell’s mother in the early-1970s at The Little Red Door, the 18th Street thrift store she ran, and was recruited into the Nabe family. Hayes’ photos record an animated slice of Potrero Hill history.



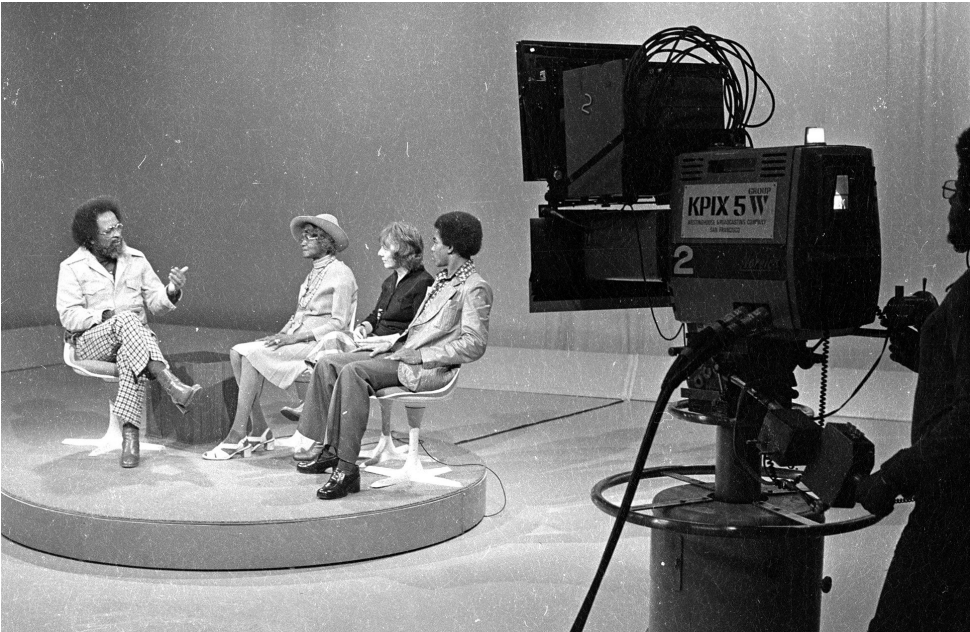
Bob Hayes, left, and Dwain Rooks pose while working on a Camera Club project. PHOTO: Courtesy of Peter Linenthal



View editor Ruth Passen (third from left) supervises production at the paper’s office at the Nabe. Passen also served as the Nabe’s office manager. She and Enola Maxwell were close friends and collaborators. PHOTO: Courtesy of Peter Linenthal



Enola Maxwell, wearing a wide-brimmed hat, joins protesters fighting corporate pressure to demolish the International Hotel in North Beach, home to retired Filipino men. The Save the I-Hotel campaign became a major political fight which continued for years. PHOTO: Courtesy of Peter Linenthal



Left to right: Cecil Williams, Glide Memorial United Methodist Church pastor, interviews Enola Maxwell, Ruth Passen, and Derk Richardson on KPIX, Channel 5. PHOTO: Courtesy of Peter Linenthal



Enola D. Maxwell, “Miz Maxwell”, Potrero Hill Neighborhood House executive director from 1972 to 2004. PHOTO: Courtesy of Peter Linenthal



Chief of Police Frank Jordan visits the Nabe. PHOTO: Courtesy of Peter Linenthal



“Take my picture!” PHOTO: Courtesy of Peter Linenthal





A parklet too pretty for dogs, at 24th and San Bruno.

PHOTO: Potrero View Staff

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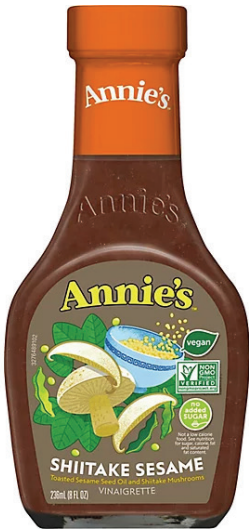
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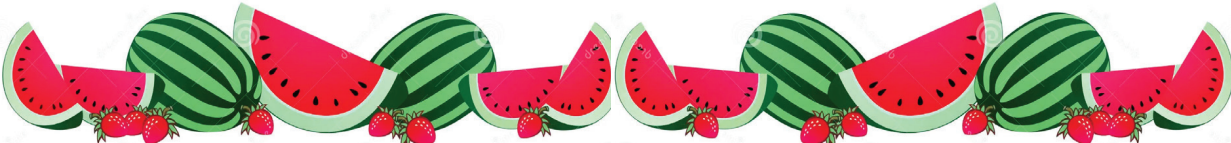


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