



Polluting Discharges into Mission Creek Could be Impacted by Two Legal Conflicts

BY JESSICA ZIMMER

The City and County of San Francisco is engaged in two legal cases related to polluting discharges into San Francisco Bay. In the first, CCSF is wrangling with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) at the U.S. Supreme Court. San Francisco has asked the Court to determine whether the Clean Water Act (CWA) allows EPA or an authorized state like California to impose generic prohibitions in National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits.

“The SCOTUS case is not an attempt to do away with or get out of complying with the CWA. We just want the EPA to give us clear requirements in the permits they issue,” said Jen Kwart, director of communications and media relations for the San Francisco City Attorney’s office.

The Supreme Court outcome will determine whether the CWA requires EPA to issue more specific permits. The case is set for argument before the Court on October 16. Numerous organizations have filed amicus curiae briefs in support of San Francisco’s position, including the National Association of Home Builders, the Associated General Contractors of America, and the American Road and Transportation Builders Association.

Separately, the U.S. Department of Justice, California Regional Water Quality Control Board, and San Francisco Baykeeper, an Oakland-based environmental nonprofit, filed a separate suit against the CCSF at the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California. In the lawsuit the plaintiffs allege that the City’s stormwater discharges into the Bay during major storm events violated the CWA. There are no upcoming proceedings in the case, with the partis engaged in confidential mediation until December 31.

The Supreme Court decision is directly related to the District Court case as EPA and SF Baykeeper want to

POLLUTION continues on page 13

Coyote Family Makes Potrero Hill Home



PHOTO: Courtesy of Janet Kessler / coyoteyipps.com

BY JESSICA ZIMMER

San Francisco is home to an estimated 100 coyotes, some of which frequent Starr King Open Space and the area around Potrero Hill Recreation Center. Although human-animal interactions are generally peaceful, in June a coyote bit a child at a San Francisco Botanical Garden summer camp.

“There have been reports of coyotes in virtually all our parks around the City, though “hot spots” change from year to year. When there is a known or suspected

den, the area around the den is closed,” said Tamara Aparton, Recreation and Park Department deputy director of Communications and Public Affairs.

Christine Wilkinson, a postdoctoral researcher in environmental science at the University of California, Berkeley and the California Academy of Sciences, who coordinates Bay Area Coyote, a website that links to databases of coyote sightings, said there are more coyotes denning in the western than the eastern part of the City.

“Coyotes traverse through several

parks in Bernal Heights. You can often hear coyote yips and howls in Glen Canyon and Twin Peaks, among other places,” said Wilkinson.

A family unit consists of an alpha male and alpha female, who typically travel with pups and often yearlings born the prior year. Most yearlings eventually disperse from the City southward. Coyotes keep non-family members out of their territories.

“One of those families lives in the Potrero Hill-Dogpatch area. This family at present consists of an alpha male and an alpha female, the parents, and three pups born this year. No yearlings remain. The parents exhibit protective denning behavior extending a good one-fourth mile radius and more from the den,” said Janet Kessler, who has been documenting coyotes in the City for 17 years.

Coyotes sometimes relocate their dens for health or safety reasons. The Potrero family has moved their den once this denning season, which lasts from April until the fall.

RPD advises people to avoid coyotes, especially where there might be dens and pups. Pets and their food should be kept indoors at night, garbage secured, and water not made available through lawn and backyard fountains, ponds, or pools. Feeders and gardens that attract birds and rodents can similarly entice coyotes, which can climb fences to enter yards. Coyote rollers – long smooth aluminum tubes that spin – can be installed to prevent the animals from ascending into plots.

Restaurant leftovers shouldn’t be

COYOTE continues on page 13

Potrero Gateway Park Could Open This Month

BY REBEKAH MOAN

According to the Department of Public Works (DPW), after numerous delays the Potrero Gateway Park (PGP) may finally be finished this month. Spearheaded by the community, the park will provide a green passageway under the freeway overpass along 17th Street from Vermont Street to San Bruno Avenue, and along Vermont Street between 17th and Mariposa streets.

Construction began in 2022 and was supposed to be completed by May. That didn’t happen; some neighbors see the elongated schedule as an example of bad contract management.

“My problem is the inability of DPW or the contractor, Bauman, or the other government entities such as the Police Department to work together to maintain the integrity of the project site,” said



Crew works on the Potrero Gateway Park.

PHOTO: Rebekah Moan

POTRERO GATEWAY continues on page 14

PUBLISHER’S VIEW

Misdiagnosed

BY STEVEN J. MOSS

We’re a Kaiser Permanente family. I’ve been a member since before college, apart from a few employment-related coverage gaps. Our daughter, Sara, was born at a Kaiser facility on Geary Street, where my wife, Debbie, received excellent prenatal care. My elderly parents are regular users of the health maintenance organization.

Kaiser is structured around gate-keeper primary care physicians, who treat non-emergency medical needs, sometimes after a telephone consultation with an advice-nurse. Primaries have the power to refer patients to specialists: orthopedic; ear, nose, and throat (ENT); medical imaging; physical therapists. Savvy Kaiser members know that having an accessible, responsive, primary is essential to managing their care. The best ones can be in heavy demand, with long waiting lists of would-be patients. Even with a user-friendly primary, members often struggle through a series of administrative hurdles to secure proper attention.

Over the past couple of years Debbie and I have had similar Kaiser experiences that prompted us to question the quality of care. Mine came first. Skiing at Palisades, downslope from the top of Red Dog chair, I caught an edge, and fell face down, jamming the handle end of my pole into my chest. My heart raced; I couldn’t catch my breath. I skied to the bottom, and went to the onsite clinic. The doctor confirmed that I’d bruised my chest, but after listening to my heart sent me on my way.

The next day, walking up a modestly steep hill – by San Francisco standards – my heart started racing again. I couldn’t catch my breath. I flywheeled a taxi and asked the driver to take me to Kaiser’s emergency clinic, located next to where Sara was born. After hooking me to an EKG, the ER doctor declared my heart rate “abnormal,” and admitted me to the hospital. A cardiac specialist wouldn’t be available to check me out until the next day.

I spent an uneventful, mostly sleepless, night in the infirmary, tended to regularly by friendly nurses. The next day, the cardiologist monitored an EKG as I jogged on a treadmill. A few minutes into the procedure, he grimaced.

“I keep telling them,” he snorted, referring to the ER staff, “this is an *atypical* heartbeat, not an *abnormal* one. You’re fine. They shouldn’t have admitted you.”

The cardiologist offered to let me

take a few more tests, but it was clear whatever episode I had was over. I thanked him and fled.

According to *Improving Diagnosis in Health Care*, published in 2015 by National Academies Press,

Diagnostic errors—inaccurate or delayed diagnoses—persist throughout all care settings and harm an unacceptable number of patients. Getting the right diagnosis is a key aspect of health care, as it provides an explanation of a patient’s health problem and informs subsequent health care decisions. Diagnostic errors can lead to negative health outcomes, psychological distress, and financial costs. If a diagnostic error occurs, inappropriate or unnecessary treatment may be given to a patient, or appropriate—and potentially lifesaving—treatment may be withheld or delayed...Absent a spotlight to illuminate this critical challenge, diagnostic errors have been largely unappreciated within the quality and patient safety movements. The result of this inattention is significant: It is likely that most people will experience at least one diagnostic error in their lifetime, sometimes with devastating consequences.

Recently, Debbie felt a sharp pain in her left ear, followed by a dull throbbing, and Tinnitus. The pain took root; she had a hard time hearing. After speaking with an advice-nurse she arranged to visit her primary care physician at Kaiser’s Mission Bay facility, who, after examining her ear, prescribed drops. Two days later the pain, hearing loss, and high-pitched tone remained unabated. She returned to Kaiser, where the doctor surmised that the problem was a bacterial infection and prescribed a weeks-long course of oral antibiotics. Another four days passed – nearly a week into her searing earache – and her symptoms remained the same, worsened by the turmoil in her stomach caused by destruction of probiotics.

“This isn’t working,” she grumbled. “I need to see an ENT.”

She emailed her doctor and called an advice-nurse, who sympathized with her plight.

“There’s nothing worse than ear pain,” said the nurse. “I’ll message your doctor to request an ENT appointment as soon as possible.”

After more pleading communications to her primary care physician Debbie fought her way into seeing an

SHORT CUTS

Books

David Owens-Hill is the San Francisco Center for the Book newly appointed executive director...Ike’s Love & Sandwiches opened its 100th store last month, this one in Mission Rock. The outlet offers the original sandwich

lineup from the first Ike’s location in the Castro, featuring Red Hot Soaring Sausage, a fiery mix of hot link, marinara, and provolone; Buddy’s Fave, consisting of a Dirty Lobster Salad paired with creamy American cheese; and Will The Thrill, a hot link with provolone.



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ENT, who carefully examined her ear. “I keep telling them,” she grunted, referring to the primary physicians, “it’s more often than not a buildup of wax. You don’t need antibiotics. You need your ear suctioned. They could have done this when they first saw you.”

After syringing Debbie’s ear with diluted hydrogen peroxide, the ENT vacuumed out a clot of wax. The pain subsided immediately, Debbie’s hearing returned, and, after another day, the ringing disappeared.

Debbie’s and my misdiagnoses didn’t threaten our lives, or cost all that

much money, though a night in a hospital isn’t cheap. But the identical nature of the specialists’ complaints caught our attention. How often does their guidance go systematically unheeded, at Kaiser or any other medical provider? And how often does a basic diagnostic mistake lead to something worse than an upset stomach and a week of unnecessary pain? It’s in all our interests to answer these questions, and act on what we learn. Periodically, the health care system needs to unclog its ears with the right medicine.

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San Francisco Police Department	671-2300; tip line, 415.822.8147
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Potrero Yard Modernization Project Remains at the Bus Station

BY JESSICA ZIMMER

Construction of the Potrero Yard Modernization Project, to renovate and add affordable housing to the 4.4-acre San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) bus yard at Bryant and Mariposa streets, is expected to begin in 2025. The Potrero Yard is part of SFMTA's Building Progress Program, a \$2.3 billion effort to modernize aging facilities.

"We expect to learn a lot during the Potrero Yard Project as a first of its kind endeavor..." said Michael Roccaforte, SFMTA's public information officer.

The Potrero Yard's final Environmental Impact Report was approved in a January San Francisco Planning Commission hearing. In March, Mayor London Breed agreed to a set of entitlements – amendments to the General Plan Planning Code and Zoning Map, as well as creation of a Special Use District – following unanimous support from the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. The entitlements allow the project to have uses other than a transit facility, such as housing and shops. They also let structures exceed 65 feet in height, up to 75 feet for transit, 150 feet for residences.

The project now consists of 465 units, down 48 from the previously proposed 513. The homes will be built on top of a revamped San Francisco Municipal Railway (Muni) yard. Bus yard work is expected to be completed by 2028. Housing construction could take more time.

Potrero Yard is a collaboration between SFMTA and Potrero Neighbor-

hood Collective (PNC). PNC is composed of numerous entities, including Plenary Americas, a Los Angeles-based infrastructure and workforce housing developer, and Mission Economic Development Agency, an affordable housing creator.

Despite the reduced density, Jolene Yee, environmental/parks advocate Potrero Yard Neighborhood Working Group member and head of Friends of Franklin Square, believes the project continues to reflect a commitment to affordable housing.

"All of us neighbors on the community working group, SFMTA, and PNC wanted to maximize the number of affordable housing units as much as possible. But [we] needed to be flexible and balance our goals with the realities of the financial market and how difficult it is to get the affordable housing grants and loans," said Yee.

PNC reduced the number of residences earlier this year when it redesigned units intended for older adults as family homes. All-family affordable housing better positions the project for funding. The family homes will be bigger, with more bedrooms. The complex will have a mix of one-, two-, and three-bedroom units.

"While I wish senior housing could be part of the mix, it's important that the team be flexible and move the bus yard project and first phase of affordable housing forward," said Yee.

If insufficient money is raised, SFMTA and PNC may further scale back the project to 104 units and construct a paratransit operations facility on the

bus yard roof, relocating operations from SFMTA's Brisbane site.

One of three contractors PNC recommended – Build Group, Hensel Phelps, or Webcor – will be selected this fall. According to the *San Francisco Chronicle*, development of the bus yard is expected to cost \$525 million, excluding expenses not directly related to construction.

The Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development has dedicated \$35 million for design work. PNC will cover some pre-development costs. Other money sources include potential bonds on the ballot for 2024 and 2026, the 2018 Regional Measure 3 bridge toll increase, and an Infill Infrastructure Grant.

Residences would initially be constructed on Bryant Street, followed by "podium housing" on top of the yard's interior. Bryant Street homes would be allocated to individuals or families earning between 30 and 80 percent of area median income (AMI), subject to change based on market and financial feasibility. In 2024 AMI is \$31,450 to \$83,900 for one person, \$44,950 to \$119,900 for a family of four.

The bus yard is designed to accommodate growth of SFMTA's fleet, with space for 80 percent more buses, with infrastructure for an all-electric fleet.

"We are looking at distributed resources on this. For instance, the solar panels we show on renderings on the paratransit variant are an example of distributed resources. We get our energy right now from Hetch Hetchy for trolley buses and via PG&E's lines for battery electric buses. We might have more

diversity in the future," said Roccaforte.

As part of the development adjacent streets will be improved, with three public art installations, and a new public restroom at the corner of 17th and Bryant streets. Facilitated by the San Francisco Arts Commission (SFAC), the art will showcase the people, history, and cultures of Potrero Hill and the Mission, as well as the American Indian and Calle 24 cultural districts. Two hundred and twenty-five designs were submitted to SFAC for consideration, with four finalists invited to develop site-specific conceptual proposals for each artwork opportunity.

SFMTA generally holds monthly tours of the Yard. To learn about the Potrero Yard Modernization Project, visit [SFMTA.com/PotreroYard](https://sfmta.com/PotreroYard).

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The Potrero Boosters Neighborhood Association | potreroboosters.org

The Potrero Boosters Neighborhood Association informs, empowers and represents the residents of the Potrero on issues impacting our community in order to develop and maintain complete, vibrant neighborhoods. We're continuing to **meet via Zoom** on the last Tuesday of each month. Go to www.potreroboosters.org to learn more about how to join us!

Dogpatch Business Association | dbasf.com

Dogpatch Business Association works to promote local Dogpatch businesses serving customers from our neighborhood and our many visitors. Check out our video reels on **Instagram @destinationdogpatch** to learn more about Dogpatch businesses and those in our community. A curated **wayfinding map of Dogpatch businesses** available online at <https://linktr.ee/exploredogpatch>.

The Potrero Dogpatch Merchants Association | potrerodogpatch.com

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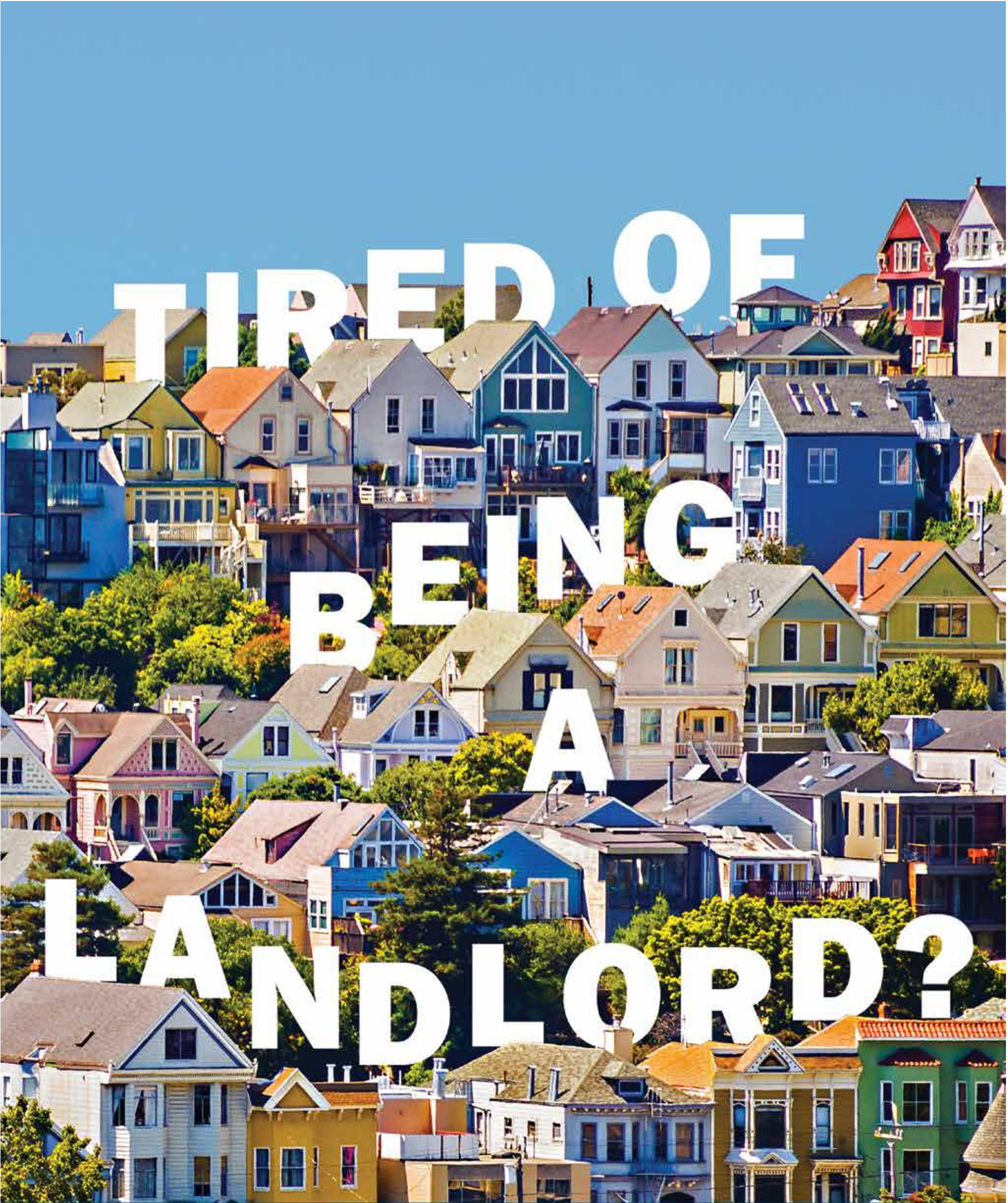
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Starr King Open Space | StarrKingOpenSpace.org

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BY DENA WITKES

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16				
17					18					19				
20					21					22				
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38						39					40			
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	48				49				50					
			51				52	53				54	55	56
57	58	59					60					61		
62							63					64		
65							66					67		

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ACROSS

- 1. What rolling stones don't gather
- 5. Nihilistic art movement
- 9. Covertly kept in the loop
- 14. Island between Kauai and Molokai
- 15. Pablo Neruda's "___ to Common Things"
- 16. "Fingers crossed!"
- 17. Obey a red light
- 18. ___ trial (legal simulation)
- 19. Only country with a nonrectangular flag
- 20. Music venue that hosts Twang! at 17th and Wisconsin Streets
- 23. Equestrian's strap
- 24. Word used in dating
- 27. Hall of Famer who appeared as himself on "The Simpsons" after Super Bowl XXVIII
- 30. Test in a tube at UCSF
- 32. Southern address?
- 34. Heir to a dynasty
- 35. Haunted house noises
- 37. Russian River beach Monte ___
- 38. Urban plots with a waiting list at the corner of 20th Street and San Bruno Avenue
- 41. The ___ Way, signature bowl at Poke Delish
- 42. They make the grade
- 43. Word repeated by an auctioneer
- 44. Shade
- 46. Hundred Acre Wood joey
- 47. First House speaker from California
- 48. Imitated a pigeon
- 50. Solomonic
- 51. 5.4 acres between Chase Arena and the Bay conceived as part of the Mission Bay South Redevelopment Plan
- 57. Thyme piece
- 60. Molten chocolate cake contents
- 61. "In ___ of gifts..."
- 62. Call to mind
- 63. Partner in crime?
- 64. Puts two and two together
- 65. Danny Glover or Tom Hanks
- 66. Warrior princess
- 67. "Everything Everywhere All at Once" Oscar winner Michelle

DOWN

- 1. More than half
- 2. Courtroom profession?
- 3. Sneaker or loafer
- 4. Parent who does it all (and then some)
- 5. GoDaddy purchase
- 6. Embellish
- 7. "All hands on ___!"
- 8. Doesn't just assume
- 9. Forehead decoration representing the third eye
- 10. All smiles
- 11. Own up (to)
- 12. Org. concerned with emissions
- 13. ___ Taco (fast-food chain)
- 21. Kind of gallery
- 22. What "Happy 54th Anniversary to the Potrero View!" might be written in on a cake
- 25. Heart-pumping workout at Fitness SF
- 26. They're not from around here
- 27. Debonair neckwear
- 28. Like the Golden Gate Bridge and the Painted Ladies
- 29. Geisha's garment
- 30. "Oro en Paz, Fierro en Guerra" per San Francisco
- 31. Light beams
- 33. Vowel sound heard twice in "wifi"
- 35. Soup at Umi
- 36. Like the best advice
- 39. Like most characters on "The Big Bang Theory"
- 40. Use sock puppets to talk to a therapist, perhaps
- 45. Flying fish roe at Okane
- 47. Party animal?
- 49. Rarin' to go
- 50. Made on a loom
- 52. Linen fiber source
- 53. Broccoli ___ (vegetable also known as rapini)
- 54. Congressional staffer
- 55. Mulligan
- 56. Potent strain found at a cannabis dispensary
- 57. Word with horse or power
- 58. Plastic pipe material, for short
- 59. Decompose

Solution on page 14.

San Francisco Bay Ferry Terminal to Make Land at Mission Bay

BY JESSICA ZIMMER

Bayfront Park's south shore, where 16th Street meets the Bay, will become the site of a new San Francisco Bay Ferry terminal. The location was selected by San Francisco Bay Ferry's Board of Directors as part of *2050 Service Vision*, a policy document the Board adopted in May. The San Francisco Bay Area Water Emergency Transportation Authority (WETA), which manages SF Bay Ferry, is now developing a business plan to achieve the *Vision*.

The Mission Bay terminal will serve as a last-stop service point, connecting to the San Francisco Ferry Terminal at Pier 9. Riders will be able to board the ferry at other places, like Berkeley, travel to the SF Ferry Terminal, and disembark at Mission Bay.

This year SF Bay Ferry ridership is expected to reach 82 percent of levels seen before onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. 2024/2025 will mark the commuter service's first fiscal year without federal COVID-19 funds. SF Bay Ferry plans to invest \$82 million in capital projects going forward, relying on monies from Regional Measure 2 and 3 bridge tolls – with higher amounts generated through increases in tolls – State Transit Assistance, fare revenue, and Contra Costa sales tax funds.

"Typically, about 200 people ride a ferry at any given time. The capacity maxes out at 225 people. We know this because of our regulations and testing out temporary service at Pier 48½ for Warriors games," said Thomas Hall, WETA public information and marketing manager.

SF Bay Ferry is gauging demand for ferry service to sports events through a pilot program oriented to San Francisco Giants fans. Roundtrip service will begin at the Port of Redwood City and end at Oracle Park on several Sundays this summer.

Bayfront Park terminal users will likely include Golden State Warriors employees, staff and students at the University of California, San Francisco's Mission Bay campus, and workers at Visa's Mission Rock headquarters.

"We've been in communication with these organizations. They have written us letters of support for this terminal site," said Hall.

Because Mission Bay previously served as a shipyard SF Bay Ferry needs to remediate and clean-up the Bayfront site through dredging before building can begin. The construction timeline hasn't yet been settled as WETA and the Port of San Francisco review project designs.

"The funding [for the remediation and clean-up will] come from the Port of San Francisco. The preparatory work for this site, the construction of this terminal, and the construction of other terminals will require more money. Since the ferry will become an all-electric service, it'll be an attractive project for the State of California and the federal government to fund," said Hall.

Construction of the Mission Bay and other terminals has received almost unanimous support from the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. The stations will be built to accommodate 2050 and 2100 sea level rise.

"We already work to handle sea level rise Downtown by raising the promenade where the floats are tied up substantially higher than the Embarcadero. We also make sure the angles allow for tie-up to coincide with high and low tides," said Hall.

In 2020, plans to break ground for the Mission Bay site were canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. SF Bay Ferry's *2050 Service Vision* includes construction of new terminals on Treasure Island, as well as in Berkeley and Redwood City.

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Food Choice Central to Care at UCSF Benioff Children’s Hospital

BY LORRAINE SAWICKI

Food is central to our lives. We eat multiple times a day, ordering from restaurants and delivery services and picking up items at grocery stores. We dine to nourish our bodies and as part of celebrations. Cycles of consumption continue even when we’re sick or hospitalized, including at the University of California, San Francisco Benioff Children’s Hospital.

Ami Patel has served as UCSF’s Director of Nutrition Services for more than 20 years. Along with a team of more than one-dozen dietitians she finds ways to entice children – from preemies to young adults – to get proper nutrition while they’re hospitalized.

Two USCF tenets are to provide child-patients with “choice of time, and choice of food.” Giving a patient the freedom to decide when to eat—between the hours of 7 a.m. and 8 p.m.—as well as autonomy to determine what’s appealing to them.

“Hospitalized children need healing and growth”, said Patel. “They’re all different. Young kids in particular like pancakes, fries, fruit, ice cream, breakfast sandwiches. These are the things that are requested the most.” Another popular item is homemade shakes, customizable with “berries, chocolate, avocados or milk”.

Roughly two-thirds of patients rely on a “normal” diet without any allergies or restrictions. For the other third, UCSF Children’s Hospital offers a customized digital menu that accounts for incompatible ingredients. Food that won’t work for the patient isn’t an option. Patients who have more restrictions than usual are offered feedback choices when they place their food and beverage in their “cart”. A physician may limit carbohydrates, sodium or saturated fat; a warning might pop up if the patient has exceeded the healthy amount for their healing process.

“For all therapeutic diets, the physician writes the diet order, and the dietitians help manage the restrictions in the food choices for the patient. This happens at all of our campuses,” said Patel. “We have technology that displays the patient’s menu in their room televisions that accounts for their allergies and diet restrictions if they have any or the patient can call the rooms service call center for our diet clerks to make their meal choices. The process is the same regardless of their diet order.”

Special accommodation are occasionally made. If a child is comforted by a specific brand of cookie or cracker a staff member might purchase it. According to Patel, a sufficiently wide array of food is offered so that in most cases a selection can be made that consoles and nourishes a patient’s palate. For example, Congee – a savory porridge made of rice – a comfort food in a number of cultures is available. There are Latin flavors, pastas, pizza and Asian options with rice and a protein selection.

Most of the time patients are allowed to eat food brought in by visitors. Refrigerators are available to store food. Patients are encouraged to eat with their guests at a number of lounges. Cafes are also open to encourage group eating in a familiar table setting.

Ten Ballot Measures to be Voted on this November

- With the Democratic Party convention taking place this month in Chicago, Illinois, Californians may not be paying much attention to the slate of measures that’ll appear on the November 5 ballot. There’ll be ten of them, as well as a slew of local measures.

Proposition 2: Borrow \$10 billion to build schools. Sponsored by Democrats in the State Legislature, this bond issue would provide \$8.5 billion to kindergarten to twelfth grade schools and \$1.5 billion to community colleges for construction and modernization.

Proposition 3: Reaffirm the right of same-sex couples to marry. This constitutional amendment, placed on the ballot by the California Legislature, would remove outmoded language from Proposition 8, passed by voters in 2008, that characterizes marriage as being between a man and a woman.

Proposition 4: Borrow \$10 billion for climate programs. Legislative Democrats placed this bond issue on the ballot, which includes \$3.8 billion for investments associated with potable water and groundwater, \$1.5 billion for wildfire and forest programs and \$1.2 billion to adapt to sea level rise.

Proposition 5: Lower voter approval requirements for local housing and infrastructure bonds. The California Legislature placed this constitutional amendment on the ballot to make it easier for local governments to borrow money to build affordable housing and other infrastructure. Bond monies could
- not be used to buy single-family homes.

Proposition 6: Limit forced labor in state prisons. Lawmakers placed this constitutional amendment on the ballot to end indentured servitude in state prisons.

Proposition 32: Raise the state minimum wage to \$18 an hour. Under existing law, the overall minimum wage is \$16 an hour. Fast food workers received a \$20 an hour minimum on April 1 and health care workers will eventually get \$25, though not until mid-October at the earliest.

Proposition 33: Allow local governments to impose rent controls. This initiative would attempt to peel off a state law that generally prevents cities and counties from limiting rents in properties first occupied after February 1, 1995.

Proposition 34: Require certain health providers to use nearly all revenue from a federal prescription drug program on patient care. The initiative would apply to healthcare providers who have spent more than \$100 million in any 10-year period on things besides direct patient care and have managed multifamily housing with more than 500 “high-severity health and safety violations.” If a provider meets that standard they’d be required to spend 98 percent of their revenues from a federal prescription drug program on direct patient care. The measure also permanently

BALLOT MEASURES continues on page 15

Dear Readers

Tell our local merchants you saw their ad in *The Potrero View!*

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Beginning August 12!

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Meet the Candidates

San Francisco’s 2024 Mayoral Election is one of the most important yet!
★ Vote Wisely ★

Join your neighbors for a series of Q&A forums to get to know your candidates and share what’s top of mind for Potrero Hill and Dogpatch.

- August 9: Former Interim Mayor Mark Farrell
- August 13: Daniel Lurie
- August 20: Supervisor Aaron Peskin
- August 22: Supervisor Ahsha Safai
- August 29: Mayor London Breed

All forums will start at 6:30 p.m. refreshments served.
Dogpatch Hub
1278 Minnesota Street
Please RSVP as space is limited.
www.dogpatchhub.org

No candidates are being endorsed.
These are ‘Vote Wisely’ forums organized by your neighbors:
Jen Betti
Kopal Maheshwari
Matt Nessier and Joan Meyer



COMMUNITY | AUGUST

Now through 8/17 Saturday
Art: The Dump Show
Stuff gets sorted daily at the San Francisco dump. From this detritus, 20 artists created works exhibited at this show. Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday: 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Thurs: 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Free. Hosfelt Gallery, 260 Utah Street. For more information: <https://bit.ly/4bP8jGP>

2fri

Film: Barbie
6 to 10 p.m. Free. Attendees can secure reserved seating by becoming a San Francisco Parks Alliance member in advance. The Ferry Building, 1 Ferry Building. For more information: <https://bit.ly/3LxhmS7>

3sat

Music: 22nd Annual Jerry Day
Celebrating what'd be Jerry Garcia's 82nd birthday, with performers Melvin Seals & JGB, Stu Allen & Mars Hotel, Grahame Lesh, Elliott Peck & Alex Jordan. 11:30 a.m.; doors open at 11 a.m. Free. Jerry Garcia Amphitheater, McLaren Park, 40 John F. Shelley Drive. For more information: <https://www.jerryday.org/>

8thur

Career: San Francisco Virtual Job Fair
Engage with hiring managers and recruiters from leading companies. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Free. For more information and to reserve your space: <https://bit.ly/4cEx2IP>

8/8 Thursday through 9/7 Saturday
Theater: Shipping & Handling
Shipping & Handling is a world premiere by Crowded Fire and Campo Santo's Playwright In Residence, Star

Finch. The play explores how humanity will be measured within a soon to be robotic reality. Fort Mason's Magic Theater, 2 Marina Blvd. For more information: <https://bit.ly/4dOnE8l>

10sat

Community: Bernal Heights Hillwide Garage Sale
Bernal Hillwide is arguably San Francisco's largest single day garage sale. Each year more than 100 households exchange trash for treasure, a bargain bonanza. Records, vehicles, water toys, collectibles and baked goods, new and used, worn and pristine; Bernal Heights in bulk. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Free. Start at Cortland Avenue! For more information: <https://hillwide.com/>

11sun

Music: Brian Bielanski
Imagine Nirvana and the Beatles had a kid together who became an acoustic rock singer-songwriter: that's Bryan Bielanski. Catch him from 3 to 6 p.m. at San Francisco Brewing Company, 3150 Polk Street. For more information: <https://bit.ly/4d9ljZ6>

8/11 Sunday through 8/13 Tuesday
Astronomy: Perseids Meteor Shower
The annual Perseids meteor shower is the glittery result of Earth passing through debris left behind by a comet. Typically, up to 40 meteors per hour can be seen by those distant from light pollution and with uncloudy skies. Predicted peak: very late evening to just before dawn, the night of August 11 to 12 or 12 to 13; stay up late the night of August 11 or wake up early the morning of August 12. Some predictions suggest August 13 will be the peak. For more information: <https://bit.ly/4cNyOZB>

12mon

Food: Chocolate Chip Cookie Baking
Brennan Bowen shares the history of the chocolate chip cookie, leads a chocolate tasting and demonstrates making cookie dough based on his family recipe. Leave with fresh cookies and the skills to recreate them at home. 4 to 5:30 p.m. Free. Space limited, reservations required: 415.355.2822. San Francisco Public Library, Potrero Branch, 1616 20th Street. For more information: <https://bit.ly/4d6BJBp>

15thur

Music: "Brazil in the Gardens"
Every year Brazil's greatest musicians gather in the redwoods of Cazadero for California Brazil Camp, and several faculty members venture to Yerba Buena Gardens to share their music. This season's concert features the Brazilian vocalist Monica Salmaso, Teco Cardoso, an improviser on saxophone, and Guinga, a guitar maestro and composer. Free. 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Great Lawn, Yerba Buena Gardens, Mission Street between Third and Fourth streets. For more information: <https://bit.ly/3Yi6PI8>

24sat

Crafts: West Coast Craft Market
An outdoor market, with more than 100 artists and craftspeople. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free. Fort Mason Center, 2 Marina Boulevard. For more information: <https://tinyurl.com/3dckrc9u>

25sun

Community: Sunday Streets
More than one mile of streets in the Mission will host an afternoon of car-free fun for the whole family, with recreation, music, and dance. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free. Valencia Street between Duboce Avenue and 26th Street. For more information: <https://bit.ly/4d9qUP6>

29thur

Community: Taste of Bayview
A family-friendly celebration of local cuisine. Savor dishes from Bayview restaurants and meet the chefs. Enjoy activities and entertainment for all ages. 4 to 6 p.m. Free admission. Southeast Community Center, 1550 Evans Avenue. For more information: <https://bit.ly/3YaKtIO> or email info@rencenter.org

30fri

Family: Final Fridays Family Dance Party
Shake your tail to the best in family-friendly jams. Drop in anytime during the session for as much dancing as you like. 3 to 4 p.m. Free. San Francisco Public Library, Potrero Branch, 1616 20th Street. For more information: <https://bit.ly/4fapzcm>



Our Citizen Coyotes
Where they are,
Who they are,
How to get along,
*plus our 'hood coyotes

RSVP at 415 355 5656



August 31, 2024 @ 3 pm
SF Park Library Branch
1833 Page Street, San Francisco

Slide Presentation by Janet Kessler

Janet Kessler will be giving an informational slide-presentation about our San Francisco coyotes at the Park Branch Library on August 31, at 3 pm. Please call them to sign up at: 415 355 5656. Note there is limited parking in the neighborhood.

For more information, visit: <https://sfpl.org/events/2024/08/31/presentation-citizen-coyotes-san-francisco> (or Google: Library presentation, Citizen coyotes, Janet Kessler).



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Crane Cove Park to be Made Even Better

BY ODIN THIEN-AN MARIN

Nestled along the Central Waterfront, Crane Cove Park will soon receive a family- and pet-friendly makeover. At an estimated cost of \$2.2 million, a Tot Lot, fenced-in dog run, and natural feature, “Rigger’s Yard,” will be added.

Construction is slated to start at the end of the year and be completed by next September. The two play areas, Rigger’s Yard and the Tot Lot, will be built slightly north of Building 49. Rigger’s Yard will feature “Ghost Piles” – tall cylindrical shapes rising from the ground – Keel Blocks – concrete cuboids used in shipbuilding and repair – and granite Cribbing Units; rectangular blocks deployed to create stacks to support heavy loads. Tot Lot elements will include two different-sized slides, a spinner, and a low-level swing structure.

The dog run will be created in the park’s southeastern corner next to the crane structures, divided into an 11,000-square-foot fenced large dog area, with 3,300-square-foot enclosure for small dogs. The play and dog run areas will be closed during construction; the rest of Crane Cove Park will remain open.

According to the Port of San Francisco, community outreach for the proj-

ect was initially conducted from 2011 to 2017. Along the way, Dogpatch emerged as one of San Francisco’s fastest growing neighborhoods. More than one-third of the community’s households consist of families, significantly higher than the citywide average. Despite the population boom, associated public infrastructure has yet to catch up.

CRANE COVE continues on page 15



Crane Cove Park: feature locations.

IMAGE: Courtesy of Port of San Francisco



Two people take in the afternoon at Crane Cove. The patio of The Ramp, a nearby restaurant, can be seen on the left. PHOTO: Odin Thien-An Marin

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The Potrero View enters its 55th Year

BY LESTER ZEIDMAN

We'd gather Tuesday through Thursday on the last week of the month. It was a sporadic group that had no clear direction, but everyone knew what needed to be done. Working on *The Potrero View* during the 1980s and early-1990s was a routine that had no end. Every month was different.

The three main architects were Ruth Passen, our acclaimed editor-in-chief, Vas Arnautoff, who'd design the layout and write the headlines, and Judy Baston, who did a lot of everything. During the month they'd gather the articles, type them up on our IBM Selectric typewriters. In that last week we'd cut them out and reassemble them onto boards for the printer.

It was a quiet commotion, the floor littered with scraps of paper, X-acto

knives and glue sticks at the ready along with the steady clicking of typewriters and the "headliner", a large tank of a machine that'd photograph the letters from a large wheel onto a strip of film. Bob Hayes would clean and ready the machine with new developer and fixer each month. We had typewriter erasers, wite-out, blue pencils, dictionaries, a backlit light table, and on Thursdays, pizza!

Lots of volunteers on Thursdays. Ruth would order two or three Goat Hill Pizzas with anchovies on the side. Those were the best times; everyone would talk politics and discuss the articles.

We were dinosaurs in a pre-computer landscape. In thinking of all the progress

VIEW continues on next page



Hill and Dale view evolves

We hope you find this first issue of THE POTRERO VIEW informative. It will appear the first of every month with news and views about life on the Hill.

A regular neighborhood newspaper is the first step in the effort to bring this community together in order to solve our common problems. It will provide facts about events and issues as well as a forum where views of various segments of the community may be expressed. Letters will be printed as space allows. All this will help us to get to know each other better and to produce a better understanding of urban problems as they exist on Potrero Hill.

THE POTRERO VIEW is a non-profit venture, a product of volunteer help from interested residents of the Hill, who for a long time have felt the need for a neighborhood newspaper. Its maintenance depends on community support.

This effort is a continuation and expansion of the work of Bill and Jodie Dawson who for six months have produced "Hills and Dales," a newsletter for the Hill. Now with some additional volunteer help, we've been able to put out this first issue of THE POTRERO VIEW. Read it and tell us what you think.

Big VIEW benefit sale September 18

A factory sale of mod fashion Alvin Duskin label dresses will be held Saturday, Sept. 18, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 DeHaro St. at Southern Heights.

Proceeds from the special one-day neighborhood sale will be used to pay printing costs of future issues of THE POTRERO VIEW, a non-profit Hill community newspaper.

Mini skirts will be available for as low as \$4. Dress prices average between \$10 and \$20 - well below usual retail costs where profit and staff overhead rather than neighborhood service determine the mark-up.

Mix and match pants, skirts and tops as well as

ALVIN DUSKIN FASHIONS

distinctively designed pantsuits will be sold at factory prices.

Here is your chance to help yourself and your community at the same time. A dress purchase on Saturday will pick up your wardrobe and part of THE VIEW's printing tab.



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VIEW from previous page

made in the publishing arts, why are newspapers slowly disappearing?

My nephew from Florida visited recently and laughed at me as I had my daily *Chronicle* laid out on the table.

"I haven't seen anyone read a newspaper in years!"

What else would you read, I thought, as my nephew pulled out his phone and started scrolling, not really reading anything.

I have tried reading articles on my phone, but the ads just start appearing and taking over. Pop-ups at the top, a permanent ad at the bottom, ads embedded everywhere. Some wiggle, most repeat over and over, some flash. Don't touch one because what you wanted to read will disappear.

Why is this better than a newspaper? The articles are stationary. You can turn the page without finishing a story. The ads don't scream at you. You can even set your coffee cup on the paper

without damage.

What's the future of newspapers? I can't predict with any certainty, but I think the future of newspapers is right here in your hands. Small papers like *The Potrero View* will continue to seek out news and information that gets ignored by larger dailies. Local citizens will spend time at meetings, which will not go away, and feel compelled to write something and disperse it to the greater community. Zoning issues and street changes only need to

be read once a month anyway. Small community businesses will always trump larger enterprises. You'll never meet your neighbors at the drive thru. Readers will feel a dearth of information and turn to small broadsheets just starting out and the cycle will begin anew.

This article will be here tomorrow and all month long. It will sit on my coffee table until at least November. Try that with your Snapchat.



Left to right: View publisher Steven Moss, Micky Ostler, and Rose Marie Sicoli Ostler at Bill and Jodie Dawson's former home at 284 Connecticut Street, where Hills & Dales, the View's mimeographed predecessor, began. The Dawsons, Lenny Anderson, Micky Ostler, Rose Marie Sicoli and editor Eileen Maloney, "The Mob," transformed Hills & Dales into first View in August, 1970.



Above: Hill resident Giacomo Patri designed *The Potrero View's* masthead in 1973. Patri illustrated for the *San Francisco Examiner*, taught at the California Labor School after World War II until McCarthyism closed it, and ran The Patri School of Art Fundamentals from 1948 to 1966, teaching adults without formal art training. Below: Below, former publisher Ruth Passen.



Potrero's View... Reflected In Hill's Own Newspaper

It all began nearly a dozen years ago with a borrowed electric typewriter, space, volunteers at the Neighborhood House, and a \$100 donation from St. Teresa's Church on Potrero Hill. In the ensuing 12 years, *The Potrero View* has become San Francisco's longest-established neighborhood newspaper.

Since August 1, 1970, the *Potrero View* has reported and reflected on the developments and diversity that are Potrero Hill. Its very first issue recalls front page headlines like "Mobile Drug Clinic for Hill Rejected," and "Community Tree Planting Program Gets Underway."

Since then, the View has been on top of all the news and issues that affect the many different people who call Potrero Hill home: Housing; the need for medical facilities in the community, special needs of seniors and renters; the waterfront; public transportation; the Julian Theater, and the cultural pursuits in a neighborhood that includes many of the City's well known artists.

Voicing the needs of a neighborhood sometimes means doing more than simply reporting the news. Often it means taking a leading role in letting residents know what's going on so they can help make some of that news themselves. When PG&E announced plans to expand its facilities on the hill, articles and editorials in the View helped mobilize a group of active Hill residents to wage a successful campaign against the expansion. When threats of closure faced the Potrero Police Station, alert View reporting provided the background for a campaign to keep the needed police facility open.

When Synanon moved out of its Kansas Street and 24th Street location, leaving a hazardous abandoned site that was both dangerous to residents and alluring to children at play, articles in the View forced steps toward security and demolition. When then Supervisor Dianne Feinstein suggested moving the x-rated movies and attendant industry to this side of town, the View was a leading voice to squash the proposal.

For all 12 years of its existence, the View has contained information about the need for mental health facilities in the neighborhoods—and the difficulty in getting funding and approval for those facilities. Editor Ruth Passen and her staff are especially proud of a 1981 award from the San Francisco Mental Health Association commending the View for its journalistic efforts on behalf of decent and necessary mental health budgeting and treatment.

Although some things have changed on the Hill, many things remain the same about the View. The paper still proudly displays on its masthead a drawing by the late Potrero Hill artist Giacomo Patri. The paper is still a fully non-profit, volunteer effort, existing solely on the revenues from local advertisers and donations, and distributed free at Hill businesses and facilities.

Those people who gather for three intense, late nights of newspaper production each month themselves mirror much of the Hill's diversity. They share an interest in reflecting the community and an interest in various aspects of newspaper work. Many bring skills in photography, graphic design and layout, and in writing. But often a writer who believed he or she could not draw a straight line will be caught up in the intricacies of placing border tape on a paste-up page. Or a graphic artist who claims a total inability to write will sit at the headliner and instinctively come up with a better headline for a story than one dreamed up by a professional editor.

Over the years, the View has provided apprenticeship grounding for many newspaper aficionados. San Francisco State University's prestigious journalism program has often assigned students to intern with the View, to pick up some pointers on community journalism and the many skills the View's volunteers bring to the paper.

With 8,500 copies published the first of every month, except January - even dedicated View volunteers deserve the Winter holidays off - the *Potrero View* is available free at locations throughout Potrero Hill and close environs.



Potrero Hill, as seen from the 18th Street overpass.

PHOTO: Potrero View Staff

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The Portfolio

YOUTH CREATIVE CONTEST at THE VIEW



Artist: **Rafael Villamil**, 11, attends New School of San Francisco and lives on Sierra Street.vv

CREATIVE YOUTHS! The *View* invites those under 18 to submit any creative work suitable for publication, including drawings, short stories (fewer than 150 words), photographs, comic strips, jokes, before the 20th of each month. Winning entries will receive a \$20 prize. Please send submissions to editor@potreroview.net.

COYOTE from front page

left in parks at night, nor traps set for rodents that contain poison; coyotes can get sick from feeding on poisoned animals.

To deter coyotes from approaching people can clap, yell, blow whistles, and throw stones near but not at coyotes.

According to Kessler, San Francisco is home to roughly 20 coyote nuclear families living on “exclusive” territories that average two square miles. Coyotes frequent every part of San Francisco except Downtown.

“Coyotes will try “messaging” dogs to leave through body language and eye contact. When that doesn’t work, they’ll up the ante by charging at and nipping the dog’s rear end, cattle-dog fashion,” said Kessler.

“A dog owner should take their pet to a vet for treatment if a coyote bite breaks skin. All licensed dogs in the City should be protected against rabies. Dogs must be current on rabies vaccinations to obtain a San Francisco dog license,” said Deb Campbell, San Francisco Animal Care and Control spokesperson.

In 2023, SFACC reported that there were 12,454 licensed dogs in the City, a number that rose to 13,017 this year.

“There are far more dogs in San Francisco without a license, but we don’t know how many,” said Campbell.

According to the San Francisco Department of Public Health (DPH), since 2023 the rabies vaccine has been administered 18 times related to domes-

tic animal bites, none associated with coyotes or wild animals. DPH couldn’t confirm or deny whether the child bitten in the San Francisco Botanical Garden had a rabies vaccine because of patient protections.

Coyotes in California fall under California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) jurisdiction. After the June Botanical Garden incident, CDFW worked with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) in an unsuccessful attempt to trap the animal that bit the child. USDA employees then shot the coyote that attacked the youngster as well as two others.

“We have every expectation that the territory of the coyotes that were euthanized will be filled again. That doesn’t mean the incoming coyotes will be aggressive,” said Captain Patrick Foy of CDFW’s law enforcement division.

According to Brendan Lange, Gardens of Golden Gate Park director of advancement, the summer camp didn’t relocate activities away from the area where the child was bitten. As of mid-July, coyote-related closures in municipal spaces included the two ballfields at St. Mary’s Park in Bernal Heights and the dog play area at Mountain Lake Park at 111th Avenue. Throughout the rest of Mountain Lake Park, dogs must be leashed.

Kessler, among others, disapproved of the decision to euthanize the coyotes. Others supported the action.

“There are strong opinions on both sides,” said Campbell.

Wilkinson’s research indicates that leash laws and securing attractions greatly help minimize negative interactions.

“The data indicate coyotes in less urbanized areas, like the Presidio, consume more natural sources of food than coyotes in more urbanized areas like Bernal Heights. We are still analyzing the data to determine differences regarding stress,” said Tali Caspi, a Ph.D. student in ecology at the University of California, Davis.

Dr. Christopher Schell, assistant professor in the Department of Environmental Science, Policy, and Management at the University of California, Berkeley, said it’d be difficult to remove coyotes from the City. The animals are evasive. They travel on roads like Highways 101 and 280, which aren’t walled off.

The animals help nurture biodiversity.

“When a carnivore eats a wide range of prey, that provides room for more species of small animals to exist here. Coyotes also help maintain plant populations. Larger populations of small herbivores would take out more introduced and native plants,” said Schell.

Schell added that coyotes are “ecosystem sentinels,” species whose biological outcomes are symptomatic of environmental quality. Coyotes usually live and hunt in green spaces. Spots where there are few coyotes coincide with where people lack access to nature. Highways and polluted places segregate

and separate people based on race and income. These infrastructural factors also limit coyote movement and establishment.

“Coyote presence and health tells us a great deal about community health, the respect we give nature, and how inequities shape nature. Coyotes and other wildlife reflect our actions,” said Schell.

Report a coyote sighting at San Francisco Animal Care and Control (<https://www.sfanimalcare.org/living-with-urban-wildlife/coyote-sightings/>) or Bay Area Coyote (<https://bayareacoyote.org/>). Learn more about coexisting with coyotes at: <https://www.sfanimalcare.org/living-with-urban-wildlife/coyote-sightings/>. Understand San Francisco Recreation and Parks’ response to coyotes at: <https://sfrecpark.org/1399/Urban-Wildlife>.

POLLUTION from front page

enforce the NPDES permit terms San Francisco is challenging at the Supreme Court.

“If we are correct that (the) EPA cannot impose those sorts of permit requirements, then they cannot be enforced in the District Court case,” said Kwart.

San Francisco is served by a combined stormwater and wastewater system, which worries environmental activists and Bay Area residents.

“Local agencies have a legal obligation to ensure that stormwater and combined systems like San Francisco’s are pollution-free,” said Joshua Quigley, policy manager for Save the Bay, an Oakland-based nonprofit. “When they fail to, enforcement is necessary to protect water quality in the Bay.”

Peter Drekmeier, policy director for the Tuolumne River Trust, a Sonoma-based nonprofit, said the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) has deferred maintenance on its water management system for decades, triggering problematic discharges.

“SFPUC now has to play catchup, but there’s a big concern over the amount of money they’re taking in to pay for projects. This is because they’re selling less water” as a result of conservation measures, said Drekmeier. “This causes SFPUC to see less money coming in, but having their fixed costs stay the same and other costs rise, due to inflation. They need to raise rates.”

Ginny Stearns, Mission Creek houseboat resident and Mission Creek Conservancy member, would like to see water discharges exit more slowly, which would give heavier material a chance to drop to the bottom of the pipes that lead to the creek.

“Then the debris from the roads as well as sewage might not have as much of a chance to get into the Creek and the Bay. Also, there are a couple of exit points for discharges that are not being used. We’re open to that,” said Stearns. “Overall, I’ve seen the water quality improve from 15 to 20 years ago.”

Peter Snider, a Mission Creek houseboat resident and Mission Creek Harbor Association steering committee member, said SFPUC discharges have been a concern for more than a decade.

“I’m adverse to...lawsuits in general. I’d much prefer some cooperative resolution. No matter what the outcome of this lawsuit (the U.S. Supreme Court case) is, I hope to see corrective measures for the discharges be integrated with the Port of San Francisco’s plan to handle sea level rise,” said Snider.

POLLUTION continues on page 15

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POTRERO GATEWAY from front page

Northwest Potrero Hill resident Libby Dodd. "It hasn't happened at all and everyone points fingers saying they're not responsible for the homeless encampments, and they're not responsible for this, that, and the other. It's a failure to coordinate." The area has been beset with illegal dumping, graffiti, and encampments by those who are unhoused. That's in addi-

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tion to the orange barrier and chain-link fence used to protect the passageway, which is repeatedly pulled down, blocking the sidewalk.

"Our inspectors visit project sites daily even when work is not being performed and notices are sent to the contractor if any issues are identified," a DPW spokesperson said. "Community members also have alerted us if there are problems with the barricades or fencing, and we work to have these resolved quickly. The project location has been experiencing the noted issues for years prior to the start of construction. During construction, these issues have continued, and it has remained a challenging site requiring coordination with various City and state agencies from the outset to make the site safe to start work and through the course of construction. Encampment resolutions are a complex undertaking, led by services and requiring coordination among multiple departments through the City's Healthy Streets Operations Center."

"Neighbors try to take up the slack using standard 311 and Caltrans service requests, but responses are slow and intermittent, which leads to frustration and ill-conceived interventions," Dodd retorted. "For example, Caltrans from time to time responds by sending out a large crew and dump truck to remove debris from encampments in the project area, but the tents reconstitute the next day, often sheltering the same individuals ... My contention is that a social service team needs to be contractually accountable to the project to mitigate the impact of change brought on by the construction."

PGP presents numerous institutional and social complexities. It's partially maintained by the California Department of Transportation and DPW, as well as neighborhood groups, and isn't a traditional park. Roughly 10 years ago, Hill residents organized to address ongoing blight at the site. They hired landscape architects to create a conceptual design and raised approximately \$2 million to implement it. After advocates were unable to obtain municipal approval of the original design, DPW offered to work with them to develop an alternative, which became PGP.

In 2019, neighbors formed the Potrero Gateway Park Steering Committee, currently led by Utah Street resident Jean Bogiages, and continued to meet with DPW to complete a detailed design.

"DPW was working with us, the steering committee," Bogiages said. "It wasn't DPW creating the whole plan. It's a different role that DPW plays than Rec and Park. They aren't trying to sell this project."

When finished, PGP will have corner bulb-outs with retaining walls and native plants, a protected bike lane, widened sidewalk, public art by Dogpatch company FUTUREFORMS, and new pedestrian lighting. The latest postponement was caused by the need for Pacific Gas and Electric Company to remove a streetlight on 17th Street.

"This, unfortunately, prevented portions of the scope from being completed, delaying the timeline," the DPW spokesperson said. "This pole was removed the week of June 17, allowing the contractor to proceed and finish the work. The project is currently projected to be completed in early August."

Bauman's contract includes clauses for "liquidated damages," a penalty assessed on a per diem basis if the supplier is at fault for not completing the work on time.

"In this case, because the delay was outside of the contractor's control, we extended the project duration to account for this and there is no associated penalty," DPW said.

"It would be much nicer if things could go faster but this is the way it is and we just have to figure out how to get to the endpoint successfully," Bogiages said. "We still have a bit more on the

project to complete. We are planning a mural to connect the project ideas. Additionally, there needs to be a better connection between [the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing], Caltrans, and SFPD in the neighborhood so that everyone has a home, but not in illegal locations. The end result is going to be a wonderful thing that connects all around the neighborhood."

BALLOT MEASURES from page 7

allows the state to negotiate Medi-Cal drug prices. Setting aside its merits, by all accounts the Proposition is directed at AIDS Healthcare Foundation, which for years has lobbied for stricter rent control laws, including this year's Proposition 33.

Proposition 35: Make permanent a tax on managed health care insurance plans. This initiative would raise money for Medi-Cal and block lawmakers from using the funds to avoid cuts to other programs.

Proposition 36: Increase penalties for theft and drug trafficking. This initiative would partly roll back Proposition 47, approved by voters in 2014, which downsized some lower-level crimes to misdemeanors and established a \$950 threshold for shoplifting felonies. The Proposition's backers, which include San Francisco Mayor London Breed and the California District Attorneys Association, argue that Proposition 47 has led to increased crime and retail theft.

Proposition 1, Governor Gavin Newsom's mental health measure, narrowly passed in March.



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CRANE COVE from page 9

The Port recently visited the Potrero Kids and Red Bridge schools, where students voted on the play structure’s paint color. In May the Port presented design renderings for the play areas and dog runs to the Dogpatch Neighborhood Association (DNA), amongst other community groups.

“It could be a spectacular park if the Port stepped back and listened to the community,” said Donovan Lacy, DNA president. “We want the park to be something that benefits not only the Dogpatch, Potrero Hill, and Mission Bay communities, but also the broader San Francisco neighborhoods. But [the Port] needs to listen to what parents, grandparents, and caregivers have to say. The biggest thing for us when we looked at the playground was shading in the park. It doesn’t have a lot of shade, partly because the trees are new, and it can get very hot there on a sunny day. Some of the other concerns had to do with seating and what that actual toddler playground would look like. You want to create a space that is comfortable and enjoyable for the children as well as their caregivers.”

The Port is the managing authority for Crane Cove. Through a partnership with the San Francisco Parks Alliance, it secured project funding. The soon to be built features were included in the park’s 2017 *Final Master Plan*, designed by the infrastructure consulting firm, AECOM.

Building 49 will also undergo a transformation. Public restroom facilities opened last month on the northwest side, replacing the portable toilet at the northern end of the park. The YMCA, Daily Driver, and Dog-

patch Paddle are set to be housed in the structure starting this fall.

POLLUTION from page 13

Mission Creek houseboat resident Elena Bondareva said it’s difficult to precisely determine the source of waste in Mission Creek at any given time, but especially after heavy rains. Mission Creek and adjacent paths and parks are enjoyed by many people. Not all dog owners pick up after their canines. There’s been fecal matter and refuse associated with people who stay by Mission Creek while experiencing homelessness. Still, she’s concerned about the combined system.

“In addition to exacerbating unsafe waste in the Creek, it is a waste of precious fresh water. Current regulations are not equipped to deal with this evolving problem. Regulations inherently look backward while the rains have been getting worse. We need proactive regulations that accurately anticipate the heavy rains and mitigates their impact on the community and the ecosystem,” said Bondareva.

Tom Radulovich, Mission resident and senior policy fellow for Livable City, a City-based nonprofit that advocates for improving streets and neighborhoods, would like to see greening measures and traffic calming throughout the City to reduce the amount of water discharged into the Bay.

“A lot of the conversation...is occurring behind closed doors. But this issue affects all of us living here in the City. I see this as a civic question, and not a new issue for City residents,” said Radulovich.

He added that there are steps San Francisco can take, like picking

up trash, deploying rain barrels and increasing permeable areas in yards and sidewalks to reduce problems in Mission Creek.

“We should all be talking about those more, ahead of the rainy season. These are essential regardless of any lawsuit,” said Radulovich.

Kieran Farr, a Mission resident and Sierra Club San Francisco Group member, is gathering signatures for a plan he wants to put before municipal officials to separate the stormwater and wastewater systems and build greenspace. The greenspace would be designed to hold and gradually filter water until it reaches the Bay, which would require SFPUC to engage in fewer discharges.

“I don’t want to be swept up in

it (the lawsuits). I don’t think it’s the right answer to the problem the City is experiencing,” said Farr. “The best we can do is advocate for immediate treatments and work at the local level to unite all City residents.”

Dr. Timur Durrani, associate chief for clinical services in the division of occupational, environmental, and climate medicine at the University of California, San Francisco’s Department of Medicine, said people who come into contact with waste in urban waterways can experience an increased risk of becoming ill. How sick they could get depends on which waterborne illness they catch, the amount and route of exposure, from a slight brush with a contaminant to direct ingestion of it.

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