



SEPTEMBER 2025

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FREE

# THE POTRERO VIEW

BY DANNY PHAM

Bradley Akers knew he wanted to be a fireman since he was a young boy. Today, he works as an H-2 firefighter with the San Francisco Fire Department, assigned to Station 37 at 798 Wisconsin Street. H-2 firefighters typically work 24-hour shifts and respond to building, environmental and medical emergencies. Akers said most recent calls have been health related.

"Our goal is to get to them quickly and safely into the ambulance. From there, our colleagues at the Emergency Medical Services headquarters, Station 49, will prepare the ambulances and help transport them to the hospital," said Akers. "A lot of times we get many calls from people who have been badly hurt from a variety of causes."

According to Akers, firefighters aren't expert at one specific task, but are akin to a Swiss Army Knife, with many different skill sets, including emergency medical response, rescue operations, hazardous materials handling, community engagement and crisis support.

"A lot of them are also really caring people and compassionate, and they're willing to help anyone in any way that they need while they are on or off duty," he said.

A Missouri Street resident, Akers is grateful to serve his neighborhood and appreciates the close-knit community. A few weeks ago, while his family was visiting him at the station, Akers spotted a familiar-looking gentleman walking up the hill towards him with a box of See's Candies.

"He was actually an individual that I responded to just a few weeks before that," he said.

After the man suffered a stroke Akers and other responders were dispatched to his home in response to his Apple Watch dialed 9-1-1 using its Emergency SOS feature.

"He simply wanted to thank me in person. He also wrote a letter expressing his gratitude to the department, which I still have on my refrigerator to this day. It was nice seeing it all

*SFFD continues on page 11*



The SFFD team in front of Station 37 in Potrero Hill.

PHOTO: JJ Pilar

## Hill Neighbors Clash with Developer over Kansas Street Fire Hydrant

BY REBEKAH MOAN

It's been 11 years since Dawson & Clinton first proposed constructing residences on five contiguous lots along 923 Kansas Street. Neighbors opposed the medium-density development and, after it was approved, continue to advocate that entitlement conditions be honored. The latest conflict is over placement of a fire hydrant.

It took Dawson & Clinton five years to secure a site permit, which included a binding agreement with Friends of Kansas Street (FOKS). The contract, which is tied to the permit, stipulates that the developer won't seek non-minor revisions without FOKS' explicit consent; fire hydrant placement is identified in the pact as "non-minor."

In 2019, the developers sold the land and associated permit to Lucas Eastwood and Eastwood Development. According to neighbors Scott Simons and Josh Klipp, Eastwood never attempted to communicate or consult with FOKS before seeking to change the placement of the fire hydrant from in front of the property to the middle of the block.

"They don't reach out to us at all," Simons said. "We reach out to them, and it's been like this for over a decade."

The development, consisting of eight condominiums and a single-family home, is nearly finished; all that's missing is the fire hydrant. FOKS wants the new hydrant to be placed in front of the property.

"And so do we!" said one of the developers, Natasha Sadeghi. "But during construction, we discovered that the existing fire hydrant at the corner of 20th and Kansas – which would be the one we tie into for the new hydrant – is out of compliance and lacks the requisite water flow required by the California Fire Code. Instead, the only solution will be for us to dig up an additional 1,000 linear feet of public roadway and upgrade the water line to a 12-inch main, going all the way from our new hydrant down to a different hydrant at the intersection of 20th and De Haro. Because of this very costly and unexpected infrastructure project that we are now facing – which we firmly believe should be the City's responsibility, not ours – the City's 'compromise' is to have us place the new hydrant higher up the block towards the 20th/Kansas intersection – instead of directly in front of our property – so as to decrease the cost and difficulty of the water main upgrade."

Garrett Miller, San Francisco Fire Department assistant deputy chief, finds it "troubling" that Eastwood claims not to have known that ground-work was an issue.

"The infrastructure upgrade for the development on the 900 block of Kansas Street is necessary for the project to comply with the Fire Code that was in effect at the time that the permit application occurred," he said. "The infrastructure

## Playgrounds, Dog Run, to be Added to Crane Cove Park

BY JESSICA ZIMMER

A new dog run, along with playgrounds designed to separately accommodate toddlers and older children, will open at Crane Cove Park this fall. The Port of San Francisco is spending \$2.5 million to construct the amenities.

"There are other investments the Port is making, but they generally fall under routine repair and maintenance. There may be future upgrades needed, which we will address through our usual capital program strategies. Tariffs are not expected to impact construction costs," said Eric Young, Port of San Francisco communications director.

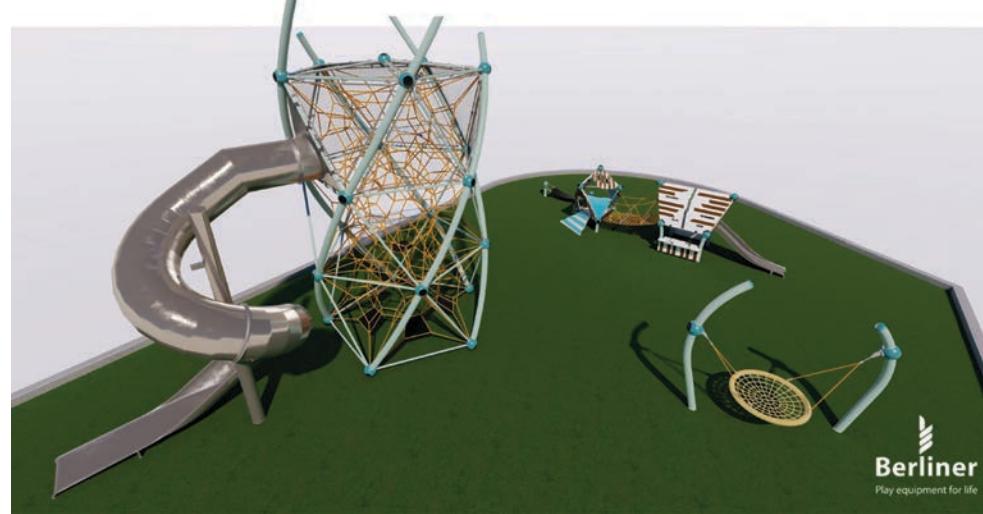
The dog run is being installed on the park's east side. It'll consist of a paved

path to a fenced-in area, with railing along the shipyard, and lighting. The "Tot Lot," located in a triangular area north of Building 49, will contain a variety of play structures, including a slide, net climbing tower, multi-person swing, and musical play equipment.

Rigger's Yard will be sited on what's now landscaped portions at the park's north end, and feature climbing equipment for older children.

The Port originally contemplated including the dog run and playgrounds when Crane Cove first opened, in 2020. According to Young, delays were caused by design changes requested by the now defunct and disgraced San Francisco

*CRANE COVE PARK continues on page 4*



Rendering of the Tot Lot, planned for Crane Cove Park.

PHOTO: Courtesy of Port of San Francisco

*FIRE HYDRANT continues on page 12*

## PUBLISHER'S VIEW

## Energy Affordability

BY STEVEN J. MOSS

California's for-profit utility electricity rates – including Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) – have risen sharply over the past five years, faster and higher than municipal utility rates, or national averages. While energy experts don't fully agree on the causes of the upsurge, there are at least three main cost drivers.

First, the utilities are still paying for expensive renewable power contracts they signed a dozen years ago. More recently, they failed to adequately hedge against electricity market price volatility. As a result, the amount PG&E compensates for power generation jolted upward by more than 50 percent from 2022 to 2024.

Second, building transmission to wheel that renewable power from distant locales to where it's needed was much pricier than expected, costing an average of 12.5 cents per kilowatt-hour.

Third, the utilities vastly overbuilt their distribution network – poles, wires, transformers – to serve electricity demand that hasn't materialized. Add in wildfire costs – periodically inflamed by the latest conflagration – and investor-owned utility (IOU) rates almost doubled over the past 15 years.

Politicians and policy makers are struggling to agree on ways to tame utility inflation. Several options are on the table. The utilities and government

could stoke electricity demand; more sales would help pay for the oversized grid, soaking up excess distribution capacity. This had been the plan all along: electrify buildings and cars to shift from fossil fuel-powered vehicles and household-reliance on gas, thereby reducing climate-altering carbon emissions. Along these lines, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors recently advanced an ordinance to require significantly renovated buildings to go all-electric.

The problem is that high electricity rates discourage fuel switching, and the federal government has largely abandoned Biden Administration-era support for electric vehicles, or the very idea that greenhouse gas emissions are a problem at all. Data centers could emerge as prodigious energy consumers, but not in a way that'll create beneficial demand, since they tend to require substantial power at specific times and places, triggering the need for even more investment. These facilities are also equipped with diesel or fossil gas backup generators, contributing to an already oversized, emission-leaky, BUG fleet.

Services presently provided by utilities, such as wildfire management, which represent roughly 10 percent of costs, could be extracted from rates and shifted to public sector budgets. This could transform largely incompetent mass tree trimming enterprises into a

more thoughtful ecosystem management approach, overseen by proper scientists, wildlife experts and environmental specialists, rather than IOU executives. Utilities would pay their share for ecosystem operations, as would insurance companies. In cases where a geographic area preferred undergrounding utility services, such as in Palisades after last year's wildfires, they could pay for it themselves rather than socializing such expenses across all ratepayers.

Utilities could be (much) better regulated. Under the present structure, once policymakers have blessed IOUs' proposed expenditures, they face little risk for making errors. Ratepayers must pay for sales that don't materialize, and for underused or unnecessary equipment. Given that IOUs profit from developing distribution, they have substantial incentives to over-build. This should change, with shareholders shouldering at least equal risks as ratepayers, and lower rates of return when poor investments are made.

The energy sector could be partially

deregulated, to allow dispersed, diverse, resources to steadily reduce the need for an expensive centralized grid. Under present rules one neighbor can't sell excess power from their rooftop solar array to another to charge an electric vehicle. Nor can a community decide to network a collection of photovoltaics, small-scale wind, and batteries to help bolster overall resiliency. These types of "small is beautiful" initiatives, if thoughtfully coordinated with grid investments, could greatly improve affordability.

Widespread municipalization of IOU service territories, as San Francisco is struggling to do, would represent the most revolutionary of changes. That won't happen, though, without substantial political support. Even after multiple bankruptcies, escalating rates, and wildfire-related murder charges, PG&E and the other IOUs remain largely invulnerable to significant reform. Which suggests that the real solution to higher electricity rates might be at the ballot box.

## SHORT CUTS

## Haney

**Assemblymember Matt Haney** has spent tens of thousands of dollars in campaign donations on international trips, Broadway shows, and sporting events since his 2022 election, including \$75,000 on **San Francisco 49ers**, **San Francisco Giants**, and **Golden State Warriors** tickets. He's now burning donor dollars on attorney's fees. Haney's legal bills have surged amidst two investigations by the **Fair Political Practices Commission**, a state agency that enforces government ethics and campaign finance rules. One of the probes, focusing on Haney's 2022 and 2024 Assembly campaigns, was launched last year after *The Standard* revealed the lawmaker's lavish spending on boozy fundraisers and ballgames. The games were listed in campaign records as fundraisers; it's unclear who attended beyond Haney's

friends and family, who were featured prominently in photographs posted to his Instagram account. State laws prohibit spending campaign funds on personal expenses. The second enquiry is examining Haney's failure to properly report a \$5,000 donation he directed to his annual holiday toy drive, Joy to the City.

## Rainbow

**Rainbow Grocery Cooperative** celebrates its 50th Year anniversary this year. Originally launched as a buying club in a Mission District basement, Rainbow now has nearly 200 workers, making it California's largest retail worker-owned cooperative and one of the biggest in the country. Rainbow is San Francisco's largest independent natural food store.

## The Pier 70 Time Machine Needs You!



The Potrero Hill Archives Project and the Bethlehem Shipyard Museum are partnering to create a neighborhood history museum in Pier 70's Building 12.

Community involvement, from donations to sponsorships and volunteering, will make the Time Machine possible. Donate through Venmo @pier70timemachine or use QR code here.

**CONTACT:** Peter Linenthal | peterlinenthal@mac.com | 415.863.0784



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# SF Parks Alliance's Financial Malfeasance Wilts Greening Efforts

BY JESSICA ZIMMER

San Francisco Parks Alliance (SFPA), a 53-year-old nonprofit that acted as a fiscal sponsor for roughly 90 neighborhood organizations devoted to parks and open spaces, ceased operations in June, amid accusations of mismanaging at least \$3.8 million in donations. Months before it closed SFPA notified one of its major donors, Nicola Miner, a Baker Street Foundation (BSF) board member, that it had trouble to paying its bills.

The former nonprofit's financial malfeasance is the subject of multiple investigations, including by the San Francisco City Attorney, San Francisco Board of Supervisors (BoS), and City Controller's Office.

"We can't discuss any investigative tactics we may use," said Jen Kwart, City Attorney communications director, "...but criminal law enforcement has more tools to access financial records compared to civil law enforcement."

"I tried to call out some of the issues with San Francisco Parks Alliance years ago," said District 10 Supervisor Shamman Walton.

Walton's concerns were prompted in 2021, when Drew Becher, then SFPA Chief Executive Officer, sent a letter to District 1 Supervisor Connie Chan threatening to withdraw \$2 million in donations for a \$3 million renovation of the Richmond Playground, at 18th Avenue and Lake Street.

Becher's hostility was caused by BoS discussion about the SkyStar Wheel, then sited in Golden Gate Park. SFPA had worked with San Francisco Recreation and Parks (RPD) and the Historic Preservation Commission to install the Ferris wheel in 2020. Chan and former District 3 Supervisor Aaron Peskin opposed its relocation to the Waterfront. Both voiced concerns about SFPA and its financial affairs. Becher told Chan she had to retract her statements about SFPA for the nonprofit to release Richmond Playground funding.

"I began scrutinizing everything SFPA did. I was usually thwarted by Phil Ginsburg, the general manager of the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department. He would tell me, 'Stop. There's nothing to see,'" said Peskin.

In 2020, it was discovered that Mohammed Nuru, then head of Public Works SF, had moved close to \$1 million in donations from municipal contractors into a SFPA account. Nuru used these

funds at his discretion, including to pay for staff parties.

According to Ginsburg, RPD wasn't aware of financial stress at SFPA until June 2024.

"A donor forwarded a message from then-CEO Drew Becher, noting that SFPA was "cash poor" and facing a "dire cash flow shortage." In response, I wrote to the Parks Alliance primarily to ensure funds held at SFPA for the benefit of RPD (were) secure and to request a formal update on Parks Alliance finances,'" Ginsburg wrote in a letter to Walton.

At a June 2024 meeting, Becher said the nonprofit was laying off staff and trying to raise non-restricted funds to address emerging deficits. Becher never disclosed that restricted funds were being used to cover SFPA's operating expenses.

In January 2025 Ginsburg asked Becher for additional financial information. He emphasized the need for SFPA to fulfill agreed-upon reporting requirements and called for timely payments to vendors and friends' groups. In February RPD learned Becher was no longer working at SFPA. Ginsburg then followed up with SFPA's new CEO, Robert Ogilvie, who promised to investigate RPD's concerns and report back.

In April 2025, Ogilvie admitted to RPD that SFPA had been using restricted funds to cover its operating expenses. Ginsburg passed Ogilvie's message on to the Mayor's Office, City Attorney, City Controller and BoS President Rafael Mandelman. RPD then notified SFPA that it was pausing its collaboration until the nonprofit fully repaid funds owed for projects and programs and complied with financial reporting standards. RPD stipulated that restricted funds in SFPA's possession be held separately and used solely for their intended purpose.

In June, SFPA's Board hired Jigsaw Advisors LLC, a Lafayette firm that specializes in institutional reform to wind up the nonprofit's affairs and disperse remaining funds.

According to Ginsburg, RPD had 11 fundraising agreements with SFPA for municipal parks and open spaces, including the Commemorative Bench program and Lisa & Douglas Goldman Tennis Center in Golden Gate Park. As of May, SFPA owed RPD an estimated \$1,124,608, of which \$271,000 was earmarked for India Basin Waterfront Park,

**PARKS ALLIANCE** continues on page 11

## Letters to the Editor

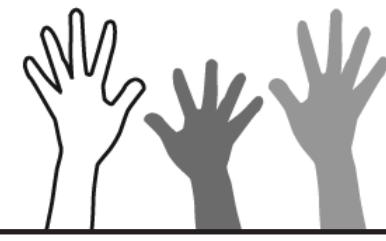
Editor,

In the "Publisher's View" on loneliness in the July issue reference was made to someone as "a Black woman." As I continued reading, I expected some context or relevance to her race, but none appeared. The mention felt unnecessary and out of place. More than that, it gave the impression that whiteness is the unspoken default, and that anyone else must be identified as an exception.

This kind of framing—whether intentional or not—can feel othering. It subtly reinforces the idea that the *View* is written *by* and *for* white readers, with others existing on the margins. I hope the paper will consider the implications of such language and reflect on how identity is referenced in future pieces, particularly when race or ethnicity is not relevant to the story.

Liz deRenzy  
Minnesota Street

## GETTING INVOLVED



### The Potrero Dogpatch Merchants Association | [potrerodogpatch.com](http://potrerodogpatch.com)

We meet on the 2nd Tuesday every two months from 9:45 - 11:00 a.m. **Next meeting: October 14** at the Goat Hill Pizza, 300 Connecticut Street. The neighborhood's only business association recognized by the State and the City.

### Dogpatch Business Association | [dbasf.com](http://dbasf.com)

NEWS update to share - the Dogpatch Business Association has officially become a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization, now known as the Dogpatch Art & Business Association (DABA). In line with our mission to better serve our community, we are also changing our name to reflect this new chapter.

The name change will enable us to expand our outreach and enhance initiatives that promote local art, business growth, and community engagement. We look forward to hosting more events, providing valuable resources, and strengthening our neighborhood connections. Stay tuned for upcoming events and further updates!

Business owners and community members are invited to get involved!

- Join the DBA! ([dbasf.com](http://dbasf.com))
- Sign up for our newsletter to find out about member meetings, opportunities, and local news
- Follow us on Instagram @destinationdogpatch to learn more about Dogpatch businesses, events, and activities
- Explore Dogpatch through a curated wayfinding map of local businesses, available online at <https://linktr.ee/exploredogpatch>

### Dogpatch Neighborhood Association (DNA) | [dogpatchna.org](http://dogpatchna.org)

We nurture civic participation & community building while fostering the unique character of Dogpatch. Our meetings are open to all, but membership is the lifeblood of the organization. You do not have to live within the Dogpatch boundaries to be a member or come to meetings, you just need to care about what happens in Dogpatch. **Monthly Meetings** are held the second Tuesday of every month - 7pm @ The Dogpatch Hub.

Come to our **September 9th monthly meeting**: we will welcome and have a report from the new **Bayview Precinct Captain, Bernadette Robinson**, hear information about the **Portola Music Festival** and entertain nominations for the **DNA Executive Committee**. And don't forget about our **Community Meet n' Clean** on Sunday, September 12th at Esprit Park from 12 to 1:30 p.m.

#### JOIN DNA TODAY!

### Friends of Jackson Park (FoJP) | [friendsofjacksonpark.org](http://friendsofjacksonpark.org)

Mark your calendars: the **Play in Your Park Party** is taking place on **Saturday, September 6th**! It's going to be a day of fun, games, music, and community vibes at Jackson Park.

Sign up for the **kickball tourney**: <https://tinyurl.com/5ys5wxj5>

Got big ideas? Love planning parties? Want to help bring the fun to life? **Join our crew!** Email us at [info@friendsofjacksonpark.org](mailto:info@friendsofjacksonpark.org) — we'd love to have you.

Let's build the park our neighborhood deserves.

**Donate today** at [www.friendsofjacksonpark.org](http://www.friendsofjacksonpark.org)

### Green Benefit District | [GreenBenefit.org](http://GreenBenefit.org)

GBD's annual **Dogpatch Music Series** returns for three dates starting in September! Join us as we kick off the series at Woods Yard Park on September 13. Then on September 27, we're having a block party at Esprit Park and the Minnesota St. Flyover. The series finale will be on October 25 at the crowd-favorite Spooky Slow Street Halloween Stroll. Save these dates and party with the GBD at the Dogpatch Music Series!

Our **Monthly Board Meeting** is on Wednesday, September 17th, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Dogpatch Hub (1278 Minnesota St.), where we discuss all the great things we are doing in the neighborhood.

Help make the Green Benefit District greener. Our next **GBD volunteer event** is at the Vermont Greenway & Eco-Patch on Saturday, September 20, at 10 a.m. Sign up for a GBD volunteer event at [greenbenefit.org/volunteer](http://greenbenefit.org/volunteer) or report an issue at [greenbenefit.org/report-a-problem](http://greenbenefit.org/report-a-problem).

### The Potrero Boosters Neighborhood Association | [potreroboosters.org](http://potreroboosters.org)

The Potrero Boosters Neighborhood Association informs, empowers and represents the residents of the Potrero district on issues impacting our community in order to develop and maintain complete, vibrant neighborhoods. We meet in person on the last Tuesday of each month at either the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House or the Dogpatch Hub, and continue to offer a Zoom option for those who cannot make it in person. Go to [www.potreroboosters.org](http://www.potreroboosters.org) to learn more about our meetings and on how to join us!

### Starr King Open Space | [StarrKingOpenSpace.org](http://StarrKingOpenSpace.org)

Join our **monthly volunteer days** on the second Saturday of the month. This month it is September 13th at 10 a.m. **Donate** to help keep Starr King Open Space open, accessible, and well-maintained for our neighborhood.

For a \$225 annual fee your organization can be listed in Getting Involved. Contact [production@potreroview.net](mailto:production@potreroview.net)

## CRANE COVE PARK from front page

Parks Alliance (SFPA), which helped with fundraising for the additional elements. Work was also postponed due to community unhappiness with plan elements – including a lack of shade – as well as the need for additional time to award a construction contract due to Port staffing constraints.

The Port retained \$975,000 raised through SFPA for the three components, with another \$1.54 million missing as a result of financial malfeasance (see Parks Alliance article, this issue). According to Young, filling the one and a half million dollar gap is a significant financial hardship, especially given the unexpected nature of the expense.

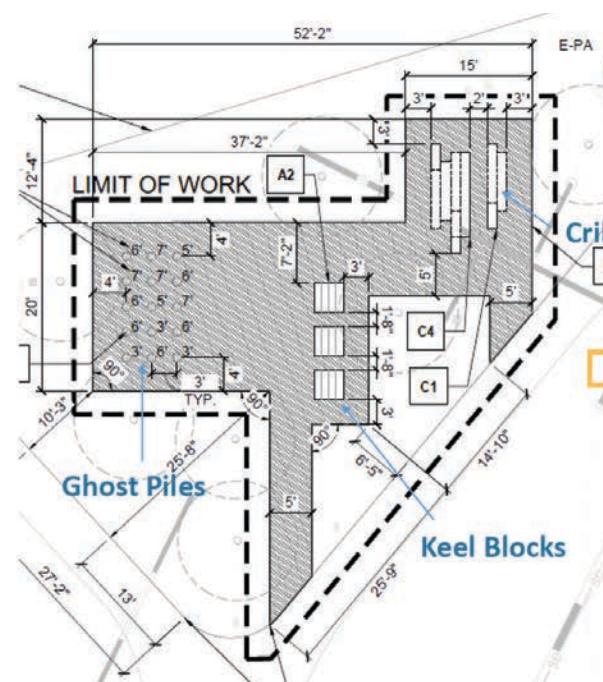
"We plan to close the Crane Cove Park funding gap by redirecting funds from Southern Waterfront Beautification Fund to cover these costs," said Young. "This risks slowing down other enhancements that money could have gone toward...include significant enhancements and activation along the Blue Greenway, including installation of new plantings, furnishings, and signage, particularly at Warm Water Cove Park, Tulare Park, Islais Creek, and Heron's Head Park, stabilization of a building at Pier 68, Pier 96 crane removal and investment in a dedicated maintenance labor team, a vehicle, and paving at Gilman Street."

The Southern Waterfront Beautification Fund receives money from rent the Port collects on its properties. No funds have been allocated to restore Crane Cove's two crane tops.

"They were removed in 2017 and are stored in the adjacent Port property, the Pier 68 Shipyard," said Young. "The area now occupied by Crane Cove Park was part of the shipbuilding maritime industrial area that also included Pier 70."

Crane Cove Park is located within the Union Iron Works National Register Historic District, an area east of Illinois Street between 18th and 22nd streets. Ships were repaired in this zone between the late 1800s and mid-1900s.

"The timeframe has exceeded everything we were told," said Katherine Doumani, Dogpatch Neighborhood Association member. "They've missed every deadline."



Rigger's Yard, planned for Crane Cove Park.

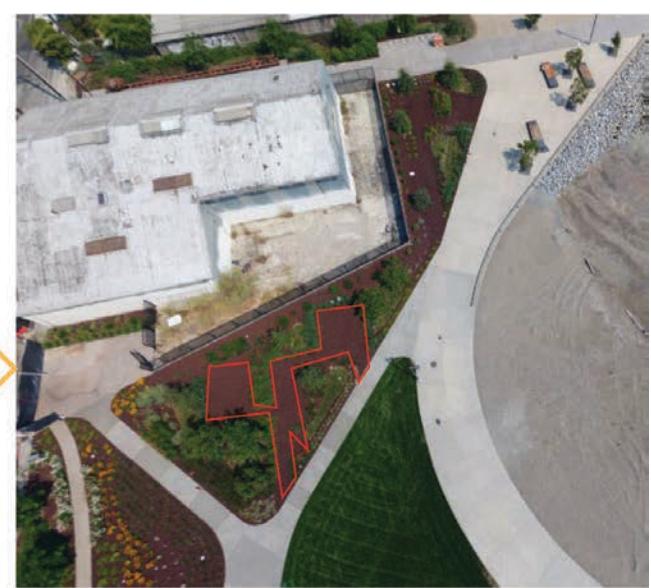
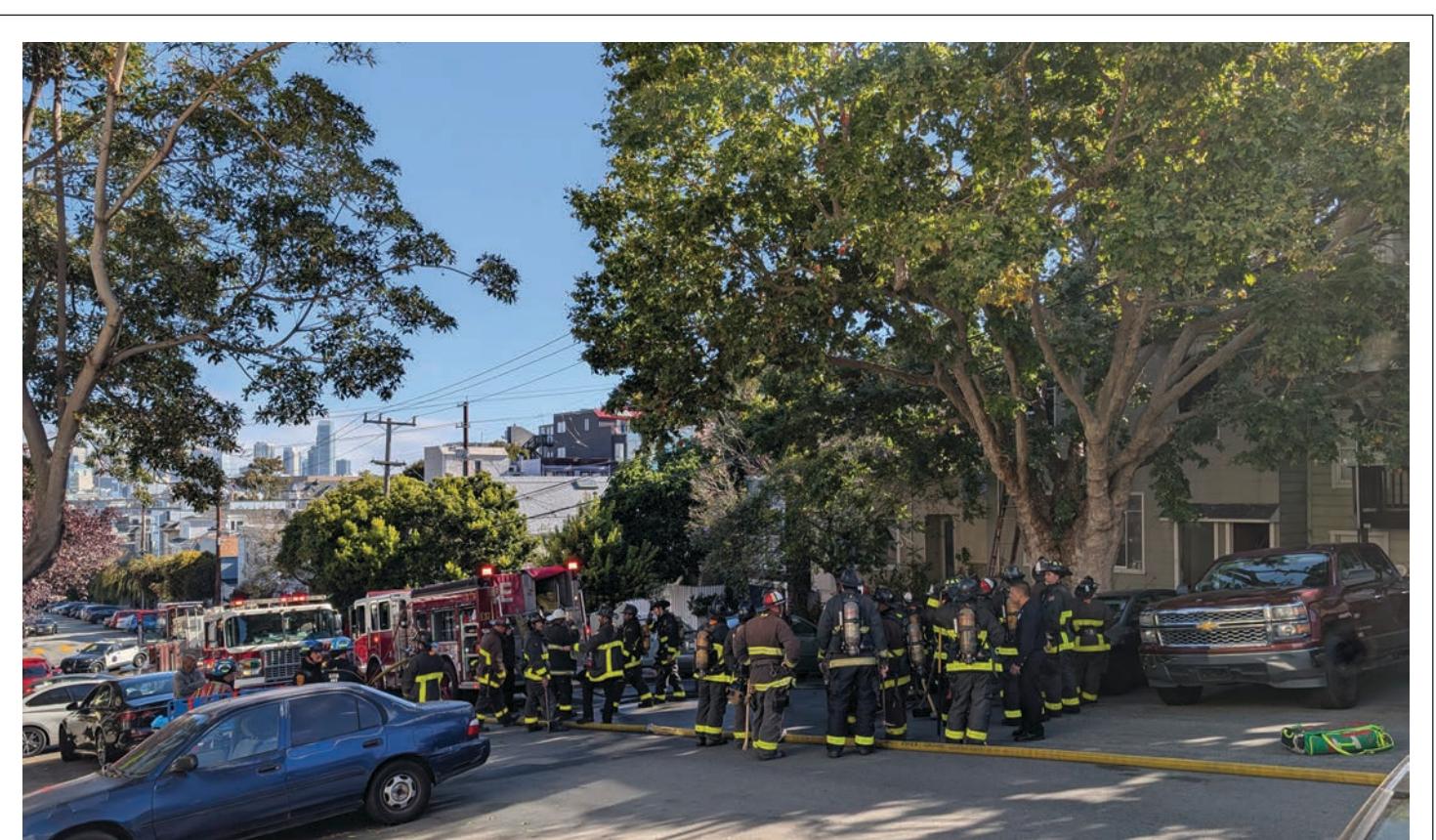
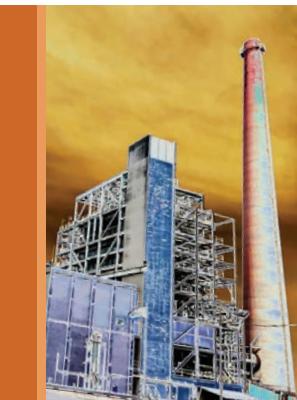


PHOTO: Courtesy of Port of San Francisco



▲ In early August a one-alarm fire broke out at 341 Arkansas Street at around 8:30 a.m. Flames and smoke could be seen pouring out a second floor window. According to neighbors, a mother and her adult son were found by firefighters unconscious in the kitchen, and transported to UCSF Health Saint Francis Hospital, the City's burn unit. The cause of the fire is being investigated. PHOTO: Thomas Hunter II



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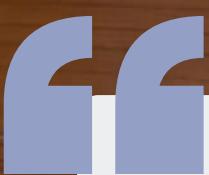
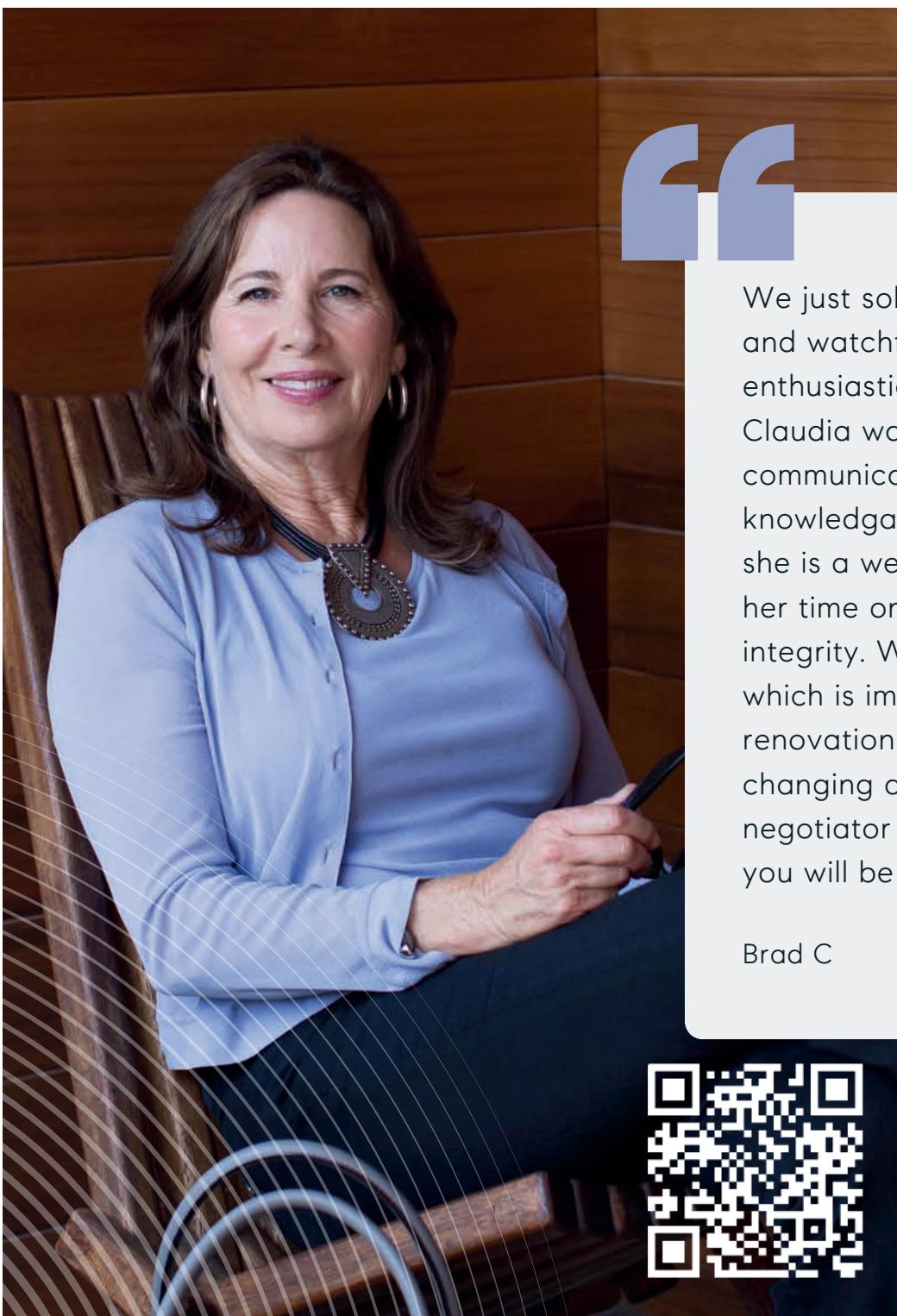
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# Mission Bay Affordable Housing Caters to First-Time Buyers, Descendants of Displaced



Left: Wanika Stephens. Right: Joe Tasby

An affordable complex, located at 400 China Basin, has become home for families displaced by 1960s era “redevelopment” in San Francisco.

“The journey in pursuit of happiness at 400 China Basin was a beautiful struggle; heartbreak, yet life-changing and exhilarating,” said new owner Joe Tasby, Disabled and Seniors Case Manager at Bayview Senior Services, whose grandparents, former Fillmore residents Arthur and Laura Davis, were relocated by the City’s urban renewal policies.

“It began with a promise to myself, to my family, to the life I believed we could have,” said Archpriest Reverend Wanika Stephens, Pastor and Rector at the Saint John Coltrane African Orthodox Church, and Staff Chaplain at Sutter Health.

Stephens’ – a 400 China Basin resi-

dent – parents, Most Reverend Mother Marina King, and Archbishop Franzo W. King D.D., of the Saint John Coltrane African Orthodox Church of the West, lost their home to urban renewal policies.

The 400 China Basin development team made it a priority to provide descendants of historically displaced families an opportunity to purchase housing in the City. Affordable housing developers Charmaine Curtis, Michael Simmons, and Young Community Developers collaborated on the project, along with Baines Nibbi construction and Mithun and Y.A. Studio architects.

“We are grateful for the opportunity to provide much-needed housing for middle-income working individuals and families in San Francisco. China Basin represents an iconic building on the waterfront whereby its very nature strengthens the fabric of a great City,”

said Michael Simmons of Michael Simmons Property Development, Inc.

“I feel more driven than ever to develop housing for average working people,” said Charmaine Curtis, Principal of Curtis Development. “Stable, affordable housing is the necessary foundation for creating a healthy life where it is possible to thrive and not just survive. 400 China Basin was a rare opportunity to produce ownership housing affordable to ‘the missing middle,’ which is something that I have been passionate about for some time now.”

The midrise structure, with 148 family-sized units offered to first-time homeowners, features a photovoltaic system, club room, play area, bike storage, teen lounge, parking garage with electric vehicle chargers, and rooftop terrace.

“I chose 400 China Basin for its

stunning views, its striking architectural design, and its prime waterfront location,” said Stephens, a jazz enthusiast who owns and plays three upright basses. “The neighborhood carries that unmistakable San Francisco spirit, a feeling I know in my bones. As a native of this City, that connection wasn’t just appealing; it was essential.”

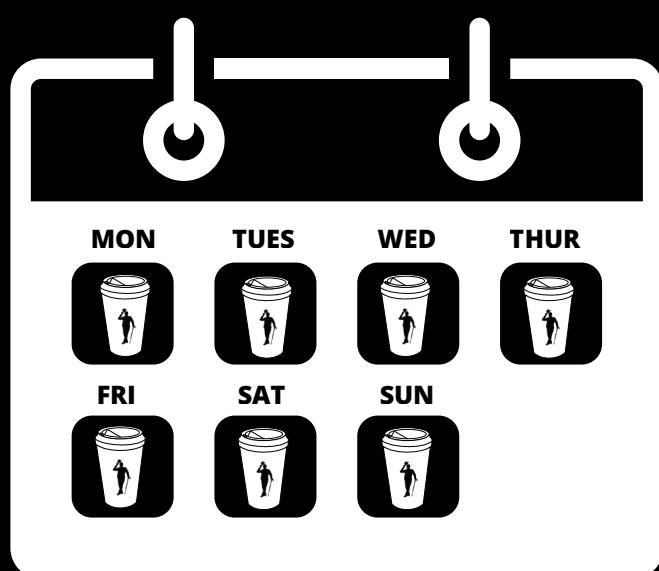
Tasby and Stephens both had a Certificate of Preference (COP), which offers priority in City-sponsored affordable housing lotteries to the direct descendants of households

displaced by San Francisco Redevelopment Agency actions in the 1960s and 1970s.

Sponsored by the Office of Community Investment and Infrastructure (OCII) and administered in partnership with the Mayor’s Office of Housing and Community Development, 400 China Basin is part of the City’s Limited Equity Program, offering home ownership to middle-income individuals and families. The \$130 million project was funded by public and private financing sources, including \$83 million through OCII, \$44 million in Goldman Sachs financing, and \$4 million from the State Infill and Infrastructure Program.

*A Grand Opening Celebration for 400 China Basin will be held on September 26, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.*

## SEVEN DAYS A WEEK!



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## NABE NEWS

### Transforming Lives!

**Ever wondered about that big brown building on the corner of DeHaro and Southern Heights?**



**The Potrero Hill Neighborhood House (aka the Nabe), a Julia Morgan-designed SF historic landmark and non-profit community center, lends a helping hand and advocates for public housing residents. For more than a century, the Nabe has helped transform the lives of underserved youth, families, and seniors.**

**The Nabe's programming focuses heavily on youth development, food security, and wellness. After-school and summer education programs have provided mentorship, tutoring, and a safe haven for our neighborhood's underserved children. The Nabe's food pantry serves over 150 families each Wednesday, rain or shine. Generations of Potrero Hill residents have passed through the Nabe's doors finding connection, care, and community.**

**Executive Director Edward Hatter has been affiliated with the Nabe for more than 40 years. Edward saw first-hand as a child how his grandmother, Enola Maxwell, united the community and advocated for those in need.**



**Come by, say hello to Edward, and check out the facility's Julia Morgan Ballroom, a magnificent event rental space with panoramic city views!**

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Get Involved: [info@thenabe.org](mailto:info@thenabe.org)**



## Ganbei . Salud . Cin Cin . Kanpai . Santé . Geonbae . Cheers!

The 400 China Basin Development Team raise a glass to the new owners at 400 China Basin. **You are San Francisco Homeowners and you truly deserve it!**

**Grand Opening on September 26, 2025**



**148 Below-Market-Rate Condominiums for Moderate-Income First-Time Homebuyers.  
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All material is intended for informational purposes only and is compiled from sources deemed reliable but is subject to errors, omissions, changes in price, condition, sale, or withdrawal without notice. No statement is made as to the accuracy of any description or measurements (including square footage). This is not intended to solicit property already listed. No financial or legal advice provided. Equal Housing Opportunity. 400 China Basin is part of the City's Limited Equity Program and buyers must qualify for the program to be eligible. Photos may be virtually staged or digitally enhanced and may not reflect actual property conditions.

## COMMUNITY | SEPTEMBER

4 thur

**Music: Steely Dan**

People in Plazas, a annual outdoor music festival, offers more than 130 lunchtime concerts, featuring an array of styles, in 15 plazas on or near Market Street, from the Embarcadero to Fourth Street. 12 p.m. Free. Rincon Center, 101 Spear Street. For more information: <https://peopleinplazas.org/>

5 fri

**Film: Bernal Heights Outdoor Cinema**

**Film Crawl**  
Bernal Heights Outdoor Cinema returns for its 22nd season, offering screenings of local independent films in parks, cafés, studios, galleries, and other public spaces. Six venues are participating in the Cortland Avenue for Film Crawl, including long term partners Bernal Library, Progressive Grounds Cafe, Inclusions Gallery, Baukunst, and SEMCO Engineering. 7 to 10 p.m. Free. For more information: <https://bit.ly/3HLBBNz>

**Film: Superman**

This summer's most popular superhero is headed to San Francisco's largest screen for one night only. This showing of DC Studios' and Warner Bros.' *Superman* (2025) features an interactive 360° viewing experience: color-changing lighting enhancements during select scenes, independent field sound system, and entertainment around the ballpark, highlighted by Krypto's Playpen, a zone where guests can interact and take photographs with rescue dogs and puppies sporting Krypto capes. 6 to 9:30 p.m. \$28. Oracle Park, 24 Willie Mays Plaza. For more information: <https://bit.ly/47BbtPV>

9 tues

**Health: Qigong Class at China Basin Park**

Tina Pham of Persimmon Acupuncture leads this weekly Qigong class at Shoreline Sands in China Basin Park. A beginner-friendly course is designed to help release stress, cultivate balance, and reconnect with your body. Through gentle movement, breathwork, and mindfulness, focus on restoring energy and processing emotions held in the body. No experience necessary. Qigong Tuesdays is part of Mission Rock Your Workout, a fitness series. 12 to 1 p.m. Free. China Basin Park, 1 China Basin Park. For more information: <https://bit.ly/475zJcX>

**9/11 Thursday through 10/4 Saturday****Theater: *Imp wrist on the lever* by Preston Choi**

A raucous dark comedy puts teenagers at the helm of a revolution. A queer trio's escape plan from a conversion camp takes a left turn as they face off against a strait-laced counselor with an unusual sadistic streak. *Imp wrist on the lever* questions the necessity of violence and paradox of tolerance, with the ever-present doubt: how can you ever be sure you've really changed someone's mind? Tickets \$25 to \$100. No one turned away for lack of funds. Previews: Pay-what-you-can. Crowded Fire Theater, 1695 18th Street. For more information: <https://bit.ly/4fK8KWF>

**9/13 Saturday through 9/21 Sunday****Theater: Shakespeare's *The Two Gentlemen of Verona***

The 43rd season of Free Shakespeare in the Park, in partnership with San Francisco Recreation and Parks, brings *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, directed by Ely Sonny Orquiza. Two young men journey from a small Midwestern town – rooted in simplicity and tradition – to the alluring promise of California, where

dreams are made and shattered in equal measure. The pair who venture westward confront their inner conflicts as they're seduced by the possibilities of love, success and reinvention. Grounded in the spirit of exploration, this adaptation captures the quintessential drive for self-invention, while acknowledging the costs that often accompany it. Sue Bierman Park, Drumm and Washington streets. For more information: <https://bit.ly/45l7ui5>

14 sun

**Art: Noe Valley Art Festival**

A community event that features art displays and sales, painting demonstrations, kids activities, and music, including photographs, paintings, drawings, multi-media, jewelry, ceramics, fabric art, digital art and sculpture from 22 artists. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free. Noe Valley Town Square, 24th and Sanchez streets. For more information: <https://bit.ly/4ncJNWr>

**9/19 Friday to 10/19 Sunday****Art: ArtSpan SF Open Studios**

ArtSpan's SF open studios, in its 51st season, transforms the City into an art fair. In backyards and garages, warehouses and popup spaces, more than 600 local artists open their doors to the public, inviting neighbors and visitors into the generative spaces

where creativity takes form. Kickoff celebration: Friday 6 to 7 p.m. Very Important Person preview (\$100+), 7 to 9 p.m. general admission (\$25). SOMArts Cultural Center, 934 Brannan Street (21+ ticketed event). For more information: <https://bit.ly/47DEXwA>

20 sat

**Art: Exchange Journals Workshop at ARCH**

Artist Jennifer Stuart leads this workshop in Exchange Journaling, a tool for those looking to deepen their wonder and creativity by connecting with the world through drawing, painting, and writing. This workshop is for everyone, not just artists. Using journals collaboratively, develop curiosity in an artistic exchange by sharing what you see, think, and wonder about while exploring ARCH and its surrounding neighborhood. 12 to 4 p.m. \$108.55. ARCH Art Supplies, 1490 17th Street. For more information: <https://bit.ly/4fVWOfx>

25 thur

**Design: Font Friends Hangout**

Letterform Archive is a nonprofit museum and special collections library

CALENDAR continues on next page



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## Join us for FoJP's Play in Your Park Party

**Saturday, Sept 6<sup>th</sup> 11-3PM**

Join your neighbors and bring your family & friends for a fun day in Jackson Park. We're turning Jackson Park into the ultimate neighborhood party zone—a full day of fun, games, music, and community activities.

Basketball, Volleyball, Kickball, Martial Arts, Yoga, Face Painting, Arts & Crafts...

Something for everyone!

**OUR SUPPORTERS:**

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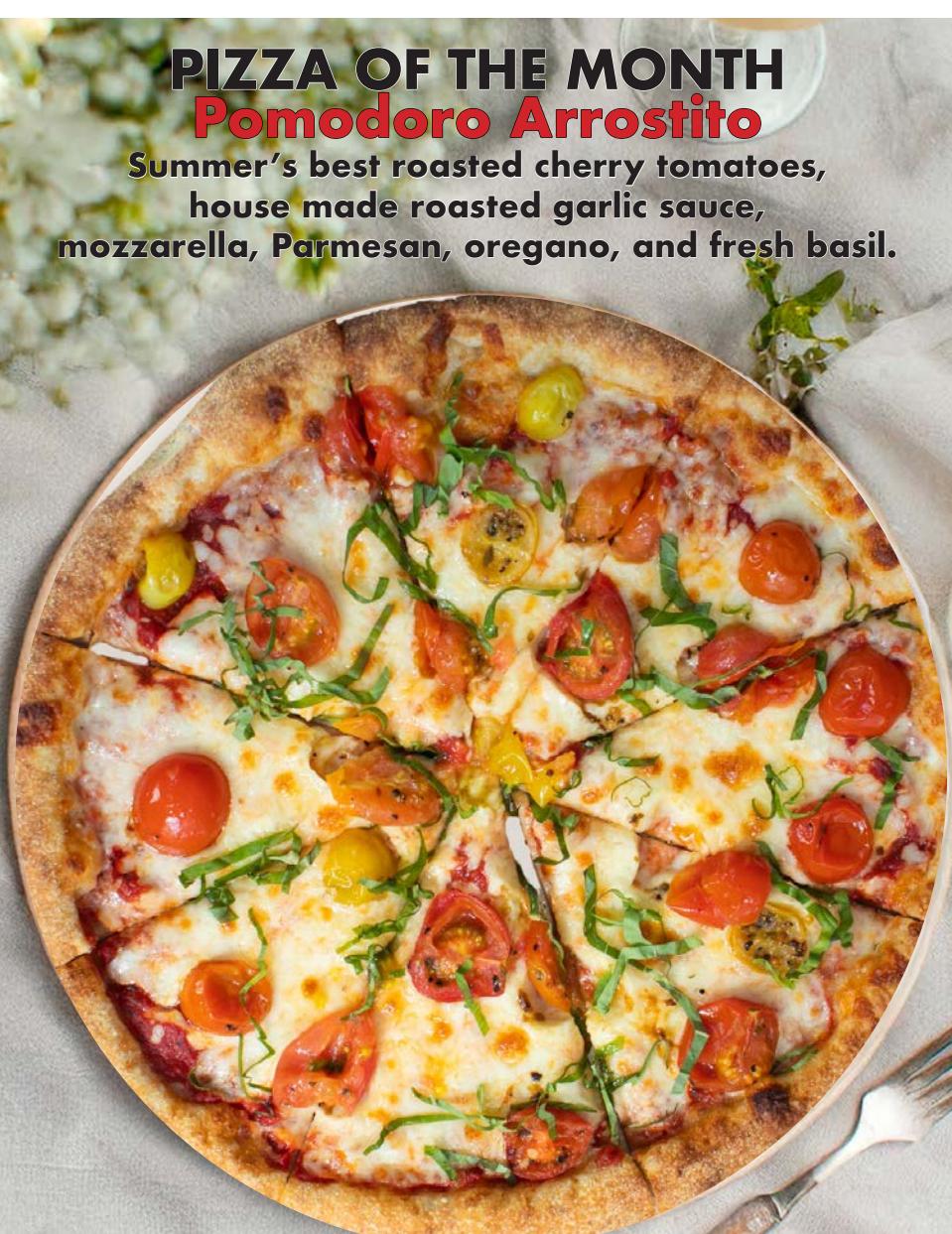
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## SFFD from front page

come full circle that day," said Akers.

Mariano Elias, a SFFD lieutenant who has been with the department for 25 years, was inspired to become a firefighter after being involved in a high-speed car accident in Vallejo when he was 20 years old. Firefighters used hydraulic rescue tools – Jaws of Life – to remove him from his car, which was lodged against a tree.

"The SFFD protects the second most densely populated city in America and has some of the toughest topography with its many hills," said Elias, who works from Station 4 at 449 Mission Rock Street in Mission Bay.

Station 25, located at 3305 Third Street, receives calls for medical assistance, grass fires, vehicle and home fires, even unhoused individuals burning wire to sell metal to a recycling facility, according to Elias. The Station averages five to ten calls a day, depending on the time of year.

"Third Street becomes a main artery to get across these areas quickly and sometimes experiences motor vehicle accidents," he said.

The job is made more challenging because many San Francisco structures are made from wood, especially susceptible to water and fire damage.

According to SFFD Rescue Captain Samuel Menchaca, Potrero Hill's built environment poses unique challenges. Many buildings, including Victorian and Edwardian homes, were constructed in the late 1800s and early 1900s and often contain below-grade areas within the home, or spaces located below ground level. These houses, between two to three stories, require an extra level of care to gain access.

"That's why we have wooden ladders and use the chocks on them to make sure they stay stable," said Menchaca. "You might be wondering what a chock is; think of when you pop the door open, the little piece of wood to keep it propped open. We use big versions of those on some of our ladders to make sure they don't slip or tip over, especially since we're on a hill."

Kelly Cronander, an SFFD probationary firefighter assigned to Station 37, recently completed 20 weeks at the Firefighter Recruit Training Academy, where he received rigorous instruction in fireground operations – activities conducted at the scene of a fire to control and extinguish it – rescue techniques, fire prevention and emergency medical procedures. Probationary firefighters are in their first year of employment with the department.

"There's a lot of testing, a lot of physical training," he said.

Cronander said the variety of houses

located in Potrero Hill offers a robust training ground.

"There's also a lot of great information that I learn from the people who work at the station. All of the firefighters I've met so far want to improve and are willing to help one another whenever they have downtime, which is great because it makes all of us better. That is super important in the line of fire, that camaraderie," he said. "I'm just very fortunate to be here."

## PARKS ALLIANCE from page 3

\$75,468 for Golden Gate Park Concourse.

Between 2024 and 2025, Rec and Park sought answers from SFPA about delayed financial reporting, inconsistent documentation, and incomplete replies to requests. During the period RPD didn't share its unease with other Alliance clients, such as the Port of San Francisco.

"In response to our concerns, SFPA informed us that they had changed financial systems and brought in a new CFO. While these issues were frustrating, the explanations provided led us to believe SFPA's challenges were administrative in nature. RPD staff met with SFPA staff often throughout 2024 and early 2025 to continue to address and resolve these issues," said Ginsburg.

According to Paul Jasper, senior counsel at Perkins Coie LLP's San Francisco office, who often represents parties in assignments for benefit of creditors (ABC), aside from claims for unpaid taxes, governmental entities like City or Port aren't entitled to be repaid before neighborhood organizations.

"All parties that are owed money should retain sophisticated counsel to review their claim agreements," said Jasper. "They should also file claims in a timely manner. If they do not do that, they could lose the ability to file a claim."

In California, an ABC process isn't court-administered, but rather an agreement between the debtor and creditors.

Contractors – individuals or businesses hired to make improvements – can assert mechanic's liens against the property for which they provided services if they're not paid for their work. A court can then force the asset to be sold to pay debts. However, all the subject properties consist of municipal parks and open spaces, likely immune from being unloaded. Neighborhood organization board members aren't generally personally responsible for such debts.

PARKS ALLIANCE continues on page 14

FREE!

## 22ND SEASON OF FILMS AROUND THE HILL

★ Thursday, September 4  
Film Crawl on Mission

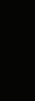
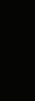
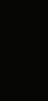
★ Friday, September 5  
Film Crawl on Cortland

★ Saturday, September 6  
Under the Stars – Precita Park

[bhoutdoorcine.org](http://bhoutdoorcine.org)

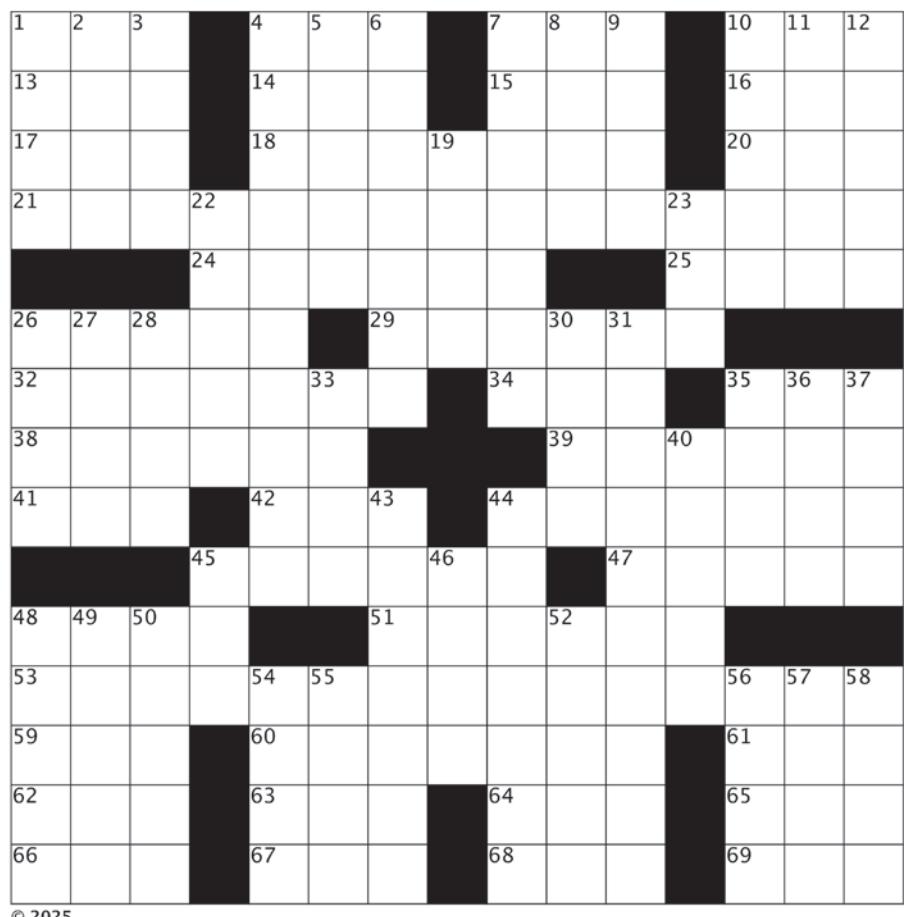


BERNAL  
HEIGHTS  
OUTDOOR  
CINEMA™



# Crosswords

BY DENA R. VERKUIL



© 2025

## ACROSS

- Kinda, sorta
- Power outage?
- "You reap what you —"
- Generational divide
- WNBA great Bird
- Opposite of 'neath
- Soup at Sunflower
- World Cup chant
- Not virtually, virtually
- Like some legal advice from JDC
- Feathery accessory at OASIS
- Local dual county non-profit that will be affected by federal cuts to SNAP
- Start a round at Presidio Golf Course
- Many moons
- Observes Yom Kippur or Ramadan
- WWW moniker
- Like Dandelion chocolate or Tartine bread
- Zing
- List-ending abbr.
- Small dog size
- Rarin' to go
- Lisa Simpson's instrument
- VCR button
- One in a million, so to speak
- "Take care of yourself!"
- Point — National Seashore
- Course listing at Side A
- Like salads and rodeo riders
- Peter Linenthal's beloved co-author who was also known for her work at Potrero Hill Archives Project
- Cab alternative
- Used a Swingline
- Parisian pal
- Squeak (by)
- Long in the tooth
- Vacation starter?
- UC Berkeley, familiarly
- Guitar pioneer Paul
- Zip it!
- Be human, as they say
- It's mined and refined

## DOWN

- Song from Bob Dylan's "Desire"
- Catch a break, at Mavericks
- Captain's post
- "...but only if you feel like it!"
- Lofty nest
- He, she, or they
- Lampooned
- "This can't be!"
- Pinocchio material
- Case of emergency?
- How solitaire is played
- Mount Diablo and Mount Tamalpais
- Pals 4EVA
- Top story?
- Follow-up to "Thriller"
- Ghee and schmaltz
- Word after "Bay" or "gray"
- Record label for Otis Redding
- Latvian port
- "Uncle!"
- Gibbons and bonobos
- Like a soufflé
- Fifth word of "America"
- Dot-\_\_ (online businesses)
- Maslow's concern
- Taylor Swift, per the signature on her endorsement of Kamala Harris
- Pluck
- App glitch
- 501(c)(3) formed in Aug. 2018 raising funds for open space project on 17th St.
- Yiddish fortune
- Eco-friendly cycle from the New Wheel
- 2/3 of 1999?
- Transparent
- Since
- "\_\_ be fun,' they said ..."
- Crunchy munchie from El Farolito
- 2023 Pulitzer Prize winning opera
- It's a river in Egypt

Solution on page 14.

**FIRE HYDRANT** from front page

improvement requirements were documented on the approved construction plans."

San Francisco Public Utilities Commission rules state that permit applicants are responsible for all utility installation costs. Ratepayer dollars cannot be used to fund improvements that don't benefit the entire system.

"That means a water agency can't pass the cost of a new development's water main or fire flow upgrade onto existing customers," Miller said.

Klipp and Simons said FOKS wasn't informed about the hydrant's mid-block placement until after the Fire Department approved the location.

"When FOKS found out about all of this – again, well after the fact – we

attempted to work with the developer... and the SFFD to reach a solution that, ideally, complied with the spirit of our contract and/or would not result in all the knock-on effects of a mid-block placement, such as less fire safety, reduced parking, lower property values, and the like. We attempted to negotiate a solution in good faith but received what felt like a lot of dismissiveness from the developer," said Klipp.

FOKS contacted the Mayor's Office under London Breed, which didn't facilitate a resolution.

"We've acted in good faith here every step of the way, but it feels like these efforts continue to be met with disinterest for our community, our contract, and now our safety," said Simons.

Mid-block hydrant placement would result in insufficient water coverage for

a wide area between Vermont Street to the west and the wooded hillside directly in front of the newly constructed residences. This strip of land, alongside Highway 101, has been subject to periodic fires, often allegedly caused by homeless encampments. FOKS wants the hydrant to be in front of the property and barring that, to be included in conversations to determine alternative locations.

"Litigation is the only other avenue if we can't get the City to get on board with the agreement," Simons said. "We sent out 50 postcards to City officials, petitions to the mayor's office, and no one has responded at all. It's very disenfranchising that even our supervisor doesn't reach out."

"It's really disappointing to find out this hard-fought agreement is

being seemingly willfully ignored by the developer and that the City doesn't seem to have our back," Klipp said. "In the greater scheme of everything happening, it's not the biggest deal, but it's what's happening in front of our homes."

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**VANGUARD  
PROPERTIES**



# Saints Dance in Potrero Hill

BY PETER LINENTHAL

The architecture of Saint Gregory of Nyssa Episcopal Church, 500 De Haro Street, blends Russian Orthodox, Japanese Shinto, and Craftsman styles. Long lines of people can be seen at the House of Worship on Saturdays, when Food Pantry volunteers distribute groceries to hundreds of families as part of one of San Francisco's largest independent nutrition assistance programs. Morning Prayer is offered Monday through Friday, with Sunday services. The church hosts a Buddhist group on the first Friday of each month.

Inside, circling the rotunda is a monumental mural of ninety larger-than-life dancing saints, led by a twelve-foot-tall Christ, an icon in jewel-like colors enhanced with gold-leaf. Some of the twirling saints are traditional – St. Teresa and St. Francis – others are a surprise: Malcolm X, Anne Frank, Margaret Mead, Lady Godiva, Queen Elizabeth I, Sojourner Truth, Shakespeare and Bacchus. During church services, as St. Gregory's congregation dances around the rotunda's altar, "...the saints dance above, proclaiming a sweeping, universal vision of God shining through human life".

St. Gregory of Nyssa was a fourth century bishop in what's now Turkey. Many of his contemporaries believed that dancing, and music in general, was dangerously sensual, but St. Gregory included rhythmic motion in worship services.

"Once there was a time when the whole rational creation formed a single dancing chorus looking upward to the one leader of this dance," he wrote. "And the harmony of motion that they learned from his law found its way into their dancing."

Artist Mark Dukes painted the mural over ten years, completing it in 2009. Dukes is a deacon of St. John Coltrane African Orthodox Church, where his artwork can also be seen. Dukes first came to St. Gregory's through work at their soup kitchen; eventually church space became his studio.

"There is a universal consensus of religious ideals, Dukes said. "Maybe not religious practice, but religious ideals. Like humility. Like peace. Like hope. That's what (the mural) is about. It's about love. God is love."

His most recent work is edgier, created under the name Mark Doox: [markdoox.com](http://markdoox.com).



THE VIEW'S HISTORY FEATURE  
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Bottom: Hyppolite, Alfred de Rivelaud, Charles Wesley, Julia Morgan, Lady Godiva with horse, Janani Luwum

Mary Magdalene, Patrick of Ireland

Centre: Nellie & Dorothy Lincoln, Sorgheodtan, Paulos Mar Gregorios, William Blake, Emily Dickinson, Norman Perrin,

Top: Miriam, Orliegen, Malcolm X, Queen Elizabeth I, Iqbal Masih, Teresa of Avila

Saints, pictured, left to right:

## OBITUARY



Left and center: Abby Johnston. Right: Abby with Peter Linenthal.

PHOTO: Courtesy of Exploratorium

**Abby Johnston****April 3, 1940 - July 30, 2025****BY REBEKAH MOAN**

Abigail (Abby) Lee Johnston had a quiet charisma. She drew people to her with her quirky personality and big heart, according to those who knew her. She died on July 30, 2025, from jaw and tongue cancer at 85 years old.

Born on April 3, 1940, in New York City, Johnston grew up in Manhattan's Upper West Side. She worked for small publishing houses, including G.P. Putnam's Sons.

In 1970, she moved to San Francisco because "her first marriage wasn't going so well," said Johnston's second husband, Steve Fotter. "He was in the Peace Corps, and she was unhappy. A friend of hers with a camper was headed West, and so off she went. She knew some people out here, so that was an inducement as well."

Johnston stayed in the Haight with a friend from her college days at Syracuse University, Jackie Maxwell.

"She made a nest for herself for a few months in a space under the stairs," Fotter said. "She liked to joke that she started her life in San Francisco at the bottom."

Maxwell's husband, Larry Duling,

was in the printing business and gave Johnston a job as an assistant in the art department. Fotter also worked for Duling as a typesetter and handyman. They met at a Thanksgiving dinner in 1971 and rapidly fell in love, according to Fotter. They moved in together in Potrero Hill and married on June 15, 1976.

While living on the Hill, Johnston put her publishing know-how to use at the *Potrero View*, where she met Lester Zeidman, also involved with the paper.

"We all had a lot of roles, but she was kind of the paste-up artist," said Zeidman, who is The Good Life Grocery's former co-owner and chief executive officer.

For the first more than 30 years the *View* was put together by hand, which involved scissors, glue, and boards.

"She'd help prepare the paper for the ads and lay out the stories. She pasted them onto boards, finagled them onto her bicycle, and biked down to the printers at 11:30 at night," said Zeidman. "She was never lazy or moody. She was always a positive, creative person."

Johnston had various roles at the *View*, including editor, and stayed with the newspaper for 30 years. After she left, she helped Zeidman design The Good Life Grocery calendar.

"She came up with the style and it's what's printed today," he said. "I used to

pay her for her work on the calendar in baseball tickets. She always loved going to the stadium and sitting in the upper deck. And when she wasn't watching the Giants play live, she listened to games on the radio."

Johnston had both a creative and detail-oriented mind. She kept records of every significant event in her life, according to Fotter.

"At the age of 16, she had her first slice of pizza. It was November 8, 1956; it's a date I'll never forget. I assume she was going out with a boyfriend or something. How can you be in Manhattan that long without having pizza?" he said with a laugh.

Johnston worked with Peter Linenthal on the Potrero Hill Archives Project, focusing on record-keeping and research, some of her favorite activities. The project records the neighborhood's history. They co-wrote two books, *San Francisco's Potrero Hill*, and *Potrero Hill: Then and Now*, published by Arcadia Publishing.

*San Francisco's Potrero Hill* took a few years to complete. The pair didn't want to miss any important aspects of Hill history.

"There were many times when Abby said, 'I have a new idea for how to reorganize things. It was a lot of work, and I began to dread hearing her say that,'

Linenthal said with a laugh. "But they were always really good ideas. It just showed her tenacity, attention to detail, and her high standards for things."

Linenthal appreciated Johnston's sense of humor. The two participated in San Francisco History Days at the Old Mint; an annual event that offers the public a chance to explore the City's past within the walls of the historic building, bringing together history groups from throughout the City. Johnston dressed as a goat for history night because the animal is a symbol for Potrero Hill.

"She was definitely a fun person and liked to help people and be involved," he said.

Johnston stayed engaged with the Hill even after she and Fotter moved to the Mission in 1985.

"She called it 'Baja Potrero Hill,'" Linenthal said. "It was her personal nickname for the Mission, which really showed her affection for Potrero Hill."

In addition to her passion as a historian, she was a near-obsessive puzzle master. Wordle and crosswords were a steady diet in her life, Fotter said. They also used to backpack and vacation in the mountains and along the coast.

"Abby made quite an impression on people," Fotter said. "I'm reminded of that every day with notes and phone calls. She had a special effect on people."

**PARKS ALLIANCE from page 11**

SFPA's closure has forced organizations that aren't 501(c)(3) nonprofits to find new fiscal sponsors to accept tax-deductible donations, as well as

secure liability insurance. RPD requires insurance coverage for events such as planting trees or Easter egg hunts on municipal property.

Cathryn Blum, who leads Carolina Green Space (CGS), said her organization wasn't affected by SFPA's closure because it shifted its fiscal sponsorship in 2023 to Greening Projects.

"While working over the years with SFPA, they kept switching my primary contact with them...after I'd just gotten that person 'up to speed' on the CGS project, which I found frustrating. In addition, the amount they charged, 15 percent, to handle the fiscal details seemed high. When I met

Jorge (Romero-Lozano, executive director and founder) of Greening Projects, I liked that he himself is a civil engineer," said Blum, who added that Greening Projects charged just 12 percent. "I find him (Romero-Lozano) to be very honest, responsive and knowledgeable. (I) am happy that we are working together."

Many organizations formerly served by SFPA have joined the Community Partner Network (CPN) to organize press conferences and meetings with Mayor Daniel Lurie's office and the BoS. CPN members share information about potential fiscal sponsors, SFPA investigations, and the claims process.

RPD's April intervention effectively halted Friends of Potrero Hill Recreation Center's (FOPHRC) progress towards building the 22nd Street staircase. In June Jigsaw Advisors asked FOPHRC to submit any claims by December 1, 2025. Other former SFPA clients include Connecticut Friendship Garden, De Haro Street Community Project, Friends of Esprit Park, Friends of Franklin Square Park, Pennsylvania Street Garden, and Tunnel Top Park, at

25th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue.

"Friends of Potrero Hill Recreation Center, which is dedicated to building a trail stair between Connecticut and Missouri Streets on the hill leading up to the recreation center, appears to have lost \$18,000, due to SFPA's actions," said Jennifer Serwer, a FOPHRC member.

FOPHRC is confident it'll recover owed monies through Jigsaw Advisors or new donors. The stolen funds amount to less than three percent of total trail stair costs; construction is scheduled to start late this year or early next. The Dogpatch & NW Potrero Hill Green Benefit District (GBD) is now FOPHRC's fiscal sponsor.

Keith Goldstein, Potrero-Dogpatch Merchants Association president, donated \$27,500 to FOPHRC earlier this year. After he was alerted of SFPA's financial issues by media reports, he asked SFPA to return his donation, which it did. He subsequently contributed the funds through GBD.

"As the treasurer for Avenue Green-

**PARKS ALLIANCE continues on next page**



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## PARKS ALLIANCE from previous page

light, a nonprofit that offers grants to merchants associations and community groups, I also OK'd many grants to a variety of community organizations throughout the City through SFPA," said Goldstein. "These grants were not for organizations in Dogpatch and Potrero Hill. These organizations are among those trying to get the donated funds back from SFPA."

Goldstein has heard there are philanthropic efforts to "make whole" all the organizations who worked with SFPA.

"That's encouraging. It's just outrageous that the staff did not know what was going on and the Board did not demonstrate proper oversight. I'm on the board of many organizations and it's clear to me from reviewing the budgets whether we are running in the red. It seems to me that the Board's actions were beyond negligent," said Goldstein.

According to Jolene Yee, Friends of Franklin Square Park board member, SFPA cost the group \$148,406. In addition, Friends owes \$2,500 to contractors.

"It's very painful. Now we don't even have money to provide snacks to volunteers for park clean-up days," said Yee.

Crane Cove Park, owned by the Port of San Francisco, suffered the largest loss. Of the \$3.8 million that SFPA owes the Port, roughly \$3.25 million was supposed to pay for a "Tot Lot," "Rigger's Yard," and a dog run at the park. According to CBS News, \$3 million of the \$3.25 million came from BSF, a San Francisco-based nonprofit established by Bob Miner, the late co-founder of Oracle. BSF board members include Mary Miner, Bob's widow, and the couple's children, Nicola and Luke Miner.

"Construction bids came in below the engineer's estimate, so the Port expects the total cost to complete the project will be \$2.515 million. After taking account of the \$975,000 already paid by Parks Alliance, that would leave \$1.54 million in funds owing to the Port under the grant agreement," said Eric Young, Port of San Francisco communications director.

In 2019, the Port Commission authorized a Memorandum of Understanding with SFPA to solicit at least \$6.4 million to complete work at Crane Cover Park.

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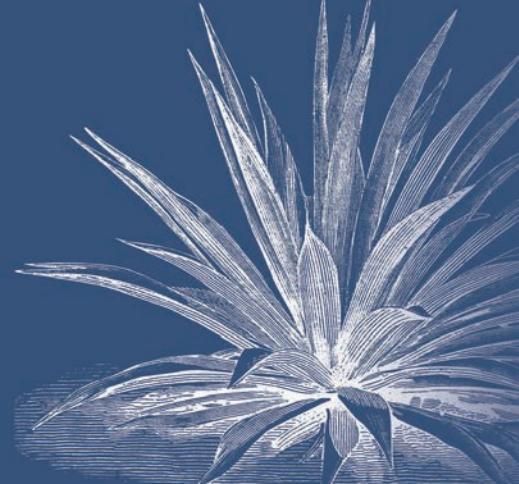


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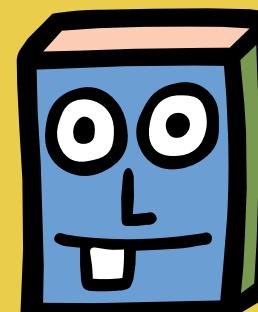
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