EVPA Returns To The EVRC For February 16 Meeting!

After nearly two years, EVPA will hold its February General Membership meeting at the beautifully restored and remodeled Eureka Valley Recreation Center (EVRC) at 150 Collingwood Street, adjacent to the Cala Supermarket Garage. We will meet in the large Assembly Room promptly at 7:30PM. Pictured here is the sculpture by Viki Saulis inside the EVRC.

Special guests include District 8 Supervisor Bevan Dufty, Mission Police Station Captain John Goldberg, and Mary McCue of MJM Management. Mary's firm will be providing the newly formed Castro/Upper Market Street Community Benefits District with various services, including street steaming, cleaning, and security. Among other topics, Mary and Captain Goldberg will discuss how they, working with recently hired outreach workers, will help address homelessness in the neighborhood.

Other topics on the agenda include an update on many Planning Issues by Committee Chair Mike Babbitt, and a discussion on what members feel would be a worthwhile project for EVPA to undertake in 2006. One topic discussed at the Board is pedestrian safety.

THANK YOU BAZOUZI MARKET!!!!!!!

Last month's excellent article on shops along 18th Street between Castro and Douglass Streets inadvertently omitted the market on the corner of Eureka Street owned and operated by Tony and Julie Bazouzi. In their immaculate store, you can get everything from sandwiches to wine, milk to pastries, fresh flowers to newspapers, fresh vegetables, fresh fruit, fine cheeses, plus staples like milk, butter, bread, canned goods, and alcohol. The Bazouzis are engaged in the neighborhood and place extra copies of our Eureka! newsletter on one of their prominent newsracks—right next to the New York Times. Passersby pick up a copy and learn more about what is happening in our area. (Perhaps reading this, some of them will decide to join EVPA. We hope so.) Thank you, Tony and Julie, for helping get the word out about our organization and for making our neighborhood a better place.
If you’re looking for some of the businesses that you shopped at last year, you may be out of luck....They’re gone! Closed! Moved out! Lost their lease because of increasing rents! Or they couldn’t afford the San Francisco Living Wage increase and the city payroll tax.

In the past year, the minimum wage for any business in the city has increased to $8.82 per hour. The minimum wage for the rest of the state is $6.75 per hour. Additionally, San Francisco charges a payroll tax on top of all other state and federal taxes paid by employers. It may cost more to live in San Francisco than the rest of the bay area: gas for the car (if you have to have one), parking and most other retail services and purchases may have slightly inflated prices.

I think that S.F.’s minimum wage is fair for employees who do not receive tips as a portion of their income. Restaurant owners did not support the SF Living Wage program only because it included tipped employees. The wage increases are reflected in higher menu prices. Several restaurants in our neighborhood are selling and moving elsewhere in the Bay Area. It’s not just the minimum wage that forces them out. Add the city payroll tax of 1.5% on all wages paid, add high worker comp fees to the extra dollars paid as part of the minimum wage, employer matching taxes and the total is over $10 per hour.

Here’s the math: $8.82 x 8 hours = $70.56. Plus $1.06 (1.5% for the city payroll tax) plus the employer contribution $5.29 (for unemployment and federal and state matching tax) plus $4.93, the low average worker comp rate (restaurants pay between $7 and $9.00 per $100 of wages). GRAND TOTAL for 8 hours work for a minimum wage employee in San Francisco is: $82.20. The same employee costs an employer in the East Bay $62.10 per eight hour day. Approximately $20 less per day adds up to over $400 per employee per month to operate the same business in San Francisco. If a retailer is open 7 days a week, the extra cost per employee is over $600 per month.

Is this enough to live on in our neighborhood? We see what these higher costs are doing to business. But do they help employees? Could you get by on $70.56 before you pay your share of federal and state tax? Your check at the end of the week will be $300 or less (depending on number of deductions). Could you pay your rent, put food on the table, ride muni, skip the movie (you can't afford the price of admission), pay the phone, PG&E and other utilities? What's left? You can't afford cable TV or an internet connection. Forget about a vacation or a few days off. Pay for your own Health Insurance? Don't get sick. You can't afford it.

Consequently, our neighborhood is changing. Some retailers are going and a few are coming. Read the next issue of *Eureka!* to catch up on the new faces in the neighborhood.
Adam Hagen
Homes • Condominiums • Investment Properties
Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

For any EVPA members or member referrals—5% of my commission donated to EVPA.

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bob@bobburnside.com

Catch
2362 Market Street

Want to clean up our neighborhoods? Green the City? Help solve homelessness, and promote sensible housing policy?

Join SF’s grass-roots quality of life group! free to join: www.plancsf.org

415.621.2566 558 Castro Street

Luna
415.863.BLUE 2337 Market Street

Blue
415.255.2RED 4063 18TH STREET

Red Grill
415.621.5256 2247 Market Street

Lime

the BAR
456 Castro Street
Handy Resources for Home
Report Litter  28-CLEAN
Report Graffiti  241-WASH
Police Non-Emergency  553-0123
Police/Mission Station  558-5400
Help A Homeless Person  431-7400
(Mobile Assistance Patrol dispatched)
Street Cleaning  695-2017 or 695-2020
Abandoned Vehicles  553-9817
DTP Dispatch  553-1200
Street Signs Missing/Damaged  554-9780
Pot Hole Repair  695-2100
Supervisor Bevan Dufy’s Office  554-6968
bevan.duffy@sfgov.org

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www.EVPA.org        www.PinkTrianglePark.org

2006 EVPA OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS
President: Frank Weiss
Secretary: Gustavo Serina
Treasurer: David Weiss
At-Large Board Members: Mike Babbitt, Adam Hagen, Joe Foster, Rick Galbreath

General Membership Meeting Agenda Highlights
Thursday February 16, 2006 7:30pm
Eureka Valley Recreation Center
150 Collingwood St.

AGENDA
1. Introductions
2. Special Guests: Supervisor Bevan Dufy, Captain John Goldberg, Mary McCul, Community Benefits District
3. Committee Reports, Including Update on Planning Issues
4. EVPA Project for 2006

Join EVPA by Sending Us This Completed Membership Application

Name:_______________________________________________________________
First                                             Last
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First                                             Last
Organization: _________________________________________________________
Address: _____________________________________________________________
Apt. ________
City:    San Francisco, CA                             Zip Code___________________________
Day Phone: (____)_______________  Evening Phone: (____)__________________
Email:  ________________________________________________________________
Address:______________________________________________________________
(EVPA does not share your contact information with other groups)
My concerns for the neighborhood include___________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
I am interested in working on the following issues:
___ City Planning/Zoning ___ Transportation, Utilities & Neighborhood Commerce
___ Public Health/Safety ___ Education/Recreation ___ Membership & Promotion
___ Finance  ___ Internal Affairs ___ Pink Triangle Park
___ Renewing membership.  ___ New membership.
___ I wish to receive my copy of the Eureka! Via the internet rather than by US Mail

Annual Membership dues are $20 per calendar year for individuals, $30 for households and $40 for businesses or nonprofits in Castro, Upper Market, and Duboce Triangle (Eureka Valley).  EVPA is a non-profit California corporation. Please return this form with your check payable to EVPA to: EVPA, PO Box 14137, San Francisco, CA 94114-0137

Minutes from January 2006 General Membership Meeting
Upon motion made and seconded, the November '05 minutes were approved.