



# Eureka!

News for Eureka Valley, Upper Market, Castro, Duboce & Twin Peaks. Published by the **Eureka Valley Promotion Association**  
*Serving the neighborhood since 1881.*

Volume 126, Issue 10 October 2007

[www.EVPA.org](http://www.EVPA.org)

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## Reject Political Theatre: Vote No on Prop E

Editorial by Gustavo Serina

Some members of the Board of Supervisors who are critical of Mayor Gavin Newsom yet who are unwilling to make the personal sacrifices that running against him entail, prefer to snipe away at his administration by using guerilla tactics. Their latest attack is Proposition E, which is on the November 6, 2007 San Francisco Ballot. Proposition E compels the Mayor to attend one meeting of the Board of Supervisors each month to answer questions. The proposal is modeled on Great Britain's "Question Time," during which the Prime Minister faces members of the House of Commons and responds to what even proponents agree are often theatrical questions aimed at embarrassing the head of government rather than on fostering an informative discussion of public policy.

The authors of Proposition E conveniently forget that Britain has a parliamentary government. Its head of government, the Prime Minister, is not directly elected by voters. Instead, he/she is chosen by the House of Commons, the country's chief legislative branch. The Prime Minister is a member of the majority party in the Commons. Thus, the Prime Minister is directly accountable to the Commons for his/her position and can be removed when the majority party changes because of an election or if it loses confidence in him/her and elects someone else to fill the office.

The United States, however, does not have a parliamentary form of government. The head of state—the President—is elected by voters through the Electoral College, whose votes usually go to the candidate getting a majority of the popular vote in each state. Governors and mayors are directly elected by voters, not by the legislative branches of state and city governments.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## NCD @ 20 Review

by Steve Clark Hall

"NCD" is a Planning Code definition for the small neighborhood commercial districts located throughout the city. The "CASTRO NCD" and the "UPPER MARKET NCD" are just two of the sixteen NCDs as defined in Article 7 of the San Francisco Planning Code. As part of an every two-year review of all NCDs in San Francisco, the Planning Department requested neighborhood groups provide them with input for refinements to these district for consideration by the Planning Commission for possible changes in the San Francisco Planning Code.

Doing our part for the "NCD at 20" review, the EVPA planning committee thoroughly studied and debated the applicable portions of the San Francisco Planning code that relate to the two NCDs which are at the heart of our neighborhood. We felt that a few changes are necessary to provide a clear vision for the future of the NCDs which serve residents, the merchants and business people of Eureka Valley and the many visitors to the area.

After considerable due process within the committee, committee members, which represent fairly diverse interests, were able to come to a consensus on 53 of 58 line items and had a 5-1 vote on proposed changes to the remaining five items. The committee's proposed recommendations were then presented as a package to General Membership at the General Membership meeting on September 21.

Some of the changes are minor in nature and only reflect bringing the Planning Code into conformance with what currently exists within the NCDs and desirable to maintain in the foreseeable future. Some changes reflect the desire to provide for some additional office or small business uses so that residents of our neighborhood may work in offices or use services close to their homes. There were two major changes proposed in our

*(Continued on page 3)*

Proposition E would make the Mayor of San Francisco accountable to the Board of Supervisors, infringing on the office's direct accountability to voters. It would erode the traditional separation of powers between the executive and legislative branches of government and shift it towards the Board, whose members are elected by a small number of constituents in their districts, rather than through city wide elections. Because it is a charter amendment, Proposition E would also constrain future mayors, not just Newsom.

If passed, Proposition E would provide Newsom's critics, who are frustrated by his enormous popularity and who disagree with his vision of the city, with an opportunity to grandstand. As political theatre, it would amuse those supervisors who enjoy publicly ridiculing and personally attacking their colleagues and other local officials. However, the issues facing San Francisco are no laughing matter. The Board's rude cross examining of the Mayor would delight his very unpopular critics—the same individuals who refuse to run against him—but would distract our elected officials from addressing the city's many problems.

### General Membership Meeting Minutes September 2007

1. Upon Motion Made and Seconded and following discussion, members did NOT approve taking a position AGAINST Cafe Flore expanding Hours of Operation to 24 hours a day and Alcohol sales to 2 AM. Upon a second Motion made and Sec- onded, Members approved tabling the issue.
2. Upon Motion Made and Seconded and following discussion. members approved the Letter to the Zoning Administrator that made recommended changes to the Upper Market and Castro Neighborhood Commercial Districts as part of the Planning Department's NCR@20 years review.

### Upcoming EVPA Meetings

EVPA meetings are back in the Eureka Valley Recreation Center Auditorium, 100 Collingwood (behind Cala Foods). See you there!

**October 18 and November 15**

## Halloween Update

At the October 18th General Membership Meeting, District 8 Supervisor **Bevan Dufty** will discuss plans to control Halloween in the Castro. He will update members about how the police, sheriff, fire, DPW, and Alcoholic Beverage Commission will enforce laws and control crowds.

The following businesses have agreed to close early on Halloween. Please let them know you appreciate their sacrifice by patronizing them:

### Bars and Clubs

- The Café
- The Edge
- The Mix
- The Twin Peaks
- No Name Bar (former Metro Bar at 16th & Noe Streets)

### Restaurants

- Café Flore
- Catch
- Cove Café
- Eureka Restaurant & Lounge
- Friseé
- La Mediterranée
- Maxfield's House of Caffeine
- Orphan Andy's
- Squat and Gobble
- Tangerine Restaurant



### Markets and Liquor Stores

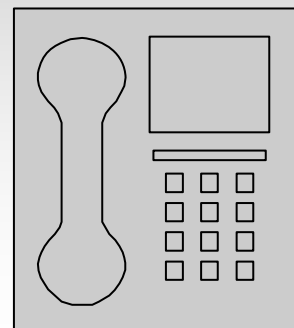
- Castro Village Wine Company
- Cheveron @17th
- Swirl on castro
- Delano's IGA Market

### Contact EVPA Board Members

If you would like to volunteer or have questions, please feel free to contact any of the following EVPA Board Members:

**Frank Weiss** (President) 415-706-6597

**Demian Quesnel** (EVPA Board Member & Member of EVPA Planning Committee) 415-861-5084



recommendations:

1. Most controversial of the proposed changes is the addition of the Castro NCD to the list of those areas where "formula retail uses" are not allowed. We feel that for all the same reasons listed in the "findings" as presented in Section 703.3(a) of the San Francisco Planning Code (provided below), that the unique neighborhood character of the Castro NCD can only be assured and preserved through this very important and time critical zoning change. If this issue were put to the ballot box test, we predict that the vote would be overwhelmingly in favor of a formula retail ban in the Castro NCD.
2. The second significant change is for the "allowance with conditional use" of bars and full service restaurants within the Castro NCD, currently not allowed. We have proposed further controls of bars to include a cap on the total number allowed within the NCD and to provide for diverse ownership of new bars.

Our input is only that, public comment provided to the Planning Department as part of the initial public comment process. All comments will be presented to the Planning Commission sometime this fall. As with any ordinance, changes to the Planning Code will require further public hearings and votes at the Planning Commission and the San Francisco Board of Supervisors and signature of the Mayor. So any change on the horizon is still a long, long time away.

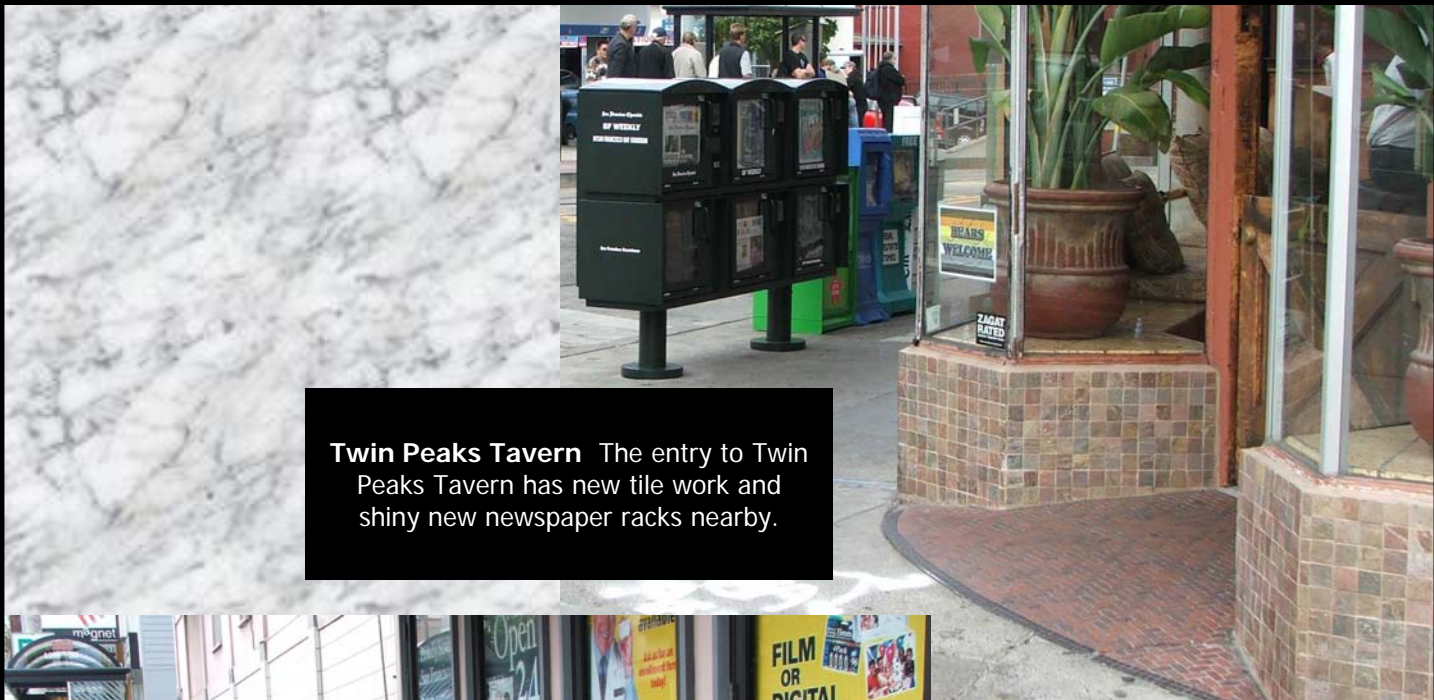
**SEC. 703.3(a) FORMULA RETAIL USES FINDINGS**

1. San Francisco is a city of diverse and distinct neighborhoods identified in large part by the character of their commercial areas.
2. San Francisco needs to protect its vibrant small business sector and create a supportive environment for new small business innovations. One of the eight Priority Policies of the City's General Plan resolves that "existing neighborhood-serving retail uses be preserved and enhanced and future opportunities for resident employment in and ownership of such businesses enhanced."
3. Retail uses are the land uses most critical to the success of the City's commercial districts.
4. Formula retail businesses are increasing in number in San Francisco, as they are in cities and towns across the country.

5. Money earned by independent businesses is more likely to circulate within the local neighborhood and City economy than the money earned by formula retail businesses which often have corporate offices and vendors located outside of San Francisco.
6. Formula retail businesses can have a competitive advantage over independent operators because they are typically better capitalized and can absorb larger startup costs, pay more for lease space, and commit to longer lease contracts. This can put pressure on existing businesses and potentially price out new startup independent businesses.
7. San Francisco is one of a very few major urban centers in the State in which housing, shops, work places, schools, parks and civic facilities intimately co-exist to create strong identifiable neighborhoods. The neighborhood streets invite walking and bicycling and the City's mix of architecture contributes to a strong sense of neighborhood community within the larger City community.
8. Notwithstanding the marketability of a retailer's goods or services or the visual attractiveness of the storefront, the standardized architecture, color schemes, decor and signage of many formula retail businesses can detract from the distinctive character of certain Neighborhood Commercial Districts.
9. The increase of formula retail businesses in the City's neighborhood commercial areas, if not monitored and regulated, will hamper the City's goal of a diverse retail base with distinct neighborhood retailing personalities comprised of a mix of businesses. Specifically, the unregulated and unmonitored establishment of additional formula retail uses may unduly limit or eliminate business establishment opportunities for smaller or medium-sized businesses, many of which tend to be non-traditional or unique, and unduly skew the mix of businesses towards national retailers in lieu of local or regional retailers, thereby decreasing the diversity of merchandise available to residents and visitors and the diversity of purveyors of merchandise.
10. If, in the future, neighborhoods determine that the needs of their Neighborhood Commercial Districts are better served by eliminating the notice requirements for proposed formula retail uses, by converting formula retail uses into conditional uses in their district, or by prohibiting formula retail uses in their district, they can propose legislation to do so.

# Photos from Our Neighborhood

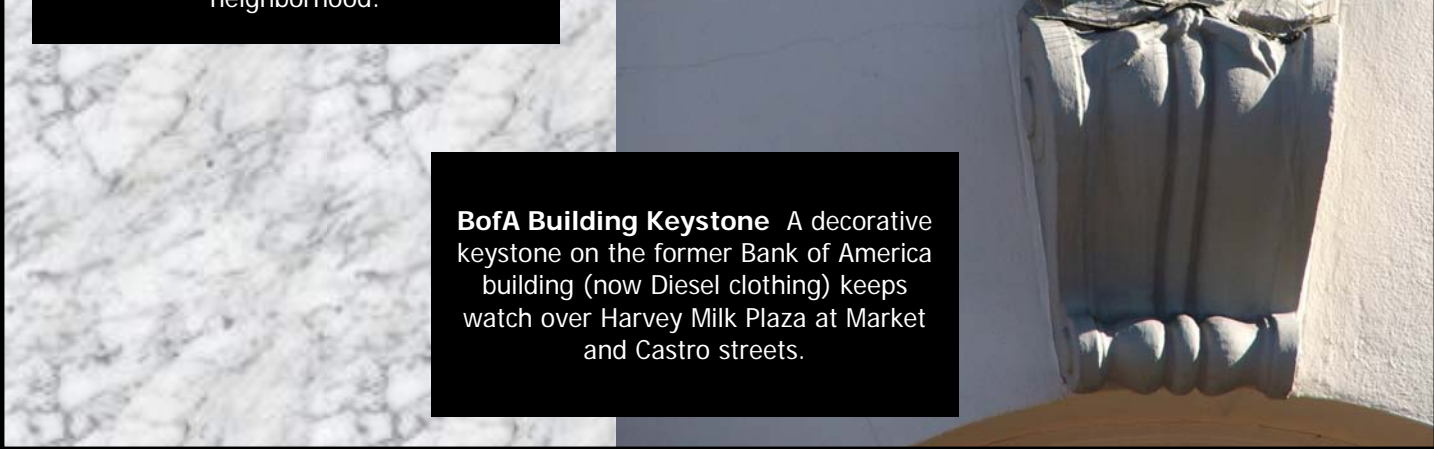
by Frank Weiss



**Twin Peaks Tavern** The entry to Twin Peaks Tavern has new tile work and shiny new newspaper racks nearby.



**New Newspaper Racks** More shiny newsracks on 18th Street next to Walgreens have improved the look of the neighborhood.



**BofA Building Keystone** A decorative keystone on the former Bank of America building (now Diesel clothing) keeps watch over Harvey Milk Plaza at Market and Castro streets.



## General Membership Meeting

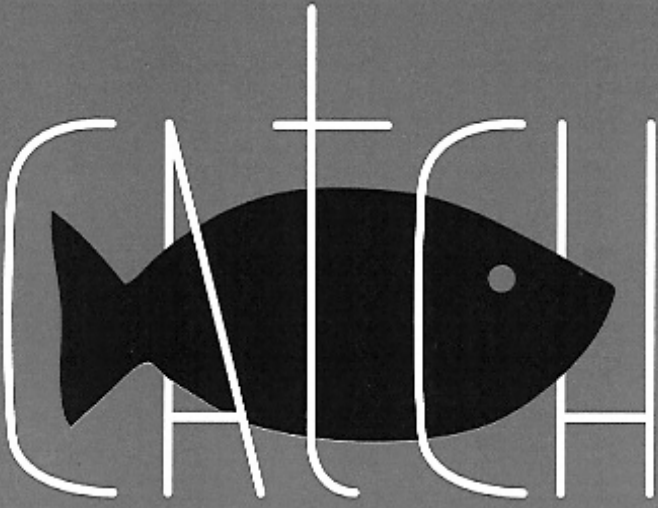
Thursday, October 18, 2007

@ 7:30PM

Eureka Valley Recreation Center  
100 Collingwood St.

### AGENDA:

1. Introductions
2. Approval of the Minutes (Action Item)
3. Update on Kiosk
4. Update on Eureka Valley Foundation
5. Announcement of 2008 Officers and Board Nominations and Election in November
6. Support for 376 Eureka Project (Action Item)
7. Halloween Update (Bevan Dufty)



**2362 Market Street**

## Custom Services

|                        |                         |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
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| Make a Door Fit        | Restore/Install Artwork |
| Pack Things to Ship    | Build Bookcase to Fit   |
| Small Carpentry Jobs   | Consumer Advice         |
| Organize Your Storage  | Short Notice Jobs       |
| Assemble Kit Furniture | Organize a Move         |

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## 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 Dufty's Office 554-6968  
bevan.dufty@sfgov.org  
CBD Hotline 559-6968

### Contact EVPA Board Members

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Frank Weiss (President) 706-6597  
Demian Quesnel (At Large Board Member) 861-5084

### 2007 EVPA OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

**President:** Frank Weiss  
**Secretary:** Gustavo Serina  
**Treasurer:** David Weiss  
**At-Large Board Members:** Mike Babbit, Joe Caruso, Demian Quesnel

## Join EVPA by Sending Us This Completed Membership Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
*First Last*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
*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**

**EVPA P.O. Box 14137**  
**San Francisco, CA 94114-0137**  
**Address Service Requested**

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