



NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER EUREKA!

News for Eureka Valley, Upper Market, Castro, Duboce & Twin Peaks
CASTRO/EUREKA VALLEY NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
The neighborhood association for the Castro, Upper Market and all of Eureka Valley since 1878

Volume 133, Issue 2 March 2011

www.evna.org

www.PinkTrianglePark.org

DISTRICT 8 SUPERVISOR SCOTT WIENER



During my first two months at the Board of Supervisors, I've taken the lead on a wide range of issues including addressing Historic Preservation policy's effect on other public policies, trying to increase the number of taxis on our streets, and improving the efficiency and the reliability of the J Church. As a member of both the Land Use and Budget Committees, I'm closely engaged with the critical issues confronting our city and District 8.

The first piece of legislation I brought to the Board is for a Good Samaritan Rental law that will help victims in our city's next disaster. After the recent Castro fires, all of the displaced tenants found temporary housing, but our rent control laws made it difficult for local property owners to offer temporary, affordable housing to these victims.

As a response and in collaboration with both tenant and property owner groups, I introduced legislation to allow property owners to rent out units to tenants displaced by fires, earthquakes and other disasters at below market rates for a year or two without locking in long term rental rates. At the end of the temporary rental, the tenant can then move back into his or her repaired rental. Property owners who wish to help should be able to offer assistance without having to risk entering into a life-long rental. Next time we have an earthquake there could be many times the number of people in need of temporary housing as there were after the Castro fires. This legislation will help get a roof over their heads.

I'm proud to welcome Mollie Stone's to the neighborhood in the old Delano's space on 18th Street. Mollie Stone's is a thriving, family-owned business, and I'm happy that they've chosen to open in our neighborhood.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the Castro/EVNA Community Meeting on Wednesday, March 23rd. Bring your ideas and questions.

For those who cannot make the meeting, here are a few other important dates where you can get involved:

--J Church Hearings: On March 28 at 4:00pm in the Board of Supervisors Chambers, the City Operations & Neighborhood Services Committee will have a hearing with MTA to discuss the inadequacies of the J Church Line and what can be done to make it run better. Please attend to speak out about your opinions on this issue.

--Office Hours: My next open office hours will be Friday, April 1st from 10am-12pm in my office at Room 274 in City Hall, and Saturday, April 2nd from 10am-12pm at Caffe Bello at 2885 Diamond Street in Glen Park. All are welcome.

Thank you again for allowing me to serve as your Supervisor. If you have any questions or concern about issues I've mentioned or generally, please contact me at 554-6968 or scott.wiener@sfgov.org.

A MESSAGE FROM MOLLIE STONE'S

By Gary Grossetti,
Manager



Mollie Stone's Grand Opening, March 9

On behalf of Mollie Stone's, I'd like to express my thanks to the Castro/EVNA for the opportunity to give some information about our company and our new store. The Castro Market will be the ninth Mollie Stone's in the Bay Area and our third store in San Francisco. In the words of Co-Owner, Dave Bennett, "We are extremely excited to expand in our city by the bay. The Castro Market is in one of the finest neighborhoods in Northern California. We feel it will be a great blend with our Mollie Stone's culture. We understand the passion and expectation in the neighborhood, and look forward to providing an outstanding place to shop."

What is the Mollie Stone's philosophy? Co-Owner, Dave Bennett, says; "In this day and age when large national chains and foreign-owned specialty chains are all vying for our local dollars, Mollie Stone's offers people the ability to keep all the revenues and spending here in the Bay Area. Mollie Stone's is filling the void for old style hometown quality, selection and service. We specialize in catering to customers who need extra attention, hard-to-find products, or those who simply need help or assistance. Mollie Stone's still treats customers one at a time."

Mollie Stone's is looking forward to integrating into the Castro neighborhood by supporting local programs and community events. We consider our involvement to be a key ingredient in ultimately satisfying our valued customers. As Store Manager, it will be my mission to ensure that everyone who visits us has a superior experience in a fun and positive environment. I look forward to seeing you all in our new Castro Market!

EVNA Note: In preparation for Mollie Stone's opening, the owners, Dave and Michael, and manager Gary Grossetti invited EVNA Board members to meet to discuss neighborhood involvement and needs. As part of our discussion, EVNA stressed our goal to make the neighborhood more walkable, sustainable and livable. We are pleased that Mollie Stone's demonstrated true community partnership by agreeing to our request to offer a free shuttle service (with minimum purchase) to take customers home after shopping. We applaud Mollie Stone's for its leadership and setting an example for others to follow.

THE CENTRAL SUBWAY: Visionary Plan or Wasteful Boondoggle?

Come to the Membership meeting on March 23rd

to hear from the proponents and opponents and to ask questions.

The Central Subway is a \$1.58 billion project of SFMTA for Phase 2 of the Third Street T-line to connect CalTrans with Chinatown via a 1.7 mile subway under 4th Street and Stockton Street with stations at CALTrans, Brannan Street, and Moscone Center on 4th Street; and at Union Square (at Geary) and Chinatown (at Sacramento) on Stockton. This is an approved project but full funding is not yet secured. Almost \$1 billion is expected from the Federal Transportation Agency, of which approximately \$87 million has been received so far. Utility relocation at Union Square has begun. The subway is planned to open to the public in 2018.

SaveMuni.com opposes the project saying the costs outweigh the benefits. They hope to stop the allocation of federal money. They say it is an ill-conceived project with no station at Market Street to provide a direct connection to major transit lines. At least \$500 million in state and local funding will be needed to complete the project. With cost overruns and costs to operate the subway as well, it will take needed money from the rest of the Muni system and will require cuts in service throughout the city. Chinatown merchants and residents perceive more inconvenient service from the subway than from the existing bus line, which will be eliminated. Opponents also say that impacts from the construction will threaten Chinatown's small businesses, historic character, affordability and immigrant populations.

For details on the proposed project, go to sfmta.com/central.

For details on the opposition, go to savemuni.com.

FAST-BREAKING NEWS

MAJOR HOUSING PROJECT SLATED FOR CASTRO AND MARKET

With the recent passage by the Board of Supervisors for new zoning for Market Street between Noe and Castro Streets, which extends the controls of the Market-Octavia plan to that last "orphan block," a long-anticipated housing project at the northwest corner of the intersection of Castro, Market, and 17th Streets (Arco/RC gas station) has been reactivated at the Planning Department. The Planning Department's description of the project is as follows:

The proposed project would include the demolition of an existing gasoline service station . . . and construction of a six-story, 65-foot-tall, 43,070-square-foot mixed-use building with 24 residential units, 2,990 square feet of ground-floor commercial, and (12-18) below-grade parking spaces. Access to the parking garage would be from Castro Street.

Updated information about the project will be available at the March 23 Membership meeting and thereafter on the EVNA Website at evna.org. Your feedback is requested. You may post comments on the website.

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The neighborhood association for the Castro, Upper Market and all of Eureka Valley since 1878



EVNA
PO Box 14137
San Francisco, CA 94114
Address service requested
www.evna.org

Renew your membership today at
evna.org/join

Membership is valid annually April 15 to April 14

Next Meeting!
WEDNESDAY,
MARCH 23, 2011

7 TO 8:30pm
Castro Community Room
501 Castro (above B of A)

1. Welcome
2. Mollie Stone's - 7:00
3. Scott Wiener - 7:10
4. Central Subway - 7:45
5. 376 Castro (ARCO/RC) - 8:20
6. New Business & adjourn

3-1-1

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EUREKA!

published six times a year by Castro/
Eureka Valley Neighborhood Association

2011 Membership Meetings

7:00-8:30pm, Castro Community Room
501 Castro (above B of A)

January 26, March 23, May 25, July 27,
September 28, November 9

2011 BOARD

Email the entire board: board@evna.org

President

Alan Beach-Nelson, Castro Street.
alan.beach@evna.org • 415/431.5152

Secretary

Rob Cox, Hartford Street

Treasurer

Steve Clark Hall, 19th Street

Directors

Tim Eicher, Q Bar

Judy Hoyem, 17th Street

Dennis Richards, Beaver Street

Aaron Seivertson, Hartford Street

Gary Weiss, IXIA



GETTING INVOLVED

BEING INFORMED

President's Column

Alan Beach-Nelson

March 23 Town Hall with Supervisor Scott Wiener

Join us at Castro/EVNA's bimonthly membership meeting featuring Scott Wiener who will inform us of his vision for the neighborhood and a Q & A with our new supervisor.

HOT TOPICS:

Welcome Mollie Stone's - a wonderful addition in the old Cala space. See page 1

Central Subway - A Visionary Plan or a Wasteful Boondoggle? See page 1

Congratulations Cliff's! - On Saturday June 4, Cliff's Variety will be celebrating its 75th anniversary. The store was started in 1936 and has been on Castro Street the entire time. Many festivities are planned over the coming months: 75th anniversary T-shirt Design contest in March; A Project Runway-themed event in May; June will be their big celebration and a kick off to Pride. Demonstrating their on-going commitment to the neighborhood, they are planning to have festivities benefit the AIDS Emergency Fund, Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy and the Rainbow Honor Walk.

Trader Joe's - On March 7, Trader Joe's informed Supervisor Wiener that they were withdrawing their plans to open in the Tower Records site. The news was disappointing to me and many others. Hundreds of hours were spent by our sister organization, Duboce Triangle Neighborhood Association, to boil down the facts and details of the project. When concerns about the impacts of the project were raised, and suggestions made to ensure that this TJ's was reflective of the neighborhood, TJs rebuffed those overtures.

Trader Joe's wanted to force their, suburban, car-centric model onto our urban village without compromise, refusing to adapt their FORMULA to our community and what is best for the entire neighborhood. It was their decision not to work with the neighborhood. That is regrettable, but it was their right.

I encourage you to be involved in the neighborhood, and to have a voice in shaping the neighborhood. The best way to do so is to join EVNA at <http://evna.org/join>

Neighborhood Updates:

- Castro Farmers' Market returns Wednesday, March 16, 4:00-8:00pm, Market & Noe
- Bay Area Reporter 40 year anniversary, April 7
- Good Morning America taping with Britney Spears, Castro Theatre, March 27 at Noon

Castro Parking Lot Closes 1am to 7am

By Rob Cox

It's been a long and sometimes frustrating process but finally the parking lot behind the Castro Theater is closed from 1am - 7am daily.

For over two years the parking lot has been an after hours party spot for revelers and sometimes gang activity. Clusters of screaming, arguing and often drunken roaring is not uncommon any night of the week.

Hartford Street neighbors worked with Castro CBD, Castro After Dark, SFPD, SFMTA and Supervisor Wiener to have the lot closed. Gates prevent access in and out of the lot during the hours of closure. SFPD or Patrol Special will sweep the lot to insure no one is locked in. Clear signs are posted and vehicles left will be ticketed but not towed.

While we all understand that the Castro is a destination neighborhood, 2 am blaring car stereos and screaming parties are disrespectful to the neighbors and the neighborhood.

Finally, we can sleep through the night.

JOIN EVNA

online at <http://evna.org/join> or via check payable to EVNA,
PO Box 14137, San Francisco, CA 94114

Individual: \$20 Household (2 people): \$30 Business: \$40

Name(s) _____

Organization/Business: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

E-mail(s): _____

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