**DUBOCE TRIANGLE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**

**JOINS SUIT DEMANDING EIR FOR AT&T BOXES**

Article courtesy of DTNA

In August, Board of Directors of DTNA, our sister organization, voted to join a coalition of local organizations, led by San Francisco Beautiful, to file suit against the City to demand compliance with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) regulations. The lawsuit seeks compliance with CEQA by requiring the creation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the AT&T "Light-speed" network upgrade project. AT&T’s project involves the installation of 726 refrigerator-sized utility cabinets on our city sidewalks, and was recently granted exemption from environmental review by the Planning Department, a decision that was affirmed by the Board of Supervisors despite protests by Castro/EVNA, DTNA and other neighborhood groups.

EVNA strongly supports bringing new technologies and increased competition for television and internet services to our neighborhoods. But to date, there has been no analysis of AT&T’s proposal and its impacts on our public realm, and no serious evaluation of alternative ways of implementing the project and reducing its impact. CEQA law requires that an environmental review occur when a project is likely or even has the possibility to cause an impact to its environment, and thus by approving the project without review, the city is not in compliance with CEQA’s requirements. The lawsuit asks the city to require an EIR and to ensure that AT&T’s project is evaluated objectively, including alternatives and mitigations to the proposed sidewalk cabinets.

We live in a dense urban environment in which our sidewalks are our front yards. We believe that a private company like AT&T should not have the automatic right to maximize their profits at our expense. In addition to being eyesores and graffiti magnets, the boxes impede access to parked cars and are an impediment to pedestrians. At a minimum, alternatives to the usurping of our public space must be fairly examined. An EIR will ensure that the decisions that are made today will be viewed as wise decisions in the future.

While EVNA is not a party to this lawsuit, we have been involved since 2008, when AT&T first proposed the project. EVNA has presented information on the proposed project at several of our Membership Meetings and members have expressed clear opposition to AT&T’s project until there has been a thorough environmental review, including the exploration of alternatives to sidewalk placement.

**REMEMBERING EMILY DUNN**

As many are aware, there was a tragic accident on August 19 when Emily Dunn, a 23-year-old woman was killed by a Muni driver while she was walking in the Castro. Dunn, who had just moved to SF, was just a step away from the curb when she was run over at Hartford and 18th streets.

The Muni driver violated protocol, according several reports, as Muni buses don’t travel on Hartford. To date, neither the SFMTA or the DA’s office has issued a public update on the investigation, but the operator is on non-driving status.

The family recently shared these words with the community:

“I want to extend the thanks of my wife Deborah and daughter Amanda for the outpouring of support and condolences from members of the Castro community. Emily truly felt at home in the neighborhood; the way people always had a smile and were not afraid to say hello. I think everyone made Emily feel at home despite being 2,000 miles away from us.

While our privacy has pretty much gone by the wayside, we would love to hear from anyone who knew of Emily to: Chris Dunn, P.O. Box 250695, Atlanta, GA 30325

For anyone who would like to support the Memorial Fund we have established, here is the information: The Emily Dunn Memorial Fund for International Gap Year Studies, The Lovett School, 4075 Paces Ferry Road NW, Atlanta, GA 30327.

We were touched that the SF Blog is continuing to show interest in Emily and the events surrounding the accident. I recently shared an audio file which they posted. It is the Homily that Emily’s school chaplain, the Reverend Allen, gave at the service on August 27th in Atlanta. http://sf.streetsblog.org/

If anyone has information they would like to share with us concerning the circumstances of the accident, we would welcome their email or letter. I will put them in touch with the firm we have retained who is doing a more thorough investigation, trying to insure we preserve everyone’s recollection and any other information, such as photos. Continued on page 7
SFPD Chief’s LGBT Community Advisory Forum
Presents

Hate Crimes Public Information Event
How they are defined, investigated, prosecuted and resources for survivors at both the Federal and State level

THURSDAY OCTOBER 13, 2011
7:30PM TO 9:30PM
SF LGBT COMMUNITY CENTER, 1800 MARKET STREET, SF CA 94102
RAINBOW ROOM (2ND FLOOR)

Presentations by:
SFPD Chief’s LGBT Community Advisory Forum • United States Department of Justice
• Federal Bureau of Investigations • San Francisco District Attorney’s Office • San Francisco Police Department

Followed by a moderated question and answer session with panelists from the above organizations.

Part of a week of events in celebration of NATIONAL COMING OUT WEEK
In memory of Matthew Shepard, James Byrd, Jr. and all who have been a victim of a hate crime
Free admission, ADA accessible

For additional information, questions or inquiries please contact:
Officer Jennifer Thompson #4230, SFPD Liaison to the LGBT Community, Jennifer.Thompson@SFGOV.org, 415.734.3274
Ken Craig, Member SFPD LGBT Community Advisory Forum, KenCraig@CommunityPatrolUSA.org, 415.260.6239.

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The Café is committed to ensuring that the Castro has a vibrant and active nightlife and a peaceful neighborhood.

All who live, work and play in our neighborhood deserve a positive and healthy community.

We are proud to help set the tone for working in partnership with fellow businesses, neighborhood leaders and residents.

It’s about respect.
It’s about partnership.
It’s about fun.
This “Homestead” Map from 1864 shows the early survey for Eureka Valley at the top of Market Street, which ends at Castro in this plan. Note Hartford is two blocks long between 18th and 20th, and Collingwood is named Sherman.

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Castro/Eureka Valley Neighborhood Association  September-October 2011 Page 4
A BRIEF HISTORY OF EUREKA VALLEY

The following is from an article written by Sean Timberlake for SF City Guides (www.sfcityguides.org), edited by Judith Hoyem.

ONE NEIGHBORHOOD, MANY NAMES

Among San Francisco’s rich tapestry of neighborhoods, one particularly colorful patch stands out. Today many refer to it as The Castro, but over the years this chameleon of a community has had many monikers.

For centuries, the gentle slopes leading up to Twin Peaks proved a fertile foraging ground for indigenous Ohlone Indians based in the diminutive village of Chutchui on the shores of a lagoon. Life changed for them in 1776 when the de Anza expedition arrived and established the Mission de San Francisco de Asis, or Mission Dolores, as well as the Presidio. The Mission Trail, which connected the two encampments, intersected existing Ohlone hunting trails at what is now Castro and Market Streets.

The recorded history of Eureka Valley began in 1846 when Jose de Jesus Noe, the last Mexican Alcalde of San Francisco, received as a land grant from the Mexican government the sprawling Rancho San Miguel, encompassing more than 4,000 acres from the slopes of Twin Peaks all the way to Daly City. Its eastern border ran from a point at approximately what is now Cole and Parnassus Streets south to Valencia, crossing the intersection of what is now Castro, Market and Seventeenth Streets. Were Noe’s home standing today, it would be near the corner of Eureka and 22nd Streets.

In 1848 with the end of the Mexican War, California passed into American hands, gaining statehood two years later. In 1854, an ambitious Mormon, John Meirs Horner, arrived from New Jersey and purchased a broad swath of the Rancho San Miguel. Bounded by Valencia Street on the east, 18th Street on the north, 30th Street on the south, and Castro Street on the west, the parcel became known as Horner’s Addition and retains that name today in the city assessor’s office. Horner laid out the grid of streets and named many of them after significant Spanish figures and former landowners: Jose Castro, Jose Antonio Sanchez and, of course, Noe himself.

The fertile valley remained rural for the next 25 years attracting farmers and ranchers. Housing development was slow. The Eureka Valley Promotion Association, the oldest neighborhood association in San Francisco, was founded in 1881, probably to promote settlement in the area. By the 1880s, the city had begun to encroach on the dairy farms that covered the slopes of Twin Peaks. Irish, Scandinavian and German families had begun to buy up the land and build homes, and when the Castro Street segment of the Market Street Cable Railway opened in 1887, Eureka Valley’s presence as a true urban neighborhood had been secured. (The valley allegedly gets its name from the north peak of Twin Peaks; the other is named Noe, hence Noe Valley to the south.)

In the first decades of the 20th century, Eureka Valley’s nickname was “Little Scandinavia” because of the prevalence of Swedish, Norwegian and Finnish immigrants. The Swedish-American Hall on Market Street dates from that era. By the time the Twin Peaks tunnel opened in 1918 connecting to the western half of the city, the burgeoning scene on Castro Street had become known as “Little Downtown.”

Throughout the majority of the 20th century, Eureka Valley remained a quiet, working-class area. But more often than not, locals referred to their location by parish, so you’d more likely hear that they lived in Most Holy Redeemer Parish. In the ‘60s and ‘70s, as blue collar families fled the cities to the suburbs, many gays and lesbians filtered in, buying up property at relatively low prices. The complexion of the neighborhood changed rapidly, and the strip of businesses along Castro became known as Castro Village -- establishing itself as a counterpart to New York’s Greenwich Village -- and eventually just The Castro.

An area this broad and rich of course has more than one identity. Duboce Triangle, Mission Dolores, Dolores Heights, and Corbett Heights all either overlap or lie within the historic boundaries of the district. Old-timers, though, still refer to the valley and slopes of Upper Market and Castro as Eureka Valley.

In 1892 wealthy “Nobby” Clarke builds a mansion at the corner of Douglass and Caselli. His friends make fun of him for living so far out in the boonies. (Photo Greg Gaar Collection.)

From Market Street looking south on Castro in 1939. Eureka Valley has become a thriving business district known as “Little Downtown” and due to a large population, “Little Scandinavia.” (Photo Greg Gaar Collection.)

In 1892 wealthy “Nobby” Clarke builds a mansion at the corner of Douglass and Caselli. His friends make fun of him for living so far out in the boonies. (Photo Greg Gaar Collection.)

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Ways to be More Involved in Your Neighborhood Association!

Did you know that EVNA Board meetings and Committee meetings are open to the membership?

Attending is a great way to learn more about EVNA and how to add your voice and expertise. Just let us know that you would like to attend as a guest. You will be notified by e-mail of meeting details.

Board and Planning Committee meetings are held monthly, usually on the first and second Wednesdays at 7PM, respectively.

E-mail President, Alan Beach-Nelson at alan.beach@evna.org

Castro Community Meeting Room Makes Generous Gift to Pink Triangle Park and Memorial

On Thursday, August 4th at the MUMC meeting, the Castro Community Meeting Room presented a generous gift of $3,000 to Pink Triangle Park and memorial for maintenance and improvements.

In 2000, a number of neighbors “took over” a blighted triangle of public pace. They planted roses, cleaned up the area, and embarked on a mission to create a lasting memorial to the homosexual victims of the Nazi regime, an estimated 15,000 of which were lost in concentration camps. These oppressed people were required to wear the Nazi’s symbol of gay shame - the pink triangle. Pink Triangle Park and Memorial was officially dedicated in 2001 by Mayor Willie Brown, with Castro/EVNA as the sponsor. PTPM a 501(c)(3) non-profit.

The park is lovingly cared for by a cadre of volunteers who ensure that it always looks its best. Most notably, Justin delVersano and Jack Keating head up the maintenance and care of PTPM, along with Diane Nutting who has devoted hours of time over the years. This generous donation will be used to ensure the memorial continues to serve as a beautiful respite in the heart of the Castro and a fitting memorial to the homosexual victims of the Nazi regime.

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HAPPY HOUR IS CLOSER THAN YOU THINK.

CASTRO COMMUNITY MEETING ROOM
MAKES GENEROUS GIFT
TO PINK TRIANGLE PARK AND MEMORIAL
PEDESTRIAN SAFETY MATTERS

The past month hasn’t been a good one for pedestrians in the Castro area. First, on August 18, Emily Dunn – a young woman who recently moved to the neighborhood from Atlanta – was struck and killed by a Muni bus at 18th and Hartford. Then, on September 6, William Cox was struck and killed by a vehicle at 14th and Noe.

Investigations into each of these accidents are ongoing, but regardless of the outcomes of those investigations, we are reminded once again that pedestrian safety needs to be front and center in our neighborhood. The Castro/Upper Market area has a significantly lower car ownership rate than other parts of the City. This is a neighborhood where people rely on public transportation and where people walk – a lot. Indeed, the walkability of this neighborhood is one of its most attractive features. We can walk to go shopping, to go out, or to go to the park. The surrounding neighborhoods, by and large, are very accessible on foot. If you don’t particularly care for driving, it’s hard to imagine a better neighborhood.

This means that we need to make the neighborhood safe for pedestrians. That translates to enforcement of traffic laws so that drivers know to be careful. It also means assessing our most problematic intersections and streets and making changes where appropriate. I’m working with our local neighborhood associations on these challenges.

I’m particularly focused on perhaps the worst intersection in the neighborhood – 16th, Noe, and Market. This intersection is confusing and has wide crossing distances. It needs to be fixed. I’ve been working to identify funding sources to do that, given that it will be an expensive project. The traffic signal timing also needs to be changed.

In addition, after the fatality at 14th and Noe, I asked the Municipal Transportation Agency to perform an analysis of 14th Street between Castro and Church. This stretch of 14th Street, which is a cut-through from Buena Vista to Market Street, is too fast and may benefit from traffic calming. That analysis is occurring as you read this article.

I will be attending the October 17th meeting of the Duboce Triangle Neighborhood Association and will be accompanied by representatives of MTA, who will speak about these issues and answer your questions. I’ll also be at EVNA’s September 28 meeting. I look forward to the discussion and to making our neighborhood more pedestrian-friendly.

As always, if you have questions or need anything, please feel free to contact my office at 554-6968 or scott.wiener@sfgov.org.

REMEMBERING EMILY DUNN, Continue from page 1

I know that the staff at Moby Dick and others in the neighborhood have continued to sustain the memorial of flowers. It is so appropriate that our Emily be remembered through flowers; as she was truly a flower child in the best sense, loving and caring, accepting of everyone, friend to everyone, a bright shining star not afraid to follow her own path, but never at the expense of someone else.”

Kind Regards,
Chris Dunn
**President’s Column**

Alan Beach-Nelson

**September 28 Membership Meeting**—Join us at EVNA’s bimonthly meeting featuring presentations from Trigger’s new Community Liaison, Deckel Israeli who will discuss their efforts to address prior nuisance issues and to being a responsible night life establishment and Supervisor Scott Wiener will discuss current issues in District 8.

**Jo in EVNA**
online at evna.org/join or via check payable to EVNA, PO Box 14137, San Francisco, CA 94114

**Type of Membership:**
- Individual: $20
- Household (2 people): $30
- Business: $40

**E-mail(s):** _____________________________________________
**Organization/Business:** __________________________________
**City:** __________________________________________________
**Zip:** _______________ Phone: ____________

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**PEDESTRIAN SAFETY ISSUES BECOME URGENT**

At our July meeting, member Jay Lee gave a presentation on the San Francisco Pedestrian Safety Advisory Committee. Sadly, since then we have had two fatal pedestrian accidents, Emily Dunn – see page 1– and William Cox on September 8 who was run over by a Ford SUV at 14th and Noe Streets, becoming the 10th pedestrian to be killed on the streets of San Francisco this year.

Our sister organization, Duboce Triangle Neighborhood Association, will focus on Pedestrian Safety on Monday, October 17, from 7-9pm at CPMC/Davies Hospital, Auditorium (Level B). Featured speakers are Scott Weiner and an Official from SFMTA, perhaps Ed Reiskin. EVNA encourages you to attend this important meeting.

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**GETTING INVOLVED**

**BEING INFORMED**

President’s Column

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**HOT TOPICS:**

- **MAYORAL CANDIDATE FORUM**—Castro/EVNA and DTNA’s joint Mayoral Forum was certainly a HUGE success, with the 10 top candidates. The Castro Theatre was at near capacity with over 1,000 attendees. The Forum definitely put EVNA and DTNA on the map as important neighborhood associations in The City.

- **CASTRO STREET FAIR, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2**—EVNA is again a beneficiary of the Castro Street Fair. This is one of our largest sources of funding and helps us keep our memberships fees low. If you are interested in volunteering, please email Rob.Cox@evna.org.

- **THRIVING WITH HIV, AT MIDLIFE AND BEYOND PANEL, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 7-9pm**—EVRC. What are the implications of recent research for the health and well-being of people with HIV who are growing older? Learn more at this important panel discussion.

- **UPDATE ON 376 CASTRO (RC Station)**—As previously publicized, EVNA is heading up a coalition working with the project sponsors of a proposed 65 foot tall condo development. Discussions are on-going. Attend the September 28 meeting to learn the latest news on this important project.

- **MOTION TO AMEND EVNA BYLAWS,** “ARTICLE V. OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS, Section 8. No Officer or At-Large Director shall be eligible to serve for more than two consecutive terms in one office or At-Large directorship nor more than four consecutive terms as an Officer and/or At-Large Director” to allow EVNA officers to serve for a minimum of two (2) and a maximum of five (5) consecutive years. The motion was seconded and will be voted on at the September 28 Membership Meeting.