EVNA! Your Neighborhood Organization invites you to our next
PUBLIC MEETING
MAY 22, 2013
7-9:30 PM
Castro Community Meeting Room
501 Castro Street (above BofA)

SAFE IN THE CASTRO?
By Tim Eicher, EVNA Board Member

Anecdotally, it feels as though there has been an increase in crime in the Castro. SFPD has issued frequent warnings about thefts of iPhones and other smart devices. There have been a number of violent assaults and muggings including a recent stabbing at 14th and Noe streets and a violent carjacking in November. There have been several reports of residential break-in robberies in the neighborhood. This onslaught has left us with the feeling that crime is on the rise.

When you look at the actual crime numbers based on police reports, the numbers are fairly flat compared to a year ago. It is unclear whether it’s just the cumulative effect of these crimes over time - leading us to feel that crime is on the rise - or there is an increase in crimes that aren’t being reported. Regardless, a general feeling that crime is on the rise exists for many in the community.

At the Community Safety Meeting on January 28th, a large number of residents and merchants showed up to hear the latest statistics and crime reports and express their concerns about crime in the neighborhood.

From the reports, it seems clear that criminals from outside the neighborhood are targeting the Castro. Perhaps the Castro is seen as an easy target.

CHIPOTLE PLANS FOR FORMER HOME RESTAURANT
By Luis Cuadra, BergDavis Public Affairs

Chipotle began with a very simple idea: to show that food that was fast didn’t have to be a typical fast food experience. It is a chef-founded restaurant committed to serving great tasting food made with high quality ingredients, prepared using classic cooking techniques. We were never supposed to be a chain, but rather a single eatery that would help our founder and chef Steve Ells, who began his career cooking at Jeremiah Tower’s famed Stars restaurant, start a restaurant of his own.

Now, years later we operate restaurants across the country, and are changing the way people think about fast food. Doing this means approaching our business in a way that is fundamentally different than typical restaurant chains. We are constantly looking for better, more sustainable sources for our ingredients – naturally raised meats, local and organically grown produce, and pasture-raised dairy. We’re developing people from within (about 98% of our managers come from the ranks of our crews). We create careers in an industry known for low-wage, dead-end jobs. Designing each restaurant for the specific site it occupies enables our restaurants to complement their surroundings rather than invade them.
Florence Holub wrote this column . . . a few weeks after Soviet premier Mikhail Gorbachev and his wife, Raisa, paid a visit to San Francisco in 2004.

Last month, when the Gorbachevs visited our city, Raisa departed from her scheduled tour to visit a small mom and pop grocery store, the New Terrace Market, at the corner of 17th Street and Uranus, in the Upper Market area. This visit prompted a flood of memories, for my husband Leo and I had often shopped at that store after our marriage on July 3, 1941.

We lived, with our big yellow cat Manfred, just around the corner in a small “fixer-upper” cottage to the rear of a large, peak-roofed house on Mars Street. We paid $17 a month rent, and when a neighbor heard this, he informed us we “were robbed,” because the last tenants had paid only $15. But it was a charming, ivy-covered hideaway, with many sun-flooded windows that provided a pleasant view of the green and flowering rear gardens on both sides.

This idyllic spot, however, did have one distressing feature. To get to our house, we had to walk up a narrow corridor between the big house in front of us and the wall of the neighboring building. This was easy enough until we reached the window of our landlady’s kitchen, at which point all hell broke loose. Our landlady’s two dogs, who had been lying quietly on the floor until they detected our footsteps, would leap at the window, barking ferociously, frothing and snapping and displaying jaws full of sharp white teeth as they scratched the pane of glass that separated us from them—their claws only inches from our faces.

Our landlady would lightly tap them with a folded newspaper, probably just to placate us, not to discipline them, for she was an elderly widow who lived alone, and these were her protective guardians. Nevertheless, the experience was always completely unnerving and would set our hearts pounding.

The landlady also had a number of cats, one of whom was a frequent uninvited guest in our home. We never knew when we might encounter her, crouched in a corner of the house, appraising us with distrust and possible malice. One night, I awakened to see a long stealthy feline form, barely visible in the dark, slowly creeping toward the face of my sleeping husband. Instinctively, I swung my arm in an arc that sent the animal flying off the bed into the blackness.

On went the lights, Leo jumped up, and we scurried around searching for the prowler, who was nowhere to be found. Finally, we looked under the bed and discovered our own cat, Manfred, wide-eyed and shaking, but fortunately unharmed by the blow. He didn’t hold a grudge, thank goodness, and was soon bringing us an assortment of mice and salamanders as peace offerings.

In the fall, long before Thanksgiving, we began to shop for a Christmas present for Leo’s best friend, Bob Hanson, who was an Air Force fighter pilot stationed in the Philippines. After days of scanning gift items on display, we chose a soft beige virgin wool sweater, and mailed it early enough for him to receive it by Christmas.

Before we could get to the rest of our holiday shopping, however, something happened that neither of us will ever forget. On Sunday, Dec. 7, 1941, we awakened late, as was our custom, got dressed, and leisurely strolled around the corner to buy the Sunday newspaper at the Terrace Market. There we found the grocer and his wife tearfully telling the customers the shocking news: Pearl Harbor had been bombed in a devastating attack by Japanese bombers. At home on the radio, President Franklin D. Roosevelt angrily and eloquently spoke to the nation. We were at war.

Every block in the city began to learn to live with the possibility of an air attack, under the guidance of a “block warden,” who visited each home giving directions and information. During one visit to our house, the warden encouraged us to try to solve the
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.
Lines out the door at Magnet and wait lists for the services offered by the Stonewall Project attest that these popular and well-respected programs need to be expanded. That’s why San Francisco AIDS Foundation is moving forward with plans to co-locate these services in a larger space, creating the first dedicated facility for health and wellness for gay and bisexual men. This new center will enable us to keep up with demand for services—a demand generated by people who live, work and/or play in the Castro.

Located at 474 Castro Street, in the heart of the Castro neighborhood, the new center will bring together our three programs for sexual health (Magnet), substance use counseling (Stonewall), and community prevention efforts (Stop AIDS) in one location, allowing us to seamlessly meet the whole-health needs of gay and bi men in our community.

The new facility will provide approximately 7,500 square feet of additional space for expanded sexual health services, additional substance use treatment and mental health counseling opportunities, a new HIV and Aging program, health insurance benefits counseling to help people navigate the complexities of health care reform, and enhanced case management services to ensure linkage to medical care.

The project’s architects, Gensler, have developed plans for a warm and inviting space, including a new third-story expansion. This third story—which will provide much-needed new community meeting spaces—adds only eight feet to the building’s present height and will be set back from the façade by 23 feet to avoid casting shadows on the street and businesses below.

**Planning Committee Notes:** Currently, the Castro Street Neighborhood Commercial District zoning controls prohibits any single use from exceeding 4,000 square feet in order to preserve Castro Village’s small business character. SEAF’s project will be approximately 14,827 square feet.

Supervisor Wiener initiated legislation on March 19, 2013 that would amend ‘Planning Code Sections 121.2 and 715.21 to allow a large neighborhood serving non-profit institution to exceed the 4,000 square foot limit through a Conditional Use Authorization.’ The legislation which will go before the Planning Commission on Thursday, June 13.

At press time, EVNA’s board had not yet heard a presentation from SEAF in order to take a formal position on this legislation but will update membership on our position on May 22.

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**San Francisco AIDS Foundation has Big Plans for Site of Former Superstar Video**

By Courtney Mulhern-Pearson Director of State and Local Affairs, San Francisco AIDS Foundation

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“blackout” problem posed by our many windows. As he departed, he divulged that he had been holding us up as an example to the rest of the wards, saying, “That young couple [us] already has a bucket of sand on their back porch to put out any fires that might be started by incendiary bombs dropped by enemy planes.”

We accepted the praise in modest silence, but we were actually feeling guilty: the real reason we had that sand (in a pre-kitty litter era) was to change Manfred’s sandbox. As for the blackout problem—we decided to just turn out the lights and go to bed whenever the air raid sirens sounded.

In World War II, all of the fine young men went off to war or into the defense industries. My younger brother Warde was somewhere out in the South Pacific, a gunner’s mate aboard the destroy USS Cassin. My older brother Mike sailed to and from the war zone as a sergeant major aboard the troop transport SS Sea Star.

One day, while unloading troops at Saipan, Mike spotted the Cassin, also in port. He pulled a few strings and was given a lift in the port director’s gig (a ship’s small boat), and sped over to see Warde. The commander of the Cassin, thinking an admiral was approaching, had him “piped” (a formal military salute), only to find that the “brass” they had welcomed was just a G.I. Joe. But my two brothers got to hug one another and clasp hands, just before the Cassin went out to sea again.

Leo’s brother Richard, an Air Corps test pilot, was sent to England, where he distinguished himself and was decorated by General Carl Spatz, commander of the Allied air forces. Leo worked at Hunters Point Naval Dry Dock, where, as a shiprigger, he moved heavy equipment—pulling propellers and shafts, and installing gun mounts.

Many months after we sent it, the package containing the beige sweater was returned, and we learned that Leo would never see his friend again. Bob had been killed on the seventh day of the war, and for his heroism he was decorated posthumously. But many young men did come home, to a grateful nation gearing down for peace.

Since the end of the war, the years have passed so rapidly that it is hard to fathom the incredible shift that has taken place in world affairs. Now in 1990, presidents Gorbachev and Bush are conferring about economic exchanges and reductions in nuclear weapons, and East and West Germany are embarking upon reunification. Even more remarkable to me is the fact that, as this issue of the Voice is being distributed, Leo and I will be celebrating our 49th wedding anniversary!

I can tell you now how our anniversary celebration will go. Leo will take me to one of Noe Valley’s finest restaurants, and as the evening draws to a close, he’ll say these words: “Want to try for another year?”

I will hesitate a bit, lest he think me easy, then casually reply, “Okay.” If all goes well, in exactly one year (1991), we will be celebrating our 50th anniversary.

Things did go very well, and 13 years later (2004), Florence and Leo Holub... celebrate(d) their 63rd anniversary.

Florence and Leo Holub, snapped on 24th Street in 1995. Photo by Sally Smith
CASTRO CELEBRATES HARVEY MILK DAY WITH REENACTMENT OF MILK’S “HOPE SPEECH”

Sunday, May 19, 2013 at 1 PM, at Jane Warner Plaza followed by two block march down Castro Street to Harvey Milk’s former camera shop.

The Castro district, the neighborhood that gay civil rights pioneer Harvey Milk championed and called home, will celebrate California’s fourth annual Harvey Milk Day on May 19th with speeches, music, memories, and a reenactment of Milk’s stirring 1977 “You’ve Got To Have Hope” speech.

Celebrities will gather in Jane Warner Plaza at Castro and Market Streets, the intersection where Milk in the 1970’s would circulate petitions, campaign for office, and rally supporters for marches to City Hall. The SF Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band will start the festivities with music. Castro district member of the Board of Supervisors Scott Wiener will then introduce Harvey’s friends, community leaders, and elected officials. Supervisor Wiener and other speakers will recall the civil rights pioneer’s message of hope and gay pride. A number of Milk’s old friends are slated to attend: Anne Kronenberg, Harvey’s campaign manager in 1977 and his aide when he served as supervisor; Daniel Nicoletta, who at age 19 was hired by Milk to staff his camera shop, worked on his campaigns, and took many of the iconic photographs of Milk; and Wayne Friday, a political columnist who covered Milk’s campaigns and became his close friend.

Performers will give a brief reenactment of excerpts from Milk’s famous Hope speech, a challenge to gay people to face down their opponents and give hope to young people coming out of the closet. The speech will be performed by five local artists: Courtney Walsh and Aaron Wimmer, two actors from “Dear Harvey”, the New Conservatory play about Milk; Randall Mann, local poet and winner of the 2003 Kenyon Review Prize in Poetry; Sister Roma, drag artist and 20-year member of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence; and Andrea Shorter, political activist. The crowd will then march two blocks down Castro Street to gather at Milk’s former camera store and residence at 575 Castro. Members of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence will perform a blessing, adjacent to a bronze sidewalk plaque featuring Harvey Milk’s profile and a quote from Milk, which was installed in 2010 in by the Castro/Upper Market Community Benefit District.

This year would have been Milk’s 83rd birthday. The Milk Day celebration is co-sponsored by Supervisor Weiner’s office and the Merchants of Upper Market & Castro (MUMC), Castro/EVNA, and the Castro/Upper Market CBD. Harvey Milk’s birthday, May 22, became a California “day of special significance” in 2009 when Gov. Schwarzenegger signed a bill creating the first official day of recognition for any openly gay person in the U.S. Also in 2009, Milk was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

“...the only thing they have to look forward to is hope, and you have to give them hope. Hope for a better world, hope for a better tomorrow; hope for a better place to come to if the pressures at home are too great.”

Harvey Milk
The mural has been repainted three times, each time accomplished with incredible help from area residents. The accumulation of exhaust and debris from heavy traffic meant the wall needed pressure washing, sanding and priming. All this was done with volunteers, so the concrete is permeated with the spirit of the community. The process of mural painting used scaffolding and a small cherry picker to reach the upper sections. After the first coat of paint, I worked with dedicated assistants to integrate the layers of color necessary to create vibrant bands of energy along the curve of Market St. Once the mural was finished, about 5 layers of an anti-graffiti varnish were applied, to protect against exhaust fumes, UV rays and occasional tagging. Again, neighborhood volunteers helped with the work and into the neighborhoods. The mural has been repainted three times, each time accomplished with incredible help from area residents. The accumulation of exhaust and debris from heavy traffic meant the wall needed pressure washing, sanding and priming. All this was done with volunteers, so the concrete is permeated with the spirit of the community. The process of mural painting used scaffolding and a small cherry picker to reach the upper sections. After the first coat of paint, I worked with dedicated assistants to integrate the layers of color necessary to create vibrant bands of energy along the curve of Market St. Once the mural was finished, about 5 layers of an anti-graffiti varnish were applied, to protect against exhaust fumes, UV rays and occasional tagging. Again, neighborhood volunteers helped with the work and into the neighborhoods.

By the early 1980’s, the wall had become an eyesore, attracting virulent graffiti. The scripts were “tags”, but messages of hatred aimed at the Castro community. Artist Ruth Asawa and her colleague Dorice Murphy decided to oppose this destructive force with a creative one, and they joined with other community members to form the Eureka Valley Trails & Art Network. Allied with Eureka Valley Neighborhood Association, then EVPA, Upper Market Merchants Association, and programs at McAteer High School. The focus was on placing community generated artworks in visual risk areas. One of these projects became the Upper Market St. Mural, first painted in 1982, a vivid abstract landscape. I was the artist selected to paint the mural. My design used majestic flowing elements to symbolize the strata behind the wall and invoke the geologic landforms of this part of the City. I wanted a feeling of movement, so that there would be no interruption to the traffic patterns, but instead a forceful alternative to the expanse of gray cement. Entitled “The Chant of the Earth, the Voice of the Land,” the mural was funded through Neighborhood Improvement Program and Community Development Block Grant funding, and in later incarnations, was restored and refreshed with funding from the Neighborhood Beautification Fund. Not only is it a visual tribute to the strata behind the wall, it is an impressive record of the communities of San Francisco bringing art out of tourist areas and into the neighborhoods.

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LOVE WHERE YOU LIVE -
THE FABRIC OF LIFE
By Mark McHale, Castro Street

Pioneer wagons and venturing ships bound for San Francisco overflowed with souls looking to change their future from what they had known before. Enduring hardship, starvation and blight, they came west for promise, for opportunity, for land, for gold. In the hollows from where they came, families and communities were gutted, the familiarities of culture and ritual were forgotten, everything was left behind for the promise of a new beginning.

Me? I drove west in a ‘88 Cutlass Supreme with a rented 10’ U-Haul attached. Made the trip in 3 days, running mostly on caffeine and adrenaline from the anticipation of California- black gold, Texas tea- and the job waiting for me at Federal Express. The Midwest was 2,400 miles behind me, but it was a solar system’s distance from self-acceptance, open-mindedness, and a thriving life. I thought I’d never look back.

In the 25 years since, I would like to think I’ve shed most of the remnants of that place now in the mist of memory. I openly vote Democrat, I eat more natural foods than processed (mostly!), and I’ve even dropped the mid-west nasal vowels. Saying “Oh, boy…you ain’t gotten any slimmaar, have ya?” Funny, this all seemed easier to navigate when we were texting. Hearing Carol’s voice was like an audible version of Spock’s Vulcan nerve pinch on my city-sensibilities. I stood there, paralyzed by the first sentence I heard them speak. Three days to go.

While touring around the Castro, we finished the 1 pound box of Macinaw fudge that they brought with them. “This is my new life!” I pointed out to them in my mind. I tried to keep my progressive moorings as they remarked on the high price of eating out and the outlandish costs of real estate. “Yes, your house would be worth a LOT more money if it were here” I agreed out loud, with my inside voice yelling “BUT IT’S NOT- THAT’S THE POINT!!” I felt myself slipping back into an old mindset, the one of patient endurance, polite agreeableness. It was easier to assimilate than fight-only 48 more hours.

I gave up all hope when my body involuntarily made the palm gesture for the promise of a new beginning.

As my other hand adroitly shaped the likeness of the Upper Peninsula (Copper Harbor included)- something only a Michigander could do, or could ever understand. It became officially too late. “To hell with it!” I thought, “I will always be a Michigander at my core.” I enjoyed the rest of their visit with abandon. My heart melted when they presented me with their host gift, an oven mitt resembling the Lower Peninsula, complete with all the cities and towns printed on it. “Viva, la Michigan” I whimpered through the tears of a prodigal son.

So long ago, I came here to have the opportunity to change my future into something different than the track I was put on; to be free of the people and places that somehow become grey and lackluster to me. But, for all the efforts to cast my origins aside, I realized through Tom and Carol’s visit, that maybe it’s better to offer tribute and make peace with my past instead. After all, whatever we experienced, and from wherever we came, it is an integral thread in the fabric of who we are. I offer tribute and make peace with my past origins aside, I realized through Tom and Carol’s visit, that maybe it’s better to offer tribute and make peace with my past instead. After all, whatever we experienced, and from wherever we came, it is an integral thread in the fabric of who we are. I offer tribute and make peace with my past origins aside, I realized through Tom and Carol’s visit, that maybe it’s better to offer tribute and make peace with my past instead.

Join the conversation on FB: Eureka Valley Neighborhood Association…” what part of your past have you learned to embrace for what it contributes to who you are today?”

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In April, the Planning Commission approved a policy that will apply a new methodology for evaluating formula retail applications for new chain stores in our neighborhood. Applications will be judged on whether they bring the concentration of chain stores within a 300 foot radius above 20%. If so, Planning would recommend against approval of that “Conditional Use” permit required for all chain stores.

The method is designed as an experiment, to be adopted as Planning Commission policy but not codified in the Planning Code. However, if the experiment is successful in offering some certainty to landlords (by allowing them to know in advance what will be approved) and in helping to create a vibrant mix of businesses in our area, the Department hopes to codify the experiment, and offer it to other neighborhoods.

The path to this significant achievement started in 2009 with the extensive work of our sister organization, Duboce Triangle Neighborhood Association, (DTNA). Over the past several years neighborhood organizations like DTNA and EVNA have become concerned about the increasing volume of formula retail applications and worried about reaching a “tipping point” where landlords would expect formula retail tenants with deep pockets, and, as a result, rents would increase to such a point that independent local businesses would be priced out.

DTNA’s Land Use Committee created a “Formula Retail Matrix” to evaluate individual chain store applications on a variety of criteria. Extensive research by DTNA on the number of chain stores in Upper Market vs. two comparison corridors, Upper Haight and Valencia Street, found that the percentage of chain stores in Upper Market was indeed much higher than in the comparison areas. DTNA’s researchers brought another concern to light – chain store businesses take up much more visual - and literal - space on the streetscape than non-formula retail. That “linear feet” model of looking at the presence of chain stores is now part of the Planning Department’s methodology.

At EVNA’s January meeting, members made Planning Department Director, John Rahaim aware of our shared concerns with DTNA about the formula retail mix especially in light of the over 40,000 square feet of new ground floor retail that will become available over the next 3 years along Market Street (equivalent to about 30 stores similar in size to those along Castro). EVNA suggested a limit to the percentage of space allocated to formula retail similar to DTNA’s. Through these conversations, appearances at the Planning Commission, conversations with Supervisor Scott Wiener, and informal work with individual planners, we made these concerns known. The result is the current plan.

We firmly believe that this policy will lay the foundation for a vibrant, diverse, and neighborhood-serving mix of businesses that will continue to make our neighborhood a unique destination.

We are very grateful to DTNA’s Board and Land Use Committee for the extensive work and effort put into this effort.

Excerpted with permission from DTNA April newsletter.
We believe in supporting local suppliers. Our quest for better, more sustainable sources for ingredients began a dozen years ago when we started serving pork from Niman Ranch. That relationship continues – and has expanded exponentially – we are serving more than 2 million pounds of locally grown produce in our San Francisco restaurants and recently began offering a new vegan menu item, Sofritas, made with organic tofu from Hodo Soy.

We hope to build a restaurant at 2100 Market Street, though we recognize the challenges associated with this. Character rich neighborhoods should be wary about allowing “formula retail.” And with good reason. Most formula retail isn’t worth having. But we aren’t like that. Our plans will take a site that has been a long-vacant eyesore and give it a complete remodel, adding a new, modern façade, an updated patio and a community mural space to be commissioned by a local artist. The store will have unique signage that will fit with the surroundings and belie our chain status.

We don’t expect universal acceptance, but rather an opportunity to earn our way. We believe that our restaurants should be engrained in the fabric of the communities we serve. That’s why we have been a supporter of Pride for the last six years, a sponsor at the recent OpenHouse Spring Fling, and are proud to support the Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy Spring Fling. And it’s why we created a charitable foundation to extend our ability to create a better food system.

We think our ethos fits well within San Francisco’s diverse and eclectic food scene. But that’s up for the community to decide. Hear us out. If you like what we have to say, we hope you’ll support our project. We think we’d be a good neighbor.

PINK TRIANGLE INSTALLATION & DEDICATION, SATURDAY JUNE 29
The San Francisco Twin Peaks PINK TRIANGLE has been displayed every Pride Weekend since 1996. It is through the display that we educate others of the message of the Pink Triangle: what can happen when hatred and bigotry become law as in Nazi Germany during the 30’s and 40’s.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
Over 100 volunteers are needed to install and remove the Pink Triangle atop Twin Peaks. To volunteer BRING a HAMMER and gloves and wear closed-shoes. Fashionable Pink Triangle t-shirts will be provided to all who help and coffee, tea, water, muffins, donuts will be provided.

INSTALLATION: Saturday June 29th, 7:30 - 10AM
REMOVAL: Sunday June 30, 2013 from 5 to 8:00PM
COMMEMORATION: Saturday June 29th at 10:30AM

After the installation, there will be a Commemoration Ceremony at 10:30 am with dignitaries including elected officials and the many of the Grand Marshalls of the parade, also the SFLG Freedom Band will be performing.

Contact Patrick Carney at (415) 726-4914 to sign up as a volunteer.

Directions to the display site are at www.thepinktriangle.com
The 'Chipotle Project' located at 2100 Market Street is a very serious issue that could have a dramatic affect on both merchants and residents of the neighborhood. It should not be taken lightly. The Chipotle restaurant business is a classic 'Formula Retail' chain with over 1,500 locations worldwide. By allowing such a massive national corporation into this location it only opens the doors for other large-scale 'Formula-Retail' chains to follow. This completely threatens the integrity and uniqueness of the Upper Market District that we have created. Small, locally owned, 'mom and pop' merchants will slowly be replaced with large, corporate businesses. This can NOT be allowed to happen.

I have brought up the issue of having 3 other taqueria’s on the same block and how that would threaten these businesses and over-saturate the neighborhood. Chipotle's response has been as careless as it is ignorant in thinking that they would provide a need to the neighborhood that is already met. Chipotle would greatly damage these other locally owned and community loved Mexican restaurants. Chipotle's argument that their restaurant is environmentally conscious and only uses locally sourced products is counter-intuitive. We already have three restaurants that use locally sourced products. THEY ARE LOCALLY SOURCED, not major corporations.

This also leads me to the question of how much community participation and local contribution will a massive, face-less giant like Chipotle have in our community? What happens when we need to come together to work as a community to address neighborhood issues like crime, vandalism, violence. Do you really think the owner of Chipotle cares about a small community like ours? We are all the owners of our businesses, who are engaged in OUR community working to ensure the neighborhood's unique character is maintained.

Chipotle's engagement has been to bribe people into signing a petition to allow their permit by offering free chips and salsa. We are small business owners who are fighting for our livelihood, and fighting for our community. Chipotle on the other hand has hired a big PR firm to promote their business - while the owners are disengaged and have demonstrated no vested interest in our community. This is NOT the kind of neighbor that I would want to stand next to if we needed to work together to address community issues, concerns and needs.

Bottom line: this project will not provide for a need that is not already met. It fails the “Needed and Desirable” test established by the Planning Department. Chipotle will lead the way to more 'Formula Retail' in the neighborhood. It will threaten the unique and diverse community that we have all worked hard to create. The very fabric of what makes it so dynamic and loved will be threatened if we begin to allow businesses that are better suited to suburbia invade our community. Lets work together to fight Chipotle and help guarantee that we can keep at least a little unique identity in this amazing city.
“Safe” continued from page 1

We at EVNA feel that we all need to work together to fight crime and improve safety in the neighborhood. We all must:

- Report all crimes. This enables police to spot trends and allocate resources where needed.
- Be a good witness. Learn how to provide the right information to police when you witness a crime.
- Get involved. Join Castro Community on Patrol (CCOP), Whistle Safe, Stop the Violence, etc.

To start the conversation, we are holding a panel discussion on Crime & Safety at our May 22nd Meeting. The panelists are: Sister Pat N Leather, Stop the Violence; Ken Craig, Castro Community on Patrol; Sgt Charles Limbert, SFPD Mission Station; John Fitzinger, Patrol Special Police.

This panel discussion will be an opportunity to ask questions and to get specific, concrete suggestions from the experts on what we as a community can do to fight crime and improve safety in our neighborhood. We’ll also focus on what specific actions these agencies are taking to prevent crime. We encourage you to attend our public meeting and to get involved.

HOT TOPICS

- Harvey Milk Day Celebration, Sunday, May 19, 1PM - 2PM Jane Warner Plaza. California’s fourth annual Harvey Milk Day will be celebrated in the Castro May 19th with speeches, music and a reenactment of Milk’s stirring 1977 “You’ve Got To Have Hope” speech, followed by a two-block march to Harvey’s camera shop.
- Environmental Learning with EVNA and Stanford University, Tuesday, May 21, 6PM. EVNA, in partnership with Stanford University, is looking for community members to participate in a discussion about their daily lives, the choices they make and how they learn in relation to the environment within their community and the place where they live. This session is part of a larger research project examining environmental learning and motivation to act sustainably in the San Francisco Bay Area. Dinner will be provided. Participation is limited to 8 members. If you are interested in participating in the discussion, RSVP to Alan Beach-Nelson at alan.beach@evna.org for location.
- Planning Commission denies Starbucks 4th location in the Castro. On May 9, the Planning Commission heard Starbucks’ proposal for a fourth location in Upper Market/Castro at Market and Sanchez. Starbucks already has two stores in the Safeway complex, and the affectionately named “Bearbucks” location on 18th. After testimony from groups supporting the project and in opposition, the Commission voted 5 to 1 against approval. EVNA joined DTNA, Castro CBD and local merchants in opposition.
- Honoring Harvey Milk at The GLBT History Museum: Free Admission, Tours and Activities Set for May 22. California marks Harvey Milk’s birthday, May 22, as an annual statewide day of significance. The GLBT History Museum will honor the occasion this year by giving free admission to all visitors and providing special Milk-related displays and tours. The GLBT History Museum is at 4127 18th St, in the Castro.
- Pink Triangle installation atop Twin Peak’s Pride Weekend. Volunteers are needed Saturday morning, 7:30 to 10AM and Sunday, June 30, 5 to 8PM. See article, page 10.
- Pink Saturday, “The Missing Pink,” Saturday, June 29, 5:30 -10:15PM. The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence will again be coordinating this annual tradition. The night before Pride, the Sisters bring the party to the streets by closing them to traffic and then pumping multiple sound stages with music to create the largest nighttime street party in San Francisco. We will feature food trucks along Market Street where the Dyke March will once again finish its parade from Dolores Park.