The neighborhood association for the Castro, Upper Market and all of Eureka Valley since 1878. Hand-delivered to 3,000 residents and businesses in the central Castro/Eureka Valley area.

EVNA! Your Neighborhood Organization invites you to our next PUBLIC MEETING JULY 24, 2013 7-8:45 PM Castro Community Meeting Room 501 Castro Street (above BofA)

UPPER MARKET DEVELOPMENT UPDATES By Judith Hoyem, EVNA Board Member and Planning and Land Use Chair

The SF Planning Department has been mandated by the Association Bay Area Governments to produce 92,400 more housing units over the next 25 years for 280,000 more people. The Department has developed a policy to build as many units as possible along “transit-rich corridors” of which Upper Market is one. With the improved economy in San Francisco and the availability of financing, projects that had been stalled during the past few years are now popping up like giant mushrooms: one virtually complete at Market between 16th and Noe (formerly known as “the church pit”); another at Market and 15th (north side) under construction; a third at Market and 15th (south side) represented by a hole in the ground; another at that same intersection at Market and Sanchez which is just beginning the entitlement process. A project at Castro and Market that has been years in development has finally received permit entitlement (see separate story: Design for 376 Castro Approved!, page 8.)

EVNA and our sister neighborhood association along Market Street, Duboce Triangle Neighborhood Association (DTNA,) collaborate in conveying neighborhood concerns to the developers and the Planning Department. While we are able to considerably influence the outcome of development projects, we do not achieve all of our goals. We do provide an avenue of communication that would otherwise not exist. More neighborhood involvement is sought, and we ask all interested to join us!

STAY SAFE DON’T MAKE YOURSELF A VICTIM!

By Sargent Scott Edwards, Mission Police Station

What do the following the scenarios have in common?
1. A rather drunk man walks home, texting on his iPhone and updating Facebook.
2. An older gentleman accepts a drink from a very attractive young stranger at the bar.
3. A visitor to the Castro leaves her rental car parked on the street with her backpack inside of it.

If you answered “they’re all in danger of becoming victims,” you are correct. At the risk of being accused of blaming the victim, let me suggest some ways in which you, your friends and family can lower the probability of becoming a crime statistic.

The common thread linking most victims is an inability to exercise capable guardianship. The more distracted or intoxicated a person is, the harder it is to take good care of themselves and their property. Likewise, the less secure a person’s property, the more vulnerable that property is to theft. Most criminals are actually risk-averse, although sometimes they misjudge how risky a given crime is. For example, if you put yourself in the shoes of a would-be robber; would you choose as a potential victim an obviously intoxicated person carrying his cell phone in his hand, or an empty-handed person walking briskly down the sidewalk? Most criminals would choose the former. Although it’s flattering when a pretty young thing brings you an already-made drink, the careful person has to ask, “Is this too good to be true?”

Continued on page 7
**DISTRICT 8 SUPERVISOR SCOTT WIENER**

**FILLING THOSE VACANCIES**

We all want the Castro to be a thriving commercial district. While we continue to have vacancies to fill, the situation is improving. Earlier this year, I did a walking tour of the neighborhood and counted about 35 businesses that had opened in the past two years, in comparison with 12 vacancies. Since then, additional businesses have opened, and two of our most visible and frustrating vacancies - the Patio and the old Tower Records - are on the path to reopening. The vacancy caused by Diesel leaving is frustrating, but I believe the owner is quite motivated to fill the space. The neighborhood, despite its challenges, is on a positive trajectory economically.

**CASTRO STREET REDESIGN**

The Castro Street redesign is moving along on schedule. We are still several months out from the beginning of construction, but soon Castro Street will have wider sidewalks, safer pedestrian crossings, improved lighting features and street trees, and other changes that will make Castro Street not only safer, but an even more attractive street than it is today.

We’ve completed our series of open houses with the Planning Department, in which community members could debate different elements of the plan and provide feedback. The plans that grew from the community process are available on the Planning Department’s website. Construction is set to begin in January 2014 and will be completed before October 2014. The 400 block of Castro will go first - with a goal of completion before Pride and the 500 block to follow.

This project is long overdue and will be transformational for the neighborhood. We are all very sensitive to the fact that construction will pose challenges for both residents and merchants. I appreciate everyone’s patience during this time. As part of this year’s Budget process, I procured additional funding - on top of the project budget - dedicated to supporting merchants during construction. My office will also work with merchants and residents as issues arise, so that we can get through this construction and have a beautiful, safer Castro Street for everyone to enjoy.

**BUDGET**

As a member of the Budget Committee, I’m happy to report that we have finalized our city budget. Getting the budget through Committee is a long, arduous process, and I especially want to thank Budget Chair Supervisor Mark Farrell for his hard work and leadership.

Our community did well, and a number of priorities I championed were funded. I fought hard for full restoration of $3 million in federal HIV/AIDS cuts in the upcoming fiscal year, and we back-filled every penny and demonstrated yet again the depth of our city’s commitment to combating the epidemic. Another priority that I championed and was funded was to ensure expanded housing and safety net services in the Castro for LGBT youth. A recent report estimated that 30% of our homeless population is LGBT, and with the youth population this number is certainly higher. Allocating funding for these programs is key to helping our youth.

Additionally, I know how important clean streets, sidewalks, plazas, medians, and other public spaces are, so I secured funding to increase the number of cleaning crews and gardeners who perform basic cleaning and maintenance work on public property. Keeping our public spaces clean may not be the flashiest priority, but it has a significant impact on our neighborhood quality of life.

Scott Wiener represents District 8, which includes the Castro, on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors.
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.
The Castro Street Design Project is funded by the 2011 Road Repaving and Street Safety bond and includes streetscape improvements to Castro Street between Market Street and 19th Street. The project’s Planning Phase (December 2012 – May 2013) was an interagency effort led by the Planning Department in close coordination with DPW, SFMTA, and the Office of Supervisor Scott Wiener. The project builds on the Castro/Upper Market Community Benefits District (Castro CBD) 2008 Neighborhood Beautification and Safety Plan which calls for sidewalk widening and streetscape improvements along this portion of Castro Street.

**STREET SECTION**

Typical Mid-Block Street Section

**TODAY**

- Side Streets
- Frontage Zone
- Throughway Zone
- Furnishing Zone

**PROPOSED**

- Proposed Seed Planting
- Bike Rack
- LED Lighting
- Post

Verticle elements (trees, Muni poles, street lights, etc.) will be aligned in a single row near the curb. A 3-foot-by-3-foot square grid will demarcate the “Throughway Zone” - Castro Street’s pedestrian path of travel. The furnishing zone and frontage zone will be scored with a more detailed rectangular pattern. Standard gray sidewalks are proposed, however pending the final cost-estimates, mica-sparkles could be included as a special finish.

Castro Street is currently 82.5-foot wide. At mid-block, the right-of-way is allocated to two 12-foot sidewalks and two 8-foot parking lanes, with the remaining 42.5-feet devoted to two travel lanes (one lane in each direction.) The conceptual design calls for reconfiguring the travel lanes to a width of 12-feet and widening the existing sidewalks to approximately 21-feet. Improvements to the Market/Castro intersection and Jane Warner Plaza are also included as part of the project. Street trees, light fixtures, crosswalk markings, and paving materials will be replaced and upgraded.

The project team worked closely with the Castro CBD, the Castro/Eureka Valley

**SIDEWALK LAYOUT**

**SIDEWALK ZONES:**

- Frontage Zone
- Throughway Zone
- Furnishing Zone

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– Joanna S., Buyer, Noe Valley

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Neighborhood Association (EVNA), and the Merchants of Upper Market and Castro (MUMC) to publicize the project, plan public workshops, and gather community feedback. Community workshops were well attended, with over 150 people at the January 23 workshop at the Eureka Valley Recreation Center and over 90 people at the April 3 workshop at the Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy. At both workshops over 90-percent of survey respondents indicated they liked the City’s basic design proposals for the street. Survey results and community input helped inform numerous design decisions, from the sidewalk layout to street tree selection. Over 170 people attended the final open house on May 14, 2013 to review the final conceptual design for the street. Some graphics presented at the open house are shown in this article.

Preparation of construction documents began in May 2013, with completion scheduled for September 2013. Environmental review and legislative approvals are underway and scheduled to be completed by August 2013. The project is scheduled to break ground in January 2014, with expected completion in October 2014.

For more information on the project, visit castrostreetdesign.sfplanning.org and for questions contact DPW Project Manager John Dennis at john.dennis@sfdpw.org
We recently moved to the Castro, and wanted to learn more about our new neighborhood. Over time, we were looking forward to getting to know our neighbors and become involved in the community.

Soon after our arrival, we became aware that there was a recent spike in crime on our street, and that a neighbor was planning a watch meeting, inviting the entire block. Although this was an unfortunate circumstance, we found it a perfect occasion for us to introduce ourselves and meet our new neighbors.

About a dozen of our nearest neighbors showed up to discuss the problem; some shared individual experiences, others offered details and descriptions. Everyone was concerned and helpful, and it was good for us to put some names with the faces we had seen around since moving in.

I could sense the excitement and determination we all felt, wanting to solve this problem and make things safer. We were doing what good neighbors have always done - reaching out and taking care of each other.

The meeting emphasized the benefits of a good communication tool like Nextdoor Castro (www.nextdoor.com) which enables our block watch group to communicate objectives, coordinate efforts, share resources, and schedule events. It's a free networking tool that gives us the ability to stay in touch and find out what other groups in neighboring areas are doing. It's so helpful to know what is going on nearby and who is doing what so that we can tap into or help.

Built for people, neighbors, groups and communities just like us, there's a lot of functionality on NextDoor.com that can help anyone get and stay in touch with what's happening. Let me highlight a few of the more amazing features.

NextDoor.com allows our members to limit the focus to just our neighborhood, or (when appropriate) expand to surrounding areas. We can access and reach out to what's relevant around our community. Here's a map of the Castro's boundary and neighboring communities. Each area has a shaded zone. We can just turn “on” or “off” those of interest.

Another great feature is the member address verification (ensuring that only neighbors join and that they live at a specific address). There's a newsfeed where neighbors can communicate; make announcements; ask for referrals; post reports on events and address their concerns. For us, it's really helpful to keep tabs on what's happening in areas adjacent to the Castro, so we can talk with others who might be having similar issues with crime.

For our block watch, we really like the “groups” function.
Here is a run-down of these five current major development projects on Market Street from Sanchez to Castro, which will yield 64 new condominiums and 175 rental units:

Completed: 2299 Market at Noe and 16th: Eighteen new units ready for purchase. The website displays the features and floor plans of this condominium building styled as ICON-SF. The units range in price from a 1-bedroom at $739,999 all the way to a 2-bedroom/2.5 bath two-level townhouse listed for sale at $1.6m. The building is five stories and 55 feet high. Streetscape improvements that were negotiated by the neighborhood groups are underway. The anchor tenant on the first floor will be Bank of the West occupying 3279 square feet of space. Three smaller spaces facing Noe Street totaling 1500 square feet will be leased as small retail stores. Visit http://www.icon-sf.com to view the building and get more information about the units.

Near Completion: 2200 Market (north side) at 15th (formerly Letitia’s and Thai House): five stories, 55 feet high, 22 units of one and two-bedroom condominiums ready for purchase soon. Visit 2200 Market Street to view the building and get more information.

Underway: 2175 Market (south side) at 15th (formerly 76 Station): Excavation is underway on this 88-unit rental project, which will be six stories; 65 feet high on Market Street, 45 feet high along 15th Street, including a wide view corridor into the inner-block open space. Visit 2175 Market Street to see the project as proposed in May 2012. The project has been somewhat modified for community benefits and design features based on neighborhood feedback. The developer is Forest City with a 2015 estimated completion.

NEW! 2198 Market (north side) at Sanchez (former gas station and next to The Swedish American Hall): proposed 87 rental units, 52 one-bedroom, 35 two-bedrooms; 34 residential parking spaces, 2 car share and 103 bike stalls. The project will be 65 feet tall (six stories), rising to approximately 72 feet including a windscreen for rooftop open space along Market Street, and 40 feet on 15th Street. The developer is Greystar who holds a 99 year lease. The architect is HellerManus.

Now is the time to get involved in this project as the plans evolve in the coming few months. Critical design reviews and community benefit negotiations are key areas for community feedback.

To see a presentation by Greystar of the current plans, come to the EVNA Membership Meeting on Wednesday, July 24th at 7 pm at the Bank of America meeting room, 2nd floor, at Castro and 18th Streets.

On June 5, 2013, the Planning Commission gave its final approval for the project at 376 Castro at Market, currently the site of an RC gas station. This long-awaited 24-unit condominium building now has all of its entitlements and awaits only the issuance of a permit to demolish the RC gas station and clean up the site before beginning construction. Castro/EVNA, together with other community members, collaborated with the developers, Joseph Tierney and Eileen Campbell, and the architect, Mitchell Benjamin, to achieve many community benefits and a modest but handsome design.

This six-story building will offer 5 one-bedroom units, 19 two-bedroom units, 3000 square feet of ground-floor retail, and parking for 14 cars and 12 bicycles. Community benefits include on-site affordable housing, streetscape improvements, a way-finder for lost tourists, a community meeting room, and an office space for the Castro CBD.

A Community Design Team consisting of representatives from EVNA, DTNA, CBD, and CAPA worked with the architect on a final exterior design, which was reported to the Planning Commission on June 5, as the final step in a 5-year long process. Because of the height of the building (65’ at the mid-point, 72’ at the corner) the team asked for modification of various elements of the exterior to improve the visual aspect, including a random pattern of red and buff terra cotta tile cladding, darker at the lower level. The communication between the project sponsors and the community will continue as the benefits are implemented and the design features are applied.

At the hearing in June, some residents of adjacent buildings brought to the attention of the Commission their fears of negative impacts on their sunlight. Unfortunately, the hearing was informational only and was the last step in the process; it was impossible for it to order a review of the project at that late stage. All residents have the right to be involved in the planning process for their neighborhood but should not wait until the last minute to express concerns. EVNA and other neighborhood groups can help to navigate the often bewildering labyrinths of City government and are the avenue through which positive changes can occur. Be sure to protect your interests by participating in and strengthening your neighborhood group, Castro/EVNA!

By Judith Hoyem, EVNA Board Member and Planning and Land Use Chair

**DESign For 376 CASTRO APPROVED!**

By Andrea Aiello, CBD Executive Director

Hope you’ve been enjoying the entertainment provided by our Summer SunSets Series for residents of and visitors to the Castro. The concert series is funded by an Invest in Neighborhoods grant (CCSF) and the Castro Community Benefit District with co-sponsorship by the Bay Area Reporter. We are filling the summer with concerts and other performances every weekend through August at Jane Warner Plaza. For upcoming dates and artists visit: www.castrocbd.org

The Welcome to the Castro program lets our local community organizations and non-profits shine and promote themselves at this popular and well-trafficked corner of Market and Castro. The Rainbow World Fund will be at the Plaza for the weekend of August 24th.

The SFMTA Transit Effectiveness Project (TEP) report is available for review and public comment for 6 weeks, 7/9/13 to 8/20/13. The EIR (Environmental Impact Report) will be posted at www.sfmta.com. Questions can be addressed to Lulu Feliciano at: lulu.feliciano@sfmta.com.
The international Italian coffee conglomerate Illy, which has Espressamente Illy coffee bars and cafes in 200 major cities around the world and 34 countries, now seeks to bring its brand to the Castro. There are 9 Espressamente Illy outlets so far in the United States, including one in the San Francisco financial district (123 Battery Street). Other coffee bars and cafes both locally and nationally serve Illy coffee and display the Illy brand, such as Cafe Greco in North Beach.

The company, proud of its program for training baristas, sent a trainer to Espressamente Illy in the financial district when it opened in November 2011. The co-owner of that first cafe in San Francisco, Joe Gurdock, hopes to operate another Espressamente Illy in the former mirror and frame shop at 2349 Market Street and has applied for a “limited restaurant” permit. This cafe, like the first, will offer a bar menu designed by the well-known SF chef, Joyce Goldstein, though Joe says that the menu will not duplicate the one in the financial district.

Both cafes, the first and the proposed second, feature a slow bar in the round (think “slow food”) made in Italy that is a standard feature of Espressamente Illy cafes. There are other standard features that are a part of these cafes, including the display of the Illy logo and name. However, the Illy website states an intention that “no two Espressamente Illy bars are exactly alike. Each offers a contemporary, local take on the concept of the Italian coffee bar, so visitors feel comfortable and at home while enjoying the pleasure of good espresso and a selection of typical Italian bar cuisine, and an overall experience of taste, style and excellence.”

It is unknown what features of the proposed Castro cafe would be different from all other Espressamente Illy cafes, aside from the menu featuring small bites. Joe Gurdock has stated his wish to make it a clean, comfortable and welcoming place for all who live in or visit the neighborhood. He says that he has considerable design latitude to create a unique cafe appropriate for its location. The cafe will seat about 50 patrons at the slow bar and at a communal table in a space of 1,800 square feet. It will feature a coffee cup-chandelier, as does the financial district store, but this one will be created by a different artist, the French conceptual artist Daniel Buren. It will also have a retail section selling coffee, espresso machines, and espresso pods.

Although Illy has at least 200 Espressamente Illy cafes in as many cities, the San Francisco code only counts the number in the United States when determining if an establishment is a formula retail store or not. If the number of national locations, including the location proposed by the applicant, does not exceed 12 (this location would make 10 in the US) the application does not require further review and the permit is granted, unless a request is filed for discretionary review of the permit in a public hearing before the Planning Commission within 30 days of public notification. The 30-day period for the Castro Espressamente Illy ends on July 25, 2013, which is the deadline for filing for discretionary review. At the time of this article, that request has not been filed. EVNA has extended an invitation to the business owner to begin a dialogue with the community.

Meet the owner, Joe Gurdock, and learn more about this cafe at the EVNA membership meeting on Wednesday, July 25, at the community meeting room above the Bank of America at Castro and 18th Streets, beginning at 7 pm.
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Residents of the Eureka Valley/Castro community for over 29 years collectively.
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What should you do if you are a victim of crime? The first and most important thing to do is get yourself to a safe location. Obviously, what constitutes a safe location depends on what has happened, and on your present level of ability. Secondly, report the crime to the police. How you report this also depends on the situation. If you return to your vehicle and find that someone has broken into it, you can call 553-0123 or 311 or make a report online. If you’ve just been assaulted, robbed, or have a bona fide emergency, you should immediately call 911. Once you call stay calm and tell us these five things first:

1. Where you are.
2. What happened, preferably in one sentence (e.g., “I was robbed!”)
3. Where the suspect is, or which way the suspect went, on foot or in a vehicle.
4. Physical description of the suspect.
5. Whether the suspect had any weapons.

The one exception is that if you are badly injured, let the 911 dispatcher know immediately. Otherwise, when the police arrive on the scene, we will make sure you get any needed medical attention.

Keep in mind that our response time is predicated on a number of items:
1. The caller’s use of the proper number.
2. The speed at which the call-taker gets the information to the dispatcher.
3. Priority of the call, as assigned by dispatch based on your call and their protocols.
4. Availability and capability of units.
5. The proximity of available units.

For example, if a robbery victim calls 911 to report they were just robbed at gunpoint at Dolores Park on an otherwise uneventful Tuesday night, officers may be able to respond to the area within two minutes. On the other hand, if a good Samaritan calls Mission Station directly to report a suspicious person casing cars on Pink Saturday, there will be a delay while the person working at the station relays the call to dispatch, another delay while officers first complete higher priority assignments (like the aforementioned robbery call,) and a further delay as they make their way through heavy traffic to you.

In summary, try to avoid being a tempting target for criminals by being aware of your surroundings, monitoring your ability to take care of yourself, and being cautious of situations that appear “too good to be true.” If, despite your best efforts, you do become the victim of a crime, report it appropriately as soon as possible and give as much information as you can.

Finally, get involved and stay involved. Criminals target what they believe to be easy prey. As a community, we have the means to dissuade them just by watching out for each other as well as ourselves.

Emergency calls: 911 or 415-553-8090
Non-emergency calls: 311 or 415-553-0123
Stay safe!
LOVE WHERE YOU LIVE
A Moment In History
By Mark McHale, Board Member

It seemed everything and everyone in the nation was fixated on events this past month whose outcome, in one way or another, would be felt most deliberately and unapologetically right here in San Francisco, and most dearly in the Castro. It was an historic week on so many levels: to be gay, a resident, an American citizen, a human being.

The confluence of Gay Pride Celebrations and the Supreme Court rulings on DOMA and California’s Prop 8, created such a palpable moment in history for us all. There was a visceral feeling of the importance and significance of this moment in every conversation with friends, in every embrace of welcome and hello to family and visitors to the city. It felt like everyone knew that we were about to witness something even our descendants would remember. Either we were going to be brought one more step into the family of humanity or not. It was certainly breath-catching to experience that a victory was within reach - a victory we had become fuller, more human somehow. The heart of mankind expanded just a little bit. Love prevailed, again. Oh, how could we forget, despite dark moments, it always does. Where was my own faith?

I stood on Castro Street, in the warm air of a sunny afternoon, looking out onto the sea of humanity, and marked the day in my memory. This was history unfolding in front of me. These people, brothers and sisters all, wanted nothing more than I; to have respect, to have protection of the law; and to be allowed to marry and live their lives as every other person in this great nation. Across the street, Harvey Milk’s Camera Shop; at the corner, Leonard Matlovich’s apartment; and all around me, countless other souls who walked before me, all present, as if there beside me. Thank you for your work, your suffering and your sacrifices.

I adore the oft repeated notion that by giving to others, nothing is taken from us. Instead, more is enjoyed by all. When we refuse to engage in our own fear, we create space for love to grow. This past week, we were able to witness that truth: each of us moving over just a bit to allow more love in; the capacity of our single heart; the kindness of our neighborly affection; the passion of hundreds of thousands gathered to celebrate; the tolerance of the millions of our citizenry, and in the awareness of the billions of mankind who witnessed an act of courage. We were all made better for love - and that is what we should never forget.

The planned events for the Pride Festival suddenly seemed to intensify into something greater and even more meaningful. Like a magnifying glass leveraging the sun; the parade, the music, the parties, the impromptu gatherings, the phone calls from family congratulating us, our friends celebrating in our arms, out of town guests with smiles from ear to ear, our wonderful city encouraging marriages once put on hold - everything and everyone seemed to shine brighter and grow bigger. We built and became fuller, more human somehow. The heart of mankind expanded just a little bit. Love prevailed, again. Oh, how could we forget, despite dark moments, it always does. Where was my own faith?

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EUREKA!
Published six times a year by Castro/EVNA

2013 EVNA Public Meetings
Fourth Wednesday of odd numbered months, except Nov. from 7 - 8:30PM, 501 Castro Street: Jan. 30, Mar. 27, May 22, Jul. 24, Sep. 25 & Nov. 13

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San Francisco Public Utilities Commission Update
By Alleliah Nuguid, SFPUC Communications Officer

The SouthEast Treatment Plant, which treats 80% of the City's flows, has outlived its useful life. As part of the SSIP, the SFPUC will replace the Plant's existing outdated treatment processes.

The City of San Francisco's Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) is undergoing two major improvement programs with the Sewer System Improvement Program (SSIP), a multibillion dollar citywide investment to upgrade our aging sewer system and bring it to a state of good repair.

The SSIP is the result of a robust, eight-year community process that will provide a reliable, sustainable and seismically safe sewer system now, and for generations to come.

Planned improvements include both grey and green infrastructure. Grey will address aging pipelines, pumpstations, and treatment facilities. Innovative green infrastructure projects will provide sustainable methods to manage storm water.

For information visit: sfwater.org/ssip. Join our mailing list at sip@sfwater.org to stay up to date on the SSIP.

Getting Involved - Being Informed
President's Column, Alan Beach-Nelson

Join us at Castro/EVNA's Bimonthly Public Meeting, July 24th, 6:30PM Wednesday, July 31st, 6:30PM.

Featuring: Victor Gonzalez and Clark Manus

Who will present their plans for 2198 Market Street @ Sanchez (Former Shell), Maureen Grey Barry from SFPUC who will discuss the City's Sewer System Improvement Program (SSIP), and Joe Gurdon will present his plans for an Esspressamente Illy in the Castro.

HOT TOPICS

• ALERT: Poisoned meatballs intentionally luring dogs. Since July 4th, hundreds of poisoned meatballs, laced with toxic Strychnine, have been found at parks around Twin Peaks. SFPD, SF SPCA and Animal Care and Control are advising dog owners to take extra precautions. The meatballs are so toxic that if found, pick them up using protection as the poison can be absorbed through skin. Dolores and Duboce Parks and Collingwood dog run haven’t yet been affected. SFPD asks anyone with information to call Lt. Pengel or Inspecter Nannery at Park Station 242-3000.

• PUBLIC SAFETY MEETING, 6:30PM Wednesday, July 31st, Eureka Valley Recreation Center, 100 Collingwood. District 8 Supervisor Scott Wiener and EVNA are co-sponsoring Public Safety meeting to address a recent spike in increasingly aggressive and violent crime in the Castro (and throughout District 8).

• Under One Roof Returns to the Castro as a Pop Up Store. After a nearly 10 month absence from the Castro the venerable charity shop reappeared on June 7th as a pop-up store. The pop-up will run through Labor Day out of the famed former “Rainbow Stairs” space next to the soon-to-reopen Patio Café. As in the past, it will sell mostly donated goods. If you want to volunteer or donate goods visit www.underoneroof.org.

• Planning Commission denies Chipotle location in the Castro. On June 20, the Planning Commission heard Chipotle’s proposal to open in the former “Home” restaurant at Market and Church. After testimony, the Commission voted against approval. EVNA joined DTNA, and local merchants in opposition.

• Gas Pipeline Locations - Before You Dig. Excavation is a leading cause of pipeline damage. You should always call 811 at least two working days before initiating projects that involve digging. Find PG&E’s pipelines near you by locating pipeline markers and gas meters. Markers identify the general, but not exact, location of pipelines. PG&E also provides an online map that shows the location of transmission and high-pressure pipelines: http://www.pge.com/pipelinelocations/.

• Matter of Trust Eco-Center opens its doors at 3338 17th Street (near Valencia) in San Francisco’s vibrant Mission District. A 501(c)3 ecological public charity since 1998, Matter Of Trust is now providing a beautiful neighborhood space for delivering programs on renewable resources, manmade surplus, naturally abundant materials and eco-education. Open to the public 7 days a week from noon to 5 PM, and local residents are encouraged to visit and welcome to innovate.