PLANNING UPDATE
By EVNA Planning Committee

2254 Market Street (Sullivan’s Funeral Home)
The Prado Group (http://www.pradogroup.com), who built the Whole Foods building at Market & Dolores, is proposing a plan to build 45 units (including 2 townhouses on 15th Street) at the former Sullivan’s Funeral Home location. The current plan is to preserve the original building. The project would include 24 underground parking spots, and 60 spaces for bicycles. The preliminary plan has been shown to the DTNA and EVNA Planning and Land Use Committees. Also, a public pre-application meeting was held on February 24th.

The Prado Group has been in discussion for years with the Sullivan family. A website will be put together by the sponsor to facilitate neighborhood commentary. Sullivan’s Funeral Home started out as 2 buildings that were later combined. There is no plan to demolish the existing building. The plan is to keep the existing facade and clay tile roof. The new project plans to use tile facing on the new building to reflect the original building’s tile roof.

The project is hoping to get Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Platinum certification (http://www.usgbc.org/leed). The structure would be a

AGENDA

EVNA BOARD AND COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS

HUMAN INTEREST TOPIC
NEW RESTAURANTS FINALLY CREATE A NEW AND INTERESTING FOODIES SCENE IN THE CASTRO BY MAT SCHUSTER

CASTRO STREETSCAPE PROJECT
PROJECT MANAGER JOHN DENNIS WILL GIVE AN UPDATE

CASTRO CARES & JANE WARNER PLAZA
UPDATE ON THE LAUNCH OF CASTRO CARES AND ISSUES SURROUNDING JANE WARNER PLAZA

UMPQUA BANK
A REPRESENTATIVE WILL DISCUSS THEIR PLANS FOR A CASTRO LOCATION

PUBLIC FORUM
A TIME SET ASIDE TO DISCUSS NEIGHBORHOOD ISSUES

LET’S SHOW THEM WHAT WE’VE GOT!
By Mat Schuster, Canela Bistro

It’s no secret that the Castro is not the first neighborhood you think of when choosing your dining destination. Many people first think of Valencia, Fillmore or Union Streets which spent years establishing themselves with popular restaurants to meet growing demand. However, demand has also been bubbling up in the Castro for new dining options, even before the neighborhood started a major growth phase about 4 years ago. Before the last recession, new and exciting restaurants were introducing themselves in the Castro such as Poesia, Frances and L’ardoise. The wheels were set in motion to offer more elaborate meals in the hood.

At the end of last year, we gathered together some of the neighborhood full service restaurant owners at our restaurant, Canela Bistro and Wine Bar on Market Street in the Castro. The purpose was two fold; we wanted to meet...
What’s Going on In the Neighborhood?
By Mark D McHale, EVNA Board Member
An unofficial update on what’s coming and going in our commercial spaces.

160 Church Street
Former Blockbuster
Proposed cross-fit training center.

2100 Market/15th Streets
Former HOME restaurant
Proposed 64-unit condo development

2101 Market Street
Veo Optics
Now vacant

2175 Market Street
New 88-unit rentals, farmers market
concept planned in the commercial space
Complete

2198 Market Street
GreyStar
Construction just started, 87-rentals,
unknown commercial space plans

2202 Market Street
Brewcade
Open for business!

2254 Market Street
Sullivan Funeral/Parking lot
43-rentals in the entitlement phase

2301 Market Street
Weaver’s Coffee
Open for business!

2337 Market Street
Taco Orgasmico
Under construction

2500 Market Street (upstairs)
Zephyr Real Estate
(Previously Tower Records) combined
their Market and 17th Street locations

3970 17th Street
Formerly Pica Pica
Manos Nouveau now open!

376 Castro Street
RC Gas Station
In litigation

400 Castro Street
Formerly Diesel
Approved Soul Cycle Fitness

410 Castro Street
Formerly Sprint
Vacant

417 Castro Street
Formerly The Bead Store
Dapper Dog now open

474 Castro Street
Formerly video store
SF AIDS Foundation, opening soon

4072 18th Street
New street level space
Unknown status

4079 18th Street
Happy High Herbs
Open under different name

4122 18th Street
Magnet moving to 474 Castro
Proposed Umpqua Bank

4230 18th Street
Former La Tiza Restaurant
Now Vero Restaurant

506 Castro Street
Former Body Shop
Artist Coffee (coming soon)

518A Castro Street
Formerly Tower Records
Now Union Hair

531 Castro Street
Hamburger Mary’s
Seeking conditional use permit for
entertainment

549 Castro Street
Philz Coffee
Relocating from 18th Street

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THE BEST WAY TO CREATE COMMUNITY IS TO BE A PART OF IT.
EUREKA VALLEY | MORE THAN HOME

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Castro/Eureka Valley Neighborhood Association
March - April 2015
Page 2
Umpqua Bank’s Plans to Come to the Castro
By EVNA Planning and Land Use Committee

In November 2014, Umpqua Bank (https://www.umpquabank.com) first presented to the EVNA PLUC, its plan to set a new Umpqua branch at 4122 18th Street (Magnet).

Umpqua Bank has been in business for 60 years originating in Southern Oregon. Now it would like to move in to 4122 18th St., between Castro & Collingwood (currently Magnet) Umpqua would like a space that people would enjoy coming to, with an open design. The bank wants to be deeply engaged in community as well. It believes that it has a unique culture and model for banking. For instance, the presenters of the project mentioned that they would like to set a café area within the bank, as well as a space for local merchants to showcase and sell their products.

Umpqua offers all the services of other banks, but tries to deliver it differently. One presenter says employees are empowered to make their own decisions. They try to hire from within the community. There is a budget at the store (branch) level for giving, and also a regional-giving allocation to the local community. They also have a program whereby employees get 40 hours paid for volunteer work.

Umpqua presented some preliminary designs, but they also mentioned at the time that they didn’t have actual plans yet. They have the ability to change operations based on community input – for instance, the hours they are open, noting that they can stay open later.

Umpqua has between 380 and 390 branches, in 5 states. There are 2 in SF, 3 more including this one in the works.

After reviewing the proposed project, the PLUC voted to support the proposed project as presented at the time. Since this meeting in November, Umpqua did acquire Sterling Bank (https://www.umpquabank.com/hello-sterling/). It is unclear if Umpqua is going to keep the Sterling branch on Market street, or merge the two stores. Umpqua needs a conditional use permit to proceed on the Magnet location.

Note that the San Francisco AIDS Foundation that currently uses the Magnet location, has since built a larger facility on Castro street. It is possible that the SF AIDS Foundation might still need the Magnet location.
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.

CafeSF.com • Facebook.com/TheCafeSF • Twitter.com/TheCafeSF
The Café • 2369 Market St., San Francisco, CA 94114 • (415)834-5840
**Love Where You Live**  
*By Mark McHale, EVNA Board Member*

**It Takes a Village**

The community meeting called last month by Andrea Aiello, executive director of the Castro/Upper Market CBD, to discuss the recent goings-on in our neighborhood and at the Jane Warner Plaza (JWP) in particular, was well-attended and the discussion lively. Dealing with serious and potentially contentious issues such as homelessness, street behavior, our social spaces and the balance between people’s rights and their responsibilities can challenge any two people, let alone an entire community. But we came together to discuss, and we did just that.

Since walking out of that meeting several weeks ago, I’ve been thinking about more than just solutions to a particular problem. The perspective that many there seemed to want those “in charge” to know was, as one resident said: “The plaza is the front door of the Castro.” Hmm, our front door: a metaphor I’d never thought of, but guess I always felt that way about it, and apparently others do too. This space comes loaded with our collective aspirations of what we want the outside world to know about who we are. No wonder there’s so much electricity around whatever happens in that space. Another comment made (sorry, source unknown) was that “we are a village.” To me, that means that there are many of us willing to work together to address our shared concerns and offer our individual strengths and resources in finding the solution to our needs and the issues we face. Wow! Another cool insight!

Hearing those comments during the meeting went a long way to help repair some of the alarm and deep sadness I feel most days when I walk past the troubled JWP and down the sidewalks on the way to work. Hearing that we are a village, that none of us are alone, and that others do care, eases the sense of alienation and powerlessness I sometimes feel, not being big enough to change anything, or feeling too chicken to confront people who work so hard to destroy what others have been trying so hard to create. Even more, knowing we are a village helps to put into perspective the concern I have seeing so many of the most vulnerable of our population facing unspeakable traumas, personal troubles and afflictions. They are clearly are not getting the help and guidance they need to stabilize and maybe recover.

We are a village - that’s a truth. The Castro and Eureka Valley are filled with people who daily contribute and work toward a common good as a vibrant and evolving community. That simple truth can sometimes get lost in the distraction and anxieties of daily living. Being a member of the village means that we can and must contribute when we are able, receive when in need, summon when in doubt, and be reminded of the village when we forget. The most stunning aspect of that truth is that everyone belongs, no matter the part they may momentarily play. Without one, we are not whole.

For me, the Castro Cares pilot program (www.castrocares.org) embodies much of this sentiment and desire to help those in need and restore a sense of balance for everyone in the community. Castro Cares brings together all the stakeholders and players in order to put in the forefront of our attention the very real and sometimes unpleasant and sensitive issues we share as a village. This enables us to deal with them and attempt to resolve them - and not just pretend they are not there. Go to their website, read up on the program, and find out how you can get behind supporting it in any way available to you.

On April 16th, I invite you, as a member of our village, to come together in a powerful way with others just like us; to contribute, to summon, to receive and to remind us all that we belong together and we need each other. The Castro Cares Fundraiser will be a pivotal event as our community’s response to the real and pressing issues of urban living. The event is open to all who want to contribute, and will be held from 5-8pm at Vanguard Properties (555 Castro). It’s made possible by the support and contribution of many local merchants, residents, and individuals, to raise funds for this revolutionary program. I hope that you will join us, we need you there, too.

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**A Different Approach for SF’s Different Real Estate Market:**

Instead of another realtor picture, here’s evidence of a new approach:

**Fig. 1:** Raffi the Dog  
*real estate dog extraordinaire*

**Fig. 2:** His Owner  
Kevin K. Ho, esq.  
realtor & lawyer  
top producer

*Go Fetch Real Estate Success Today. (Raffi will help).*

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bre 01875957  
sbn 233408
Type 3 construction with a concrete podium and wood construction on floors two through five. The original Sullivan building would be a remaining wood structure.

The units would be mapped as condos, but the sponsor has not decided if they’ll be for sale or rent. Out of the 45 units, the current plan has roughly:

- 23% studios
- 33% 1 bedroom
- 36% 2 bedroom
- 8% 3 bedrooms
- with 24 underground parking spaces, accessed from 15th St. (currently there is no conditional use for more parking).

The current plan now is to put affordable housing on site. The sponsor has not decided if the Below Market Rate units would for ownership or rental.

“Monster Houses”

A new residential project on Upper Terrace and Roosevelt Streets has attracted lots of attention lately. The plan is to build 5 single family homes on 3 lots that are zoned for up to 6 units. The total size of the project would be 31,000 square feet (or ~6,000 square feet per home). A group of concerned neighbors met with District 8 Supervisor Scott Wiener in January. As a result Wiener unveiled a new bill this month to address those concerns. He said the bill is meant to counter the “trend toward turning regular-sized homes that really fit into the fabric of the neighborhood into exceptionally large homes that are really out of whack with the surrounding neighborhood.”

22 & 24 Ord Court

The hearings continue on this through-lot residential project that has generated much neighborhood interest.

SUPERVISOR WIENER’S INTERIM CONTROLS ON CORONA HEIGHTS WINS UNANIMOUS SUPPORT

By Loïc Olichon and Judy Hoyem, Planning and Land Use Committee (PLUC)

Supervisor Wiener proposed an 18 month interim legislation to put more controls (i.e. conditional use) on large extensions (more than 3,000 sf AND 75% increase of the gross square footage) in Corbett Heights and Corona Heights. The proposed legislation has been initiated by a well organized group of concerned neighbors.

EVNA reviewed the proposed legislation and decided to support Supervisor Wiener’s efforts to better balance the need for housing growth in the City with the needs of settled residential neighborhoods in Eureka Valley consistent with existing neighborhood character.

The public response to the interim zoning controls legislation at the first hearing (March 9th) was overwhelmingly positive. Public comment went on for 2 hours. At least 50 people showed up and spoke strongly on why they wanted this legislation to pass. Three people from a renters alliance spoke against it, characterizing the propose legislation as being for the elite and entitled when what was really needed is something for the less fortunate.

Afterwards Supervisor Cohen (District 10) spoke strongly in favor, then Supervisor Wiener made the motion and Supervisor Kim (District 6) seconded it and it passed unanimously.

The next day (March 10th) the proposed legislation was discussed at the Board of Supervisors. After some technical comments from Supervisor Yee (District 7), and some comments from Supervisor Campos (District 9), who tried to draw a parallel with his, more controversial, moratorium for the Mission. Supervisor Wiener responded by making clear that the proposed legislation was not a moratorium and just wanted to make sure that big extensions had to go through the existing process of conditional use. The proposed legislation passed unanimously.

Note: You can listen to the vote at the Board of Supervisors’ website.
our neighborhood industry peers as well as start a conversation about how we can show off our great neighborhood to people unfamiliar with us. Many times, this neighborhood gets type cast as a place to go drinking and subsequently a place where you can have something casual before or after drinking. However, our neighborhood dictates otherwise, as we are centrally located and surrounded by singles, couples and families looking for something more in their community. Additionally, visitors to the city are venturing farther off the tourist path and looking for a unique experience.

Joining us at the meeting was Supervisor Scott Wiener who addressed some challenges in our neighborhood growth such as zoning to both keep the character of the neighborhood as well as encourage new tenants. Also joining us at the meeting was Andrew Freeman of Andrew Freeman and Co. public relations. We talked about ideas including a block party, a culinary tasting event and establishing a Castro dining website. All in all, it was a good jumping off point to see where local restaurant owner’s interests reside. We have recently followed up with a survey to the meeting participants to further hone an action plan.

The Castro is in a growth phase and some could even argue an identity crisis, which also could be said for San Francisco as a whole. Now is the time to not only sustain our familiar patterns of business, but reach out to new customers beyond our neighborhood boundaries. Our voices can be heard stronger as a team.

One thing remains constant, the people of and who visit this city love, demand and expect good food and service. How lucky are we to rise to the challenge.
Neighboors’ Faves!
Neighbors share their favorite places in the ‘hood!

This issue’s Faves come from EVNA Executive Board Member, Rob Cox

Hearth
3985 17th Street
Hearth is a new and very welcome addition to the neighborhood. Along with Reveille, Hearth has added European style café life to the Castro. The baker, Meg, could be baking croissant in Paris. In fact Hearth opened just after I returned from Paris this past December and I was astonished at how deliciously Parisian the pastry was. Hearth bakes on site, a rarity in the Castro, so you may have the good fortune to get a your pastry warm out of the oven. Say “hello” to Bonnie at the counter. She’s always pleasant.

Cliff’s
479 Castro
Okay, I know its almost cliché to say you love Cliff’s. But I do. All of the businesses took hits this year because of the sidewalk project so I tried my best to shop in the ‘hood whenever possible. I have to say that, especially around Christmas, I found myself at Cliff’s a lot finding unique and fun gifts for many on my list.

The Sidewalks and Crosswalks
It really is a pleasure to stroll the commercial district along the new sidewalks. The storefronts show off more with the wider view, the trees are welcoming, the lighting is better and feels more festive and the crosswalks are signature Castro!

I’m QUEER but I’ll get your deal STRAIGHT!

Katharine Holland
www.KatharineHolland.com DRE#01336487 415-378-2697

WAYS TO BE MORE INVOLVED IN EVNA!
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, at 7PM. Planning on the first Wednesday and Board on the second Wednesday.

To attend a Planning Committee meeting, email: Jack.Keating@EVNA.org

To attend a Board meeting, email: Alan.Beach@EVNA.org

Other Committees meet on an adhoc basis, please email the chair to learn more:
Social: Mark.McHale@EVNA.org
Quality of Life: Rob.Cox@EVNA.org
Newsletter: James.Kelm@EVNA.org

HANDY RESOURCES FOR HOME
CALL 311 FOR:
Report Litter and Graffiti, St. Cleaning, Abandoned Vehicles, St. Signs Missing/Damaged, Pot Hole Repair

POLICE:
Non-Emergency: 553-0123
Report nuisance and non-urgent issues. Always ask for a CAD #.
Mission Station: 558-5400
Captain Dan Perea’s email: daniel.perea@sfgov.org

HOMELESS issues:
Community Awareness & Treatment Service (CATS) non-emergency: 734-4233

PARKING AND TRAFFIC issues:
SFMTA Parking Enforcement: 553-1200
SFMTA Parking Tickets: 701-3000
DISTRICT. 8 SUPERVISOR SCOTT WIENER: 554-6968, Scott.Wiener@sfgov.org
**Local Take**
*By Kyra Brown*

Local Take, 3979 17th Street at Castro Street, is a SF focused boutique offering art, clothing, accessories and gifts, featuring aspects of the city and created by independent, local designers. It is a great place to pick up amazing gifts for yourself and others, all while supporting local artists and craft people.

Since opening in May 2013, Local Take has been enthusiastically embraced by its community of neighbors, locals, tourists, and the community at large. With intentions of totaling around 200 local artists and designers by fall 2015, they are currently showcasing over 130 unique Bay Area artists and designers.

In a responsible and independent way, Local Take is providing opportunities for independent designers and artists to gain public recognition to jumpstart their careers.

Owners Jenn Meyer and Kyra Brown had often shared festival booths to sell their own designs in the past. While selling their own designs in a shared booth at the 2012 Castro Street Fair, they decided it was time to open their own brick and mortar store.

Initially, they chose the Castro for Local Take as it lacked a main retail source for independently designed and crafted personal items and gifts. Due to its most friendly and bustling environment, it was also personally the most favored neighborhood in which to set up shop for the two designers.

Local Take offers a unique shopping experience for locals and tourists alike. Kyra and Jenn hope to see you there soon!
CASTRO HOODIES - STORIES FROM HOODLINE

As you may have heard, the Castro Biscuit has moved over to Hoodline - San Francisco Neighborhood news. Biscuit founder Roy McKenzie is still on the beat for Castro news, but now you’ll find him at http://hoodline.com.

474 CASTRO’S HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTER TARGETS APRIL OPENING

By Aaron Nielsen

Set to open this April in the Castro, The San Francisco AIDS Foundation’s health and wellness center is nearing its big debut.

Located at 474 Castro St., the center will be the new home for SFAF’s existing programs: Magnet, the Stonewall Project, and the Stop AIDS Project. In addition to expanding the services offered by these longstanding programs, the center will also incorporate services tailored to the needs of groups that have historically been underrepresented in the area, in the form of The DREAAM Project (for African-American gay, bisexual, and trans men and women aged 18-30) and the 50-Plus Network (which focuses on the needs of gay, bisexual and trans men aged 50 and older). Groups and events hosted by Positive Force and Bridgemen will also be housed at the center.

According to Steve Gibson, Magnet’s Director, “the new building at 474 Castro Street will be an expansion of what Magnet has provided for nearly 12 years, a warm and welcoming place for gay men to take care of their health and find opportunities to connect with each other through social and cultural events as well as a variety of discussion groups representing the diversity of our community.”

“In my opinion the new space will offer the ability for so many more people to get connected with the services of SFAF,” said Jeremy Zondlo, Magnet’s Volunteer Coordinator. “We will have increased space and appointment availability for testing as well as an integrated approach to the wellness of our community that goes beyond testing and treatment. There will be a direct connection to our support with substance use and community connection, all of which can help reduce the amount of risk an individual might have of getting HIV. We have a many of those programs in place already and this new space provides the opportunity to put all of those services together under one roof to really meet the complete needs of our community.”

The genesis of this project dates back to 2011 when the SFAF, in collaboration with consulting firm Bain & Company, carried out an extensive study investigating the potential for a holistic health and wellness center for queer men in the Castro. What the study found is that there are 6,000 gay men in San Francisco who are HIV-positive and unaware of their status, or don’t yet have the virus under control, and another 12,000 gay men who are HIV-negative who engage in high-risk sexual activities.

After reviewing the data, it was determined that if a quarter of these men increased their frequency of STI/HIV testing, reduced sexual risk-taking, and in the case of those who are already
positive, adhered to their medications (or started taking medication), the instances of new HIV infection in San Francisco will be cut by 25 percent.

Further, the city of San Francisco would like to provide 100,000 HIV tests a year, but given its current resources, only 30,000 HIV tests are administered annually. Magnet currently tests around 900 people a month for STIs and HIV. It’s anticipated that once Magnet moves into the new facility, it will increase its testing capacity 20 percent, with the goal of increasing by 40 percent over time. The expanded capacity to test for HIV afforded by the new center would greatly help the city move closer to this goal.

The focus of the center is not wholly on HIV testing and treatment, but on overall health and wellness, with the aim to be a one-stop for all health issues which can affect queer men. In addition to HIV, the queer community also experiences much higher instances of mental health issues, including depression and substance abuse, than the general population. The new center will provide services to assist those who are struggling with these problems.

The center has found funding through government grants and private donations but a major fundraising campaign is currently underway to raise the remaining funds.

“I am super excited to see our services expand and see the crucial services of SFAF become more widely used,” said Zondlo, “and help us take care of each other and come together in a way we have never seen before.

For further information on the new center, follow along on the 474 Castro blog, which provides regular updates on the progress of the construction.

RELIEF FOR CASTRO AS ALLEGED SERIAL TAGGER ARRESTED
By Sari Staver/Hoodline

Before his arrest on Thursday, the San Francisco “serial tagger” hit dozens of buildings and sidewalks in the Castro.

Now facing 10 felony and 17 misdemeanor counts, Andrew Yarbrough, 18, was arrested in Dolores Park, following a call to 911 by a neighborhood resident. As reported by KTVU, when police arrived, Yarbrough was carrying spray paint and holding up a cell phone to photograph a recently painted tag on a wall near the newly constructed tennis courts.

Yarbrough had tagged the words “chryst” and “sheep” all over the city, but according to reports on the website NextDoor, over 50 were counted between the Upper Market and Dolores Park.

In response to questions by reporters as he was being moved from the police station to the Hall of Justice, Yarbrough explained that “chryst” refers to crystal meth and “sheep” to “conformist gentrification.”

Among the most visible neighborhood damage was a tag on the awning of For Your Eyes Only Optometry at 552 Castro, between 18th and 19th. Owner Dr. Kathleen Kennedy, O.D., told KTVU that she had to replace the awning at a cost of $3,600. A building at Castro and Market, adjacent to the Jane Warner Plaza was also tagged, and a handful of tags appeared on garage doors near 19th and Eureka, among many others.

On Friday evening, we found Andrew D’Amore cleaning the graffiti off the front of his residence at 3944 18th St. D’Amore said there were “a few” other buildings on the block between Noe and Sanchez that had been hit.

San Francisco spends over $20 million annually in graffiti cleanup. A DWP website advises residents and local businesses, including calling 911 to report graffiti in progress, or calling 311 to report graffiti on public property. Private property owners are stuck dealing with the problem themselves, though DPW does offer tips on graffiti abatement for residents and local businesses.

CASTRO STATION’S PLANNED ESCALATOR OVERHAUL
By Graham Harbison

Frustrated commuters can probably agree that Castro Station’s escalators, which date back to 1972 and are often broken down for extended periods of time, are due for an overhaul.

Planned upgrades to the station’s indoor and outdoor escalators, however, are delayed. Bids for the second phase of the larger SF Municipal Railway’s Escalator Rehabilitation and Upgrade
Project came in at nearly twice the originally projected engineering cost, pushing back the project’s completion to the end of 2018.

The Proposition K-funded project, originally proposed in 2006 by the San Francisco County Transportation Authority (SFCTA), seeks to replace, repair, and rehabilitate the 28 San Francisco Municipal Railway (Muni) escalators across seven stations to bring them into code and conform to Cal/OSHA and safety requirements, reduce maintenance costs, and reduce unit downtime.

The SFCTA admitted in a 2007 report that, “While the escalators underwent a minor rehabilitation in 1979 prior to the start-up of subway service, MTA has not undertaken a full modernization/rehabilitation of the escalators since they were installed approximately 30 years ago.”

The Authority allocated funds to the SFMTA in 2006 to begin the conceptual stage of the project (SFMTA is responsible for 28 escalators in seven stations per an agreement with BART and the City of San Francisco), but prioritized the first five heavy-use, outdoor escalators in a first phase of the project, which included upgrades to Powell, Van Ness, and Church Muni stations. That work began March 2012 and was completed in September of 2013.

The second phase of the project, currently in detail design, includes the four escalators at Castro Station and three at Church Station, in addition to more at Embarcadero, Montgomery, Powell, and Civic Center. BART will be concurrently upgrading its platform escalators and installing downtown station escalator canopies.

According to a June 2012 list of active District 8 Prop K projects, the plan first became delayed when the SFMTA made an error in the budgeting of federal transportation grants for the two phases of the project. Phase 2 was then again delayed due to a reassignment of engineering staff to Phase 1 of the project due to a federal Buy America requirement, which ensures that transportation infrastructure projects are built with American-made products.

The project was then flagged as having potentially major schedule delays and/or cost increases. The same quarterly progress report noted that SFMTA had also transferred $1 million of those same federal funds to a light rail project to close a funding gap, reducing the overall scope and budget of the second phase. All seven escalators in District 8 are slated to remain as part of the project, however.

The SFCTA recommended on January 20th of this year that SFMTA extend the time to award the contract for Phase 2 another 10 days while additional funding sources were secured. In the most recent development, the contract was awarded on January 30th to
Schindler Elevator Corporation of San Leandro, CA, according to a final SFMTA resolution. A spokesperson for the SFCTA said the additional funding had been identified and that they anticipate construction of Phase 2 will finally begin in March, at a cost of roughly $19.6 million. This came at nearly twice the projected budget of $10.7 million. As with the similar work done at Church, Powell, and Van Ness Stations, commuters will have more temporary escalator closures to look forward to until all the work finishes up at the end of 2018.

**Major Upper Market Street Repair to Continue into July**

*By Eric Eldon*

You may have noticed that the portion of Market Street going up the hill from Castro Street has developed a lot of potholes, cracked sections of pavement, and related hazards. Now, the city is doing something about it.

Castro neighbor Anthony Ramirez emailed in yesterday to ask what was going on after watching crews at work on the street for the past week. He hadn’t heard back from city departments when he asked for information.

We managed to get through to somebody with 311, who talked to a person at the Department of Public Works’ Bureau of Street Use and Mapping. They shared that there’s a permit out to repave the street all the way up to Dixie Alley, a project that’s slated to last through July.

We then tracked down the official permits, which you can browse through [http://bsm.sfdpw.org/public/activepermits.aspx](http://bsm.sfdpw.org/public/activepermits.aspx) (select “Market St” then scroll down to the Contract No. 2202J set). The documents confirm what commenter pch1013 noted on another recent story, which is that the sewer line is being redone as well. The contractor is Esquivel Grading & Paving, Inc, it was approved on Christmas Eve last year (somebody in the city was working on the holiday?) and the permit goes for 240 consecutive days. The engineering cost is estimated at more than $2.7 million.

So sit back and enjoy half a year at least of major street reconstruction, and then a new set of pipes and pavement.
I came across Shawn Colver on a Facebook Group, San Francisco Remembered. I was so taken with these images and at his deftly blending the present in with the historic images that I thought the EVNA Newsletter was a perfect place to showcase a sampling of them and his work.

After reading San Francisco is Burning, Dennis Smith’s superb book of San Francisco’s reaction to the 1906 earthquake, Shawn Clover (ShawnClover.Com) got to thinking. What if he could precisely line up photos taken in 1906 with his own and combine the two together?

The Project
After sifting through catalogs of library photos of the devastation of San Francisco’s 1906 earthquake, Shawn picked out a variety of photos taken from April 18, 1906 to 1907 that he felt gave a well-rounded depiction of what was going on in the city at the time.

Next came the fun part. Where was the exact spot the photographer stood? What was the equivalent focal length of his camera’s lens combined with the film medium? How high off the ground was the camera? Where was the sun in the sky? Everything needed to be precise when layering two photos on top of each other. The original idea was to tear away a piece of the modern photo to expose the 1906 photo, but everything seemed more interesting when the two were softly blended.

There is a plethora of others at Shawn’s website where you can also purchase prints: http://shawnclover.com/
Photos clockwise from top:
1. Park view over homes towards a destroyed San Francisco;
2. Valencia Hotel in ruins as a modern day bicyclists cruises by;
3. Streetcar #953 passes #1815 on Market Street with the Flood Building still standing after surviving raging fire on all sides;
4. Lotta’s Fountain, gathering place for many after the quake - Kearney and Market
5. Painted ladies and Alamo Square
6. Hearst Building 3rd and Market
7. Close-up of Mission Dolores ruins and today
Join us at Castro/EVNA’s Bimonthly Public Meeting, Wednesday, March 25, featuring: Mat Schuster who will discuss the Castro foodies scene; Castro Streetscape Project Update by Project Manager John Dennis; Castro Cares & Jane Warner Plaza update by Andrea Aiello and Mission Station Captain Perea; Umpqua Bank will discuss their plans for a Castro location.

HOT TOPICS

- **FARMERS MARKET:** The popular Farmers Market has returned. Get your fresh produce, fish, meat and breads among other things at this new neighborhood institution. Wednesdays 4 to 8PM.
- **PINK SATURDAY:** Supervisor Wiener has been working with the Mayor’s Office to identify a new sponsor of Pink Saturday. Details are not final, but plan for an earlier start and close of the celebration of LGBT Pride.
- **MEMBERSHIPS: MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS.** All memberships expire April 15. Look for your membership renewal notice in your email or mailbox.
- **TWIN PEAKS TUNNEL WORK:** In order to minimize future tunnel shutdowns, MUNI is doing some additional retrofits to the inside of the Twin Peaks tunnel and anticipate working over a series of weekend shutdowns in winter and completing around late spring or summer of 2016. MUNI is hosting a community meeting, Thursday, March 26 at 6:00-7:30p.m. in the Castro Community Meeting Room at 501 Castro St. to discuss the project.
- **376 CASTRO:** As previously reported the project sponsor and the owner of the property at 376 Castro are in litigation. Details of the issue are murky, however the case goes to trial March 27. No word on how long the trial will last.
- **EVNA PUBLIC MEETING VENUE CHANGED:** HARVEY MILK CIVIL RIGHTS ACADEMY, 19th & Collingwood. Due to growth in attendance we have moved to a more comfortable & spacious venue.