Schoolyards Explored

by Casey Berkowitz, Community Organizer,
San Francisco Shared Schoolyard Project

What if we could have more parks and open spaces in our community without raising any new taxes? Sounds impossible, but that's exactly what the Shared Schoolyard Project is doing. The project is raising private dollars and bringing together San Francisco public agencies to open schoolyards throughout the city on the weekends. These previously closed schoolyards are now providing San Francisco families with a safe, affordable place to play.

The Shared Schoolyard Project was created by Supervisor Mark Farrell, a San Francisco native. As a kid, he played with his father in a local schoolyard. When he tried to do the same with his own children, he was met with fences and a locked gate.

"Playing in the local schoolyard is part of what it means to be a kid growing up in this City," said Supervisor Farrell. "So, I got everyone together inside of city hall and everyone agreed that if I could raise the money privately, we'd once again open up our schoolyards across every neighborhood of San Francisco."

Today, the project has worked with the City and the San Francisco Unified School District to open 28 schoolyards

See Schoolyards on page 6

Mission Rock

By James Moore, EVNA Board Member

Sponsored by the San Francisco Giants, Mission Rock, is the culmination of eight years of neighborhood outreach and community planning, and outlines specific steps for transforming the barren asphalt lot into new affordable homes, jobs and waterfront open space – without disrupting any existing San Francisco neighborhoods.

The Mission Rock project will create approximately 1,500 new rental homes with 40% affordable housing for lower and middle-income individuals and families – the most ever for a private project in San Francisco.

An urban green area will be created in the heart of Mission Bay. The square will serve as the social hub of the community and is surrounded by local shops and cafes with sun decks and alcoves where residents can relax and enjoy an afternoon or evening.

This eight-acre project includes a major waterfront park with family-oriented features, recreational opportunities and space for community festivals and public gatherings. There will be a new launch for kayaks and personal watercraft, allowing easy entry into McCovey Cove and Mission Creak. The Mission Creak open space network

See Mission Rock on page 2
serves as the starting point for the Blue Greenway, a waterfront trail that will eventually connect to Hunter's Point Shipyard. All proposed buildings are set-back from the waterfront by at least 100 feet, with buildings stepping down in height as they approach the water.

Historic Pier 48 will be renovated to become the expanded home for Anchor Brewing, San Francisco’s oldest and largest manufacturing business.

The project will save and create manufacturing jobs and open a public boardwalk with dramatic water and bridge views around the pier.

Mission Rock locates new housing adjacent to existing public transit. Surface parking spaces will be relocated to a new, efficient garage ensuring sufficient resources are available to serve AT&T Park and the community. The measure generates millions of dollars in annual parking taxes that may be used to fund transit improvements in the area.

More than $1 billion dollars in much-needed revenue will be generated for San Francisco to fund parks and essential city services such as schools, police, health care and transit. The project will pay more than $100 million dollars in up-front development fees and over $25 million dollars each year in taxes.

The Mission Rock plan was developed over the last eight years through an extensive community planning process. The project carefully balances parks and public amenities with economic uses that address important city priorities. New buildings are proposed on only 10 acres of the 28 acre site, with height limits ranging from 90 to 190 feet for office and retail use and from 120 to 240 feet for rental housing, with a minimum of 40% of the units dedicated as affordable housing.
**Twin Peaks Public Safety Radio Tower Upgrade Project**

There are two (2) 180-foot tall steel towers at the Twin Peaks hilltop site (1 Christmas Tree Point Road) along with a smaller set of antennas on the roof of the main transmission building situated between the towers. San Francisco is proposing to replace one of these radio towers and repair the other. For a period of roughly one year, there will be three towers at Twin Peaks.

The southernmost tower can be structurally strengthened without affecting its size and shape. Due to structural deficiencies, the northernmost tower will need to be replaced with a similar-sized tower. A new tower of similar height and size will be built east of the existing tower to maintain essential public safety communications during construction.

The older existing tower will be removed once the new tower is completed.

**Project Details / FAQs:**

**How long will there be three towers?**

Construction is likely to begin on the new tower in mid-2016. It is estimated that it will take up to a year for the new tower to be built, the antennas to be relocated and tested, and the existing tower to be torn down.

**What are the towers used for now, and what will they be used for in the future?**

The towers primarily serve public safety radio systems used by police and firefighters. The towers also serve other City agencies, such as MUNI, the SF Public Utilities Commission, and the Department of Technology. In addition, an FM radio transmitter is operated from the tower under a license held by City College of San Francisco. Both towers are intended to continue serving public safety and public service operations.

**Cellular antennas on the towers?**

There are no commercial personal wireless (cellular) systems on either tower or the main building.

**Can all the towers be removed, and the antennas moved onto Sutro Tower?**

Sutro Tower is a privately owned facility serving primarily commercial FM radio and TV stations. The Twin Peaks location is City-owned, and an important part of a specifically designed multi-site network of public safety radio sites serving San Francisco.

**Will there be a reduction in parking or access to the area?**

The new tower will not result in the permanent loss of parking; however, some parking and observation areas may need to be closed-off temporarily during construction.

**Does this project require a public hearing before the Planning Commission or Board of Supervisors?**

No. Per the Planning Code and Wireless Siting Guidelines, changes to a publicly-operated communications system on a publicly-zoned lot can be approved administratively by staff (San Francisco Planning, Department of Building Inspection, and SF Fire Department). An environmental application was prepared, and is currently under review with San Francisco Planning.

**For questions or comments, contact:**

Omar Masry, SF Planning Department
415/575.9116, Omar.Masry@sfgov.org
www.sf-planning.org/twinpeaks

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**Love Where You Live**
*By Mark McHale, Board Member and Castro Street Resident*

**Community Requires Effort**

It’s easy for most of us to bring to mind the various communities around the city. We each have our own mental picture when we think of the Tenderloin, Pacific Heights, Bernal and SOMA. For those of us who’ve been here long enough, we can readily discern the nuances and shared traits of the many sub-communities. Standing just far enough away in our own community, we can see the forest for the trees, with a sense of confidence and conviction. It’s a commonly held notion that our many neighborhoods evoke a particular way of life and living, unique to them, which define what it means to be “of” there.

But when you’re in the middle of it all, when you’re caught up in just living your life, it’s not as easy. The trees tend to get in the way. In another way of thinking, I suppose it’s like a fish forgetting that it’s surrounded by water every minute of every day. “What water? I’m just getting from here to there, outta my way!”

So when we think of ourselves as being from the Castro (and from the larger geography, Eureka Valley), what comes to mind? It’s quite easy to see the big labels that have been applied in recent history (organically or intentionally) the gay mecca, a place to test out being yourself, a working class neighborhood, the party destination for Halloween, Pride and most weekends for people from somewhere else.

But for those who work here or call it home, look deeper than the obvious. I’ve often noticed when talking to others that they speak with a strong sense of co-ownership and shared responsibility for our experience as neighbors and as a neighborhood. They not only report on “what’s happening” in their lives, but what they’re doing about it. Another observation is that personalities are sometimes the “trees” that can block our ability to see things that are unique to our community. I encourage anyone to look beyond the distraction and again see the forest - we are strongly, undeniably, passionately a community of souls first. For those who live here, there’s an implication of change, action, movement in how we view and talk about the world around us. I note particularly that there is a level of engagement that is required in our shared experience - this spirit of engagement, more than anything else, defines who we are in this city of neighborhoods.

To be a good neighbor, you must be engaged. We help each other and others here, and give where there is a need. Part of living in the Castro is being involved in the world around us on a small scale: a neighbor to a neighbor, a business to its customers, a church to its members, a passionate cause to its benefactors. There’s lot of places to jump in: Harvey Milk Academy, Most Holy Redeemer, Lyric, Castro Community on Patrol - something for everyone.

**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](image1)

![Fig. 2: His Owner Kevin K. Ho, esq. realtor & lawyer top producer](image2)

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*(Raffi will help)*

www.kevinho.co 415.875.7408

EVNA is one such place to get engaged. We’re a bunch of characters, we have many “unique traits” and we’re passionate. We care about our place on the map and about those who live and work in it. We’re eager to hear your voice on issues affecting our community. We are looking for others who want to pitch in and volunteer. You can do anything: become a board member, come to a bi-monthly meeting, join the planning and land use committee, work on a neighborhood clean-up project. This is where you can put your convictions and passion into action. (www.evna.org)

In this issue of the newsletter, you’ll see that the Castro Street Fair is coming up on October 4, 2015. We’d like you to consider joining us as a volunteer in the name of Castro/Eureka Valley Neighborhood Association. It’s a great way, a good first step, to getting into action in our neighborhood! Email: mark.mchale@evna.org and I’ll tell you all about it!
to the public, so the community can use the fields, playgrounds, and yards that already exist in the middle of their neighborhoods.

The project partners with Mayor Ed Lee, Superintendent Richard Carranza, the San Francisco Unified School District, San Francisco’s Recreation and Parks Department, San Francisco’s Department of Public Works, San Francisco Police Department, San Francisco Parks Alliance and 311. Together, they ensure that schoolyards are clean and safe for children and families over the weekends, and ready for students on Monday mornings.

Schools that are enrolled in the program also benefit financially. The parent organization receives a stipend and the school is eligible for additional funding to host neighborhood events on the weekends.

“This is a great partnership because our schools are actually better maintained when open on the weekends,” said San Francisco Unified School District Superintendent Richard Carranza. “The program provides schools with funding for our programs and offers additional services to help upkeep our sites.”

Schools near the Castro-Eureka Valley neighborhood that are enrolled in the program currently include:

Thomas Edison Charter Academy (3531 22nd St.)
Alvarado Elementary School (625 Douglass St.)

To raise public awareness and support for these schoolyards, the Shared Schoolyard Project is spreading the word in neighborhoods throughout the city and hosting kick-off celebrations as the yards are opened. These fun community events feature ribbon-cutting ceremonies with Supervisor Mark Farrell and other elected officials, snacks, and activities for the whole community. They also highlight local community organizations and services that are available.

Please join us at a kickoff event at one of these nearby schools:

- Saturday, October 3 at 11am: Commodore Sloat Elementary School (West Portal)
- Saturday, November 7 at 11am: Grattan Elementary School (Cole Valley)

More information is available on the Shared Schoolyard Project’s website at http://www.sfsharedschoolyard.org/. You can sign up to receive email updates about the project, see a full list of kick-off celebrations, or read more details of the initiative.

**MUNI Route Changes**

September 26 is just one week away, which means more service, new buses and new connections are coming your way soon! For this round of improvements, we’ll be changing up the alignment of several Muni routes, including:

- 7X Noriega Express
- 9/9R San Bruno
- 18 46th Ave
- 28/28R 19th Ave
- 29 Sunset
- 43 Masonic
- 57 Parkmerced.

If you’re a rider on one of these lines, be sure you have all the details before we launch next Saturday! Check out our blog for a closer look at the reroutes on the 7X, 18, 57 and 29.
UPCOMING FAMILY FRIENDLY
EVENTS AND VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES!

Come join family friendly events and volunteering opportunities for everyone to enjoy. The list below provides free events, affordable tickets, festivals and registration!

EVENTS:

• September 29th: Heart/Mind Mediation at 12:15pm to 1:00pm. Richmond/Senator Milton Marks Branch. 351 9th Avenue, San Francisco, 94118. http://sfpl.org/index.php?pg=1020434801


• October 5th: Castro Street Fair at 11:00am to 6:00pm. For location, please look at website: http://www.castrostreetfair.org/index.php

Volunteering Opportunities

• September 26th: Alvord Lake Volunteer Project at 9:00am to 12:00pm. Eastern Entrance at Golden Gate Park, San Francisco. http://sfrecpark.org/event/alvord-lake-renovation/2015-09-26/

• October 3rd: Lake Merced Volunteer Event at 10:00am to 12:00pm. Lake Merced Park, Skyline Blvd & Harding Rd, San Francisco, CA 94132 http://sfrecpark.org/event/lake-merced-volunteer-event/2015-10-03/

More volunteer events will be scheduled: Please check the San Francisco Park & Recreation website: http://sfrecpark.org/news-events/
**Neighbors’ Faves!**
Neighbors share their favorite places in the ‘hood!

**This issue’s Faves come from**
From Mary Edna Harrell, Castro St.

**Fable**
558 Castro St.
Modern American cuisine with a seasonal menu that changes periodically, offering a variety of entrees, salads and sides

**Nice wine selection (love the Dashe Zin)**
Friendly efficient staff from the person who greets you at the door (often owner Eric) to the chef/owner (John) and cooks behind the counter

**Lovely garden patio**

**Harvey Milk Memorial Branch of the San Francisco Public Library**
1 Jose Sarria Court
Books, periodicals, audiobooks, CD’s, DVD’s for adults, teens and children, including an LGBT Interest Collection

**Desktop and laptop computers for in-library use**
Check their website or make a visit to check their monthly schedule of events for all ages

**Spike’s Coffee and Teas**
4117 19th Street
One of the oldest coffee and tea shops in the neighborhood
Independent, locally owned and operated

**Civic-minded contributions and sponsorships**
Nice selection of coffee from beans roasted in South San Francisco; sold by the cup, as whole beans or custom ground
Teas including black, herbal and flavored blends and green; sold by the cup or as loose tea. Baked goods and other breakfast items

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**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: Shelah.Barr@EVNA.org
Newsletter: James.Kelm@EVNA.org

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**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:**
Scott.Wiener@sfgov.org
Recipe for a “Latin Gazpacho”
By Manuel Montalban, Owner, Manos Nouveau
manosnouveau.com

The Puree:
- 2 peeled chayote squash
- 1 semi-ripe mango
- 1/2 pineapple
- 1/4 cup fresh squeeze lime juice
- 1/4 cup red wine vinegar
- salt to taste

Served chilled

The Prawns:
Cook the prawns in a sautee pan with white wine and latin green oregano. Strain over ice, and marinate chilled prawns with lime juice and salt (we recommend kosher)

Use two prawns per order julienne cut and mix raw slice red onions julienne english cucumber, cilantro, chopped fresno chili, aji amarillo, lime juice, and salt to taste.

Cilantro-jalapeno oil:
Blanch cilantro then squeeze the cilantro juices into a blender with raw jalapeno, and olive oil

Presentation:
In a small bowl pour 2oz of Gazpacho, put the chopped marinated prawns on top of a plantain chip then set it on the edge of the bowl so that it sits half in and out. Now take your cilantro-jalapeno oil and drizzle a small amount on top.

Bon Appetit

EVNA Update
By Supervisor Scott Wiener

Upper Market Street Safety Improvements
EVNA and other neighborhood groups have long advocated for improved pedestrian safety on Upper Market. This corridor has one of the highest collision rates in the City, and has been identified on the City’s Vision Zero High Injury network. The SFMTA has begun construction of the first phase of street safety improvements on Upper Market Street. Paint crews have upgraded crosswalks with more visible designs at five Market Street intersections and installed ten painted safety zones at three Market Street intersections. These painted safety zones slow down turning vehicles and improve visibility of pedestrians. The MTA is now currently working on designs for more improvements to make walking, biking and driving safe on Upper Market. I will continue to work with EVNA and other stakeholders to improve the safety on this corridor.

District 8 In-Law Legislation Passes
Last year, the Board of Supervisors passed my legislation to allow the construction of new in-law units in the Castro. This legislation, which was supported by EVNA, has now been expanded by the Board of Supervisors to include all of District 8. This follows on another piece of legislation I authored that allows new in-law units to be built in buildings undergoing soft story seismic retrofits throughout the city. In-law units are the most affordable, sustainable, and low-impact way to add new housing units to our neighborhoods. I want to thank EVNA for its early support of this commonsense legislation to expand new housing in our city.

Scott Wiener represents District 8, which includes the Castro, on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors.
CASTRO HOODIES - STORIES FROM HOODLINE
As you may have heard, the Castro Biscuit has moved over to Hoodline - San Francisco Neighborhood news.

ADIOS, ZAPATA! MEXICAN RESTAURANT CLOSING NEXT MONTH
By Steven Bracco

After 22 years in the Castro, longtime Mexican Restaurant Zapata Mexican Grill (4150 18th St.) announced on its Facebook page yesterday, after months of negotiating with landlord Les Natali, that it will be closing its doors on Oct. 15th.

To our Castro neighbors and all our valued customers:
It’s time to say adios, goodbye, until we meet again! Unfortunately our landlord has decided not to renew our lease, so we will be closing our doors permanently on October 15. Since we’re encouraging our staff to take advantage of new employment opportunities we’ll adjust our hours as our last day approaches. For now we will be open from 11am-10pm Monday-Saturday. Check Facebook or give us a call for updates.

This may not come as a surprise to many, as it had been rumored for a long time that Natali would not be renewing Zapata’s lease. Owner Jorge Perez tells Hoodline, “this was somewhat expected as we have been operating with 1-year-at-a-time lease extensions for the past few years.”

Perez told us that Zapata would like to stay in the Castro, a place that they have called home since 1993. Currently they are looking around the neighborhood to see what their options are and if they will be able to move. One option being considered is 544 Castro St., the former home of Dante’s Table, which closed in May.

As for what Natali plans to do with Zapata’s space, Perez was unsure. “We’re not sure of Mr. Natali’s plans for the building but as far as we know there is no new business moving in right away,” Perez told us.

According to Perez, Natali bought the building sometime around 2004-2005 in order to take control of the former Pendulum bar before turning it into what is now Toad Hall.

Natali offered Zapata a short three month extension, but Perez could not agree to those terms because of the high costs of doing business. There are many licenses and fees that need to be paid to the city at the start of the year, Perez told us, and in order to recoup those costs a business needs an assurance that they will be able to stay open.

Hoodline caught up with Natali today while walking around the Castro and asked him what his plans are now that Zapata will be closing. Natali had no details except to say that “an announcement will come soon.”

This will only add to the multiple Natali-owned spaces that remain vacant. With one of the most notable being the long-closed The Patio Cafe. We also asked Natali about the reason for the stall in opening Hamburger Mary’s; he told us that they are still looking for a chef.

Hoodies continues next page
The announcement of Zapata’s closure marks the third restaurant this week to be shutting its doors in the Castro. Earlier this week we found out that Pesce will be serving its last meal September 13th, and just yesterday Chili Pies announced that Sunday will be its last day on Church Street.

With Zapata’s closure, you’re left with four local options to get your Mexican fix: La Tortilla, Tacos Club, Tacorgasmico and Hecho.

**SLIDERBAR BECOMES OVOK, SAME OWNERS FOCUS ON BRUNCH AND BURGERS**

*by Brian Ray*

We hope you aren’t tired of reading about SliderBar. A couple weeks ago, we noted the changes that were happening at 2295 Market Street. While we were told by employees that SliderBar was remaining, and merely changing its menu and doing some renovations, tipster Audrey T. has pointed us to a big switch.

The new restaurant is now open, and it’s called Ovok Brunchery & Burgeria.

While still owned by the same people who own the remaining SliderBar locations in Palo Alto and Berkeley, Ovok will mark a change from the typical slider spot to something more brunch-friendly.

We spoke with an employee who wished to remain anonymous to learn more about Ovok on its first day being open.

“We’re the same company, but our concept has changed,” the employee told us. “We listened to feedback from locals and saw a desire for healthier, natural food, with more local ingredients. As a result, we now have 80-90 percent organic ingredients, grass-fed meat, craft beer, and natural cane-sugar sodas. We needed a change.”

The new menu is much more brunch-focused, with items ranging from organic three-egg omelettes and french toast to salads and chocolate chip bacon pancakes and mimosas.

“We did carry over some of the most-popular items from the SliderBar menu,” he explained, pointing out a selection of full-sized burgers including the “Veggie Vore” and “Club Med,” along with truffle fries and white sangria with seasonal fruits.

As for what menu items are available when, the employee told us that everything will be served all-day.

The beverage menu remains as before, with beer, wine, mixed drinks, coffee, tea, and sodas.

As for the name, Hoodline learned that “Ovok” is based on a Spanish way of pronouncing “Egg,” similar to “Huevo.”

“Ovo is the base word, but we wanted to put a twist on it, so we added the ‘K’. This makes it somewhat similar to ‘OK’,” he told us.

The interior has changed with the removal of the taller benches. “They weren’t incredibly comfortable for everyone, so we replaced them with chairs and tables so everyone is on the same level.” TVs will remain for sporting events.

“There were plans to have the exterior complete for opening day,” the employee told us. “Our painters were delayed, but are now scheduled to come next week, so everything should be ready soon.”

A new website is also on the way. In the meantime, stop by and see the full menu for yourself, as well as all the changes they have made to the space.

Ovok is open Monday through Thursday from 3-10pm, and Friday-Sunday from 9am-10pm. They still do takeout and can be reached at 415/431.7700.
**Hetch Hetchy + Local Water**
*By San Francisco Public Utilities Commission*

Our plan is to keep our limited drinking water supplies available when we need them most.

A sustainable water supply means looking not only at our Hetch Hetchy, Alameda and San Mateo sources, but at all water close at hand. Our Local Water Program, which includes groundwater, recycled water and conservation efforts in and around San Francisco, is about stretching our water supplies and having the flexibility to meet the diverse needs of our customers.

**How?**

- By delivering recycled water to large irrigators. We already serve Harding Park Golf Course and a portion of Sharp Park Golf Course with recycled water. Plans are in environmental review for recycled water to serve the Presidio, Lincoln Park, and Golden Gate Park.

- By blending small amounts of groundwater into our current drinking water to stretch supplies. The San Francisco Groundwater Supply Project, now in construction, will be ready for operation by 2017. The Regional Groundwater Storage and Recovery Project, to better manage our shared groundwater basin, will be online in 2017, with up to 7.2 million gallons per day more to use during droughts.

- By making new sources available. Local sources can help us should a drought or disaster interrupt our regional water sources.

- By continuing our conservation efforts as the best means to stretch our vital water supply. Hetch Hetchy + Local Water: Our plan is to keep our limited drinking water supplies available when we need them most. Visit sfwater.org/localwater
Our goal is to help you pursue yours.
It’s that simple.

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Gray Brothers Quarry at Corona Heights
The Gray Brothers gained some infamy in turn of the century San Francisco, for they also operated destructive, noisy, dirty quarries on Telegraph Hill and at today’s 30th and Castro.

By 1899, they had removed tons of rock and produced tens of thousands of bricks, creating the blasted landscape at left. The Gray Brothers also quarried Telegraph Hill and Billy Goat Hill above Noe Valley.

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Gray Brothers Quarry at Corona Heights
The Gray Brothers gained some infamy in turn of the century San Francisco, for they also operated destructive, noisy, dirty quarries on Telegraph Hill and at today’s 30th and Castro.

By 1899, they had removed tons of rock and produced tens of thousands of bricks, creating the blasted landscape at left. The Gray Brothers also quarried Telegraph Hill and Billy Goat Hill above Noe Valley.

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Making a Difference in the Castro & Upper Market

Thank you to all the Castro Cares donors who make this program possible.

Services On The Street:
Through generous donations and through City grants, championed by Supervisor Scott Weiner, we are funding:

- 16 hours a week of homeless outreach workers (+ 4 hours of case managers funded by the Dpt. of Public Health)
- 18 hours a week of SFPD 10B Officers (overtime police officers)
- 26 hours a week of SF Patrol Special Police Officers

Homeless Outreach Team
Castro Cares Homeless Outreach is helping our most vulnerable living on the street in the Castro & Upper Market.

Six months into the program we are seeing results. People living at risk on the street are beginning to accept help from the Castro Cares outreach workers.

Castro Cares Vignettes
One individual suffering from mental health issues, was completely covered in lice and had sores all over his body. He recently accepted help. His lice has been treated and he is now connected to the city’s homeless outreach medical team. This individual is not yet trusting enough to go inside, but he is accepting case management and he is receiving weekly medical follow-up. This man’s life has improved dramatically, though, still on the street, he is now engaged in the social service system. A homeless person with AIDS accepted a shelter bed from a Castro Cares outreach worker and is now awaiting a hospice bed. Though critically ill, this individual is now receiving care and being treated with dignity.

A third individual recently accepted a stabilization room and case management and is on the way to permanent housing. These are real people whose lives have improved because of Castro Cares and real people who are now engaged in services and are working towards stabilization and housing. This would not have happened without Castro Cares; without your donations. Thank you so much for your support, we really are working together to improve the quality of life for all those who live in the Castro/Upper Market.

Other Examples of Real Help:
- 6 clients have housing applications for supportive housing, meaning they’ll go from the street to permanent housing, bypassing the shelter system
- individuals are now on other housing lists
- 6 DMV vouchers were given out: A DMV voucher gets people an ID. Getting a valid ID is the first step towards getting benefits and ultimately housing
- 2 women were referred for pre-natal services

Castro Cares Law Enforcement:
272 incidents were reported in July by the Castro Cares Law Enforcement (SF overtime police officers (10B officers) and SF Patrol Special Officers).

The top 4 types of incidents were:
- Obstructing sidewalk
- Aggressive panhandling
- Physical/Verbal Threats
- Bike riding/skateboarding on sidewalk

Castro Cares is a project of the Castro/Upper Market Community Benefit District; and is overseen by a coalition of neighborhood groups and businesses including: Castro/Upper Market CBD, Eureka Valley Neighborhood Association, Castro Community On Patrol, Duboce Triangle Neighborhood Association, Castro Merchants, Most Holy Redeemer Catholic Church, St. Francis Lutheran Church, SFPD Mission Station, SFDPH - Homeless Outreach Team

Comments and questions can be sent to: info@castrocbd.org or by calling the Castro CBD at 415-500-1181.
Sidewalk Cafés in the Castro
By Rob Cox, EVNA Board Member

One of my hoped for consequences of the widening of the sidewalks of Castro Street is beginning to come to fruition: the sidewalk café!

Whenever I visit Rome or Paris or even New York for that matter, sitting at a small table watching the world goes by is a favorite past time. There are some neighborhoods in San Francisco that have a few places with sidewalk table and chairs, but not as many as one might expect.

Beldon Place downtown can be easily mistaken for an alley in Paris, Barcelona or Rome. All of the restaurants have plenty of outside seating. And in the good weather it’s hard to find a table.

But I’ve always wondered why the Castro didn’t have a “café culture” on our sidewalks. We have some of the best weather in the City and some establishments that invite the idea.

After the misery of the sidewalk widening last year I was hoping the merchants would take advantage of their newfound frontage. I nagged Ken at Castro Coffee about it all through the sidewalk construction. Now you can sit at one of 3 or 4 tables in front of Ken’s place.

I was recently running some errands on a Sunday morning and was really pleased to see several establishments taking advantage of the warm weather and the sidewalks. Sidewalk cafés along Castro Street!

A little bit of Paris right here in the Castro.
Volunteer with EVNA at the Castro Street Fair!

Great news! The Castro/Eureka Valley Neighborhood Association (C/EVNA) has been designated as a beneficiary of the Castro Street Fair happening on Sunday October 4. Just as in the past, we can earn a portion of the proceeds from the fair based on the number of volunteer hours in our name. The more the fair makes, the more we earn! Last year we raised over $1,700 for our general fund, and had a lot of fun meeting new people and helping out at this fun, local event.

The social committee is asking you and your friends to donate time in the name of C/EVNA. Volunteers can choose from multiple assignments including set up and tear down crews, entry gate staff positions (the MOST fun!), info booth helpers, and safety personnel. The shifts vary in their start and end times, and we’re sure you can find one (or more) to suit your schedule and talents.

Go to the Eventbrite website and search on “Castro Street Fair Volunteer Registration” to sign up, and be sure to select EVNA as your beneficiary. OR, email mark.mchale@evna.org and he’ll get you pointed in the right direction.

Call for Nominations!

Want to become more involved in EVNA? Would you like to play a leadership role in evaluating and forming EVNA’s positions? Now is your chance! Run to be on EVNA’s Board.

Nominate yourself, nominate a friend who would make a great addition. Deadline for nominations is October 1, 2015 in order to be eligible for the November, 2015 election cycle. Email: President@EVNA.org for details.

Getting Involved Being Informed

President’s Column, Alan Beach-Nelson

Join us at our September 23rd meeting: Supervisor Mark Farrell will discuss his the Shared Schoolyard Project; Prop F, the Initiative to Restrict Short-Term Rentals will be discussed and AIDS HealthCare Foundation will discuss their proposal for moving their 18th Street pharmacy to their Castro Street location.

Hot Topics

• In-law Unit Legislation: On September 18th, Mayor Ed Lee signed into law District 8 Supervisor Scott Wiener’s legislation allowing the creation of new in-law units throughout District 8 within the envelope of the existing structure.

• Parklet Proposed in Front of Reveille Coffee Co.: The owners of Reveille are proposing a parklet in front of their shop at 4076 18th street. Castro Merchants are supporting this parklet.

• AIDS HealthCare Foundation Open House to Discuss Proposed Formula Retail Move to Castro Street: September 22, 2015 5-7pm, 518A Castro. Contact: Dale.Gluth@aidshealth.org

• Castro Street Fair - Call for Volunteers! Castro Street Fair, Sunday, October 4 - EVNA is again a beneficiary of the Castro Street Fair. This is one of our largest sources of funding and helps us keep our memberships fees low. If you are interested in volunteering for two hours or more, please contact Social Committee Chair, Mark McHale, Mark.McHale@EVNA.org