Do you want to be more involved in your neighborhood? The Eureka Valley Neighborhood Association (EVNA) is looking for new members for both the Planning and Land Use Committee and the Board of Directors!

The EVNA Board of Directors (the Board) focuses on operation and general goals of EVNA including:

- Protect and enhance the character of the neighborhood, its historic resources and significant topographic features and open space
- Ensure that growth, development, and public access are compatible with and meet the needs of residents and the business community
- Protect and improve public health and safety
- Encourage friendly association among neighbors and businesses
- Provide an educational forum and community outreach to community partners

The Board meets the second Tuesday of every month from 6:30 to 8:00 pm at the Chase Bank at the corner of 15th and Market Streets. We are looking for people interested in promoting the EVNA mission to “provide a public forum for the people who live, work, and play in the greater Eureka Valley area to discuss common issues and concerns and help develop solutions to improve our neighborhood.”

The EVNA Planning & Land Use Committee (PLUC) is looking for people knowledgeable in land use issues and the intricacies of the planning process and those who have a serious interest in learning. The committee discusses residential and commercial projects within Eureka Valley in all stages of the permitting process. It focuses on ensuring that these projects are compatible with and meet the needs of our residential and business communities. The committee meets the first Wednesday of every month from 7:00 to 8:30 at the Chase Bank at the corner of 15th, Sanchez and Market Streets. In addition to discussing plans and permits, the committee delves into issues such as affordable housing, historic preservation, protection of green spaces and more.

If you’re interested in either of these important volunteer opportunities, contact EVNA at president@evna.com, or come to a meeting as noted above, or come to the next EVNA general membership meeting on Wednesday, May 24th, 7:00pm at Harvey Milk School at 4235 19th Street in San Francisco.
Does Your Street Have A Neighborhood Watch?

The Unit block of Hartford Street has one. The Unit block of Collingwood has one. Ford Street has one. The 300 block of Noe Street has one. And no doubt other blocks in the Castro have one.

“What?” you ask? They have a Neighborhood Watch.

Participating in a Neighborhood Watch means keeping a neighborly eye on your street, your block. It means staying informed and keeping your neighbor informed about the goings on in and around your neighborhood.

A Neighborhood watch can help reduce crime, and will help in the event of an emergency like an earthquake.

For information about setting up a Neighborhood Watch contact SF SAFE: https://sfsafe.org/

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Guest Contributer(s)

Rob Cox

Hello Neighbors! My name is Rob Cox and my wife and I have lived in the Castro since 1991. When we first moved to San Francisco we lived in Noe Valley but quickly realized that the Castro was more to our liking. We moved first into a carriage house on the 100 block of Hartford Street which gave me my first real at home painting studio. Six years later, we bought a house on the Unit block and really put roots down. Not long after that I moved my studio out to the Hunters Point Shipyard to join the thriving colony of artists who have occupied that site for over 30 years. The Shipyard has Open Studios twice a year - the next one happening in October - so come out and see me in building 116, studio 10 and say “hello”. You can visit my website at: robcoxart.com.

Over the years I’ve seen a lot of changes in the neighborhood. From the early 90’s when AIDS tore through the community to the late 90’s Tech Boom through the rejuvenation of the Castro in the 2000’s up until now. Through it all, through the ups and the downs the Castro remains one of my favorite places in San Francisco.
Spring is upon us in Eureka Valley - the cherry and plum blossoms are bursting, there are warmer days, the landscape is lush and green from the recent rains. For me, spring is a time for renewal, for celebrating the longer sunnier days, and for renewal to self, to others, to our shared community. Giving of ourselves by reaching out, talking with neighbors, and volunteering in our community is part of that renewal.

I've never seen the EVNA board so busy as this past month. Board members are generously giving of their time and talent to review and update our governance documents, establish channels with other area neighborhood groups, and plan for upcoming events. I'm especially excited about the changes we're bringing to the newsletter look and feel, streamlining the workflow with new collaboration tools (Slack/Trello), and making the content more organized and relevant. It's been exciting for me as president to watch, and humbling to be a part of. Keep an eye out for the new look with our next newsletter.

EVNA goals for 2018 were announced at our last board meeting - I will be working with the board to put a plan together on how they help us achieve our goals, and to share with me their best ideas on how we can achieve these within the year. Our goals are to:

• increase membership from 110 to 200 members
• raise $20,000 annually to support our budget and giving capacity
• participate in/host 3 activities to bring our members together

For our May 23rd general meeting, we're bringing together two candidates running for District 8 Supervisor; Jeff Sheehy (incumbent) and Rafael Mandelman (challenger) for a lively debate on the issues that affect us most. There will be several pre-scheduled questions, and we will solicit several additional questions from members at the meeting. Be sure to come early (6:30ish) to get a seat, we're expecting quite a crowd.

The Friends of Harvey Milk Plaza have had their final community outreach meeting and have announced the four finalist concepts for the plaza. The final 4 are based on extensive input and comments from those attending the various meetings. It was great to see so many participate in an open and inclusive environment. That's off to the CBD for doing such a great job getting community input on this historic project to honor the life and accomplishments of Harvey Milk.

And lastly, I'm excited to announce that EVNA will again participate in the Castro Street Fair this year as a “Beneficiary Non-Profit.” The Fair is Sunday, October 7 from 11:00am to 6:00pm. Beneficiaries receive a share of the proceeds based on the number of volunteer hours contributed. We are looking for 20 volunteers to work, the money we raise is a big part of our annual budget. If you're interested in helping for a 3 or 4-hour shift, please email me at mark.mchale@evna.org.

Cleve Jones and Juanita More Co-Hosted the Castro Street Fair Community Outreach Meeting on 4/21/18.

See you for the debate at the next EVNA meeting!

Wednesday, May 23th
7:00 pm – 9:00 pm
(come early, stay late)

Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy Cafeteria
19th Street at Collingwood

Become involved in your neighborhood!
We are always looking to expand our Board of Directors with committed, active members of the community.
If you’d like to learn more, email President@EVNA.org.

Dolores Park, our historic green space on the edge of Eureka Valley has never been better. Still relatively shiny after a $20.5 two-year renovation in 2016. The Parks Department has beefed up its team of custodians, gardeners and union shop workers. A Department initiated community outreach effort, Love Dolores, has expanded and launched the 2018 season with a two day Earth Day Celebration. Highlights included The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, Robot Dance Party, Cheer SF and Velocity Circus, magical theatre on the move. Everyone reminded the crowd to “pack up your trash and bring it out to the curb.” And my favorite, since last Spring Dolores has had two dedicated full-time Park Rangers. Finally, regular supervision for SF most famous ongoing party. Yes, the City is doing a great job.

So why does Dolores need a park advocacy organization? And why should you care?

The Dolores Park Ambassadors are building a sustainable organization, supported by a wide spectrum of the community to support the park with both volunteers and funding. The Ambassadors are a vector for continuing community input and dialogue between The City and Park patrons and neighbors. With our regular community park meetings, news letter and outreach to local neighborhood groups, we keep folks engaged in the welfare of our park. Without this community support civic agents can become apathetic, confused and reluctant to act.

Community participation in the design process was at the core of the 2016 renovation. The Dolores Parks Works (a key “Friend of Dolores” organization founded in 2009 and now merged with Dolores Park Ambassadors) began with park cleanups and a “Don’t Trash Me” campaign. And our continuing community advocacy for a community policing model, I believe were all key to giving us the park we have today.

Going forward, The Ambassadors will continue to advocate for adequate funding for maintenance and operations, proper policing by SFPD and the Park Rangers. We will continue to bring neighbors and supporters out to participate in the Love Dolores Campaign. Continue with our Dolores Gardening Club, a monthly hands-on project with the park gardeners to care for the flower beds. And we will continue to host regular park meetings for the community where stakeholders, Park and Rec, SFPD, City representatives will all get a chance to speak. Dolores is your park too and she needs a few more friends.

How can you help?
Volunteer at our next event!
Dolores Garden Club, May 17, 10 A.M. to noon
Love Dolores, Saturday May 26 2 to 6 P.M.
Send us a note for more information, to confirm or to get on our mail-list.
DoloresParkAmbassadors@gmail.com

Pride Comes to the Castro

As summer approaches it can only mean one thing . . . Pride weekend is coming! This year’s Pride theme is “Generations of Strength”.

Pink Saturday was formerly the biggest event to take place in the Castro over Pride weekend, but similar to last year there will be no officially sponsored party and streets will continue to be open to vehicles throughout the weekend. Pink Saturday was traditionally hosted by the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence on the evening before the Pride parade, a tradition that started in the 1990s. In 2015, the Sisters decided not to sponsor the party, citing an increase in violence and anti-LGBT behavior at the event in addition to rising costs. That year, the SF LGBT Community Center stepped in to host, changing the time to end earlier, but in 2016 and 2017 the event was cancelled, with no community organization stepping in as a sponsor. No formal plans are in place for 2018, although the Castro is sure to be a hotbed of activity over the weekend if previous years are any indicator.

Pride weekend kicks off with the Trans March on Friday, June 22nd. As of this writing, details were not available but a full schedule should be posted on www.thedykemarch.org.

The Dyke March will take place on Saturday, June 23rd. The route starts at Dolores Park, heading east on 18th street to Valencia, turning west on 16th street to Market, then looping counterclockwise back towards 18th street and Dolores Park via Castro. For a route map and more information, go to www.thepinktriangle.com.


As in previous years, the pink triangle will go up on the side of Twin Peaks on Saturday, June 23rd to commemorate the gay victims who were persecuted and killed in concentration camps in Nazi Germany. The triangle has become a symbol of solidarity against persecution of those in the larger LGBTQ community and some consider it a rite of passage to make the trek up the hill to help install the massive display. For those interested in helping with installation or de-installation of the triangle, or for more information on the history of the symbol and the Twin Peaks installation, visit www.thepinktriangle.com.
City Hall Update

Touching Base With City Hall and Supervisor Sheehy

Supervisor Jeff Sheehy is the member of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors representing District 8, which encompasses Eureka Valley, the Castro, Noe Valley, Diamond Heights, Glen Park, and Dolores Park.

Prioritizing Housing for those released from behavioral health facilities

This past month, I introduced my “Breaking the Cycle” legislation to make sure homeless people who are treated for mental health and substance use issues get housing when they finish their programs and don’t end up back on the streets. I have seen homeless individuals, who go into treatment, back out on the streets in the same location again and again. My legislation will ensure a seamless transition from a clinical facility into housing following discharge. The constant recycling between treatment and the streets is traumatic for homeless people with behavioral health issues and wasteful for our budget.

Participatory Budgeting

I am the first Supervisor to bring Participatory Budgeting to District 8. Participatory Budgeting is a democratic process which gives community members the opportunity to set budgeting priorities and make decisions on which community projects should be funded. District 8 residents will decide on how best to spend $250,000 for neighborhood enhancements, beautification, safety, open space and other improvements. Voting ended May 1.

Public Safety

Last month, Mayor Farrell and I walked through the Castro with Police Chief William Scott and Director Nuru of DPW. Following the walk, implementation of the “Healthy Streets”, multi-agency unified command homeless response began that specifically prioritizes the Castro. Importantly, these improvements include Homeless Outreach Teams being deployed in the evening instead of just during the day.

I have been assured that our police foot beats in District 8 will continue. These include four officers in the Castro, four around Dolores Park, as well as one officer in Noe Valley. I am advocating in this budget cycle for more officers so we can have foot patrols everywhere we need them, so that we can completely cover the Castro, and so we can increase and expand specialized crime units for property and other crimes

Castro Cultural District

I have introduced a resolution to establish the “Castro LGBTQ Cultural District”. The Castro has been the heart of the LGBTQ community for decades and the Castro LGBTQ Cultural District will enable us to preserve our history and continue building our community in the neighborhood. The Castro is a haven for our community and is a beacon of hope around the world. With the creation of the Castro Cultural District, I hope to further protect the integrity of this enclave from the many pressures that are facing our community due to a rapidly changing city, so that the Castro can continue to be the heart of the LGBTQ movement well into the foreseeable future. Many thanks to Senator Wiener and so many other members of our community for your partnership!

We’re here to Serve You

We are here to serve you with ongoing projects as well as new ideas or concerns. Please feel free to email me directly: jeff.sheehy@sfgov.org or call my constituent hotline at 415-554-7753.

See you in the Neighborhood
March Mayoral Debate Recap
by Psyche Philips

On an otherwise quiet Monday evening in the Castro, candidates competing for your vote took the stage at the historic Castro Theatre to convince the audience that they are the best candidate for Mayor of San Francisco. The event, sponsored by the Bay Area Reporter, the Horizons Foundation, and KQED and co-hosted by the Eureka Valley Neighborhood Association took place on March 19th. Angela Alioto, London Breed, Richie Greenberg, Jane Kim and Mark Leno were scheduled to participate, but Mark Leno called in a last minute cancellation due to a health issue. Candidate Amy Farah Weiss, who had not been selected to participate in the event based on polling results, pushed her way through security and took the stage, causing an uproar in the audience. After several minutes of confusion, an announcement was made that Weiss would be allowed to participate given that five candidates were scheduled to participate and Leno’s absence left an empty seat.

Candidates outlined their policy proposals around housing and homelessness in addition to other local and national issues while the rowdy crowd cheered, jeered, and laughed intermittently throughout. The debate was broadcast live on Facebook and the full event can be viewed on KQED’s Facebook page. The San Francisco mayoral election will take place on June 5th.
District 8 Supervisorial Candidate Debate to Take Place at Upcoming EVNA General Meeting

On Wednesday evening May 23rd, San Francisco District 8 residents will have an opportunity to hear candidates running for district supervisor in a live debate sponsored by the Eureka Valley Neighborhood Association. District 8 neighborhoods include the Castro/ Eureka Valley, Noe Valley, Duboce Triangle, Corona Heights, Twin Peaks, Diamond Heights, and Glen Park. The race is part of a special election held to determine who will replace former District 8 supervisor Scott Wiener, who was elected to the state senate in fall 2016. Former mayor Ed Lee appointed Jeff Sheehy to fill Wiener’s seat until the special election in June. Jeff Sheehy and his challenger Rafael Mandelman have been independently running strong campaigns and will give District 8 constituents an opportunity to hear their platforms at the upcoming debate. Audience members will have an opportunity to submit questions to the candidates during the debate. Given Mayor Lee’s unexpected death in December 2017, voter turnout is likely to be high at the June 5th election as San Franciscans cast their ballots to elect their next mayor, while District 8 residents will choose who will represent them on the Board of Supervisors. Read on for statements from each candidate and details on the debate.

Rafael Mandelman is running to represent District 8 on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. As an urban development attorney, Rafael has spent the last 17 years building affordable housing, revitalizing commercial districts and making more livable neighborhoods in the Bay Area. He is running to bring practical, real world experience to the Board, cut through the ideology and pessimism, and bring big solutions to the problems facing San Francisco. Growing up in the City, Rafael attended Brandeis Hillel Day School and Lick-Wilmerding High School before going to Yale on scholarship. While at Yale he studied affordable housing and community development—returning in the summer to teach at-risk San Francisco middle school students. After receiving a masters degree in public policy from Harvard and a law degree from UC Berkeley, Rafael returned home to San Francisco. As a District 8 resident for the past two decades, Rafael has been a strong advocate for D8 neighborhoods as President of the Noe Valley Democratic Club, Commissioner on the San Francisco Board of Appeals, Chair of the San Francisco LGBT Center, and President of the District 8 Democratic Club. As an urban development attorney, Rafael has helped build thousands of affordable housing units all over the Bay Area. He takes to make affordable housing and livable communities a reality. Rafael’s commitment to building housing and ending homelessness is personal. When he was eleven-years-old, Rafael's mother's mental illness started her spiraling down a path that led her into repeated hospitalizations and ultimately homelessness. Rafael became responsible for his own care—finding housing, getting himself on Medi-Cal and to his own doctors appointments, and getting himself through high school. As an adult he was able to secure a guardianship for his mother, and find her the long-term care she needed. It was a path made possible by the dedication of educators in Rafael’s life, and making sure San Franciscans have access to education is why Rafael ran for City College Board of Trustees in 2012. Elected by a wide margin, Rafael became President of the Board. He was widely acknowledged for steering the 80-year institution through its recent accreditation crisis. A strong advocate for students, Rafael was praised for his cool head and for not being afraid to make hard calls to save the institution. His leadership ensured that City College would weather the crisis and implement new innovative programs like Free City College. Rafael now seeks to bring his experience to the Board of Supervisors, and be the dedicated, hard-working representative that District 8 deserves. To learn more, visit www.rafaelmandelman.com.

Jeff Sheehy

I'm honored to represent District 8 on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. As a father and husband, a healthcare activist and a pioneer for LGBT equality, I have spent my life fighting to protect vulnerable communities and serving others.

I am proud to be the only candidate in the race endorsed by Senator Scott Wiener and the only San Francisco candidate in the June election endorsed by Gavin Newsom. I am also honored (debate continued page 9)
Handy Resources for Home

Call 311 for:
- Report Litter and Graffiti, St. Cleaning, Abandoned Vehicles, St. Signs Missing/Damaged, Pot Holes

Police:
- Non-Emergency: 553-0123
- Report nuisance and non-urgent issues. Always ask for a CAD #.
- Mission Station: 558-5400
- Captain Bill Griffins email: bill.griffin@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 Jeff Sheehy: 554-6968,
  jeff.sheehy@sfgov.org
to be endorsed by Mayor Mark Farrell, San Francisco Assemblymembers Phil Ting and David Chiu, Assessor Carmen Chu, our city’s first responders, the Firefighters and POA, the Building Trades and Equality California.

In just the past year as District 8 Supervisor, I have fought every day to make San Francisco a “City For All”, including:

- Creating the “Housing For All” initiative to build affordable, middle-income and teacher housing and end homelessness.
- Initiating foot patrols in the Castro and around the District.
- Increasing safety around Dolores Park by adding patrols, lighting and security cameras.
- Banning bicycle chop shops on San Francisco sidewalks.
- Installing speed bumps, stop signs, crosswalks and added traffic officers in Diamond Heights and Glen Park.
- Stopping monster homes in Corona Heights.
- Activating Town Square in Noe Valley to help local businesses and provide family-friendly entertainment.
- Fighting Trump Administration attacks on health care and immigrants.

My “Housing For All” legislation will generate $1 billion over ten years from a tax on downtown skyscrapers’ commercial rents to create affordable housing and end homelessness with:

- $450 million for expanding access to housing and expanded mental health and drug treatment programs so that those who are so obviously ill don’t slowly die on our streets. With this funding, San Francisco will be able to house 23,000 people with compassion and care.
- $350 million is dedicated to create housing for teachers, nurses, firefighters, and other middle-income individuals and families. Every fall, fewer teachers are in place at the start of the school year in my daughter’s school. We need to make it affordable for teachers to live here and our first responders need to be here in the City in the event of a disaster.
- We also have targeted $100 million to create senior housing to support our city’s aging population.

I also recently introduced legislation entitled, “Breaking the Cycle”, to make sure homeless people who we are treated for mental health and substance use issues get housing when they finish their programs and don’t end up turned back out onto the streets without a place to live.

Prior to becoming Supervisor, I served as Mayor Gavin Newsom’s AIDS Czar. I also worked to create and defend San Francisco’s historic Equal Benefits Ordinance making San Francisco the first city in the United States to require all city contractors to offer domestic partner benefits.

I live in the Glen Park neighborhood with my husband, Billy, and my 13-year-old daughter, Michelle, who attends a public middle school.

Debate information:
Wednesday, May 23rd
7:00pm
Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy Auditorium (19th at Collingwood)
Castro Merchants Update
by Daniel Bergerac

I want to thank EVNA's President Mark McHale for this opportunity to share with you some of my thoughts from a local business perspective.

These are tough times for local small businesses. High commercial rents; abundant regulation from local, state and federal government; competition from online retailers; and the continuing distraction of unwelcome street behavior by at-risk and other individuals on our sidewalks - all are challenges to our continued success.

High rents are keeping many new small businesses from opening, and adding substantially to costs when a current lease expires. An increasing ratio of local commercial property owners don’t have historic, personal and family ties to the area and more properties are owned and managed by large real estate corporations - these landlords often don’t show the personal support that many earlier landlords offered. Some landlords seem to think that nothing in a space is better than something.

Local businesses need your support at City Hall and with elected officials to address these issues. I believe it’s time for a strong, punitive “vacancy tax” on empty storefronts. As our June and November elections approach, ask the candidates who want your vote, if they support a commercial vacancy tax.

A national independent business group reports that over 90 cents of every dollar spent shopping online leaves our community, never to return. Buying at “big box” retailers like Costco, Home Depot, etc. assures that over half of your purchase dollar leaves town. Conversely, less than 25 cents spent at a local, independent business goes away, leaving over 75 cents to stay in our local economy.

Finally, I ask your support for the current community planning and redesign of Harvey Milk Plaza. Local businesses survive by serving our local community. But for many it’s tourism that provides the added profit needed for true success. We need an added draw to bring visitors from Union Square, Fisherman’s Wharf, etc. An international memorial to our local Gay Rights Hero Harvey Milk will be that draw.

We look forward to seeing you shopping locally!

Daniel Bergerac is President of Castro Merchants, which represents over 325 local businesses (www.CastroMerchants.com). He also is Co-owner of Mudpuppy’s Tub & Scrub, dog grooming at 536 Castro Street.
EVERY SATURDAY & SUNDAY
11AM-3PM

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Training and Education Committee
by Rob LeVan, T & E Committee chair

Welcome to the Training & Education Committee—the newest committee of the EVNA! With the goal of creating a more educated and informed community, we are looking for members to join and help us learn and spread the word!

Some examples of proposed training and education events include:
- Attending a NERT (Neighborhood Emergency Response Team) training
- Holding a First-Aid class for our members
- Participating in a CCOP (Castro Community On Patrol) volunteer training class
- Developing a neighbor resource database so we can be better informed of how to match the issue with the proper service
- Developing partnerships with other organizations in the neighborhood to explore engagement opportunities (SFPD, CBD, Castro Cares)

If any of these activities interest you, please get in touch via email: rob.levan@evna.org.

TRAINING SPOTLIGHT: 311

Have you ever wanted more information about Healthy SF? Maybe you’ve wondered what events are going on in the city this weekend? Do you need help reporting a blocked driveway, new graffiti, a treacherous pothole, noise issues, or homeless concerns? 311 is the place for you!

You can download the free SF311 app from either the Apple App store or from Google Play. The app allows you to view real-time tracking and updates on your issue. It allows you to send requests with your name or anonymously. Or, you can simply dial 3-1-1 and talk to a real live person. From Muni schedule information to how to start a business in SF, 311 is the resource for you!

DID YOU KNOW…

On our journey to Zero Waste by 2020, Recology is now accepting soft plastics and textiles in your blue bins!

Clean, dry, empty plastic bags and films can now be collected in a clear plastic bag, tied shut and dropped into your blue bin for recycling.

Clean textiles including linens, towels, curtains; clean fabrics with rips, holes and single socks, and clean rags can all be bagged in a clear bag and added to your blue bins too! Recology asks if the clothes are still in good condition, please donate them to a local thrift store. Also, please no sneakers, boots, belts, or purses.

Quality of Life Committee
by Saad Hasan

Hello everyone from the Quality of Life committee! Since our update in the last newsletter, we have continued to be busy thinking about how we can help influence some of the topics you all highlighted in our survey earlier this year.

Two proposals from our QoL members were selected to be voted on for the D8 participatory budgeting process – the Upper 18th traffic calming project, and the irrigation system for Pink Triangle park. There was a selection of good projects, so we are excited to see how the voting turns out.

(continued next page)
We have also been at work improving our outreach and connectivity with various organizations to stay abreast of QoL developments in our neighborhood, and help influence the outcomes. This includes relevant local government points of contact like the D8 supervisors office, neighborhood organizations like Castro Cares, and many others doing work in Eureka Valley. As part of this effort, Jeff, Tom, Mark and myself attended the Mission Police Station Community Meeting to meet with Chief Caltagirone, attend his community meeting, and provide some info about EVNA and QoL to attendees. The meeting showcased good city resources to tap into for QoL issues, so I thought I would pass along the information below for the benefit of our members:

The Fixit Team
The Fix-It Team seeks to improve the quality of life in San Francisco’s neighborhoods by collaborating with residents to identify and address critical cleanliness and safety issues. By coordinating directly with city departments, the Fix-It team can deliver city services better and faster. Best practice is to request issues through 311 as well as emailing fixitteam@sfgov.org with the 311 SR# in order to ensure that they can follow up.

http://sfmayor.org/neighborhoods/fix-it-team

San Francisco Homeless Outreach Team (SFHOT)
SFHOT works in small teams to provide outreach and care management to homeless individuals who have severe illnesses. SFHOT works to stabilize the most vulnerable individuals. Services are provided by teams with expertise in the complex issues that are barriers to stability for this population.

San Francisco Safety Awareness For Everyone (SF SAFE)
SFSAFE is a community crime prevention and public safety program that works in cooperation with the SFPD and other city agencies to help San Franciscans protect themselves from becoming victims. One of their services is a free ~45 min walkthrough of your house to identify concrete suggestions for making your house (or place of business) safer.

https://sfsafe.org/

Other Tips re: crime and trespassing Report everything! Especially if you have video you can submit. More data greatly helps the police and the DA’s office do their jobs well. 25 MPC signs: Printing and displaying these signs on your property gives police officers the authority to act to clear your driveways even in your absence.

http://www.missionpolicestation.org/

Last but not least we have some new members on the QOL committee, welcome aboard to: Jeff Siegel, Diane McCutcheon, David York and Rob Andersen who have joined the old crew of Anne, Brendan, Leila, Psyche, Steffan and Thomas. As always, if you are interested in volunteering, or even if you just want to drop in to a meeting to say hello and see what we are all about, just e-mail me at saad.hasan@evna.org!

Membership Committee
by Rob Anderson

Citizen neighbors have a very important role in the health and spirit of a community. Active participation in the process is the best way to ensure that the quality of life desired is fulfilled. Involvement can range from voting on a regular basis to being elected to serve in a public capacity. Both examples are equally as important to the process. Neighbors also contribute greatly when they participate in or organize neighborhood projects or activities. Involvement is crucial to improving the quality of life in the neighborhood and the city.

Please consider joining the EVNA as we embark on a mission that includes a place for all who live and gather in Eureka Valley and the Castro.

See Membership categories and fees on page 14!
Italian Restaurant, Full Bar and Poetry Lounge
4072 18th Street
San Francisco, CA 94114
(415) 252-9325
www.poesiasf.com
“A tavola non si invecchia mai...”

MEMBERSHIP

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Household | $30/year
Business  | $40/year

MEMBERS

One
Two
One

VOTES

One
Two
One

DUES

$20/year
$30/year
$40/year

BENEFITS

Contribute to online discussions
View members-only web pages
Be listed in Online Members Roster (optional)
View online Members Roster

We would love to hear from you. Please visit our website to catch up on what’s transpired, and leave a comment there. Also, please join us at the next community meeting on April 7, 3pm-4:30pm, to be held at Most Holy Redeemer – Parish Hall at 100 Diamond Street. Be among the first to see the first glimpses of the new plaza! We hope you’ll join us!

EVNA Membership Rates

Currently, the project is in a design phase, and first glimpses of the new plaza are expected to be on display at the next FHMP community meeting in April. Construction isn’t scheduled to begin until 2019, and when it does, the station will remain open to commuters throughout the entire process.

We help support already-open Castro businesses, many of which rely on visitor traffic for revenue. More foot traffic in the neighborhood could potentially help revitalize the local business community and reduce vacant retail spaces.

Creating meeting/performance space to be utilized by community groups would strengthen those groups’ roots in the neighborhood. Imagine going to see an outdoor performance by the SF Gay Men’s Chorus, for example – there’s simply no space in which to do that now.

Improving known deficiencies in the current plaza design would make it much safer than it is now. If we minimize nooks and crannies, and improve sightlines that currently make the plaza difficult to monitor, we could minimize unwanted behavior. Though it sounds obvious, doing nothing means nothing will change.

We simply must take this opportunity to honor and memorialize Harvey Milk, a man who gave his life for our community. What is there now is not at all commensurate with Harvey’s contributions or representative of the importance of his enduring legacy. If not now, when?

It’s no secret that many of us are fatigued from construction disruption – and it’s understandable. But, the intention to create an improved plaza and transit entrance as well as gathering place to be used by the neighborhood is both worthwhile and worthy of our support. Beyond this, we advocate for addressing ALL known deficiencies at once, at the same time as the SFMTA elevator project, instead of multiple fixes that would involve multiple rounds of construction-related disruption to commuters and residents.

(HMP from page 15)
Friends of Harvey Milk Plaza
by Psyche Philips

Friends of Harvey Milk Plaza, “a Castro neighborhood organization committed to improving and maintaining the public space named in honor of the civil rights icon,” has been working with architecture firm Perkins Eastman on a redesign of the current public plaza and Muni station at the intersection of Castro and Market streets. After gathering input from three community meetings held between January and April this year, Perkins Eastman presented four preliminary proposals for the future design of Harvey Milk Plaza at the most recent meeting on April 16th. The designs are posted on the Neighborland website (www.neighborland.com/harveymilk), where public comments were accepted through April 30th. One consolidated design based on community feedback and combining elements from all four proposals will be presented to the public on May 15th from 6-8pm at Sanchez Elementary School (325 Sanchez St). The plaza redesign was initiated by a $500,000 gift from an anonymous donor, who was later named as Lawrence Cushman, a “gay California man” according to the Bay Area Reporter. All of the initial $500,000 has now been spent on the competition to determine which architecture firm would be selected to create the new design. Before construction can begin, the Friends of Harvey Milk Plaza will need to raise sufficient funds to complete the project, estimated to cost around $10 million, which is expected to be raised from donations.

Simultaneously, the SFMTA is legally required to make changes to the plaza in order to comply with ADA accessibility laws which were not in place when the original station was designed in 1980 by architect Howard Grant. These changes include widening the sidewalk, replacing the existing lighting, and regrading the pavement above the station in addition to adding a second elevator on the south side of Market Street. SFMTA held two open house community meetings about the project in March. According to the SFMTA website, the accessibility project is on schedule to be completed by 2020 and is estimated to cost approximately $5 million. Initially the plaza redesign sponsored by Friends of Harvey Milk Plaza was intended to be concurrent with the MTA upgrades, but the MTA is required to make the changes sooner than the Friends of Harvey Milk Plaza will be able to raise funds and begin construction on the proposed new plaza design.

At the Eureka Valley Neighborhood Association public meeting in January, mixed opinions were voiced about the results of the design competition, the MTA upgrade project, and whether there is need for a full-scale redesign in the first place. More information on the proposed new plaza design can be found at www.friendsofharveymilkplaza.org and to learn more about the opposition to the redesign, search “save harvey milk plaza” on Facebook.

Creating a Better Harvey Milk Plaza
By Brian Springfield

You may have heard an inkling of a re-do to Harvey Milk Plaza. If you haven’t already, we encourage you to check out friendsofharveymilkplaza.org for an in-depth description, but the most basic explanation is that there are two projects: An SFMTA accessibility upgrade project, as well as a community effort to simultaneously address additional accessibility and persistent safety/security issues present in the existing space and create a memorial presence for Harvey Milk that is appropriate to his contribution and legacy.

Because construction is imminent, courtesy of the SFMTA project, the Friends of Harvey Milk Plaza [a group of community volunteers] formed to steward a project to leverage the opportunity for the benefit of the neighborhood. The community’s desire to make the space more functional, safer and representative of Harvey’s legacy has been voiced for some time, and input from surrounding neighborhoods, including Eureka Valley, has been sought [and will continue to be] throughout the process.

As someone who lives nearby, the benefits to you of a reimagined plaza are easily identifiable:

A reimagined Harvey Milk Plaza would provide a new neighborhood amenity – a public space to function as a meeting/gathering space not dissimilar to Dolores Park [though certainly smaller]. The Castro would finally have a beloved area in which to commune.

Increased visitor traffic would (HMP continued on page 14)

Castro Street Fair

The organizers of the Castro Street Fair, which is run by an all-volunteer board, held a meeting on April 21st at the Eureka Valley Recreation Center that drew around 50 community members. The Fair, which was started by Harvey Milk, has been running on the first Sunday in October for 44 years. Discussion at the meeting revolved around drawing more participants to the event on a weekend that also hosts Hardly Strictly Bluegrass, creating a fair that is both family-friendly and represents its LGBT roots, and ways to differentiate the event from other neighborhood street fairs. The 2017 Castro Street Fair raised over $55,000 which was donated to nonprofits.

More information can be found at castrostreetfair.org.
Show Pride in Your Neighborhood
Become a Castro Ambassador!

From the Castro CBD

Providing maps, helpful directions, sightseeing tips, and a warm welcome, the Castro Ambassadors volunteer group introduce their neighborhood to approximately 5000 tourists from around the world every season (May-October). The volunteer Castro Ambassadors is accepting new applications for the 2018 season. Contact the Castro CBD, andrea@castrocbd.org to learn more and to request an application, or call 415-500-1181.

The Ambassador Program, organized and funded by the Castro/Upper Market Community Benefit District (Castro CBD), receives highly positive reviews from visitors and local residents each season. Most all those assisted are very grateful. “You fell like an angel from heaven!” an Italian tourist told Ambassador Mari Olund when she offered help, Ambassador Harry Breaux considers the Castro Ambassadors his favorite volunteer activity.

The Castro Ambassadors make a commitment to work 4 hours/month...any day of the week between about 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Mid-May - late October.

The focus of the program is to help visitors find their way and feel welcome in the community. “The Castro Ambassadors are a fun and exciting way for volunteers to share their love for the neighborhood with tourists, meet people and have fun,” stated Andrea Aiello, Executive Director, Castro CBD, adding “it is also a great way for people to give back to the community.”

Ambassadors receive training in greeting visitors, street safety, and providing information about the area’s amenities and history. Issued photo ID badges, “Castro Ambassador” jackets, T-shirts and lots of tourist information, the volunteers are deployed in the central business district throughout the week.

Interested in giving the Ambassadors a try? Contact Andrea Aiello, Executive Director, Castro CBD at 415-500-1181. You can also learn more about the Castro Ambassadors on the Castro CBD’s website: http://castrocbd.org/castro-ambassador/