

SEP-OCT 2008



DUBOCE TRIANGLE NEWSLETTER

Hand-delivered to **3000** households and businesses bi-monthly

Monday Sep. 8 - 7:30 pm PUBLIC MEETING

CPMC Davies Medical Center, Lower Level B

Meeting Agenda:

- SF's Halloween Plans Update

Laura Fraenza from the city's Entertainment Commission will be a featured guest speaker.

- Vote on endorsing 2 city ballot propositions

Prop B / Affordable Housing

Prop J / Landmarks Commission

Only DTNA members can vote but all are welcome

- MTA/BART Transportation Update

- Duboce Triangle Historic District Update

- Recycling Centers Discussion

Kevin Drew from the city's Dept. of the Environment will be our featured speaker

Please join us!

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Wed Sept. 3 6:00 p.m.

Market and Octavia Plan Historic Resource Survey Community Meeting. LGBT Community Center, Rainbow Rm. 1800 Market St. (@ Octavia Blvd.)

Mon. Sept. 8 7:30 p.m.

Duboce Triangle Neighborhood Assn. Public meeting
CPMC Davies Medical Center Auditorium, Level B

Sat Sept. 13 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

11th Annual Friends of Duboce Park Tag Sale. Duboce Park

Wed Sept. 17 6 to 9 p.m.

Duboce Park By Moonlight
Neighborhood Parks Council
Annual Gala Benefit
<http://www.sfnpc.org/gala08>

Continues on page 15

Neighborhood Parks Council Annual Gala Event in Duboce Park, Sep 17th 6 PM "Duboce Park By Moonlight"



showcase the space."

The gala, which supports NPC's stewardship program, will be held from 6-9 PM, under the light of a full moon. The event features the sublime jazz of Edo Castro and E. "Doc" Smith, an extensive auction, and delectable food donated by local restaurants and wineries. Tickets are \$150 each, but park neighbors pay only \$100. To secure the discount, contact Doug Woo at DWOO@legacypartners.com or send a check to NPC, 451 Hayes Street, 2nd floor, SF 94102, indicating the ticket is for a "Duboce Park Neighbor."

Since 1996, NPC has established itself as San Francisco's premier park advocacy organization. NPC galvanizes public concern for city parks by supporting more than 120 park groups and promoting excellence in park management. NPC's bi-annual playground survey has sparked a playground renovation campaign across San Francisco. NPC was instrumental in getting the \$185M parks bond passed last February, and is the driving force behind the development of the Blue Greenway, a 13-mile trail along the city's Southeast shore.

Visit <http://www.sfnpc.org/gala08> to learn more about the gala. Questions about monthly workdays at Duboce Park can be directed to rosegillen@sbcglobal.net.

While the neighborhood awaits the completion of the Harvey Milk Recreation Center, a unique event will offer a chance to enjoy Duboce Park in a new way – at night. Each year, the Neighborhood Parks Council (NPC) chooses a different park for its gala, and on Wednesday, September 17th, Duboce Park will host.

"When NPC approached us about their gala, we were thrilled, because there is so much going on in our park," said Doug Woo, Friends of Duboce Park board member. "We take pride in park upkeep and look for ways to

Community Justice Center Approved!



Bevan Dufty
San Francisco Supervisor

I am excited to report that the Board of Supervisors has funded the Community Justice Center (CJC) and I expect the CJC to start operating in early 2009.

The CJC is a community-based court, headed by a judge, that will provide defendants with an opportunity to access unmet social services needs. The Judge will be able to refer the clients directly to on-site social services for an assessment and an appropriate treatment plan that will address the root cause of their problem.

I have been a proponent of the Community Justice Center and am thrilled that my Board colleagues have joined me to support the CJC.

The CJC is a real court that will begin to fill a major gap in the criminal justice system. It will target frequent offenders who commit misdemean-

ors and nonviolent felonies including drug crimes, theft, and disorderly conduct. People brought to the court will be offered targeted services such as job training and drug or alcohol counseling.

Currently, the CJC's target area includes the Tenderloin, SOMA, Civic Center, and Union Square, an area that covers less than 5% of San Francisco's total square mileage and less than 10% of the City's population, yet more than 28% of all new arrests in the City occur in this area.

The CJC is a problem-solving court, as each case is considered individually by the judge. The judge will work with all city partners to address the particular problem of the individual before the court.

I am excited about the CJC as I think it is obvious to all of us that the current criminal justice system does not hold solutions for too many individuals.

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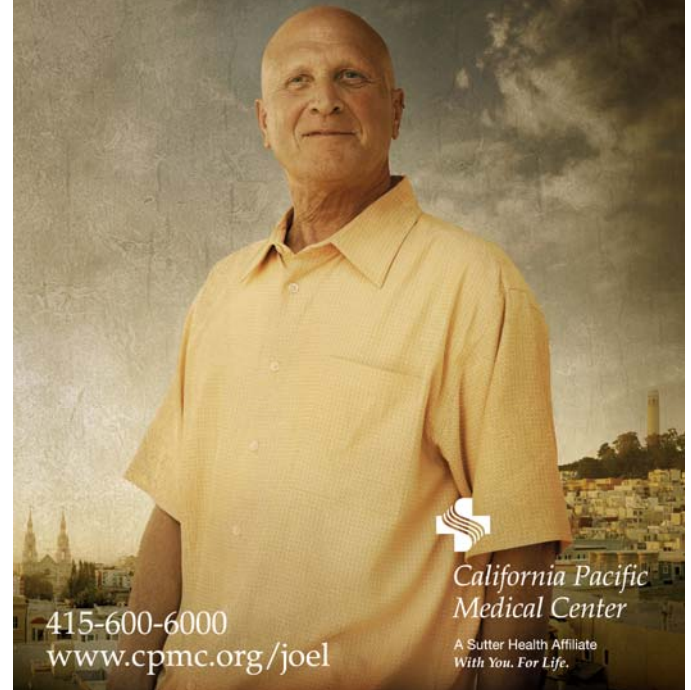
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This And That



*Dennis Richards
DTNA President*

My heart goes out to Guy Clark, the flower vendor who has been selling flowers on Noe and 15th for 25 years (See Nov/Dec 2007 DTNA newsletter).

First he gets evicted from the garage that he recently expanded his shop into. Next he hears that his building was sold at 221 Noe Street and he and a couple of dozen other tenants will be evicted through the Ellis Act. And more recently he had to endure another hate crime where some coward spelled a racial remark out in dog feces on the wall where he sells his flowers. I have 2 dogs and can understand why Guy doesn't enjoy having them urinate where he sells his flowers. Guy has been very outspoken about this. If one doesn't like his opinion or approach why can't that person just tell him rather than resorting to ignorant racist graffiti done in the dark of the night? Come on folks. Can't we act like adults here?

Some good in this neighborhood to report. Hats off to Kent Jeffery who owns the Tower Record Space on Market at Noe (Market Noe Center)!

During the time that he has been struggling to find a tenant to fill both floors, he has donated the space to several non-profits most recently being the NO on Prop. 8 campaign which has the upper space and the Under One Roof store (which he has donated the space to several times) who occupy the downstairs currently for one of their big sales. Please take a look and support them.

The Community Benefits District Pedestrian Safety Plan could not come soon enough, in my opinion (See page 8 for article.) A couple of weeks ago at 7:00 p.m., I was walking my dog crossing Market Street from Café Flore to the Baghdad Café with the "walk" light when a car whose driver was yakking away on her cell phone coming from Noe Street next to Gold's Gym barreled out and nearly ran my dog over. One. Rude drivers. Put down your damn phones and focus on driving! It is the law. Two. The CBD's Pedestrian Plan is a good one. Now all we need to do is find the money to implement it. I hope that it doesn't take a pedestrian death to accelerate the funding of the plan.

Lastly. After more than 40 years of overseeing the ruination of an entire neighborhood, the San Francisco

Redevelopment Agency will cease having jurisdiction on 1/1/09 in a large swath of the Western Addition. The Western Addition was first designated a redevelopment area in 1948. The expressed intent was to reduce blight by making building and streetscape improvements that would attract new business customers, residents, and visitors to the Fillmore.

What resulted in these past 45 years was the bulldozing of 2500 Victorians and the displacement of 4700 households at a cost of \$50 million. What also resulted was decades of neglect and weed strewn lots further impoverishing what was once vibrant neighborhood with mostly God-awful suburban looking buildings replacing

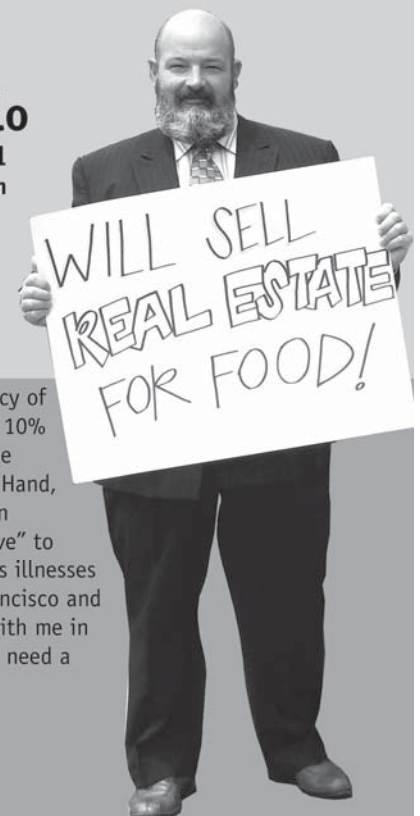
grand Victorians. Remember that Duboce Triangle was in the Redevelopment Agency's plans in the late 1960's as it too had become a "marginal" neighborhood with plans for "urban renewal" which called for housing projects (like those in the Western Addition) and commercial redevelopment. It was through the efforts of neighbors and this neighborhood organization and its predecessors that this plan was halted in its tracks. Can you imagine what the outcome would have been if that \$50 million went into re-investing into the then existing neighborhood in the Western Addition instead of trying to create a new one? Look no farther than Duboce Triangle. Good riddance Redevelopment Agency!

Richard Gullo

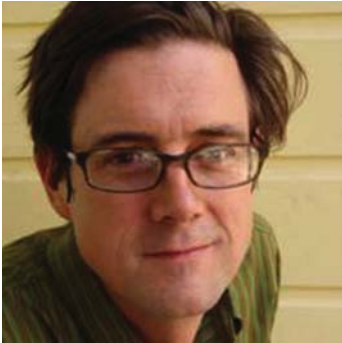
415.861.5222 x181
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Continuing a HERTH legacy of community involvement, 10% of my commissions will be donated to Project Open Hand, who since 1985, has been providing "meals with love" to people living with serious illnesses and to seniors in San Francisco and Alameda County. Work with me in helping people who truly need a helping hand.



Your Board Member



Tim Dunn

DTNA Board Member

Tim Dunn became actively involved in DTNA during the Market Octavia planning process. As an affordable housing developer at a South of Market non-profit and a resident of Boynton Ct. in Duboce Triangle, he was an advocate for measures to ensure that the plan ad-

ressed the needs for affordable housing for low-income residents. Tim is also an alternative transportation advocate who has served on the city's Better Streets Citizen Advisory Committee and on the board of Livable City.

Tim is a native of the Bay Area and holds a graduate degree in Architecture from UC Berkeley. He is an avid bicyclist who is happy to live in a centrally located neighborhood where he and his wife can raise their two sons, Cosimo and Octavio, without a car. Cosimo is especially appreciative of the proximity to the Friends of St. Francis Preschool and the children's playground at Duboce Park.

Crosswalk Fixed!



We are also happy to report that the crosswalk across Duboce Avenue at Scott Street has been fixed. Until recently it was missing part of its striping, which encouraged people to park their cars in the crosswalk. The Department of Public Works responded to a letter

from DTNA and added the missing part of the crosswalk. Your neighborhood association at work! Please let us know about any other street or transit issues you'd like to see fixed or improved. E-mail Kit Hodge, Transportation Committee chair, at kithodge@gmail.com.

Real Estate Update Duboce Triangle

Duboce Triangle continues to be a HOT Real Estate market with homes still selling over asking prices. Single family homes are in demand, and rarely available in Duboce Triangle. For example # 9 Beaver Street was recently sold in just 8 days. It closed escrow for \$1,675,000, a premium of \$80,000.00 over the asking price.

If you are looking to buy or sell a property in Duboce Triangle or beyond, call me. I have a strong track record with both Buyers and Sellers in Duboce Triangle, and I would like to help you. I also want to help our community, so a portion of my sales will be donated to Maitri and Enterprise for Schools!

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11th Annual Duboce Park Tag Sale, September 13

Start collecting your donations, because the 11th Annual Friends of Duboce Park Tag Sale is coming on Saturday, September 13, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Here's a list of items that can be donated: books, videos, clothes, linens, furniture, kitchen items, baskets, decorative and/or seasonal items, sporting goods, toys, collectibles, and more. All proceeds will be used for improvements to Duboce Park.

Donations will be accepted the week before at the Ryder truck that will be parked in the park from 5:30-7 p.m. on

the Tuesday-Friday evenings before the event. Volunteers are needed on the day of the tag sale to help with set up at 7 a.m.; as "salespeople" for either the 9-11 a.m. or from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. shifts; and for a recycle and breakdown crew from 1-2:30 p.m.

The event is fun for everyone and there are always some really terrific bargains. Our "hamburger stand" was so popular last year that food, drinks, and baked goods will again be offered at bargain prices.

So save the date and come

on out and have some fun by participating in the festivities.

If you have any questions, need help getting large items

to us, or would like to volunteer to help, please e-mail Rosie at rosie@dubocepark.com or Doug at doug@dubocepark.com.



Safeway 1954



The J.H. Wilen buildings and others visible beyond Safeway sat in what is now the Church and Market Street perimeter of the current parking lot. Those buildings were demolished in 1964. See next issue for another view.

Duboce Park Community Meeting - August 7, 2008

Harvey Milk Recreation Center Renovations 72% Complete

Renovations are 72% complete and the Rec Center should open in the first quarter of 2009. Here's what been done so far: HVAC, electrical, installation of interior lighting, sheetrock installation, interior painting, and, 95% of the exterior painting.

Here's what remains to be done: tiling restrooms, "storefront installations", exterior lighting footings, conduit trenching, acoustic ceiling, elevator installation, outside east wall lighting, grand staircase, extensive pathway work, and, photography studio processing sinks.

It was acknowledged that the color of the letters on the quote from Harvey Milk on the east wall needs to be addressed since they are difficult to see in certain light. The Art Commission is responsible for the art component of the building renovations and will be doing something to correct the situation.

The landscaping around the Rec Center is still under discussion. A 10' lighting fixture to match the poles along the pedestrian path will replace the 30' light pole that was originally specified for the Scott St. side of the building.

Basketball Court

Despite both the community and Supervisor Duffy's office's repeated requests for the reopening of the basketball court, the contractor is not willing to release control of the basketball court because of liability concerns. The contractor will repair any damage to the court that they have caused.

Mudslides in Playground

Mud has been coming down the hill and onto the mosaic thrones and the rubber surface under the thrones. The mudslides were at first thought to be a result of the rainy season combined with the deterioration of the curbing at the top of that hill. Friends of Duboce Park has repeatedly asked for a temporary fix by placing sandbags near the broken curb to divert rain water away from the hill but were told that would be unnecessary since the rainy season had ended.

However, the mud continued. Adrian Field, Park Section Supervisor, identified the cause of the problem as being a water spigot at the top of the hill, near the fence, that irrigates the area and has since been turned it off. Park custodians have been cleaning the thrones a few times a week. The question remains as to why this didn't happen for the first seven years that the new playground was

open but began occurring in 2007 and 2008.

Recreation Center Survey

The community was invited to complete a survey to help determine what programs and activities could be added to the Rec Center curriculum when it reopens in the spring. Rec & Park's Chris Boettcher reiterated that community response to the survey would influence future programming. Historically, the Center has served the needs of the citywide arts community, thus the name the Harvey Milk Recreation Center for the Arts, and has included programs for music, dance, drama, and photography.

An announcement of the survey was made in the July-August Duboce Triangle Neighborhood Association newsletter which was delivered to 3000 households in the Triangle and invited people to download the survey from the DTNA web site, www.DTNA.org. The survey was also e-mailed to over 300 addresses on the Friends of Duboce Park mailing list. Only 30 people completed and submitted the survey, which is considered a very small sample.

The highest scoring programs were "tot watch" and photography. It was noted that there is now demand for digital technology, which would not make use of the dark

rooms in the Photography Center. What will happen to those dark rooms has not yet been addressed. The highest scoring groups were 6-12 year olds and adults followed by pre-schoolers. Seniors 55+ showed the least amount of interest in programming. Numerous people mentioned summer camp for youth and teens.

The budget for a full-time director for the Rec Center has been approved and a knowledgeable director still needs to be recruited. A non-profit Friends of the Harvey Milk Center to help with fundraising for various programs was mentioned in the survey but very few people showed interest in the group or serving on its' board of directors. It was agreed that the Rec Center should serve the needs of both the city and the neighborhood. The Rec Center has always been considered a regional facility and had programs that attracted people from all over San Francisco.

Dog Play Area/Multi-Use Area Update

Holes in the great lawn were to be filled on August 8 and the contractor will be returning to address pooling water, particularly near the new water fountain and in the planting circles. Mature trees will be planted in the circle near Pierce St. but

Continues on page 7

Continues from page 6

the two other circles will be asphalted over since trees have historically not done well in those areas. Additional trash cans have been placed and pickup from those cans now occurs three times a week.

Some signs will be moved or removed "out of respect for the neighbors." The repaired bollards and chains are holding up and no broken ones have occurred since that replacement. The condition of lawn remains excellent, especially considering the amount of use it gets and various drainage problems.

Youth Play Area

A design day was held on Saturday, July 26 to discuss

transforming the "dead" space behind the playground and next to the basketball court into a Youth Play Area for older children, ages 6-9, who have outgrown the playground. The event was well attended and the ideas and suggestions from the children and parents are being considered in planning the specifics of the Youth Play Area. The committee will meet again in late-August and a community meeting will be held in late-September. Grant writing to fund the project has already begun.

Miscellaneous

The new lawn mower that will be stored in the renovated Rec Center has been picked up and the lawns

will now get mowed once a week...the aphid infestation in trees near Pierce St. is being addressed and those trees will be power washed with soap and water. Aphids are a seasonal problem... The new trees planted along Duboce Ave. may not be appropriate for that area. Urban Forestry will consider another type of tree when they plant the new trees in the Pierce St. circle...The next quarterly Community Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 5, 7-8:30 p.m., at the CPMC Level B Auditorium. Future meetings will be held in the Rec Center when it opens.

Too Much Retail?

Every new building planned along the so-called Upper Market Corridor, residential or commercial, has ground floor retail. But if you walk along Market from Duboce to Castro, you will see that older buildings did not all have storefronts (as they used to be called). So how much retail does our little town of 10,000 need? How much if we add 2,000 people? What kind? What size stores? Who will the retail serve? Is "serve" the right word? Does retail do that anymore? Can there be too much retail? How will we know?

These questions will be explored in the next issue of the DTNA Newsletter.

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Castro/Upper Market Pedestrian Safety Plan



Market and Noe Pedestrian Improvement Plan



Market/14th and Church Pedestrian Improvement Plan

In January 2008, the Castro/Upper Market Community Benefit District (CBD) began the process of making improvements which will eventually change the streetscape and improve pedestrian safety on the main corridors of the Castro-Upper Market neighborhood.

The first step towards making these changes was to hold a series of community meetings, focus groups, and separate meetings with merchants at key intersections. Three community meetings were held, focus groups were held with the visually impaired, parents of young children, and senior citizens, and three different meetings were held with merchants.

The pedestrian safety portion of the streetscape plan is finished and is ready to present to the community. Below is a quick glimpse highlighting the key recommendations in the pedestrian safety plan. The entire plan, complete with maps and drawings can be found at the CBD's website, www.castrocbd.org

The key case study areas for the pedestrian safety plan include:

- Harvey Milk Plaza at Market and Castro Streets
- Castro Street at 18th Street
- Market and Noe Streets
- Market Street at Church and 14th Streets

Harvey Milk Plaza

Problem: Key pedestrian safety issues at Harvey Milk Plaza include: narrow sidewalk along Market Street on

the northern side of Harvey Milk Plaza by the city bus stop; low pedestrian visibility into the plaza; no pedestrian amenities for those waiting for transit or walking along Market Street.

Recommendations:

1. Increase visibility into the plaza and usable sidewalk area by removing part of the planter at Harvey Milk Plaza and replacing it with a stairwell from the Castro Station bus stop (35 and 37 buses) on Market Street, down to Harvey Milk Plaza at street level, and add a pedestrian bulb out to allow more landing space at the cross walk as well as reduce crossing distance at Market Street.
2. Add benches and other pedestrian amenities that encourage a safe place to wait for buses.

3. Improve lighting along the edge of the plaza for better night time visibility and user comfort.

4. Add high visibility crosswalks and signage.

Castro Street at 18th Street

Problem: Castro Street is very wide which makes double parking an enticing option. The sidewalks are too narrow to accommodate the different types of uses, and the crosswalks are too narrow.

Recommendations:

1. Reduce the number of travel lanes on Castro Street and increase the width of the sidewalks and crosswalks.
2. Add bulb outs at intersection to reduce crossing distance and provide a pedestrian "destination" that will

discourage illegal pedestrian crossings.

Market and Noe Streets

Problem: This intersection is confusing for both drivers and pedestrians. The street is very wide, cars speed through the intersection while making turns, and there is low visibility for both vehicles and pedestrians.

Recommendations:

1. Add pedestrian bulb outs to reduce the street width.
2. Add pedestrian islands to aid stranded pedestrians trying to cross the long width of Market Street.
3. Add ground lit crosswalks and clear, high color contrast crosswalks.

Market Street at Church and 14th Streets

Problem: This intersection is ripe for problems. It is extremely complex, with five streets intersecting. It is also a major transit node. Buses, trolleys, the subway, pedestrians, and vehicles are all acting together in a very undefined/open space. Very wide streets with crossing distances which are uncomfortably long lead to confusion for both pedestrians and vehicles.

Recommendations:

1. Reduce crossing distance with pedestrian bulb outs on the western corners of Market Street and the northwest corner of 14th Street.
2. Extend islands on Market Street.
3. At the traffic light at Mar-

ket and Church have a dedicated left turn signal and pedestrian signal.

4. Add crosswalk between the northeast corner of Market and Church Streets and the northwest corner.
5. Improve all crosswalks with high contrast material.
6. Restrict the center lanes of Church St. to rail and transit only and dedicate outer lanes to vehicle and bike transit only.

The CBD is also proposing a mid-block crosswalk with high contrast markings in the middle of Church St., just north of Reservoir Road.

The pedestrian safety plan is the first part in the CBD's comprehensive streetscape implementation plan. The Castro CBD's entire streetscape implementation plan will be available on the CBD's website (www.castrocbd.org) in late September.

Once this plan is complete, it will represent not only the voice of the CBD, but the voice of the community. It is this community input that gives the plan its power and ability to be implemented. The greatest challenge, as with all plans, lies in implementation. Implementation will only be achieved through community collaboration. The Castro/Upper Market CBD looks forward to working with all community groups and community members as we work on making positive improvements in the Castro/Upper Market neighborhood.



136-138 Henry Street

Good Design: 136-138 Henry Street

This 2-unit residence underwent a complete to-the-studs foundation-to-roof remodel with high quality finishes. A pre-1906 building that had been altered extensively sometime in the 1970s and had a crumbling front wall, it now contributes a clean modern aesthetic to the street. Architect Jonathan Pearlman of Elevation Architects enlivened the flat front by adding a bay window with a line that carries over and forms a canopy above the entry door, meeting the metal and wood rail of the stair to create a clear entry sequence. Simple volumes of stained western red cedar, rich colored stuc-

co, copper, glass and metal make up the transformed façade that Jonathan describes as a 'warm contemporary' feel. The project also includes custom cabinetry, metalwork and Brazilian Ipe hardwood flooring throughout the interior, and a new deck at the rear yard.

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Castro/Duboce Community Safety Forum: Let's Keep Our Neighborhood Safe For Everyone

On November 6 from 7-9 p.m. at the Eureka Valley Rec Center, several neighborhood organizations, including Castro Community on Patrol, DTNA, EVPA, and MUMC will co-sponsor a Community Safety Forum focusing on the Castro and Duboce Triangle. Our neighborhood is an amazing one – vibrant, fun, diverse, and tightly knit – and we have been fortunate not to have some of the crime and violence problems that other neighborhoods have experienced. But, that doesn't mean that our neighborhood is a bubble, or that we shouldn't be aware of, or respond to, the crime problems that are part of living in San Francisco.

Almost two years ago, we formed Castro Community on Patrol after a rash of sexual assaults in the Castro. Since then, the organization has tried to raise awareness in the neighborhood of all sorts of community safety issues, from violent crime to auto break-ins. The goal has been not to scare people, but rather to educate the community about how to make sure that our neighborhoods remain safe places for everyone who lives, works, and/or plays here.

As Castro Community on Patrol celebrates its second anniversary, we believe it is important to take stock of where we are, where we should be going, and what

we can all do to move in that direction. The forum will focus on a wide variety of issues, from street crime, to the role of SFPD versus the role of community policing, to hate crimes, to emergency preparedness during natural disasters, to homelessness. It will be a fluid discussion of the many issues that we, as a neighborhood, need to focus on in order to ensure that this wonderful neighborhood remains the unique, diverse, and safe place that it has been for so many years.

We will have a terrific panel of experts in different areas, each of whom will give a perspective on community safety in the neighborhood. We encourage people with a

stake in the neighborhood to come out, listen, and participate in the discussion. It will be an interesting and productive evening, and we look forward to seeing you there.

by Scott Wiener

Scott Wiener is a board member of Castro Community on Patrol and the Eureka Valley Promotional Association and a member of DTNA. For more information, you can contact Scott at 437-9414 or scott.wiener@yahoo.com.

Visit our website at
www.dtna.org

Transportation Improvement Plan Moves Forward

The Transportation Committee of DTNA has been making good progress on moving the Duboce Triangle Transportation Improvement Plan from idea to reality. We have been working closely over the last few of months with the MTA, Department of Public Works, and the Planning Department on doing technical reviews and cost estimates of the proposed plan. These city agencies have firmed up their commitment to making this plan happen, which is great news.

But nothing will move

forward without more input from the full Duboce Triangle community. The MTA will be hosting a public meeting on the plan to get additional feedback on the concepts DTNA shared at the May member meeting, and to begin to review some possible design details, like landscaping and street furniture placement and design. The MTA meeting is currently scheduled for the evening of Wednesday, September 24th. We will post official meeting details at dubocetriangle.wordpress.com, and will make an announcement at the

upcoming DTNA member meeting. Please plan on being part of the September 24th workshop; your input is important!

Finally, please be aware that DTNA and the MTA have been moving forward with improving the outbound N-Judah boarding island on the north side of Duboce Avenue between Church and Fillmore Streets by creating the legal framework for possibly widening the island. In order to widen the island, we are pursuing legislation to prohibit right turns from southbound Church Street

on to Duboce Avenue heading west. As most locals know, very few people take this turn – in fact, it's so rarely used that N-Judah passengers tend to wait in the street area. If you have questions about this change, please e-mail Kit Hodge, Transportation Committee chair, at kitrhodge@gmail.com.

More information about this particular improvement, and other plan details to date are posted at dubocetriangle.wordpress.com.

The Birds of Summer

Summer is a relatively boring time for those who follow the bird world of San Francisco. The spring tide of avian migrants has flooded on toward the cool north or into the mountains, entraining some of our regular winter residents along with it. But even on the doggiest of dog days there's a surprising amount of bird activity in the city, and if you keep your wits about you, along with your eyes and ears, you won't need to leave the Triangle to see or hear a lot.

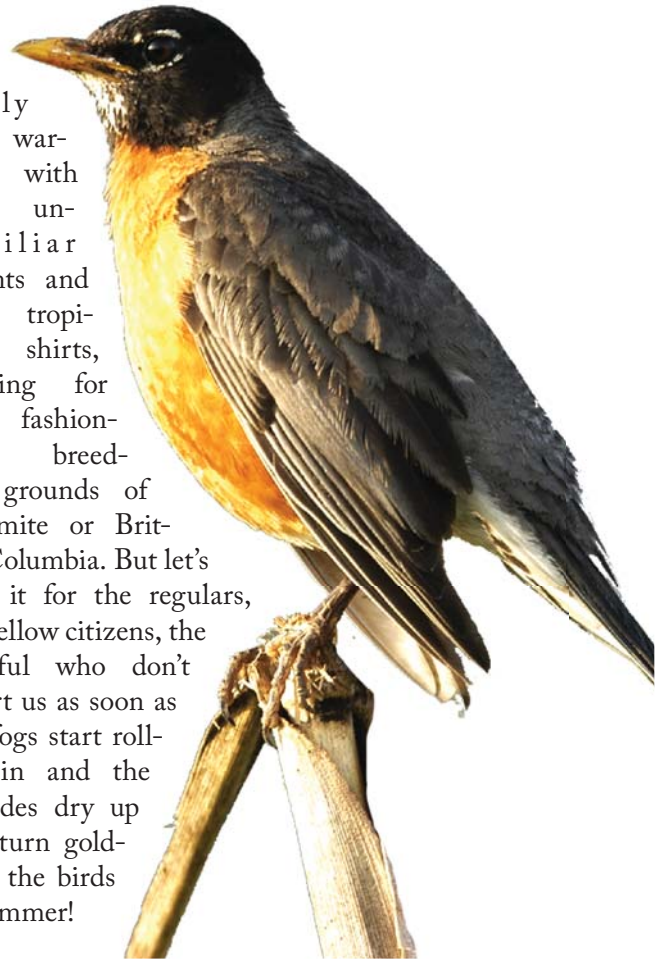
Without even considering the pigeons (whose case has been argued before in these pages), it's pretty easy to find at least 20 different species. The cheerful morning songs of robins and the frenetic vocalizations of the house finches are hard to miss. But there's also the soft cooing of the mourning doves (sometimes mistaken for owls by the uninitiated), the staccato twitter of both American and lesser goldfinches, the silvery "tink!" of California towhees, the nonstop, manic impressions of the mockingbirds, and the insouciant whistling of starlings. Crows and ravens can often be seen soaring portentously among the trees or even lumbering along the pavement, and Western gulls guard the rooftops, while house sparrows and golden-eyed Brewer's blackbirds (a kind of infantry among the birds) patrol the gutters and bus shelters, contenting for choice morsels of


garbage with their bigger but less agile cousins.

For those willing to crane their necks a little more frequently, there are red-tailed and red-shouldered hawks circling Oklahoma-style and sometimes settling regally into a cypress tree, where they're likely to be harassed by the above-mentioned crows and ravens. Less-common predatorial visitors include the Cooper's hawk (which may be seen chasing the hapless pigeons even through busy intersections) and a lone great blue heron, winging his way laboriously toward Corona Heights and Golden Gate Park. Closer to street level are the tiny bushtits, fluttering from tree to tree in disorganized mobs like school kids without a summer plan, sometimes with a couple of chestnut-backed chickadees along for the ride.

That's 19, without the pigeons. To round things off, we could mention the white-crowned sparrows, whose upbeat song you can hear on some of the quieter blocks, and the Anna's hummingbirds, with their buzzing squeak, like a windup toy suddenly unwinding. Not to mention the red masked parakeets, better known as the parrots of Telegraph Hill, squawking their raucous way across our skies, and... well, you get the picture. It's great to see those crowds of gaudy spring tourists passing through, espe-

cially the warblers with their unfamiliar accents and their tropical shirts, heading for the fashionable breeding grounds of Yosemite or British Columbia. But let's hear it for the regulars, our fellow citizens, the faithful who don't desert us as soon as the fogs start rolling in and the hillsides dry up and turn golden – the birds of summer!





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McKinley School Opens With A Fresh Shine



Playground build day-superdome crew

A warm welcome to all incoming students and staff including principal Rosa Fong, third grade teachers Shannon Bryant and Douglas Rich, as well as the new 4/5 teacher Robert Savant. Many thanks to the multitude of volunteers from Kaboom, WaMu, McKinley, and the

community who nudged our fledgling Native Plant garden into its next stage and built a modern play structure that all the students can use.

With all of the exciting resettlement at McKinley this year, it is my belief that our mission can steady us. As

Sandra Day O'Connor put it, "We can't forget that the primary purpose of our public schools in America has always been to help produce citizens who have the knowledge and the skills and the values to sustain our republic as a nation, our democratic form of government." Our commitment to this purpose can be a source of strength amidst inevitable change, incessant attacks on school funding, and vitriolic ignorance regarding the true value of our staff.

Instead of producing automations, the difficult, liberating work of instilling equal participation and determined inquiry that happens in each classroom at McKinley is like the quiet revolution of tree roots pushing up the sidewalk. When our children leave here viewing the world with curiosity, compassion and a critical eye, the strength of our school, community and nation are regen-

erated with a power that no election can hope to match.

Important McKinley dates:

Back to School Night
September 8

Leap Sand Castle Classic
October 4

Castro Street Fair
October 5

Lights on Afterschool
October 16

Fall Fix-it-Day
October 25

ASEP Haunted House
October 31

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An Introduction To Windows



(From left to right) 1: Window set in same plane as the wall, creating a very flat look. 2: Aluminum replacement windows on a Victorian. Note how flat they look and out of character. 3: Typical double hung showing 2 planes of glass. 4: Modern window with “muntin” bar” set between double glazing.

Windows are one of the most important elements of a building. They create a pattern of openings in the wall, and help define ‘skin’ of a building. They have infinite variation in size, proportion, depth, and are essential to the character of a building. Windows also provide outlook from rooms and views in from the street as they mediate between inside and outside; private and public. Hitchcock’s movie, ‘Rear Window’ captures this social essence-- framing the object, subject, and voyeur through the window.

Windows consist of two major parts-- the glass itself, and the surrounding frame and sash, which hold the glass. If a window is further divided into smaller panes, the separating bars are called muntins, which are typically made of the same material as the frame and sash. Glass may be opaque, clear, stained, or etched; but universally it conveys light and/or view. Window frames and sash were traditionally made of wood or lead, and have evolved with new materi-

als to include steel, aluminum, vinyl, and the mixing of these materials in newer “clad windows.” Selecting the right material is one of the most important decisions when choosing windows.

Another important window element is depth, which can be expressed in two ways: where the window sits in the building wall and where the glass sits in the window frame. The range of depth is clear when one compares Mediterranean buildings with their small, deep set windows cut into massive walls and the modern glass ‘curtain wall’ where the window is the wall. Depth is also created within individual windows. For example, double hung and sliding windows have glass in two planes so each piece can move past the other; while casement windows swing out and the glass is all in one plane, creating a flatter appearance.

While this may seem esoteric, these are some of the important factors which help explain the match or mismatch between a building

and its windows. In traditional buildings like Victorians, the glass is held in wood frames set in from the building wall a couple inches; and the typical double hung window provides another offset. If the glass is further divided by muntins, the change in material creates still more reveal, shadow line and depth. For these reasons, a flat casement window can look out of place on a Victorian building.

Since windows are so prominent, care should be used in their selection. While this is especially true of historic structures; it is important to all buildings. For example, consider the consistency of windows on a façade. Many nice residential buildings have been marred by the use of various replacement windows over time—an original double hung here, an aluminum slider there, perhaps a jalousie to the side. Sometimes new double glazed windows try to mimic muntin bars by placing a flat bar between the two sheets of glass. In this case, the traditional muntin, which created

depth and shadow is reduced to a two dimensional fraud. In both cases, the result may produce a façade lacking visual coherence.

To avoid these problems, the San Francisco Residential Design Guidelines include four specific guidelines related to windows:

1. Use windows that contribute to the architectural character of the building and neighborhood.
2. Relate the proportion and size of windows to that of the existing buildings in the neighborhood.
3. Design window features to be compatible with the building’s architectural character, as well as other buildings in the neighborhood.
4. Use window materials that are compatible with those found on surrounding buildings, especially on facades visible from the street.

Following these guidelines, and paying attention to the details described above should help produce windows which truly are “a gift to the street.”

Home For Halloween

Halloween belongs to all of us. Last year after a successful campaign to keep everyone safe and maintain the Castro's tranquility, we're expanding on our "Home for Halloween" campaign (www.homeforhalloween.com). And while like last year there is no party or event in the Castro, there will be plenty to do elsewhere, so don something fabulous and get ready to celebrate as you support your local businesses and communities.

There will be zero tolerance for behavior which doesn't respect the celebrated diversity of our communities. And again like last year, there will be zero tolerance for individuals and businesses that do not obey alcohol consumption and distribution regulations. Like last year, the City will actively promote all the ways to celebrate in other San Francisco neighborhoods and Bay Area cities. Long time Castro-resident David Perry is again on board to get

dinner specials-creativity is the key! Last year, organizations and other neighborhoods really helped us and helped themselves by partnering in our efforts to disperse Halloween events all over town. This effort to promote other neighborhoods will continue this year. Everyone is encouraged to go to the Home For Halloween website and tell us about alternate non-Castro area activities. They'll benefit from the extra marketing push being undertaken by the City Family. Like last year, the website will have details what's going on in communities, towns and cities in the North, South, and East Bay.

And, one major addition to this year's campaign is slated to take place on Halloween Night along the SoMA waterfront! This year a new base for revelers is being assembled by a consortium of Bay Area arts organizations and promoters who are working to bring a fun and safe Halloween to Parking Lot A next to AT&T Park. On Friday afternoon, October 31, a free family-friendly event is planned for Third Street & Terry Francois Boulevard with a paid grown-ups event taking place that evening.

These events will have a strong family and community arts focus, as well as a salute to the LGBT communities who are so much a part of the City's Halloween heritage. Plans include local dance troupes, musicians, Burning Man artists, a Light Parade

and contributions from the City's cultural centers. Slated to appear are international Latin and Pop headliners and DJs. For the free family event, plans are underway for a Haunted House, A Taste of San Francisco Food Pavilion, an interactive Dia De Los Muertos Communal Altar created by local artists and embellished by the public, and a Heart & Soul of San Francisco stage with performances and a Costume and Pumpkin Pie Eating contests. More specifics will be announced in the coming weeks.

Halloween is for everyone. Sadly, in years past, some who don't respect our home have tried to take Halloween away from us. Also, it is a fact that the gloriously festive Halloween celebrations of years past have simply outgrown the Castro. Castro & Market and the surrounding neighborhoods are not an appropriate venue for raucous crowds in excess of 100,000 people! Businesses and residents alike were and are tired of having their home disrespected. No more. Last year, the City Family and Mayor Newsom's office got the message loud and clear: keep Castro safe and help us disperse Halloween throughout other home neighborhoods and regional communities. This year, with your support, we can indeed make October 31 a home for celebrations that are fun, festive and respectful. Halloween is for everyone.



On Friday, October 31st bars and restaurants will remain open in the Castro. However, as occurred last year, the streets will not be closed to traffic and public transit is currently planned to run normally. Again, our fine men and women in the uniform, the SFPD, Sheriff's Office, Parole Officials and others, will be on hand throughout the Castro-Duboce neighborhoods to deal with anyone who doesn't get the message.

the word out and promote our efforts through his firm, DP&A, Inc.

We're encouraging neighborhood restaurants, clubs and other businesses to take advantage of the fact that Halloween is on a Friday night this year and to run special promotions around the holiday: creating specialty cocktails, handing out giveaways if you come in costume, running buy-one-get-one-free

DATES TO REMEMBER:

(Continued from front page)

Discounted neighborhood tickets available. (See article this page)

Sat. Sep. 20 - All day

Big Fall Sidewalk Sale

Stores throughout the Castro-Upper Market will have special tables and display racks out on the sidewalk.

Merchants of Upper Market & Castro
www.CastroMerchants.com



Sun. Sept. 21 Noon to 4:00 p.m.

Rocket Dog Rescue Mobile Adoption Day. Bank of America Building
Corner of 18th and Castro St.

Sun. Sept. 21 - 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Mobile Muttville Senior Dog Adoption
Corner of 18th and Castro Sts.
Muttville.org



Wed. Sept. 24 - 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Metropolitan Transportation Project Update Meeting. CPMC Davies Medical Center Auditorium Level B

Fri. Sept. 26 - 7:00 pm or 9:00 p.m.

Desperate Divas Pageant Benefiting AIDS Housing Alliance. Show is 9-12 and After Party is midnight to 2 am
SOMArts at 8th & Brannan

Sun. Oct. 5 - 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Castro Street Fair!

Sat. Oct. 11 - 10:00 a.m. to Noon

Friends of Duboce Park Volunteer Day
Contact Rose at rosegillen@sbcglobal.net or 255-8370 for more info.

Sun. Oct 19 - Noon to 4:00 p.m.

Rocket Dog Rescue Mobile Adoption Day. Corner of 18th and Castro St.

Fri. Oct 24 - 7:00 p.m. to Midnight

Queens Are Wild! Benefit for Stop AIDS
Visit: Stop AIDS.org

Tues Nov 4 - 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Election Day. Please vote!

Thu. Nov 6 - 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Castro Duboce Comm. Safety Forum
Eureka Valley Rec. Center, 100 Collingwood St.
Contact: Scott Wiener, (415) 437-9414,
scott.wiener@yahoo.com



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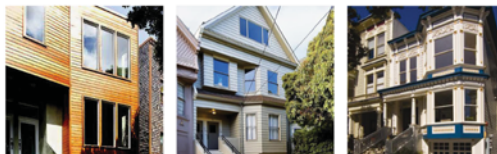
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What's happening in the neighborhood.

In the 60 days before going to press, five TIC units and two two-unit homes closed escrow in the Duboce Triangle. Given the generally slow market and the small size of our neighborhood, that's quite a few transactions. Additionally, there are currently 10 residential listings, which I believe is a sign that things are picking up for the Fall, traditionally a strong market. Here are some Duboce Triangle homes that changed hands in July and August:



Data provided by San Francisco Association of Realtors. All information deemed reliable, but not guaranteed.



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Shelving that fits

Door rubbing?

Pack to ship

Light carpentry

Consumer advice

Organize storage

Assemble kit furniture

Some plumbing/electric

Restore/install artwork-

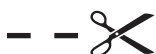
Short notice jobs

Organize a move

Build bookcase to fit

Bob 431-8428

yourcastrohandyman@gmail.com



Join your neighborhood association now!

- Show your pride in our Triangle
- Support historic preservation on your street
- Support our wonderful Duboce Park
- Encourage your neighbors to volunteer
- Supports the costs of your newsletter

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San Francisco, CA 94114

Name: _____

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