

OCT - NOV 2014



DUBOCE TRIANGLE NEWSLETTER

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

Monday, October 13, 2014

7:00 to 9:00 pm

PUBLIC MEETING

CPMC/Davies Hospital, Gazebo Room
(outside, ground-level entrance from
plaza between North and South Towers)

MEETING AGENDA:

- Meet your neighbors (7:00 - 7:30)
- Crime and safety: A panel comprised of Captain Raj Vaswani from the San Francisco Police Department's (SFPD) Park Station, SFPD Captain Greg McEachern from Northern Station, Supervisor Scott Wiener, Chief Ken Craig from Community Patrol USA, and Safeway manager Dave Papalias will discuss crime in the Triangle and what is being done to combat a perceived rise in crime.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Saturday, October 11, 10 am-noon
Friends of Duboce Park Volunteer Day. Contact
Rose at rosegillen@sbcglobal.net or 255-8370.

Saturday, November 8, 10 am-noon
Friends of Duboce Park Volunteer Day. Contact
Rose at rosegillen@sbcglobal.net or 255-8370.

DTNA Teams up with Coalition in Response to Increasing Concern Over Neighborhood Crime



The path behind the Safeway is shared by bicyclists, pedestrians, and transients

Over the summer, the topic on the minds of many, if not most, Duboce Triangle residents has been an increase in crime. Some of these are smaller issues — often termed “quality of life” — that include recycling theft, transient people sleeping in doorways, littering, and so on. More significant crimes in our neighborhood include vandalism, burglaries, assault, and, most recently, a fatal assault at Duboce and Church Streets which is currently under investigation. All of these issues have existed with varying severity throughout the history of Duboce Triangle, but, in recent months, the frequency and severity of these crimes have seemingly increased.

As soon as the first rumblings looking for solutions were discussed among neighbors (including discussions on social media such as Nextdoor.com and DTNA's Facebook page), members of DTNA's Board of Directors have been working to find solutions to what many of us in the neighborhood perceive as a concerning increase in crime. Members of the Board have offered suggestions, presented police data, linked neighbors with police captains and Supervisor Wiener's office, and have simultaneously worked on novel solutions.

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City Hall Update: Supervisor Scott Wiener



Scott Wiener
San Francisco District 8
Supervisor

Public Safety in Duboce Triangle

Recent events in Duboce Triangle have raised questions around public safety in the neighborhood, including the killing of a member of our community on Church Street and day-to-day challenges around street behavior. There are numerous causes at the root of these problems, and we all need to work together to address them. One issue we have encountered is that the neighborhood is overseen by three different police stations, due to the drawing of police district lines. I work closely with all three stations, and they are attempting to improve coordination in the area.

Duboce Triangle is not alone in experiencing these troubles. They exist at Jane Warner Plaza, on Castro Street, all along Upper Market, and in various parts of the Mission and at Civic Center. We need a sustained and comprehensive approach to make our neighborhoods safe, including increasing police staffing so we can focus more resources on foot patrols and community policing. I will continue to work to fund police academy classes to eliminate the depart-

ment’s staffing shortage. I have asked each of the three district captains (Park Station, Northern Station, and Mission Station) to ensure consistent and proactive public safety efforts in Duboce Triangle. I am also working with these captains, representatives from Safeway, and other community leaders to address our neighborhood’s challenges.

Another way to create safer streets and sidewalks is to improve our city’s streetlights. Here at the Board of Supervisors, I have held two hearings and worked with the Mayor’s office to secure \$9 million in additional funding for streetlight maintenance. I also recently introduced legislation at the Board to create an official City Streetlight Policy. This policy will require a 48-hour turnaround time

to fix streetlight burnouts, faster conversion to LED lighting, and implementation of pedestrian-scale lighting. It also calls for the City to bring ownership of our streetlights under city control. Streetlights are split currently between the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission and PG&E. This bifurcation of ownership and responsibility leads to confusion and inefficiency regarding maintenance. Well-lit streets and sidewalks are an important part of a safe night-time environment, and we need to approve how we address this important infrastructure.

Scott Wiener represents District 8 on the Board of Supervisors. More information at www.scottwiener.com.

Advertisement

Please Welcome CVS

After losing Tower Records seven years ago in 2006, the Market & Noe Center, an 85-year-old family-owned property, is pleased to announce its new anchor tenant, CVS Pharmacy. We hope you will support the new CVS, which we feel will be a real positive for the surrounding businesses and for the neighborhood.



Neighborhood Development Brings Positive Changes, Development Fees



Pat Tura
DTNA President

The intersection of 15th Street/ Sanchez Street/Market Street is a hub of expansion in the Triangle right now. The construction of apartments at 2175 Market Street is expected to be finished by press time. The Century at 2200 Market Street is completed, with Hecho restaurant now open and Brewcade set to start pouring draft and installing arcade machines sometime in November. The Swedish American Hall, a trea-

sured building is in the process of being updated, and its historic music venue Café du Nord are being transformed to be more inclusive of a restaurant and bar not just a concert venue. Construction is moving rapidly, and they expect to open in the late fall. All the residential and commercial development has created a positive transition for the neighborhood in multiple ways.

One big bonus for the neighborhood has been the collection of developer fees, which go into a fund specifically for Upper Market improvements. The funding must be used for streetscape and pedestrian safety improvements. The high priority intersections include 15th Street and Sanchez, 16th Street and Market, and the Dolores/Market Street crosswalk. All of these intersections are a challenge to maneuver whether on foot, by bicycle, or by car. The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Authority (SFMTA) and the City plan-

ning department are expected to spend approximately \$2.6 million dollars on these improvements.

While the current growth demands updates, I don’t think we should overlook the need for improvements along Church Street. While the Whole Foods site brought mass improvements along both Market and Dolores, the streetscape along Church Street did not benefit. Neighbors are reporting more crime in the area and opening the street up with improvements could benefit the neighborhood. However, Church Street near the Safeway currently is not a high priority area for planning and MTA. I think the businesses and neighbors would disagree. Church Street could benefit from new lighting, trees with grates and crosswalk enhancements.

The master plan for Upper Market will be unveiled in late fall. DTNA will have representative at our December general meet-

ing to get input and discuss the plan. All the current development provided the funds for improvements and its critical that the changes have a significant impact on the safety and well being of the community. I hope you will join in providing constructive feedback that will make our neighborhood safer and add to the quality of life.

The Duboce Triangle Newsletter is published at the beginning of February, April, June, August, October and December by the Duboce Triangle Neighborhood Association (DTNA), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation.

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Neighborhood Crime, continued

Continued from page 1

Castro Cares Coalition

The Board's most promising effort has been for DTNA to join a new coalition called Castro Cares. Castro Cares is a coalition of neighborhood groups who came together to address the significant increase in at-risk populations (e.g., transient populations, substance users, mentally ill, homeless, and late night parties) in the Upper Market/Castro district by bringing additional, dedicated resources to the area from the San Francisco Department of Public Health, the San Francisco Police Department (SFPD), and the San Francisco Patrol Special Police. **The coalition includes the Castro Merchants, the Castro Community on Patrol, the Castro/Upper Market Community Benefit District, Most Holy**

Redeemer Catholic Church, the Eureka Valley Neighborhood Association, the Hartford St. Neighbors, Harvey's, the Collingwood Neighbors, St. Francis Lutheran Church, Safeway, and DTNA. As the group began to meet and research the issues, Supervisor Wiener facilitated meetings with SFPD and the Police Commission. The coalition also met with HOPE Director Bevan Duffy, S.F. Patrol Special Police, and the Department of Public Health's Homeless Outreach Team (HOT). The program is the result of an effort of the coalition and Supervisor Scott Wiener, who successfully championed for \$100,000 per year in city start-up funds for two years. A private fund-raising campaign begins this month with the goal of raising an additional \$235,000 per year.

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ADMIN HELP WANTED

DTNA is looking for a part-time (3-4 hours/month) paid administrative person to assist the organization with various tasks on a contract basis at \$15/hr. Candidates must possess good organizational and computer skills and be able to work independently. Experience with MS Word and Excel preferred.

This is a great opportunity to help your neighborhood and earn a little extra money in your spare time. If interested, please leave a message at (415) 295-1530.

How it works

The program will bring added police enforcement as well as outreach within the borders of the CBD (and many adjacent blocks). A map of the CBD is available here: <http://www.castrocbd.org/index.php/about-the-cbd/district-map>

Note that the CBD already includes many of the Duboce Triangle hot spots such as Church and Market, and through DTNA's involvement

we will advocate that appropriate adjacent streets be covered in the program.

When fully funded, homeless related services will include a range of services, but may include up to 44 hours a week of dedicated homeless outreach services.; the police will, when fully funded, include a combination of both SFPD and Police Specials for an additional 51 hours a week, dedicated to the district. This is far more

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Ways Neighbors Can Help

If crimes (big and small) are not reported, they essentially did not happen, according to police statistics. So the most important thing anyone can do is to call the Police Non-Emergency number (this is the same number City-wide) at (415) 553-0123 to report homeless encampments, people sleeping on sidewalks or doorways, crimes not in progress (such as vandalism or car break-ins). Use 911 to report crimes in progress when your safety or public safety is at risk, and ask for the CAD number. The CAD number will enable you to follow-up on the incident, but also ensures that the call was put into the database. Other tips include:

- Use the Official 311 app or call 311 to report trash on sidewalks, streets, needles, human waste, vandalism on public property, etc.
- Form a neighborhood watch group (See <http://sfSAFE.org/services/neighborhood-...>)

- If you have concerns that are not being addressed or feel need more detailed attention, e-mail the captain of your police department: Northern Station (Greg.McEachern@sfgov.org), Park Station (Raj.Vaswani@sfgov.org), Mission (Daniel.Perea@sfgov.org). Here is a map for each station: <http://sf-police.org/index.aspx?page=796> and <http://sanfranciscopolice.org/index.aspx?page=796>
- Attend the next DTNA General Meeting, where crime and safety will be our main topic. Guest panelists will include our local police captains, Supervisor Scott Wiener, and other guests. The meeting is on Monday, Oct. 13 at 7:30 p.m. in the Gazebo Room at Davies Hospital.

Duboce Park Report

17th Annual Tag Sale Big Success

The 17th Annual Friends of Duboce Park Tag Sale on Saturday, September 6 was the organization's largest and most successful tag sale ever. Big crowds were ready and waiting for the tag sale to officially start at 9 a.m., and neighbors shopped until the sale closed at 2 p.m.

A crew of volunteers started moving all of the items for sale from the yellow rental truck parked on Duboce Avenue to the tag sale area at 7 a.m., using seven hand trucks and old fashioned muscle. (The truck used to be parked on the upper lawn during the week before the tag sale, but Rec & Park now prohibits private

vehicles from entering San Francisco parks.) With San Francisco Municipal Transit Agency's (MTA) cooperation, Friends were able to get a permit to park the truck on the north side of Duboce, close to the Muni stop at Noe Street. MTA also hosted a table to provide information and answer questions about the Sunset Tunnel Renovation Project.

Many people commented on the fact that many of the volunteers helping out were the sons and daughters of our volunteers who attended previous tag sales as small children. When the tag sale started 17 years ago, there was no specific children's section, but now, with changing demographics around the park, the children's

and toy area are now among the largest sections. The book section has the most items; approximately 800-1000 books and paperbacks were sold.

Rose Gillen, Friends board member and organizer of the tag sale, said, "Sending out a very special thank you to all of the volunteers at the 2014 Tag Sale. Thanks for making it such a success!" The event would not have been possible without neighbors' donations of used merchandise and the efforts of more than 60 fabulous volunteers.

Park Maintenance Update

A temporary fence that was installed in the middle of the Dog Play/Multi-Use Area to

allow new grass to grow was removed, and it only took a few weeks before that same area looked worn and brown. That area is affected by heavy use and receives less water now as a result of the city-mandated 10% cut in water usage. Many of the park's other lawns are getting browner as the drought continues, but the rainy season should help bring back most of the lawns to a green condition.

One of three planks on a bench near the Photo Center is missing and another one has come loose. Both tot swings in the Children's Playground have chunks of rubber missing from the seat, creating a potential safety hazard. Work orders have been submitted to repair those problems.

Neighborhood Crime, continued

Continued from page 4

outreach than any neighborhood in the city has and is significantly more police presence than currently in the Castro.

not limited to, dedicated street outreach, medical care, case management, rooms, or help reuniting with family.

The program launched on Sept. 19 with a dedicated HOT case manager four hours a week, funded by the Department of Public Health. Before launching, HOT surveyed 100 at-risk people on the street in the Castro/Upper Market to ascertain their needs and demographics. The analysis of the surveys will help shape the services provided by Castro Cares. Services could comprise a range of services, but

As the program evolves, DTNA will actively participate in the Coalition with two DTNA Board members participating in the biweekly meetings of the Coalition. As Castro Cares matures, we are eager to have broader community involvement. DTNA will keep members posted through regular updates in our newsletters and on our website and Facebook page.

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PROPERTIES

Crime and Safety Report

Police Captains, Other Panelists to Discuss Crime at next General Meeting

Crime and Safety will be the main topic at the next DTNA General Meeting on Monday, October 13, 7-9 p.m. in the Gazebo Room at California Pacific Medical Center (CPMC) at Duboce Avenue and Castro Street. A panel comprised of Captain Raj Vaswani from the San Francisco Police Department's (SFPD) Park Station, SFPD Captain Greg McEachern from Northern Station, Supervisor Scott Wiener, Chief Ken Craig from Community Patrol USA, and Safeway manager Dave Papalias will discuss crime in the Triangle and what is being done to combat a perceived rise in crime.

The Duboce Triangle community was stunned by the fatal assault on 31-year-old Bryan Higgins near Church and Market streets on August 10, and residents have demanded more action on crime and quality of life issues ever since. However, violent crime is reported to be down in both the Park Station and Northern Station police districts, but there is still the perception that crime is increasing and quality of life is deteriorating. Residents are complaining about the number of transient people gathering at various spots in the Triangle and the Castro, sleeping in doorways, and often leaving behind garbage, uncapped needles, and human waste.

Captain Vaswani at Park Station reported on September 9 that violent crime in Park

District is down 14% compared with the same time last year, but he also said that "the community's perception about crime is valid" and that "how you feel when you are out and about" is legitimate.

Capt. Greg McEachern said in the September 9 Northern Station newsletter that violent crime is down 28% in the Northern District for the first seven months of 2014 compared to the same period in 2013; property crime is down 8%. McEachern reported changes at Northern Station include two street crimes units that will provide coverage seven days a week and the reinstitution of two foot beat patrols. He said, "The Hayes Valley/Haight/Duboce Triangle beat will be staffed by two officers, working as partners, on foot or bicycle patrol throughout the area covered by Van Ness on the east, Steiner on the west, Fulton on the north, and Market Street on the south."

Supervisor Scott Wiener, who represents the Duboce Triangle and Castro, said the Duboce Triangle area "is as bad as I have seen it," and a message he posted to Facebook on August 13 said Higgins' death "is another example of the very real public safety challenges we are facing in the Castro/Upper Market area. The problem is extensive, and the vicinity around the Market Street Safeway has real issues." Wiener is in the process of scheduling a neighborhood safety strategy meeting specific to the area around Safeway at 2020 Market Street and has invited 20 representatives from neighborhood groups,

merchant groups, the SFPD, the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency, the San Francisco Department of Public Works, and the District Attorney's Office to participate.

"The area is literally at the outer edge of three police districts - Northern, Mission and Park stations," Wiener said. "We're working with all three captains, and they have each been terrific, but they don't have the resources, given the understaffing, to focus at the edge of each of these stations."

Park Station covers the area of the Triangle west of Steiner and Sanchez streets, Northern Station covers the area east of Steiner and Sanchez, including the Safeway complex, and Mission Station covers the Castro and area south of Market Street (not technically part of the Duboce Triangle).

Ken Craig, Chief of Community Patrol USA said, "There definitely seems to be a perception shift in the Duboce Triangle and Castro neighborhoods [that] crime and socially

unacceptable behavior are on the increase and becoming a matter of concern." He added, "The overall CompStat and 'calls for service' numbers don't reflect an increase per se, but those figures don't always reflect the realities in any given neighborhood. . . Public perception of safety and security is perhaps more important than the actual crime numbers, as that perception will have a significant impact on quality of life and many other things within the neighborhood."

Besides hosting the panel discussion on Crime and Safety, DTNA is also participating in Castro Cares, a coalition of neighborhood groups that wants to "improve the quality of life for those living on the street and for those who live, work, and play in the Castro/Upper Market." When fully funded, Castro Cares will provide additional dedicated services for those living on the street and additional dedicated police patrols. See cover story, *Castro Cares*.



What's in Store for the Castro/Upper Market?

The Castro & Upper Market Retail Strategy is making progress, but we need your help! The Retail Strategy is an effort to fill existing and upcoming retail vacancies in the district, to attract new businesses that the community would like to have, and to bring neighborhood stakeholders together to address quality-of-life issues. Launched in June, the Retail Strategy is funded with the support of community groups, merchants, developers, and City agencies. (For more information, see article in the August-September issue.)

Customer and Resident Surveys

The Retail Strategy group is currently seeking volunteers to help conduct brief surveys in the Castro/Upper Market area. Beginning in November, surveyors will speak with customers in the district to gain a better understanding of their retail experiences. The idea is to learn what customers perceive as the greatest strengths and weaknesses of the retail

environment, so that strengths can be expanded upon and weaknesses can be addressed. Sample questions include:

- What do you like best about the neighborhood?
- What do you think needs greatest improvement in the neighborhood?
- What types of businesses would you like to see in the Castro/Upper Market?

Surveys will be conducted at various locations on Market Street and Castro Street during the first two weeks of November, and will be at various times during the week in order to get a diverse cross section of customers.

In addition to a customer survey that will be conducted on sidewalks, an online resident survey is being developed that will ask any resident of the Castro/Upper Market area to share feedback. While primarily using the same questions, the survey for residents will also ask about the retail and dining experience outside of



CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

WHEN: Volunteers needed between November 1 - 15, 2014
COMMITMENT: Between 2-10 hours (time of day varies)
TRAINING: All volunteers will be required to attend a short training
SIGNUP: <http://www.castroretail.com/volunteer/>

Castro/Upper Market to learn what residents leave the neighborhood to buy and what kind of restaurants/bars they cannot find locally. "The Castro has no buzz anymore," said local resident Fraydo Felipe in Tony Bravo's August San Francisco Chronicle article. "It's all nail salons and tourist attractions. I don't want to spend my disposable income there." The resident survey will help determine if you agree.

Feedback From Local Businesses

Insofar as the surveys aim to get feedback from patrons and residents, the Retail Strategy is also soliciting feedback from the local business owners who know the district well. The Castro/Upper Market area has a blend of businesses old and new, and the Retail Strategy group wants to learn from them the challenges of opening, owning, and operating a business in the district. A separate survey is being developed for business owners, and will be completed in person and online. Sample questions include:

- What was the most important reason that you located your business in the Castro/Upper Market neighborhood?
- What is your biggest challenge in operating a business

in the neighborhood?

- What other businesses in the neighborhood do your customers patronize?

Business focus groups will also be held to solicit feedback from the business community in small groups and learn from anecdotal evidence over the years. The district is lucky to have a handful of successful new business, which see the area's potential, alongside well-established businesses, which have seen the character of the neighborhood change dramatically over time. The Retail Strategy group wants to learn from both.

What's Next?

The Retail Strategy group will spend the next couple of months finalizing survey formats and conducting the surveys. This information will be used to inform the Retail Strategy's approach and to determine what types of business should be enticed to the area. A final public presentation will share findings and recommendations of the Retail Strategy in early Summer 2015.

To learn more about the Castro & Upper Market Retail Strategy and to discover ways to get involved, please visit www.castroretail.com. For specific questions please contact info@castroretail.com.

Books in and around the Triangle

For at least two decades, the death of paper books has been deemed imminent by everyone from pop culture savants to coffee house hipsters. E-books have flourished. New technology has put entire libraries on devices that fit into the palm of your hand. But books persist. Here in the Triangle, the effect of new technology, if anything, has been additive. The culture of the printed book still thrives.

Our small neighborhood dwells in the lap of book luxury. Two bookstores, a public library branch, and two small book exchanges see good use in good times and bad.

The oldest of these is the Eureka Valley/Harvey Milk Memorial Branch of the San Francisco Public Library on 16th Street. The second branch opened in the library system, our branch library opened on January 2, 1902.



The Public Library on 16th Street

This much loved building was damaged in the Daly City Earthquake of 1957 and demolished. The current designed building (designed by Appleton and Wolford) opened in 1961, and closed briefly for renovation and earthquake retrofitting in 2008.

Our library is open six days a week, lending books, magazines, DVDs, and audiobooks. It houses a children's collection and a teen collection; a LGBT collection; plus laptops to use and free Wi-Fi. You can request that

anything available in the library system be sent to our branch for pickup, then sit by the branch's working fireplace and read.

Opened in November, 1978, by John Hadreas, Aardvark Books on Church Street sells used books and graphic novels, children's books, a careful selection of new books, magazines, rare books, and is home to an orange cat. Located in a former nickelodeon, look up at the tin ceiling the next time you are browsing cooking, history, or mass market fiction.

Books Inc. has been on Market Street near 16th for about 15 years. Part of the Books Inc. family, the store stocks a general selection of new books, including new releases. They stock a large selection of LGBT books, travel books, and large sections for children and teens. They have a frequent reader program, book clubs, and readings by authors. They also will order books for you.

Linda opened the book exchange at the Noe and Market Laundromat on Noe Street in 2008 when the branch library closed for a year for renovation. The exchange has flourished since with books and magazines displayed on two shelves with a note asking folks who take materials to donate in kind. They do.

The Little Free Library at 221 Noe joined the book train in March of this year. Housed in an attractive cabinet next to the stairs, the library asks people to return books taken and to donate more. The library has suffered vandalism since it was installed, necessitating major repairs, but the friends of the Little Free Library have persevered, keeping this library open for us all.

"A reader lives a thousand lives before he dies, said Jojen. The man who never reads lives only one."

–George R.R. Martin, *A Dance with Dragons*

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Business Spotlight: Hecho

At the corner of 15th, Sanchez, and Market Streets, in the Century condominium building, one's eye is drawn to the high glass windows, strong wooden door, and impressive collection of tequila and other spirits gleaming from the window facing Market. On most days since the space opened in early September, Hecho, a sit-down Mexican restaurant, is bustling with diners eager to try the new food and bar.

Hecho is the creation of Jesse Woodward and Dana Gleim, who are also proprietors of Hi Tops, the nearby bar that opened in 2012. The 3,000 square-foot space was designed by C. Walters Design, which also did Hi Tops and Blackbird. With combined bar and table seating, the restaurant has more than 100 seats. Jamie Lauren is the consulting chef — and was also behind the menu at Hi Tops.

The *Duboce Triangle Newsletter* sat down with Jesse Woodward recently and talked

about the new restaurant.

Duboce Triangle Newsletter (DTN): Tell me about how the idea of a restaurant developed, particularly so soon after opening Hi Tops.

Jesse Woodward (JW): About 8 months after opening Hi Tops and its early success, we were contemplating what we wanted to do next: another bar in the City? Another Hi Tops in another city? Leticia Luna, the landlord of the building Hi Tops is in and owner of the land where the Century now stands and a previous Mexican restaurant stood, approached us about coming into the retail space as either a bar or restaurant. We discussed options and decided that we didn't want to do another bar, so we thought about a restaurant. Both Dana and I love going out for Mexican food, so we decided to go for it and to create a new Mexican restaurant.

We were fortunate to have a positive reputa-

tion in the community from High Tops, so neighbors were supportive of us building in the new space.

DTN: Tell me about the concept behind the restaurant? How would you describe it other than “sit-down Mexican”? How did you end up emphasizing tacos?

JW: The menu is a combination of types of foods we enjoy from Mexico. We didn't want to do burritos because we feel that there are so many taquerias nearby that offer excellent burritos. We came up with tacos because there are so many interesting things you can do with them: from more traditional tacos to more innovative ones such as our prawn, chorizo, and goat cheese taco.

DTN: Talk about the bar a little bit. It occupies a large percentage of the space. What's the concept behind the bar?

JW: In addition to tequila, mescal, and other alcohol, the bar offers the full menu, so people can enjoy food at the bar and counter. We also have small snack items, so Hecho doubles as a bar space. We wanted the bar to be a comfortable space people can come and hang out for a drink as well as a nice space for people to relax with a cocktail while waiting for a table.

DTN: What's next for Hecho?

JW: We will be taking reservations via Open Table starting around the time you go to press. We are also looking forward to having another exciting business coming soon next door.

We've also recently started offering brunch on weekends from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Hecho is located at 2200 Market Street and is online at www.hechoinsf.com. Phone (415) 926-5630.

The Business Spotlight is the first in a new series of articles featuring businesses in and around the Triangle. In each issue, this column will profile new (and, sometimes, not-so-new local businesses) and also bring you news of upcoming business development in the neighborhood.

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DUBOCE TRIANGLE TIPS AND FUN FACTS:

The Duboce Triangle Farmer's Market at Market and Noe streets takes place on Wednesdays from 4 - 8pm and runs from April through October.

Contact us and we can provide you with a detailed real estate report on Duboce Triangle

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DTNA General Meeting Notes - August 11, 2014

Crime and Quality of Life

Mark Scheurer, DTNA Board member, presented the crime briefing. He responded to a recent e-mail about an uptick in robberies to merchants, with three recent breakins at Radio Shack and one at Ken Wingard. There is the perception that crime is rising in the Triangle, but statistics actually show a decrease, and Duboce Triangle remains one of the lowest crime areas in the City. A report on Community Patrol U.S.A. website shows a monthly decrease of crimes from 3,700 crimes to 3,400 crimes. Level 1 crimes, the most serious, were down from 33 to 29 incidents during the one-month period. Despite these statistics, other quality of life issues, including less serious crimes, are of concern to many neighbors, and DTNA is working in a number of ways to address them (see *Castro Cares*, Page 1).

It is very important to report all crimes and quality of life issues to the police department, as SFPD deploys officers based on the number of calls for service. A recent spate of killings in the Bayview led to a re-deployment of Park Station police officers to that area, resulting in delays in responding to lower priority calls in the Triangle during that time. Capt. Raj Vaswani, who took over as commander of Park Station in June, will be at our October meeting (as part of a panel that will be discussing crime and safety in the Triangle).

Supervisor's Report

Supervisor Wiener congratulated Dennis Richards, former president of DTNA, on his appointment to the Planning Commission. The Supervisor reviewed the challenge of the homeless issue and noted that the Recycling Center on the Safeway property is now closed. Wiener reported that there is a high degree of frustration with SFPD regarding their response time to crimes. He noted that calling (415) 553-0123 to report non-emergency crimes is better than calling 311 since one less step is involved.

The new city budget passed and there is

full funding for road resurfacing and there are three police academy classes (SFPD is building back to 1,700 officers), but HIV funding has been cut.

Supervisor Wiener has sponsored two ballot measures: B, the charter amendment for transportation funding increases tied to population growth. There is a huge backlog in maintenance, about \$2 billion at MUNI, and money remains a big prob-

lem for the agency. Training at MUNI is poor and there are not enough trainers. He said MUNI is a "big, imperfect agency."

He also has sponsored Proposition E, the Soda Tax, which would be similar to cigarette taxes. Sugary drinks are unhealthy and fueling diabetes and obesity, he said. The measure calls for a two cents per ounce

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General Meeting Notes, continued

Continued from page 10

charge for sugary drinks, including soda and sports drinks. This special tax requires a two-thirds approval. Of the revenues raised by this tax, 40% will go to the school district, 25% to the Recreation and Parks Department, 25% for public health, and 10% to grant programs for community based groups. Big soda companies are funding the opposition.

Market-Octavia Upgrades

Dennis Richards presented an update from the Market-Octavia Community Advisory Committee (CAC). He began with the planning study currently underway at the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (MTA) that will recommend upgrades to Upper Market streets and intersections. This study received a \$50,000 grant to determine the most efficient use of money generated from development funds collected from the recent burst of mixed use development in our neighborhood.

A total of more than \$2.6 million is available for Market Street improvements. High priority intersections were examined as part of a \$50,000 MTA study, which was done 18 months ago. Engineering is the most expensive part of street projects. Richards reviewed maps of intersections at 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th streets and Market Street, all of which are expected to receive funding. Bulb outs are the most popular pedestrian safety enhancement to street corners and are planned for all intersections except 17th and Market. There will be other physical and programming improvements, such as timing on lights. All plans are conceptual at this point.

Developers must pay \$10 per square foot into the community benefit fund. The CAC ended up with more money than expected. There will be 4,000 new households in Upper Market; stories in past DTNA newsletters (visit DTNA.org) outlined plans for these developments. DNTA fought hard for the CAC plan, an area north and south of Market St. from Octavia to Noe streets.

So far, the CAC has identified 45 projects, which include a skate park and dog park under the freeway on 13th St. Expected additional funding from the CAC includes transportation, open space, greening, libraries, and program administration. Yearly projections and expenses for the 25-year plan are now \$45 million instead of the \$35 million originally projected. All modes of transportation are supported: automobiles, biking, and walking.

This was the first in a series of presentations on the topic, and a schedule for further outreach with the MTA and Planning Department will follow. Details are available at www.sf-planning.org, click on Upper Market Community Plan. This was Dennis' last presentation as a DTNA board member before he assumes his role as a newly appointed Planning Commissioner.

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