

JUL-AUG 2007



DUBOCE TRIANGLE NEWSLETTER

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

Monday July 9
PUBLIC MEETING
CPMC Davies Hospital
7:30 pm Lower Level B

Meeting Agenda

- **Better Streets Plan**
- **Transportation Effectiveness Project**

Come join us for presentations on these exciting new initiatives!

All members and Duboce Triangle residents are encouraged to attend this important meeting.

DATES TO REMEMBER *All Triangle residents*

- **July 9: DTNA Public Meeting**
CPMC Davies Medical Center Auditorium, Level B, 7:30 pm
- **July 14: Duboce Park Volunteer Day** 10 am-Noon
(info: www.dubocepark.org)
- **July 15 and August 19: Rocket Dog Rescue Mobile Adoption** at 18th and Castro
- **July 21: Randall Museum Sun, Wind and Water Day**
(see page 4 for details)
- **July 21: Film Night in Dolores Park, "Sixteen Candles", 8 pm**
(info: www.sfneighborhoodtheater.org)

**OUR NEXT PUBLIC MEETING
WILL BE MONDAY SEPT 10**
same time, same place

Market Octavia Plan Appeal Fails

Supervisors Approve Plan Despite Inadequate EIR

The Board of Supervisors heard the appeal of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Market/Octavia Plan at two meetings in June, ultimately voting to reject the appeal and certify the Plan's EIR. Three separate groups challenged the adequacy of the EIR following its approval by the Planning Commission on April 5.

The groups challenged the EIR based on its lack of a complete and comprehensive historic survey, its failure to examine the cumulative impacts of the plan, and its failure to follow noticing procedures. The appeal on the historic survey was filed by the San Francisco Preservation Consortium, of which DTNA is a member.

The Consortium's appeal stated that without a completed and comprehensive survey the EIR could not assess the Plan's impact on potential historic structures. Instead of a comprehensive survey, a historic survey was launched late last year that did not survey all properties, and the Plan was approved with a timetable to complete this historic survey. During the Plan approval process, one of DTNA's primary concerns has been the preservation of historic buildings and the unfortunate lack of a historic survey.

Since adoption of the Plan, some of the initial survey information has been released. A map showing data collected through March 10 indicated that certain parts of the Triangle may be eligible for designation as a Historic District, due to the number and integrity of historic buildings. However, that same map

continued on page 4

**President's
Message
by
Dennis
Richards**



Your Neighborhood Needs YOU!

Summer is finally upon us and some of the major land use issues facing our neighborhood are fast coming to a close while others are just beginning.

The Davies Medical Office Building at Duboce and Noe was approved with conditions by the Planning Commission on June 14. DTNA will work with CPMC Medical Center to "fine tune" some of the transportation, pedestrian, and streetscape impacts during this coming month.

In July, the long-awaited Upper Market Street (Planning) Workshops (a.k.a. Charette) finally begin. At publication time no dates were announced. Check DTNA.org for up to date information on dates and locations.

In April, the Market Octavia Plan was passed by the Planning Commission, and the Board of Supervisors has just certified the Plan's Environmental Impact and rejected the appeal. We expect a flood of new development on Market Street where some of the largest of the Plan changes are spelled out. DTNA will be following each of these developments closely and you will find information on

continued on page 3

DTNA Pushes Developers for More Affordable Housing in Triangle

While the proposed Market-Octavia plan projects nearly 6,000 new housing units to be built within the plan's boundaries in the next 20 years, planners can only speculate on who might reside in these new units. Given the extraordinary cost of housing in San Francisco though, it is natural to ask whether the neighborhood's existing residents will be able to afford them. Likewise, will the servers at our local cafes be able to live here or will they be forced to commute from across the Bay? Will some of the folks sleeping on the streets or at nearby homeless shelters be able to finally get off the streets and become housed? Will tenants who have been evicted from apartments in the neighborhood under the Ellis Act or persons who are no longer able to work due to a disability or HIV-status be able to stay in their long-time neighborhood?


Recent legislation by the Board of Supervisors mandated that developers of new housing provide a certain percent-

age of new housing units as "affordable." Developers have the option of making either 15% of their new units affordable on-site, integrated in new market-rate developments, or 20% of the units affordable on a separate nearby site. For rental developments, an "affordable" unit in this case is defined as one in which a household earning up to 60% of the area median income ("AMI") can pay 30% of their income for rent. At this writing, this is essentially housing for individuals with incomes of up to \$38,300 and couples with incomes of up to \$43,750. For ownership developments, the units can be sold to households with incomes up to 120% AMI, or \$76,600 for an individual and \$109,450 for a couple.

While this program effectively helps local teachers, nurses, and mid-level professionals stay in the city, it does little to assist low-income persons with disabilities or those working low-level service jobs.

In response to the need for more housing that is affordable for these groups, DTNA has taken the position that any greater residential densities provided by the Market-Octavia plan must be tied to increased levels of affordability. This is to say, for example, if the city establishes new zoning that allows developers to increase their profits by selling or renting more high-end units on their parcels, some of those profits should be returned to the community in the form of fees that would fund the development of housing that is desperately needed by the neighborhood's lower income individuals and families. The development of this new housing could be administered through city programs and developed by local non-profit organizations. This type of housing, like the existing affordable housing at One Church, can be designed to integrate into the neighborhood and can be funded so that even residents on fixed-income disability checks can afford to remain part of the Duboce Triangle community. ▼

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Meet Your DTNA Board Members

Curt Holzinger



Curt recently joined the Board, and is most interested in land use issues. He grew up in Vista, California, and moved to the bay area to attend Stanford University. He has a Masters degree in Architecture from UCLA, and currently works for Graff Architects, a small design firm specializing in residential projects. Curt lives on Henry Street and enjoys gardening and exploring the City. He is also a sculptor, creating works of welded steel and concrete.

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NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT

The Better Streets Plan

The Better Streets Plan will create a unified set of standards, guidelines and implementation strategies to govern how the City of San Francisco designs, builds, and maintains public streets and rights-of-way. The Plan process is being led by the Department of City Planning and the Municipal Transportation Agency, along with the Department of Public Works and the Public Utilities Commission. It is funded in part by the San Francisco County Transportation Authority through the Prop K sales tax program.

Bringing together staff of multiple City agencies allows the City to plan streets comprehensively, balancing the needs of all street users (pedestrians, drivers, transit riders, cyclists, deliveries, parking, etc.), with a focus on the pedestrian environment and how streets can be used as public space. The Plan will reflect the understanding that the pedestrian environment is about much more than just transportation – that, ultimately, streets serve a multitude of social, recreational and ecological needs that must be considered when deciding on the most appropriate design.

The Better Streets Plan will consist of two primary elements: the Streetscape Master Plan and the Pedestrian Transportation Master Plan. These two elements will consist of independent technical content. They will, however, conduct joint outreach.

The Vision for the Better Streets Plan, while still in draft form, is as follows:

- A street system designed to promote human needs for the use and

enjoyment of public streets. It will prioritize the needs of walking, bicycling, transit use, and the use of streets as public spaces for social interaction and community life, following San Francisco's General Plan, Transit-First Policy, and Better Streets Policy.

- Streets where people walk and spend time out of choice—not just necessity—because they are memorable, engaging, safe, accessible, healthy, attractive, fun, and convenient.
- A green network that enhances the City's long-term ecological functioning and people's connection to the natural environment.
- Improved street-based social opportunities, community life, access, and mobility for all San Franciscans, regardless of cultural identity, income group, neighborhood identity, or mobility level.

There will be numerous opportunities for the public to get involved and provide feedback at every stage of plan development. Please visit www.sfbetterstreets.org to learn about upcoming events and to contact the lead planners. To be added to the Better Streets Plan mailing list, or to request a presentation on the plan at your organization, please email info@sfbetterstreets.org or contact: Adam Varat, SF Planning Department, Ph. 415-558-6405, adam.varat@sfgov.org; or Cristina Olea, Municipal Transportation Agency (MTA), Ph. 415-701-4579, cristina.olea@sfmta.com ▼

President's Message

continued from page 1

them in future newsletters.

The time and effort involved in following issues, publishing this newsletter, and advocating for our neighborhood's needs falls on a dedicated group of volunteers like myself. While we all feel that there isn't enough time in the day, I invite you to get involved and make a difference whether it be by submitting an article to this newsletter or attending a Planning Commission meeting. Your efforts will be much appreciated and may have an impact in the decades to come. ▼

Davies Medical Office Building Approved by Planning Commission

The new Medical Office Building proposed for the corner of Noe and Duboce was approved, subject to a variety of conditions, by the Planning Commission at its meeting on June 7. DTNA had sought resolution of three items prior to approval. We recommended shadow impacts from the building be reduced and Davies contribute to the Duboce Park Fund due to increased use of the park as a result of the additional occupants of the new building. We also recommended that solid traffic calming measures be implemented on Noe Street between 14th and Duboce. Unfortunately, the Commission rejected the first two items, but did find merit in our desire for traffic calming measures on Noe Street. After much discussion, the building was approved with no significant changes.

However, the Commission did direct the planning staff to "continue to work with neighbors, neighborhood groups, and the project sponsor to address concerns about streetscape improvements, livable streets, traffic calming and parking." DTNA will continue to be a part of these discussions and will outline the final project specifications in the next DTNA newsletter. ▼

Handyman Services

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TREES OF THE TRIANGLE

A Magnolia Grows on Beaver Street

It is somewhat ironic to write an article about a tree on a street named after the very rodent that cuts trees down, but anyone who spends more than a few years in the Triangle would know what tree I'm talking about. The magnolia itself is magnificent, but made even more so by its setting. It stands in front of 22 Beaver, one of the oldest homes in the Triangle and clearly one built as a farmhouse: Unlike the later Victorian row houses that surround it, this gabled Italianate is free-standing with windows facing every direction.



The magnolia, which probably tops 50 feet, crowns the front lawn. A front lawn is itself a Triangle oddity, making this one, with its ferns, a white picket fence and stone walkways, unforgettable to passersby. At night, outdoor lights illuminate the garden pathways.

The whole ensemble – rambling white Victorian, fence, ferns, lights and magnolia – transports me so vividly to the Garden District of New Orleans that no matter the temperature, I seem to feel the warm breeze that blows off the Mississippi.

There may be other spectacular trees as huge and high as this one in our neighborhood, but the space they consume necessarily places them into rear yards, screened from the public eye. Here we have a combination of house, yard, and the passage of many years that offer us a gift. The graceful, voluminous magnolia on Beaver would seem at home in the opening paragraphs of something written by Faulkner—or perhaps more contemporarily, Anne Rice—whose stories, like this tree, are rooted in both San Francisco and New Orleans. ▼

—Peter and Libby Albert

Market/Octavia Appeal Fails

continued from page 1

has caused concern because it also shows that many properties will not be evaluated beyond a cursory drive by. There are also apparent oddities in the survey itself. For example, the Dulux Paint Store and Thai House will be intensively surveyed, while the buildings at Boynton Court will not.

Although the initial survey results show a rich collection of historic buildings in the Triangle, the current survey is not comprehensive, and excludes many important properties from further evaluation. For this reason, DTNA supported the Consortium in its appeal of the EIR. ▼

Sun, Wind and Water Day July 21 at Randall Museum

Join Randall staff and volunteers and the SF Public Utilities Commission to explore what sun, wind, & water do for all living things and for the earth. Lots of experiments plus arts and crafts; activities and games for children of all ages. Entertainment, dancing and sing-a-longs. Water balloon catching contests for the brave and foolish! Solar s'mores made in solar ovens, of course. Saturday, July 21. 10am – 2pm. Admission and most activities are FREE.

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VOLUNTEERISM

One Person Can Make a Difference

I first became interested in the area down the street on 17th Street when I saw Mike Babbitt working on a large stump. I asked, "Are you going to take that out all by yourself?" He answered that he was. I then realized that if I got some of the neighbors to help, the process would go much faster. So I did, and that was the beginning. At the time, I had no idea that our volunteer work would eventually result in the formation of the Pink Triangle Park Memorial

It was Mike Babbitt who made me realize the impact one person's contributions, in his case trying to clean up a blighted area, can have on an entire community. With Mike as my inspiration, I started out doing little things in my neighborhood that could make a difference. I talked to people and let them know about our efforts to make the area around 17th Street look nice. Later, when we found out that it was going to be a memorial, Joe Foster got several rose bushes donated and he encouraged me to join the E.V.P.A., a neighborhood organization. That was six years ago.

Working on the memorial made me think of all of the wonderful people who had made a difference in my life, so I decided to make a pin in their memory and hand them out to people so they would know about the memorial park. Later, Charles Sands, Daniel Yerkick, Nancy Chinsky, Tito Vandermeiden, and I had a benefit at Magnet for the Pink Triangle Park Memorial and we were able to raise \$700 for the Pink Triangle Park Memorial from those pins. The money we raised went to resurfacing the memorial that remains in the park today.

In short, this is my story of how one person can make a difference, and how many people working together can make an even bigger difference. I encourage each of you to look around

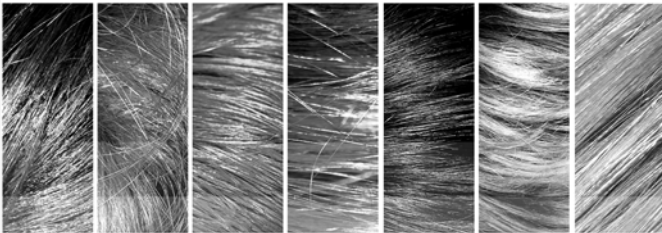
your neighborhood. See what you would like to see changed. Call people in the City government. Reach out to City Supervisors like Bevan Dufty—they want to help. Think of something that would be fun and act upon it. It's your chance to make a difference in our community. ▼

-Diane M. Nutting



The Trinity United Methodist Church, shown in this undated photo, sat at the corner of 16th/Market and Noe Streets until it was destroyed by a tragic fire in 1981. The site has been vacant since then, but was recently sold, and is slated for development as residential over retail space. Stay tuned to upcoming DTNA newsletters for news on this and other development projects affecting our neighborhood.

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NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY

Watch, Walk Call: Community Members Organize for Safety

The groups of orange jackets you see walking through the Castro on weekend nights are more than just a happy fashion coincidence, these are the men and women of Castro Community on Patrol. When the Bay Area Reporter first reported the assaults of three men in the Castro last October, community members were both shocked and outraged. The crowd at Joe's Barbershop overflowed onto the 19th Street sidewalk as Carlton Paul, Joe Gallagher and other community leaders issued a simple yet stirring call to action. Castro Community on Patrol was born.

Since November, CCOP volunteers have shared their time, eyes and feet to help keep all of us safer in this neighborhood we call home. Castro Community on Patrol, a project of SF SAFE (San Francisco Safety Awareness for Everyone) has organized nearly one hundred active volunteers to respond to the perceived rise of violence and other crime in Castro area. CCOP volunteers have alerted authorities

to several emergency situations such as assaults and robberies. We have also brought attention to areas of inadequate lighting and other potential dangers, as well as offered general assistance to people who were injured or intoxicated to the point that their own safety was in question. Patrol volunteers also educate community members about personal safety and distribute whistles for use in case of an emergency.

The patrol operates on a simple belief: that by observing our community, we are safer and stronger. We believe that the simple acts of walking, watching, and calling make us powerful as a community and safer as a neighborhood. Patrol volunteers are organized into teams that walk the streets of the Castro every Friday and Saturday night, equipped with radios, cell phones, and whistles. All patrol volunteers are trained in collaboration with Triangle Martial Arts to recognize potentially dangerous situations and to respond safely and appropriately.

When necessary, we call the appropriate authorities and continue to witness the situation. Patrol volunteers do not engage dangerous individuals or circumstances, but serve instead as the community's eyes and ears.

CCOP is seeking additional volunteers who are able to dedicate one night per month to the safety of the Castro community. Patrol volunteers receive free training, and receive a complimentary CCOP t-shirt and jacket to wear on patrol. Upcoming trainings will be held on July 17, September 15, and November 19. Interested individuals can obtain more information and register by emailing training@castropatrol.org. CCOP is a diverse community organization that encourages people of all backgrounds to participate. Want to help, but don't think patrolling is right for you? As with any non-profit organization, we need all sorts of help getting the job done. From handing out flyers to fund-raising, if you have a skill, we can use it! ▼



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DUBOCE PARK NEWS

Duboce Park Plan Ready for Implementation

One and a half years after the Recreation & Parks Commission unanimously approved the community's Multiple-Use Plan for Duboce Park, the detailed technical planning work is finished and the city will begin implementation of the first phase in mid summer. A community information meeting was held by the Rec & Parks Dept and Supervisor Dufty on May 29th.

The first phase, expected to be finished by October, is focused on the lower "Play Field" as well as on new benches and signage throughout the park. Already the Rec & Parks Department has begun major repairs to the lawn by filling and re-contouring worn areas and laying in brand new lawn sod. As part of this package of improvements through the Park Plan, there will also be drainage improvements, irrigation upgrades, lighting along the Duboce Ave side, new trash receptacles including ones specifically for dog waste, tree pruning, and

establishment of a seasonal lawn maintenance program.

The community is working with Supervisor Dufty's office to secure funding in this year's budget for the second phase of the Park Plan implementation which will focus on the upper "Public Lawn" near the playground and the Harvey Milk Rec Center (the timing of the second phase will be sequenced with the renovations at the Rec Center, expected to begin early this Fall). In addition to funding from the city budget, the community also hopes to receive funding through the Market/Octavia Plan's "community benefits" program and from a contribution by CPMC for its neighboring Davies campus across the street from the Park.

When finished, the Duboce Park Plan will start a new chapter in the park's long history, and we can expect that the usability of the park and the community's stewardship of the park will be dramatically enhanced. Stay tuned. For updates or questions, contact David Troup (david@troup.net) or Peter Cohen (pcohen_sf@yahoo.com.) ▼

The 225 4"x4" mosaic pieces that encircle the labyrinth, the 17 mosaic anti-skateboard notches, and the mosaic base of the table labyrinth were all made by community members and add a color and sparkle color to the site. The 2"x2" commemorative photo tiles and a special 15-tile collage commemorating the pirate ship play structure that the labyrinth replaced are on the seating area facing the labyrinth. Five drum stools made by neighbor Buddy Rhodes provide seating near the entrance.

Rec & Park added three new flowering cherry trees near the labyrinth entrance and new podocarpus trees against the residential fences. Volunteers installed dozens of new plants around the labyrinth in March and Rec & Park put the finishing touch of green by installing grass sod around the labyrinth.

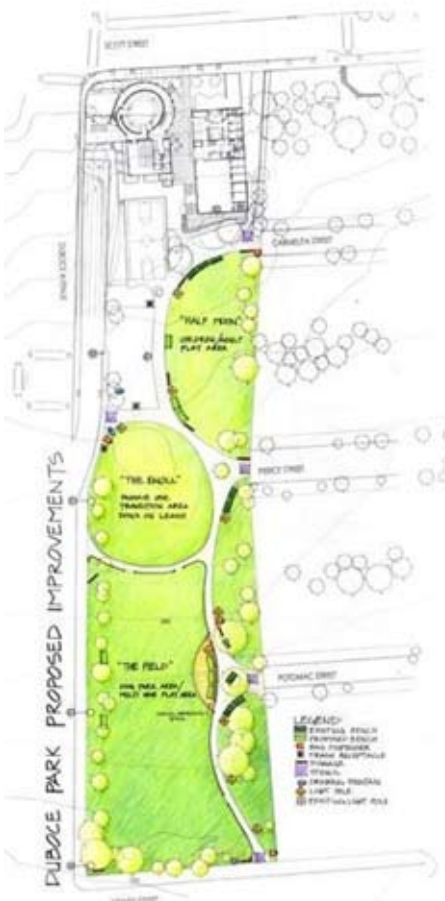
The Scott St. Labyrinth has a 23' diameter with seating outside and a table labyrinth that allows the sight-impaired and others to trace a path with their fingers rather than walk the path. A labyrinth is a single winding path that takes you to a center place and back out again. Unlike a maze, it is not a puzzle and does not have multiple paths or dead ends; it is completely flat and intended for meditation, contemplation, or relaxation.

The chain link fence around the labyrinth had to be put back up after the dedication so that Rec & Park could finish sealing the concrete with anti-graffiti coating. The first application applied in mid-May had to be removed after causing discoloration and streaking wherever it was applied. The final application will be reapplied and the fence will come down permanently in early July.

The Scott St. Labyrinth is the second phase of the Duboce Park Playground Project that was initiated in 1998 as part of a total renovation of both children's play areas in the park; the playground was completed in 2001 with major funding provided by the Friends of Duboce Park. ▼

Visit Friends of Duboce Park online at www.dubocepark.com.

PLANNED DUBOCE PARK IMPROVEMENTS



Scott St. Labyrinth In Duboce Park Dedicated

Under sunny skies and colorful banners, approximately 200 people attended the grand opening and dedication of the Scott St. Labyrinth on Saturday, April 28. The red ribbon was simultaneously cut by a group that included Supervisor Bevan Dufty, Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi, CPMC President Dr. Martin Brotman, and Project Chair Janet Scheuer, followed by a group labyrinth walk led by Richard Feather Anderson, who designed the labyrinths at Grace Cathedral and Duboce Park.

The event featured a historic photo exhibition of Duboce Park through the decades, a photo documentation of the labyrinth being built, an information table, labyrinth rubbings, balloons, and music by local musician Steve Medoff, who composed a special labyrinth song just for the dedication. A live demonstration of a labyrinth being laid out with cornmeal was done by Scott Grimes.

The Mountain in Your Backyard

An easy 20-minute uphill cardiovascular workout from almost anywhere in the Duboce Triangle, Corona Heights pokes up its craggy brown pate and green shoulders just south of its darker and more imposing neighbor, Buena Vista Park. This highly accessible little urban wilderness has something for nearly everyone. Walking trails circle the bare peak and lead to its summit, with spectacular views of the city, San Francisco Bay and the East Bay hills to the east, San Bruno Mountain to the south, and to the west Japan, but for the earth's pesky curve. If you know where to look, you can find three of the five characteristic rocks on which San Francisco is built: red-brown ribbon cherts, pillow lavas left over from ancient volcanic eruptions, and sandstone remnants of massive undersea landslides, jumbled in

exposed folds and faults that testify to the lively geological history of our city. In the 19th century the chert attracted quarriers, who dug out the hill on all sides, leaving steep cliffs, now fenced off for safety, and flat benches that have proved ideal for recreational purposes. On one of the quarried-out benches are tennis and basketball courts and a playground, along with a lush lawn beloved of dogs and their companions. On the next level up is the Josephine A. Randall Museum, with its geological exhibits, petting zoo, educational programs for school kids, and an auditorium used for nature and history lectures, musical performances, and community meetings.

Josephine Randall was San Francisco's first Superintendent of Recreation in 1926; her dream was to "create a

spot in the heart of the city where young people could enjoy a day in the country." In that spirit, park employees wage a relentless struggle to curb invasive species and give the 75 species of native plants and trees, along with the more than 100 species of birds that have been spotted here at one time or another, a chance to flourish on this little island above the pavement. The usual urban tensions among dog-walkers, human strollers, feral cat lovers, birders, homeless campers, and the few but determined friends of poison oak are also in evidence in the park; but so far our vest-pocket mountain has managed to unfold them all and remain a fine place to exercise, contemplate nature, or socialize. Give it a look, if you haven't already. ▼

Historic Triangle Building

**158-160-162
Henry Street (1882)**

An abundance of Eastlake details suggest a date about a decade later. Quite startling is the horseshoe pendant at the apex of the gable.



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What's happening in the neighborhood.

People always ask me, "So how's the market?" Well, the first quarter of 2007 saw 10 sales of residential properties in the Duboce Triangle, each taking approximately 30 days to sell. Relative to the first quarter of 2006, this is an active market. In Q1 2006, there were six sales, each taking approximately 60 days to sell. Here are some Duboce Triangle homes that changed hands earlier this year:



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



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PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

Traffic Dangers Lurk On Our Walkable Streets

The Duboce Triangle is without question one of the great "walkable" neighborhoods of San Francisco. The 1970s traffic calming and streetscape improvements along many of the neighborhood's streets, thanks to that great former City Planning Director Alan Jacobs, are still the envy of planners and designers across the city. Situated between the Upper Market/Castro commercial district, Duboce Park, the MUNI metro tunnel, Safeway, and the Divisadero commercial corridor, there is no shortage of places that people walk to and from throughout the day and evening—the sidewalks of Duboce Triangle are active places.

Yet, given all that, is Duboce Triangle entirely a "pedestrian friendly" neighborhood? The volume of traffic through the local streets is actually quite high, and often traveling at unsafe speeds with all those pedestrians walking about. It is necessary to step back and look at the location of Duboce Triangle at a broader scale to understand why. The neighborhood is a maze of streets that create connections between major cross-town vehicle corridors: from the north-south Divisadero/Castro corridor to downtown; from the east-west Market Street corridor to the Oak and Fell corridors; from the Upper Market/Buena Vista area to the Central Freeway; and so on.

This means that our neighborhood's tree-lined "walkable" streets are also shortcuts for commuters impatiently trying to get through the area to some distant destination. The Davies hospital is also a magnet for much traffic

to Duboce Triangle, whether the staff circling for street parking, or patients being dropped off or the shuttle buses driving back and forth throughout the day.

If one walks around and carefully observes these traffic patterns, there are clearly some "hot spot" intersections where pedestrian safety really needs to be addressed sooner than later, such as Noe/Market/16th, Sanchez/Duboce, 14th/Castro, 14th/Market, and Noe/Duboce. There are easy solutions for all of these risky intersections, for the most part simply involving new and better crosswalk painting. In some cases improvements to the signals are needed, like a left-turn signal from Castro onto eastbound (downhill) 14th Street. One of the most hazardous spots—the intersection at 14th x Noe—was just recently re-painted, after many months of community request, with higher visibility "ladder" striping in the crosswalks. We are still needing what is called an "advance limit line" on the downhill side of 14th Street (eastbound) to further discourage vehicles from creeping into the crosswalk when they come to the stop sign at high speeds down that hill. Another hot spot is the stretch of Noe Street between 14th and Duboce streets, where none of the "traffic calming" improvements were installed in the 1970s like the rest of Noe Street and Sanchez Street. This

section of Noe, which conveniently connects the Divisadero, Oak/Fell and Market traffic corridors with the Davies campus right in the middle, has become an unimpeded 400-foot drag strip for lead-footed drivers. Improvements to Noe Street to narrow the roadway and create variety to the streetscape, similar to the same stretch of Sanchez Street just one block away, are sorely needed.

What can you do as a Duboce Triangle resident to make the neighborhood's streets safer for pedestrians? DTNA has been working hard to advocate for these types of intersection and street improvements through the proposed Market/Octavia Neighborhood Plan, through the proposed Davies Medical Office Building development project, and through the upcoming Upper Market "charrette" process. But it's not easy. Send comments to our DTNA board so we can bring the "voice of the community" to our efforts at City Hall. You can also write a letter to the Mayor or Supervisor Dufty encouraging them to keep the streets of Duboce Triangle a model "pedestrian friendly" neighborhood. ▼



Mike Tekulsky and Ron Wong

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McKINLEY SCHOOL REPORT

Our Neighborhood Elementary School Reports In

It has been said that the crow flies straight because it has one eye looking ahead and the other eye looking behind. As McKinley approaches the end of another school year, we follow this example. While we remember accomplishments from the previous year, we look ahead to what awaits us in the coming year.

The reopening of the library with flourish after eight years of dormancy; several inspiring Spring performances, not the least of which was Mr. Kallok's kids at the annual PTA gathering; the exhausted joy of children returning from the Marin Headlands Science Trip; and Ms. Fong's heart-pounding obstacle course finish during the school's annual Junior Olympics are just a few examples of the year's highlights. The After-School program also had a great families event including a kids drumming performance. McKinley had its 20th annual United Nations Days event in May, with every room adorned in costumes and customs from Eritrea to Germany to Bhutan and many exotic places

in between. For those who are interested, the school has DVDs for sale (\$10) with photos from UN Days and the Junior Olympics set to a great oldies soundtrack. Additionally, the year-end car wash on June 9th was a huge success, raising \$1,600 to go towards the kids' science field trips next year. Thanks to all of you who contributed!

A goal for the coming year, for which this column has been a catalyst, is more community involvement. The school had an increased number of applications for entering students, so McKinley's "best kept secret" is being discovered. Not only is the school hoping to recruit more families to attend the DTNA meetings, but the fundraising committee has explored several ideas. Our annual Walk-a-thon may be extended into Duboce Park, and we may hold joint fundraising campaigns with Sanchez and Harvey Milk, two other local schools. The After-School program also hopes to use Duboce Park more regularly once the park improvements plan is implemented this

summer. Since the kick-off of our 100th year at the Junior Olympics, we have been given another opportunity for community involvement as we collect stories, photos and memorabilia. If you have any contributions, or know any one who might, please send them to the office this Fall. Finally, the school year starts on August 27th, and the activities get kicked off with McKinley's annual welcome BBQ for new families.

Heartfelt thanks to everyone who has supported McKinley School over the years. We'll look forward to seeing you at one of the school events in the Fall. ▼

McKinley School Fall Events

(check next newsletter for specific dates)

Castro Street Fair
Read-a-thon
Books, Inc mixer
November performances
Seasonal Car Wash

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