

APR - MAY 2015



DUBOCE TRIANGLE NEWS

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

Monday, April 13, 2015

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)
- Office of Supervisor Wiener update
- SFPD Homicide Division to report on neighborhood murder investigations
- MTA plans for Twin Peaks Tunnel renovation
- MTA plans for Market St. intersection improvements

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Saturday, April 11, 10 a.m.-noon. Friends of Duboce Park Volunteer Day. Contact Rose at rose@friendsofdubocepark.org or 255-8370.

Saturday, May 9, 10 a.m.-noon. Friends of Duboce Park Volunteer Day. Contact Rose at rose@friendsofdubocepark.org or 255-8370.

Thursday, May 14, 6:30-8 p.m. Photo Lecture Series. Free. Visit harveymilkphotocenter.org or call 554-9522.

President's Message

Light Up Your Sidewalk at Night



Modern lighting fixtures make a big difference in illuminating sidewalks and enhancing safety for all.

In the past year, there have been several well-publicized assaults in our normally-quiet neighborhood, as well as two killings, one in broad daylight. Though crime statistics suggest that violent crime in Duboce Triangle is still quite low, it certainly *feels* like crime is on the uptick.

We've written in previous issues about the new Castro Cares program (www.castrocares.org), which kicked off in earnest during March, and we're hopeful that this program will help reduce quality-of-life crimes and send a message to more violent types that they should give our neighborhood a wide berth. But what concrete steps can each of us take to make our neighborhood safer?

Many of you have commented that our sidewalks don't feel as safe as they used

to, especially at night, and I've shared that feeling myself. Helping to create that perception, many of our sidewalks are very dark at night. The beautiful trees we love in our neighborhood have often not been well maintained by the city or by adjacent property owners, and they often block most or all of the light coming from streetlights shining above the tree canopies. And those streetlights were installed long ago, when the focus was on lighting the roadway and not so much on lighting the pedestrian realm. Better-lit side-

walks help to reduce crime, as well as make them feel safer to pedestrians. But it is likely to be months or years before the city is able to fund and implement street tree maintenance that trims back overgrown canopies and allows lighting from above to shine through. and even longer before our street lighting might be upgraded to better light sidewalks.

Several years ago, former DTNA President Dennis Richards suggested in this very column that residents and property owners help to light our sidewalks by leaving porch lights on at night. While this was an excellent suggestion then, the improvements in lighting technology since that time make it even smarter and more practical today.

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City Hall Update: Supervisor Scott Wiener



Scott Wiener
San Francisco District 8
Supervisor

Over the past year, there have been high profile acts of violence in Duboce Triangle and less noticeable, but still alarming, increases in auto break-ins and other property crimes. Increasing the safety on our streets requires a number of solutions, from improving our troubled street light system, having active neighborhood watch groups in the community, and, of course, making sure that we have enough police officers out in the community and responding to crime.

Police coverage of Duboce Triangle is currently divided among three police districts: Park, Northern, and Mission. There are advantages and disadvantages to this division. Fortunately, all three stations have dedicated captains who have focused on the needs of the neighborhood. As part of the police department's periodic stations redistricting process,

Duboce Triangle will be unified largely in one station - Northern Station. The current boundary between Northern and Park Stations is Sanchez Street and Steiner Street. The new boundary will be moved several blocks west to Castro Street and Divisadero Street. Mission Station will still include the northern side of Market Street.

We also need more officers in our neighborhoods and increasing police staffing has been and continues to be a high priority for me. Due to years of not holding police academy classes, combined with a wave of retirements, the department shrunk from 2,000 officers to 1,700 officers. Starting my first year in office, we reinstated academy classes and are now holding three per year. We will get back up to 2,000 officers, defined by the City Charter as full staffing, by 2018.

However, it's also time to reexamine whether 2,000 officers is still full staffing in San Francisco. Our city is growing. We've grown by nearly 100,000 people since 2003, are at record high population, and adding 10,000 people a year. Neighborhoods that didn't exist 30 year ago are now bustling and we will be adding more new neighborhoods including Hunters Point Shipyard, Treasure Island, and Schlage Lock. This means more areas for our already stretched police department

to patrol, more residents to protect, and, unfortunately, more crimes to respond to. I have asked the Controller to prepare a report on police staffing and I will be holding a hearing, along with Supervisor Malia Cohen, on this issue at the Board of Supervisors in April.

Related to this need for more police officers is our need to bolster our anemic Park Patrol ranks. We have 220 park properties in San Francisco - 15% of our land mass - yet typically have only a few park rangers on duty to patrol them. As a result of the lack of adequate park security, we've seen significant vandalism and dumping in our parks. Last year I fought to add more park patrol officers during our budget process and succeeded in getting enough funding for

a handful of more officers. However, we need a much more aggressive strategy for increasing park patrol. Our parks deserve more protection from vandalism and illegal dumping. Also, our police officers are often asked to respond to issues in the park, taking resources away from important crime prevention tasks on our streets. Duboce Park is the quintessential neighborhood park, a great gathering space for residents, families, and dogs, and we need to make sure that we have security staffing that can keep this park and others safe and welcoming places.

Scott Wiener represents District 8, including Duboce Triangle, on the Board of Supervisors. More information is available at www.scottwiener.com.

Get involved in your neighborhood!
Visit dtna.org and volunteer.



Castro & Upper Market Retail Strategy Update

The yearlong Castro & Upper Market Retail Strategy has made significant headway. 2014 was largely dedicated to community outreach. 2015 is focused on strategy. What changes does the community want to see in the district, and how can we get there?

The goal of the project is simple - to help bring exciting new businesses to the Castro & Upper Market retail corridor. The approach is more complicated. The thriving retail spaces you see are the result of many factors - what people want to buy, what businesses want to sell, how much those spaces rent for, what regulations govern those spaces, etc. The Retail Strategy aims to understand these factors better so that the community can encourage and help foster desirable businesses.

Outreach for the Retail Strategy has included a

broad intersection of stakeholders - tourists, locals, customers, merchants, brokers, landlords, developers and city agencies. Online customer surveys were collected at the same time that customer surveys were collected in the streets. Focus groups and interviews also assisted in better understanding perceptions of the neighborhood from the broker and merchant perspective. Volunteers spoke with pedestrians at the Castro Street Fair, the Castro Farmer's Market, and delivered information cards at several local cafés. With over 1,200 customer surveys completed, the Retail Strategy is being built upon a solid understanding of what the neighborhood wants to see.

Outdoor bars and cafés were the most popular request.

Quality food is also in high demand - a bread bakery, a

vegan restaurant, a butcher/fish monger.

Trader Joe's remains a favorite among many.

Art and more live performances also came up as a worthwhile addition to the neighborhood.

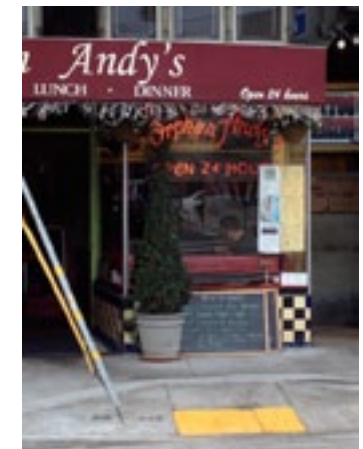
To make these and other new businesses possible, the working group behind the Retail Strategy is exploring sites that can accommodate new uses. Each vacancy is an opportunity - a chance to bring to the area something new. Unfortunately not everything can be located in Castro & Upper Market, so with the limited spaces available the Retail Strategy aims to orchestrate the retail mix to offer amenities that do not currently exist and that make our retail corridor more competitive with our neighbors.

People go to Valencia to try the newest restaurants.

Hayes Valley has the hippest boutiques. Union Square has the big name brands. But Castro & Upper Market has a strong sense of community, possibly the highest concentration of LGBT shoppers in the country, and dozens of businesses that have been here for decades. If the retail corridor had some of the things that residents go elsewhere to buy then they'd likely stay local - this too is a goal.

Future updates will include some initial results from the customer surveys. How do people get here? How much do they typically spend? Are there more tourists or locals in the Castro? We'll also discuss some exciting next steps in preparation for the final presentation in June.

For general information please visit www.castroretail.com. Inquiries can be sent to info@castroretail.com



Many Castro businesses have been in the neighborhood for decades

Make Your Block Safer – Organize a Neighborhood Watch Group

Media reports about violent crimes being down 4.5%, property offenses decreasing about 5%, and robberies dropping 22% in San Francisco in 2014 haven't done much to alleviate Duboce Triangle neighbors' fears about crime in the Duboce Triangle. But as Capt. Raj Vaswani from Park Station has said, "you can talk about statistics all you want but if you don't feel safe, then that is the reality."



Neighborhood Watch sign on Carmelita Street

One way to make your street safer is to organize a neighborhood watch for your block. Neighborhood watch programs have been implemented all over the country and they have proven to be one of the most effective deterrents to crime. San Francisco SAFE (Safety Awareness for Everyone) works in partnership with SFPD, who encourages neighborhood watch organizing be-

cause they cannot be everywhere. They depend on the community to be their eyes and ears and to call them when suspicious activity occurs.

Here's how to organize a Neighborhood Watch on your block:

- Step 1. Recruit two or three of your neighbors on your block to form a planning committee.
 - Step 2. Contact SAFE at (415) 553-1984 or info@sfsafe.org to assist with the organizing process and set priorities for problem solving. Morgan St. Clair is the Public Safety Specialist for the Park Police District and can be reached directly at 415-553-1968 or morgan@sfsafe.org.
 - Step 3. The Planning Committee meets with a SAFE representative to assign tasks, plan the meeting agenda, identify the next steps, and schedule the first Neighborhood Watch meeting.
- Personal contact with your neighbors is usually the most effective outreach strategy. Your SAFE representative will meet with your group for the first four to five meetings, acting as the facilitator. Together you will begin to solve neighborhood and block problems.

In the initial meetings, the participants will get to know each other, discuss neighborhood concerns, learn protection strategies for themselves and their property, develop a block map and communications tree, meet district police officers, and develop lines of communication with police. By developing problem solving strategies with the SFPD and other city agencies, the group can be pro-active in improving their neighborhood.

Neighbors on Carmelita Street, a one-block street that dead ends at Duboce Park, were upset about crime on their block and formed a Neighborhood Watch. Stan Watson, a long-time resident of Carmelita Street, reports that when his block first met last year, there was almost 100% participation from block neighbors plus a few people from Waller Street. He said, "The first meeting was devoted to a general orientation by the SAFE coordinator who helps neighborhoods with getting set up and included building a list of participants with their contact info, discussing how we will communicate, and electing a captain and two sub-captains. The second meeting was devoted to refining the list and included a presentation from Neighborhood Emergency

Response Team (NERT) on disaster planning. A subsequent meeting had a SF police sergeant present to discuss crime prevention and answer questions."

"We're using a Google group list to communicate whenever we want to share information, especially when we notice suspicious behavior, and I think it has worked very well. We now also have SAFE signs posted at either end of the street. Decals also have been distributed to participants for us to post as we wish. We also received whistles to use in case of feeling threatened while out. All in all, I think it's been a terrific success!"

Felix Vega, another Carmelita Street resident, agreed: "I think the most successful part of our Watch is the Google Group email. Our neighbors are very good about putting out the word on suspicious activity. No one abuses the system, and it's a really good way to stay informed. The most informative part is that it allows folks to realize when other people are seeing the same thing and they keep a watch on the situation. The input from Park Station has been great. Sergeant Weggenmann has made himself very available to us, and is very upfront and communicative."

Continued on page 11

City Reverses Course on Street Trees

Seeks Funding Source for Tree Maintenance

On February 10, San Francisco's Board of Supervisors unanimously passed legislation sponsored by District 8 Supervisor Scott Wiener which would make it city policy that maintenance responsibility for all street trees belong to the City, not adjacent homeowners.

Currently, responsibility for street tree maintenance is a mishmash with some streets and blocks having "city trees", which are maintained by the Department of Public Works (DPW), and other trees being the responsibility of the adjacent property owner. In recent years, DPW has been aggressively transferring maintenance responsibility of individual street trees to property owners so it is of-

ten difficult for residents to know who is responsible for maintaining a given tree. The new policy represents a reversal of policy for the city and a recognition that the attempt to divest DPW of much of its tree care re-



The city has been aggressively transferring maintenance responsibility of individual street trees to property owners

sponsibility was the wrong approach.

Beginning in the 70s, DPW's budget for tree maintenance began to be a cost-cutting target and the frequency of pruning and maintenance for city trees should be pruned every two to four years, depending on the species. But DPW's current budget only allows them to service trees after twelve or more years. As a result, many trees have become overgrown and there have been many well publicized incidents of large tree branches breaking off and falling during even modest winds.

The cost for a property owner to maintain a large tree can be significant, in

some cases thousands of dollars per year, and that's simply not affordable for some. As a result, some trees are well maintained while others languish. The new policy passed by the Supervisors amends the Planning Department's Urban Forest Master Plan to state that all street tree maintenance costs, as well as associated costs for sidewalk repair when street tree roots cause damage, should be borne by the city.

But, as is so often the case, the devil is in the details. No funding source for all of this tree maintenance has been identified and a task force has been formed to investigate possible sources of funding. It is likely that

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Duboce Park Update

Maintenance

Lots of tiny mice have been seen scurrying in and out of bushes in the Children's Playground, especially near the sand box. According to Adrian Field, Park Services Manager, "this is a periodic problem depending on the life cycle of the animal..." and rodents are "heavily dependent" on food left behind in the playground. Field has placed a work order with Rec and Park's Integrated Pest Management Unit. Planting on the north hill of the playground has begun.

A large hole near the utility box outlet in the grass in the upper lawn area resulted from a complicated main water line break and will be repaired... there are currently two signs on the upper lawn that read, "No Dogs on This Turf - Please Use Dog Play Area" and there are also numerous signs around two large worn areas in the Dog Play Area that read, "This turf area is closed to traffic to protect the turf from further erosion. The area will open as soon as weather permits..."

A cherry tree near the Scott Street Labyrinth died and was removed. Friends of Duboce Park is paying for a replacement tree...graffiti remains a constant problem and Rec and Park usually does a good job of removing it within 24-48 hours of receiving a report. Graffiti was removed from Rec Center walls, the playground, the Youth Play

Area, various benches, and the bulletin board in the past 60 days. New graffiti that regularly appears on the MTA construction barriers and equipment along Duboce Avenue is also usually removed within a few days of being reported.

All of the problems listed above were reported on the SF311 app or in an email report to Rec and Park. Anyone can report park problems or park maintenance issues using the SF311 app and you can send pictures with your reports. You can also submit requests on the app for:



A complicated main water line break resulted in a large hole near the utility box outlet on the upper lawn

Abandoned Vehicles, Graffiti, Illegal Postings, Street or Sidewalk Cleaning, Streetlight Repair, Blocked Sidewalk or Space, Damaged Public Property, Litter Receptacle, Park Issue, Sign Repair, Street and Sidewalk Defect, Tree Maintenance, and Park Problems. You can always also just dial 311.

2015 Spring Programs and 2015 Summer Camps

Get ready for spring! Registration for Rec and Park's spring programs is underway and you can register online at sfreconline.org, in person at the Harvey Milk Recreation Center, and at twelve other sites around the city. With hundreds of classes at being offered, there is something for everyone in your family! There are courses for tots, youth, tweens & teens, adults, and adults 55 and older.

There are courses in Art, Dance, Digital Arts & New

digital classes to printing on metal plates. You can learn Secrets of iPhone Photography, the basics of Adobe Lightroom, how to make Photo Transfers with Digital Images, and lots more. Visit harveymilkphoto.org for more information.

Summer is a great time for recreation and learning. Whether it's mastering a new skateboard trick, accomplishing a dance move, creating a work of art, or improving your swing, Rec and Park can offer your child a camp that is fun, challenging, or a new experience this summer. The Harvey Milk Recreation Center offers four Summer Camps for each age group (ages 7-8, 9-10, 11-12, and 13-19 years) and Performing Arts Camps for teenagers. Camps are two weeks long, starting in June and ending in August. There are also camps at other parks that emphasize other activities: sports, theater, art, science, preschool development, swimming, and so many more kinds of activities.

Beginning March 21 at 10 am, there will be three ways to register for camps: online at sfreconline.org, McLaren Lodge in Golden Gate Park, the Harvey Milk Recreation Center, or eleven other neighborhood sites. Parents are urged to register early since these popular camps sell out quickly. Complete information is available at sfrecpark.org or in the 2015 Summer Camp Guide available online or at the Rec Center.

Media, Music Lessons, Textiles, Knitting, Sewing, and Yoga. Visit sfreconline.org to view the 106-page catalogue, get details on courses, or to register for classes. Rec and Park offers Recreation Scholarships to eligible individuals and families.

The Harvey Milk Photography Center also has some exciting spring courses, from traditional black and white photography to Cyanotype to

Making our sidewalks safer, continued

Continued from cover page

Modern LED lighting fixtures can provide bright white lighting that costs almost nothing to operate and which last for years with no light bulbs to change. I've installed an LED fixture at the building where I live, which activates whenever someone walks by to light the sidewalk, and then stays lit for several minutes afterwards, and I think it makes a real difference.

Please consider installing front lighting that will improve neighborhood safety, especially if your home is in one of the many buildings that have a very dark sidewalk at night. This also enhances the safety for you and other residents: burglars love dark entrances so don't give them one! I'm sure the knowledgeable folks at Cliff's Variety on Castro St. or the Handy Handyman Hardware at Market and Church can offer a variety of inexpensive lighting products that will enhance safety on your block.

Those of you present at our last DTNA General Meeting heard SFPD Lt. Will Escobar speak about plans to revise police district boundaries so that all of Duboce Triangle will be in the Northern police district rather than split between two stations. Lt. Escobar also commented about how useful it is to police investigations when citizens have video recordings of crimes that they are able to provide. Some residents have installed inexpensive and unobtrusive video cameras on their buildings to capture sidewalk activity, which can be reviewed in the event of a crime or other problem. I'd encourage residents to consider this as an additional step you might take to fight neighborhood crime. It's something I plan to look into myself. When we band together as neighbors to watch out for each other, it's far more difficult for criminals to succeed.

Finally, I'd like to remind you how important it is to file a police report after any incident of theft, vandalism or other petty crime. It's simple to do and can be

done online. Often people do not file a police report because they assume that the police won't take any action for a small crime, and while that may sometimes be true, the statistics which come from reported crimes allow the police to see patterns of crime and assign resources effectively. If crimes are not reported, it's as if they didn't happen. The police don't know there's a problem if you don't tell them. It's never a waste of your time to file a police report; even if your crime isn't solved, your report may help prevent similar crimes in your area.

On an unrelated note, DTNA is looking for volunteers for some of our newsletter delivery routes, including parts of 14th St., 15th St., and Henry St. This is a very easy way to help out in your neighborhood - a newsletter delivery route is usually just a block or so long, and probably takes about 15 minutes, once every other month. If you're interested, please email deliver@dtna.org or leave a message at 415-295-1530.

See you at the April 13 meeting!
-David Troup, DTNA President

be a part of the solution

Sponsored By:

Thursday, April 16th, 2015 from 5:00 - 8:00 pm
Vanguard Properties, 555 Castro Street

You're Invited, Join Us

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General Meeting Notes, February 2015

President David Troup briefly explained Castro Cares goals and financing plan. Castro Cares is a combination of outreach and enforcement funded by a \$100,000 grant from the city and donations. Subscribers can enroll at castrocares.org. Troup said, "This is the first program in 15 years that may make a difference."

Mary Lanier, CAO at CPMC's Davies Campus, said her main goal at our meeting was to address various community concerns. Their smoke-free campus plan is going well. Lanier distributed pictures of major landscaping projects that will add color and modernize the appearance of the Davies campus. New trees that are drought tolerant will be planted and new signage will be added to give the property a softer look. Tree maintenance became a big issue after the last huge storm, when a tree on Noe Street fell and hit and damaged four cars. Two of the unhealthy trees on the campus have been removed and twelve more are scheduled for removal. CPMC does have a tree replacement program.

The chain link fences around the campus will remain up and Lanier has made a request to have the ivy on the fence replaced. There are no plans to remove the temporary hand therapy trailers near 14th and Noe and they will remain at their current location for at least four more years. It has not been determined if that department will move inside the hospital after the new medical office building is built along Noe. Lanier will talk to the landscaper about taller plantings and trees to hide the trailers.

Lanier said additional lighting would make sidewalks around the campus safer. Lighting is currently poor

in spots, especially along 14th from Castro to Noe. Many lights are located above the trees and a request was made for CPMC to put in lower pedestrian level lights.

There is no update on the Medical Office Building scheduled to be built along Noe. That building is entitled but not funded. CPMC must also determine how to use South Tower in the future. There will still be four CPMC hospitals, including the new one being built at Geary and Van Ness.

Lt. Escobar from Northern Station made a brief presentation on the new police station boundaries that are being proposed. The Duboce Triangle is now served by three police stations

and there is sometimes confusion about who should respond. The plans call for the current boundary at Steiner Street and Sanchez Street to move to Divisadero Street, putting the entire Triangle in the area served by Northern Station.

Police commission hearings are a good time to talk about what concerns us, ask questions, and offer solutions. The city's population is increasing and neighborhoods are changing and lower priorities may not get a police response as quickly. Escobar said that, "We really don't have enough officers now." He couldn't comment on the two recent murders in the Triangle since they are ongoing investigations. He added that private cameras could help solve crimes and that community policing is very important.

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Seismic Upgrading

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General Meeting Notes, continued

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Tess Kavanaugh, project manager for MTA, said the Sunset Tunnel project is about 35% done and reviewed the goals and timing of project. There have been four weekend shutdowns to date, resulting in the installation of 3200 new linear feet of track, completion of the emergency system, and the accessible platform at 28th Avenue and Judah Street.

In response to complaints about excessive noise during weekend construction, MTA temporarily halted construction at the site until they can review the complaints at their Febru-

ary 25th meeting and create plans to mitigate the noise. The next shutdown was tentatively scheduled for early March. Some work will transfer to the West Portal and there will be no deliveries after 10 am and limited deliveries between 6-10 am.

A 400 Duboce resident complained about the noise from temporary N Judah busses that keep their motors running while waiting and asked if the temporary bus stop could be moved from Fillmore Street at Duboce Avenue to Church Street and Market Street, near the escalator.

Greg Carey, Chief of Patrol for the Castro Community on Patrol, pro-

vided an update on Castro Cares. The program has been in development for eighteen months and there are twelve organizations involved, including DTNA. Castro Cares is a new approach to quality-of-life issues and is a combination of enforcement and outreach. The brochure and web site, www.castrocares.org, explains the program and subscription rates. Most of us want less crime and more service.

Castro Cares had a soft launch in December using "10B's," off duty police officers who can issue citations and make arrests. Sixteen shifts were brought in in December with three different assignments: Octavia Street to Sanchez Street, Sanchez Street to Castro Street, and random assignments. 10B's can issue citations and make arrests. Different officers are assigned each time since they are off duty. The formal launch is in March and the program has funding for at least two years.

Three arrests were made in December as a result of Castro Cares: a domestic violence warrant with no bail arrest, a second arrest at Noe and Market for \$5000 in outstanding warrants, and a third arrest for narcotics in Harvey Milk Plaza.

Some citations, like urinating in public, bicycles on sidewalks, and other lower level offenses, cannot be issued unless a police officer actually witnesses the infraction. Carey said, "One-third of the people causing problems are transients and two-thirds are people who come into neighborhood for entertainment."

Castro Cares is working with the Homeless Outreach Team (HOT). There hasn't been much of a HOT presence in the Castro, but now there is one full-time case worker. As a result,

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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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General Meeting Notes, continued

Continued from page 9

in December, nine people were placed in housing and nine received medical treatment. More case workers are desirable. Castro Cares is engaging with other agencies to provide services, e.g., Larkin Street Youth Services. Youth need a different kind of care and are often looking for support groups that can provide services.

The Navigation Center for homeless is opening at 16th Street and Mission Street in March and will offer additional new solutions for the homeless. This facility will differ from other homeless shelters since people will be able to come in as a couple, a family, or a group for up to ten days. Only one person for one night is currently permitted. Pets will be allowed and storage for possessions can be stored. Counselors will be on site to help.

Section 5150, a section of the California Welfare and Institutions code, authorizes a qualified officer or clinician to take away individual civil rights for up to 72 hours if they are a danger to themselves, a danger to others, and/or gravely disabled. 5150 allows police officers, ambulance drivers, and some HOT members to make the decision, usually resulting in being taken to SF General Hospital.

Church Street and Duboce Avenue is a particularly bad area, sometimes with a dozen people laying around and blocking the sidewalks. Capt. Perea from Mission Station said we cannot arrest ourselves out of this situation, especially since you can't be arrested for being homeless. There are few beat officers in San Francisco, including two in the Castro, but none after 5 pm. Castro Cares will be there now.

Subscribers will be given a text number to use to report issues. Castro Cares needs to know the hot spots. Carey said that blocks need their own neighborhood watches and encouraged residents to install additional lights and cameras to deter crime. There is also a business watch group, Castro Business Watch. The Safeway "triangle" has no watch group. New owners took over Safeway about three months ago, hired security guards for the bike path and area behind Safeway, and are involved with Castro Cares.

The Duboce Triangle News 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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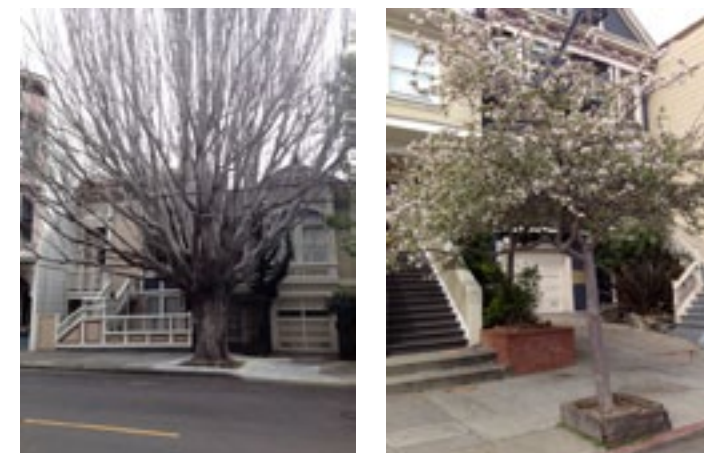
Street Trees, continued

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the answer will be found in the form of a modest property tax assessment, paid by all property owners, to fund this citywide service. Except for those who are not blessed with a tree on their adjacent sidewalk, it's anticipated that any fee assessed will be far less costly than individual tree maintenance has been, resulting in savings for most property owners.

The issue of street tree maintenance and responsibility has been on DTNA's radar for a number of years. One of our top legislative priorities in 2013 was to see the city begin to take a

comprehensive look at the problem and explore solutions beyond just dumping all of the trees onto property owners who didn't want them and which seemed a sure-fire recipe for failure. Supervisor Wiener agreed and has been hard at work pushing for this reversal and toward a new model in which all street trees receive proper care and maintenance. DTNA's board is pleased to see the progress this latest legislation represents and hopes that funding will be found and the policy implemented in 2015 or soon thereafter.



The cost to maintain a street tree can vary dramatically depending on the size of the tree

Any new property tax assessment would have to be approved by the voters so it's likely you'll be reading more about this issue in the future. In the meanwhile, if you are responsible for the care of a street tree in front of your property, nothing has changed; you remain responsible until otherwise notified by the city.

Neighborhood Watch Group, continued

Continued from page 4

Once the Neighborhood Watch Group forms they can then apply for Neighborhood Watch signs to be installed on their blocks. Signs are a way to publicize the efforts of your group, letting others know that yours is a SAFE neighborhood and one in which crime will not be tolerated. SAFE engages, educates, and empowers San Franciscans to build safer neigh-

borhoods through crime prevention education and public safety services that result in stronger, more vibrant, and resilient communities. SAFE was created in 1976 as a part of the SFPD and, 30 years later, continues to act as the crime prevention component of the SFPD as a non-profit organization.



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Please contact me. I'm interested in:

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Duboce Triangle Neighborhood Association
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Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

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