

THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

What's New In Downtown Noe Valley

Fresh Business Offerings
Fill Spots on 24th, Castro

By Matthew S. Bajko

Springtime is the season of renewal, so it is no surprise to see 24th Street blooming anew. A number of businesses have opened their doors this year along the commercial corridor, while several new or returning businesses plan to do so in the coming months.

In mid-April, the SF Fire Credit Union opened a third branch at 3908 24th St., in the ground floor of a recently built mixed-use building with residential units above. The financial institution originally formed 72 years ago to meet the banking needs of the city's firefighters.

It is throwing a block party May 20 to introduce itself to Noe Valley residents, as this month's Store Trek notes (see page 19). The opening of a new branch follows the credit union's closure this winter of its downtown



Are You Hungry? Mamahuhu has taken over the spot once occupied by Toast at 3991 24th St. The restaurant, specializing in Chinese American fare, is one of several businesses filling spaces along the 24th Street commercial corridor. Photo by Art Bodner

location at Mint Plaza in the South of Market neighborhood.

"We are meeting our members where they are at," said SF Fire Credit Union CEO Kathy Duvall. "SF Fire Credit Union is always looking for new ways to deliver a quality member experience. Part of that commitment is having a physical presence in places where our

members work, play, and live."

This winter brought the opening of Mamahuhu's third location at 3991 24th St. The casual dining spot has revived the space vacated by eatery Toast in 2019.

Mamahuhu is a more affordable

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

Prefab Bathroom May Reach Town Square by Fall

Bulk of State Grant Going to
Toilet #2 in Precita Park

By Matthew S. Bajko

An October debut is being eyed for the loo heard round the world. A new San Francisco tourist destination, however, it likely will not be.

But the prefabricated toilet will provide relief to the many users of the Noe Valley Town Square, from the children who romp on its play structures to the shoppers and vendors at the weekly Saturday farmers market. Installation of the small restroom should begin later this summer, according to city parks officials.

"I am just glad we have a toilet," said Leslie Crawford, a co-founder of the public square and the person who programs its events for the rec and park department.

Last fall, the proposal garnered

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Local Galleries Showcase Art Aplenty

Clothing, Photography, and
Paintings Sparkle This Spring

By Kit Cameron

With Spring finally blooming all around us, three Noe Valley galleries are putting forth their best efforts to celebrate the season.

Lola San Francisco Lola Herrera

Lola Herrera, of Lola San Francisco, at 1250 Sanchez St., is brimming with joy at the new season and all its possibilities. "It's mother-of-the-bride season," says the artist and fashion designer. "We get to use special occasion fabrics and we get to have fun."

Her gallery studio is chockablock with objects and art, including her own whimsical miniature figures in bisque (unglazed) ceramic.

On the walls, artwork by Willa Owings explores the beauty of the California landscape in pastels, acrylic, and watercolor through the end of May. A plethora of cotton socks, knitted hats and scarves, and floaty vintage silk scarves will tempt you to add a dash of spring to your wardrobe.

Herrera is particularly pleased with a dress she designed and made with and for Iranian artist Shiva Pakdel, who shows colorful printed coasters in the studio shop.

"We took digital images of her designs," says Herrera, "and enlarged them, then cut them out and applied them to a black dress."



Lola Herrera, owner of the popular gallery and studio that bears her name at the corner of Sanchez and Clipper streets, greets one of her favorite visitors, Ginger. Photo by Kit Cameron

Check out the website, lolasanfrancisco.com, for images of paintings and fabrics designed by Herrera, or visit the studio shop

Tuesday through Sunday, noon to 6 p.m., or by appointment (415-642-4875 or lola@lolasanfrancisco.com).

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Noe Garden Tour in Full Blush

Time to put on your walking shoes, pick up your camera, and check out the nine gardens on this year's Noe Valley Garden Tour, sponsored by Friends of Noe Valley. Gardens range from a historic property at the top of Liberty Hill to an accessible vegetable garden that covers a whole city lot.

It all takes place Saturday, May 6, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tickets, which run \$20 for adults, \$18 for seniors, and free for kids, are available at FriendsOfNoeValley.com, as well as at local shops and, on the day of the tour, at the Noe Valley Town Square or any of the gardens on the tour.

Maybe you will want some inspiration for your own landscape. Visit a hummingbird sanctuary, a revived rose garden with an apricot tree, or an urban oasis with Japanese maple trees and multiple decks for lounging. The Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Library on Jersey Street will offer you a choice of sun or shade gardens, with volunteers eager to answer questions. As usual for the annual event, proceeds will go toward a worthy neighborhood project.

Your ticket will have a detailed walking map of the tour.

Just make a note, gardens are spread out this year, from the top of the hill on 21st Street down to 26th Street. And they will be open rain or shine.



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LETTERS 63¢

The Good Things About Noe Editor:

I was sad to see the “Gripes of Wrath” in the April and March issues of the *Noe Valley Voice* [Letters, p. 4 (April); Rumors, p. 21 (March 2023)]. While I understand the desire to create a space for community members to voice their frustrations, I can’t help but wonder why we need a platform to complain about relatively small issues in our neighborhood.

Many of the gripes I saw seemed like minor inconveniences that could easily be resolved through personal action, such as bringing your own bag to Whole Foods to avoid the 25-cent fee or reading the *Voice* online if the hard copies are not yet available. By highlighting these types of complaints, we risk detracting from the real issues that affect our community and diverting attention from more pressing matters.

Furthermore, I am concerned that encouraging readers to share their gripes could foster a culture of negativity and complaint, rather than one of appreciation and kindness. Why not celebrate the positive aspects of our community and highlight the people and businesses that do good for each other every single day?

I’m happy to start the ball rolling and would love to hear from other members of the community about who or what they’re grateful for or appreciate.

The way neighbors in Noe Valley care for and assist one another fills me with gratitude.

The wonderful community events organized in our neighborhood, such as the Garden Tour (May 6) and events in our Town Square, are truly appreciated.

Let’s not forget about the established small businesses and their hardworking owners and staff, as well as the courage and determination of the new businesses that have recently joined us. They make Noe Valley a truly special place to live. We should also show our appreciation to the workers who clean our sidewalks and water the flower hangers.

Finally, I’m grateful for the farmers and vendors who wake up early every Saturday morning to bring their beautiful produce and products to our weekly Farmers Market.

Hannah Wolff
A 24th Street neighbor

A Fool’s Errand Editor:

Toilet treasure, Putin arrest, and stolen library... I’ve been reading the *Noe Valley Voice* for nearly 30 years, but none made me laugh out loud as much as your April 2023 page 5 articles. Thank you for being such a great neighborhood newspaper. I’ve donated to the paper before, but this prompted me to write you another check of appreciation. Mailing it today.

We love the *Voice*. Thanks!
Christina Sauvageau
Noe Valley

Editor’s Note: There was an April Fool’s story on page 1 as well, claiming that WayNo, NoVa, and GoWay had laid off their self-driving vehicles. We apologize to our readers and of course to the cars, for juxtaposing a bit of fake news with real stories. However, April comes but once a year. Usually.

Fix the Potholes First Editor:

While I commend *Voice* writer Kit Cameron on the article “Church Street Could Get the Greenlight” (April 2023), the article glossed over a relevant factor: lack of community awareness of the city and county projects. The first residents heard about “Slow Sanchez Seeking Islands” [a subhead in the *Voice* story] was at the Upper Noe Neighbors meeting in March. No one on Sanchez Street knew anything about the plan; ditto for the Church Street plan. While both are preliminary, residents felt excluded.

The article mentions a Slow Sanchez group that apparently requested money without talking to anyone on Sanchez Street. Do they reside on Sanchez Street? It’s insensitive to Sanchez Street residents to have people at SFCTA.org, the SFMTA, or a group who may or may not live on Sanchez draw up plans for concrete islands in the middle of a public street. Sanchez is a street, not a playground; people live on it. There are plenty of places in Noe Valley to gather and socialize and play, from Upper Noe Rec Center to Douglass Park to the Town Square.

The Church Street proposal came as

Noe Valley Incident Reports June 2022 – March 2023

Incident Type	Jun22	Jul22	Aug22	Sep22	Oct22	Nov22	Dec22	Jan23	Feb23	Mar23
Larceny/Theft	45	37	43	28	41	41	26	32	17	21
Burglary	28	18	20	16	25	10	17	11	10	13
Malicious Mischief	4	0	5	10	7	7	6	3	4	9
Motor Vehicle Theft	11	14	13	16	13	25	10	15	10	14
Assault	0	0	3	5	7	3	1	7	3	8
Robbery	1	3	0	1	4	1	1	1	0	3
Other Misc.	3	5	4	5	10	6	1	5	5	6
Fraud	2	5	1	0	0	4	6	3	3	1
Family D.Violence	0	8	2	0	0	1	0	1	2	0
Vandalism	0	0	2	2	0	0	2	1	1	1
Totals	94	90	93	83	107	98	70	79	55	76

Source: Dataset titled “Map of Police Department Incident Reports: 2018 to Present” at [Data.sfgov.org/Public-Safety/Police-Department-Incident-Reports-2018-to-Present/wg3w-h783](https://data.sfgov.org/Public-Safety/Police-Department-Incident-Reports-2018-to-Present/wg3w-h783). This dataset includes police incident reports filed by officers and by individuals through self-service online reporting for non-emergency cases. Disclaimer: The San Francisco Police Department does not guarantee the accuracy, completeness, timeliness, or correct sequencing of the information, as the data is subject to change as modifications or updates are completed. The *Noe Valley Voice* collected the March 2023 data on April 14, 2023. “Noe Valley” on the SFPD map is bounded by 21st Street, San Jose Avenue/Guerrero Street, 30th Street, and Grand View Avenue/Diamond Heights Boulevard.

CRIME SNAPSHOT

Property Crimes on the Rise Again

According to the San Francisco Police Department’s digital map of incident reports, Noe Valley residents are continuing to face challenges with car break-ins, burglaries, and auto thefts. All three crimes saw an increase in March.

In the larceny/theft category, there were 21 reported incidents, four more than in February. They included 10 “smash-and-grabs” from cars, three stolen license plates, and one stripping of parts from a vehicle.

Thieves targeted nine homes, two properties under construction, and two unidentified properties among 13 burglaries in March. That’s an increase of three from February (10), but less than half that recorded last June (28).

Ten cars, three trucks, and one “other” vehicle were stolen from the streets of Noe Valley, bringing the March total of vehicle thefts to 14, four more than in February.

But perhaps the most disturbing trend in March was the rise in assaults. There were eight such incidents reported to police, compared to three the month before.

Overall, there were 76 criminal incidents across 10 categories tracked by the *Voice* in March, up from 55 in February.

We “scraped” the March data on April 14, 2023, at [Data.sfgov.org](https://data.sfgov.org).

In other SFPD news, Mission Station, covering the northern half of Noe Valley ending at Cesar Chavez Street, has a new captain: Thomas Harvey. Captain Harvey will succeed Captain Gavin McEachern, who retired in April. A native San Franciscan, Harvey grew up in the Parkside District. Since joining the force in 2005, Harvey has gained experience serving at stations throughout the city, including the Bayview, Ingleside, Northern, Taraval, Mission, and the Tenderloin. He most recently served as captain at the San Francisco Police Training Academy.

To contact Capt. Harvey at Mission Station, call 415-558-5400 or email SFPDMissionStation@sfgov.org.

As for who’s in command at Ingleside Station, currently it’s Captain Kevin Knoble. Knoble has taken on the role of Acting Captain while Captain Derrick Lew continues special training out of state (likely ending mid-June). You can reach Capt. Knoble by emailing SFPDInglesideStation@sfgov.org or calling 415-404-4000.

Need to file a police report? Go to a nearby station or do it online at www.SanFranciscoPolice.org (look for the Get Service menu). You can also call 3-1-1 or 415-701-2311.

—Corrie M. Anders, Sally Smith

jarring news to Church Street merchants and residents, who, again, were not alerted of SFMTA’s plan to place eight bulb-outs on a street that is already crowded due to traffic diverted from Sanchez Street, the J-Church Muni line, and bikes. The bulb-outs would block some driveways, and as merchants noted, would make it impossible for people to park and access their businesses, which are just beginning to rebound after Covid. It seems counter-

intuitive to block access to businesses at the same time the Upper Noe community is developing a plan to attract clients or visitors to independent businesses.

Ultimately, if the city has extra money to focus on the streets, my suggestion is it to start with fixing the very dangerous potholes that affect everyone, whether on foot or wheels.

Steffe Levin
Sanchez Street resident

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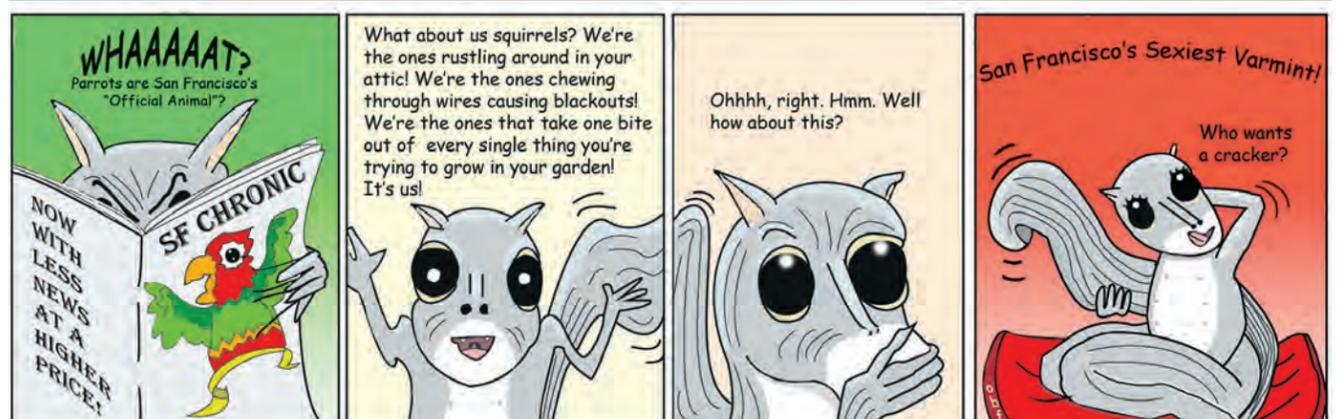
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THE CARTOON BY OWEN BAKER-FLYNN



Downtown Noe Welcomes New Biz

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Chinese American eatery whose kitchen is helmed by chef Brandon Jew, known for his Chinatown restaurant Mister Jiu's, which has earned a one-star rating from the Michelin Guide. Co-owned by Ben Moore and Anmao Sun, Mamahuhu also has locations in San Francisco's Inner Richmond district and in Mill Valley's historic downtown.

Food Glorious Food

Two more new eateries are getting ready to open nearby. Mexican restaurant Tacolicious is taking over the space at 4063 24th St., recently vacated by Village Rotisserie, which had served up Australian-style roasted chicken, salads, and sandwiches. It is a homecoming of sorts for the company, as years ago it had a small corporate office in Noe Valley on outer Church Street.

Fernando Guzman, director of food and beverage for the popular local chain, confirmed to the *Voice* last month that the eatery would be coming to 24th Street. But he couldn't say whether its third location in the city would be branded as a Tacolicious or repurposed in another way.

A short walk away, the new restaurant Memento hopes to welcome its first customers this month or next. Couple Rafael Da Silva and Suhair Nimri-Da Silva of Burlingame have taken over 1305 Castro St., where Bistro SF Grill used to be.

While Nimri-Da Silva told the *Voice* the couple were working to remodel and open their eatery by "the end of May," her husband said, "Realistically, it is more likely going to be the beginning of June."

Da Silva is crafting the menu around "upscale comfort food," with diners able to order chicken, steak, and fish dishes. There will also be a burger available and several vegetarian options in addition to pasta choices, said Da Silva, who is in the process of hiring a chef to oversee the kitchen.

As for the name of the restaurant, the first one the couple are opening, it comes from the Latin word to remember.

"We want this restaurant to leave a memorable impression on people," explained Nimri-Da Silva. "We thought it would be such an awesome name for a restaurant."

Cheese Connoisseur Wanted

The owners of the building at 3893 24th St., where the 24th Street Cheese Company had long operated, hope to find another cheesemonger to move in or someone interested in opening a deli there.

"If there are any cheese shop owners in need of a space, they should contact us. We will negotiate," said Peter, who answered the phone number listed on the "for lease" sign in the window of the shuttered shop but declined to disclose his last name.

And in a couple of months Peruvian restaurant Fresca should be reopening its location at 3945 24th St. It has been shuttered since the start of the Covid pandemic in 2020. While its website says it is "coming soon," an employee at its Irving location told the *Voice* in April that the plan is to return service in Noe Valley by "the end of summer, as far as I know."

More Chiropractic Care

Around that time is when chiropractor Henry Oyharcabal expects to open

his practice at 3979 24th St., where the women's clothier Ambiance had operated. He bought the building and now lives in the residential unit above the retail space.

A San Francisco native, Oyharcabal is in the process of building out the commercial storefront. He said he hoped to have the work completed by mid-July and to relocate the staff of his Atlas Health Center on Van Ness Avenue to the new location.

"We wanted to be more in the middle of the city," explained Oyharcabal, who grew up in the Sunset district the son of immigrant parents from France's Basque region. "We also have a reputation for building a community in our office, so it will be perfect synergistics that match with that area in Noe Valley there."

While he plans to maintain his Oakland office, Oyharcabal said there was only a "very slim" chance he would keep two locations in San Francisco. He is doubling the size of his office in the city to about 2,600 square feet with the new Noe Valley location.

"I am able to put in a gym and other points of service for our clients," he said. "We will have a full-time acupuncturist and a physical therapist. We will be able to serve more people."

The retail space was the first vacancy he looked at in Noe Valley. Not only was his ability to buy the entire building and live there a selling point, but Oyharcabal also liked the vibrancy of the area.

"Having Whole Foods across the street and having six coffeeshouses around and being down the street from the farmers market on Saturday all added to the draw of being in a quintessential San Francisco neighborhood," he said. "We are excited about seeing people there."

Moving Day for First Republic?

Adjacent to the grocery store's parking lot, First Republic Bank is expected to relocate its branch at 1354 Castro St. to 3938 24th St., where Umpqua Bank had opened a location. The San Francisco-based bank continues to deal with the fallout from a run on it by deposits this winter, and announced in late April it planned to reduce its workforce by upwards of 25 percent.

Greg Berardi, a spokesperson for the bank, told the *Voice* at press time that the relocation of the branch was "moving forward."

David Blatteis of Blatteis Realty Company, which handled the leasing of the space, also confirmed in late April he had not received any notice of a change in the bank's plans to move.

Brighter Outlook in Noe

The San Francisco-based, family-run real estate firm, started 101 years ago, also oversaw the leasing of the space now home to the SF Fire Credit Union. Blatteis also is handling the lease for the vacant commercial space at 3862 24th St., next door to Saru Sushi Bar. The storefront used to be home to eyewear retailer Spectacles for Humans. In late April, Blatteis said he was close to leasing it to a new tenant. But he declined to disclose what the new use would be, since the deal had not been finalized.

He did say he wasn't surprised to see the vacancies along 24th Street begin to fill up. While he expects to see parts of the city's Financial District and Union Square remain "ghost towns" in terms of leasing, Blatteis said demand was strong for retail spaces along commercial corridors in more residential parts of San Francisco.

"We work in all the neighborhoods in the city, and Noe Valley is one of the premier ones. We have found in almost all the neighborhoods where we are operating, we are doing very well in leasing stores. It is very difficult to find a good location anymore since the pandemic ended," he said. "The neighborhoods throughout the city where people live and work are doing very well."

A Preschool in Shoe Biz

The former site of Shoe Biz at 3810 24th St. could soon become a new preschool location. The owner of the building began the permitting process to allow such a use April 18, according to the planning department.

"At their request, we met with representatives of the property owner in the summer of '21 to review a proposal for a preschool," Daniel Sider, chief of staff at the city agency, told the *Voice*.

Such a use is allowable, said Sider, and thus a preschool operator would not need to seek approval from the planning commission to open at the location.

Ravi Jagtiani, who is handling the leasing of the commercial space, didn't want to say too much when contacted by the *Voice* last month. He did say that nothing had been finalized, as he has been waiting for confirmation that a preschool could locate there.

"If that goes through, I do have a couple of preschools interested," said Jagtiani.

Seven Spaces to Fill

There are seven other empty commercial spaces along 24th Street between Chattanooga and Diamond streets. For most of them, either the leasing agent didn't return calls or there was little or no rental information.

It appears that the space formerly home to Patxi's Pizza at 4042 24th St. has been leased, as brokerage firm Maven no longer lists it as available on its website and its signage in the window was removed in late April. Pam Mendelsohn, a principal with the firm, who had been listed as a contact about the vacancy, did not respond to a request for comment from the *Voice*.

Real estate agent Sharon Cassidy, who was to open a cannabis store with a co-owner at 3751 24th St., didn't respond to an inquiry on the venture's current status. She and business partner Alexander Solis had won approval in April 2020 to take over the vacant space, which had housed women's clothing retailer the Mill.

Last year, Cassidy had told the *Voice* they were waiting on licensing from the state in order to open. While the city's Office of Cannabis permit tracker lists the location as being "under construction," there was no visible work at the site in April.

At the other end of the corridor, a former dentist office is for lease at 4162 24th St. So far, there have been no takers, said leasing agent Cameron Tu. He noted that the space required a bit of work to bring it up to code. In particular, the entrance needs to be made ADA accessible.

"We are actively pursuing a tenant. Unfortunately, no one has put in an offer on the space," said Tu, who works for Touchstone Commercial Partners, Inc. "If you have someone interested, let me know." ■

On May 1, we learned that JPMorgan Chase & Co. had purchased First Republic Bank and told clients that First Republic branches would automatically become JPMorgan Chase branches.



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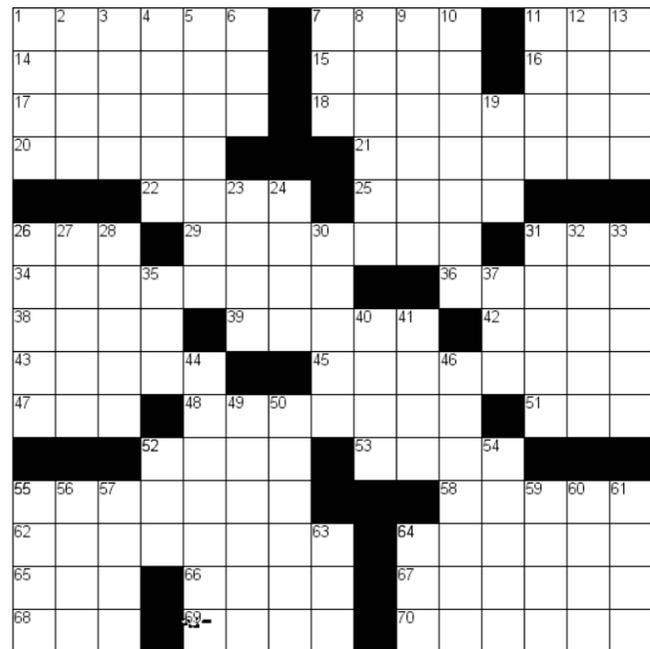
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THE CROSSWORD BY MICHAEL BLAKE

Chinese Takeout

ACROSS

- 1 Scraps, as a mission
- 7 Chanel of perfume
- 11 "See ya"
- 14 Cringes in fear
- 15 Writer Harte
- 16 Cone neighbor in the eye
- 17 Obama's AG
- 18 "Great" site in Utah
- 20 England's _____ Downs racetrack
- 21 "Layla" singer
- 22 Petrale _____ at Firefly
- 25 Legislation
- 26 DVD forerunner
- 29 What the French call Cote d'Azur
- 31 Costa del _____ (Spanish resort region)
- 34 "How's tricks?"
- 36 L.A. Wolfgang Puck eatery
- 38 Original Hulk portrayer onscreen
- 39 Chinese place on Church, or with Chinese takeout (take out the apostrophe) what this puzzle has six of
- 42 *Spamalot* creator
- 43 Seize wrongfully
- 45 Slow-cooked dish with meat, potatoes, and carrots
- 47 Aug. follower
- 48 One who arouses for action
- 51 Praiseful poem
- 52 Ration (out)
- 53 Pont-____ (Paris bridge)
- 55 Popular *South Park* character
- 58 Military assault
- 62 Stopping by to say hello
- 64 Nickname of Viking Thorvaldsson



- 65 SSNs and CDLS
- 66 _____ Reader (ecclectic bimonthly)
- 67 Combined two companies into one
- 68 Once around the track
- 69 Phoenix suburb
- 70 Embezzlers, burglars, etc.

DOWN

- 1 Pain
- 2 Betty _____ ('30s toon)
- 3 Birds of prey
- 4 Complete makeovers
- 5 Seismologist's readings
- 6 Ukr. or Estonia, during the Cold War
- 7 *60 Minutes* network
- 8 Larry Ellison's software company
- 9 Last place, in

- sports
- 10 Tribe that gave Canada's capital its name
- 11 Dennis, to Mr. Wilson
- 12 Artist Ono
- 13 Paradise
- 19 33-1/3 r.p.m. discs
- 23 Fishing necessity
- 24 From here to eternity
- 26 *Little Miss Sunshine* vehicle
- 27 Bank at Noe and 24th
- 28 Accumulated, as a bar tab
- 30 Volunteer's cry
- 31 "____ say" ("Alas")
- 32 Eyed lewdly
- 33 Frederick who composed *My Fair Lady*
- 35 2022 Cate Blanchett movie
- 37 Greek letters

- 40 Abel slayer
- 41 Hook henchman
- 44 Brand of saltines
- 46 One following the dentist's advice
- 49 "____ of Honey" (Herb Alpert hit)
- 50 _____ Tomb (Red Square landmark)
- 52 Pioneering rock-video channel
- 54 '80s Pontiac roadster
- 55 Slinky, basically
- 56 Wing _____ prayer
- 57 Sore-throat sound
- 59 "It follows that..."
- 60 Nerd
- 61 *Tonight Show* announcer Hall and "Kookie" Byrnes
- 63 Lovejoy's specialty
- 64 SHO alternative

Solution on Page 23
 Find more Crosswords at www.noevalleyvoice.com

A Relief to See Toilet Approved for Town Square

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

global attention after San Francisco Chronicle columnist Heather Knight questioned why \$1.7 million in state funds, which had been secured for San Francisco by State Assemblymember Matt Haney, was needed to build a single-stall bathroom in a single city park. (The *Voice* had already disclosed the high price tag in the Rumors column in its October 2022 issue.)

Public outcry over what was dubbed “Toiletgate” caused Haney to cancel the news conference he had scheduled to ballyhoo the budget allocation. The hubbub also raised doubts whether the toilet would be stalled indefinitely. The community had been waiting for a permanent bathroom in the town square since Oct. 27, 2016, the day the park officially opened at 3861 24th St., between Sanchez and Vicksburg streets.

Amid the controversy, the Reno-based Public Restroom Company came forward with an offer to donate a pre-made toilet, roughly 10 feet by 12 feet in size. Volumetric Building Companies of Tracy, Calif., offered to provide the union laborers to prep the site and hook up the toilet pro bono for the city.

The donated labor, with an estimated value of \$290,000, and the \$135,000 prefab toilet reduced the city’s cost for the project to \$300,000.

The San Francisco Recreation and Park Department intends to use the remaining \$1.4 million to install a modular bathroom in Precita Park below Bernal Heights. If there are any leftover

funds, they will be designated for toilets in other city parks.

The Board of Supervisors voted unanimously April 18 to accept both the funding from the state and the donated commode for the town square, though several members expressed misgivings about the estimated price for the second toilet in Precita Park.

Rec and park spokesperson Tamara Aparton told the *Voice* that the next steps for the Town Square bathroom were to fine-tune the design, get it approved by the city’s Department of Building Inspection, and secure the contracts with the contractor.

“We are targeting August/September for installation, with opening in October,” said Aparton.

Although Governor Gavin Newsom had threatened last year not to release funds for the toilet, Haney told the *Voice* the governor’s office had informed him in April it would release the money in consideration of the city’s new plan to use it for two toilets.

“I am happy both Noe Valley and Bernal Heights will get much needed public toilets and get them faster and for cheaper,” he said. “I hope this will lead to much needed reform at the city level on the exorbitant cost to build. If that happens, then the outcome of this is definitely positive.”

Doesn’t Sit Right

Crawford said she has conflicting feelings about how the commode contretemps was settled.

“Number one, I am pleased that Noe Valley will finally have relief! It is hard to resist these,” said Crawford of her pun-laced comments. “And number two ... the seeds of this space that were planted were from a place of social justice. We began this fight against an out-



The single-room comfort station that is coming to the Noe Valley Town Square this fall has a sink attached to an outside wall.

Photo courtesy Public Restroom Company

of-state, anti-union corporation. It is more than frustrating that the city has accepted this quote-unquote gift because really nothing is free. There are strings attached to this gift.”

Crawford was referring to the fact that the town square origin story dates back to 2003, when neighborhood residents banded together to bring a farmers market to Noe Valley after Real Food Company executives shuttered their 24th Street location amid an effort by the employees there to form a union. By 2004, food vendors were setting up stalls Saturday mornings in what was a parking lot owned by the Noe Valley Ministry Presbyterian Church.

When the church decided to sell the property, the neighborhood once again came together to see that the lot was purchased by the city for use as a park site and a permanent home for the

farmers market. The \$4.2 million sale was finalized in 2013.

As for the excess \$1.4 million, Crawford would have liked it to be used more wisely.

“The city had an opportunity here to do a remarkable thing, which would have been to build their own prefab unit and replicate that throughout the city in all of the places that badly needed a facility,” said Crawford. “But instead they took an easy way out, one that takes away jobs from city workers who need to earn a living wage. So while Noe Valley is gaining a bathroom, there are a lot of losses with this agreement.”

Sunday Yoga in Square

In other Noe Valley Town Square news, free 60-minute yoga sessions are now being offered at 11 a.m. on Sunday mornings by two yoga studios located in Noe Valley. Yoga Flow will provide instruction one week, and Folk (formerly Yoga Garden and Moxie) will lead the sessions the next.

“It is free without strings attached,” said Crawford.

The yoga sessions will be offered every Sunday unless they need to be canceled due to inclement weather or because a big event requires an early setup at the park. Check the schedule for the yoga classes at noevalleytownsquare.com/events. ■

SEND AN EMAIL

THE VOICE welcomes your letters. Write Noe Valley Voice Letters, P.O. Box 460249, San Francisco, CA 94146. Or email editor@noevalleyvoice.com. Please include your name. (Anonymous letters will not be considered for publication.) Note that letters may be edited for brevity. We look forward to hearing from you.

Meet Our New Branch Manager: Mary Fobbs-Guillory

Next time you are in the Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Library at 451 Jersey St., be sure to introduce yourself to our new branch manager, Mary Fobbs-Guillory. After several years in the San Francisco public school system as a teacher and librarian, Fobbs-Guillory is thrilled to be working for the San Francisco Public Library.

“I’ve been working towards this for years,” she says with glee.

Fobbs-Guillory notes, “We have such an amazing branch with an amazing staff. I want to enhance and grow what we already have.”

The library draws people of all ages to its book clubs, movie programs, and workshops. Says Fobbs-Guillory, “I am

looking at what people are paying for [outside the library] and how we could offer that for free. There is a high interest in programs such as wreath making, bread dough making, and flower crafts.”

Fobbs-Guillory adds, “We have a phenomenal children’s librarian [Julianne Randolph].”

The long line of strollers outside the building on Thursday mornings is a testament to the immense popularity of the library’s weekly story times for children and families.

But, Fobbs-Guillory says, “we have space to grow our teen program. It would be fun to offer a special space where teens can hang out and feel autonomy.”

The current teen area, a reserved table and dedicated shelves, is lightly used, she points out. “Teens don’t necessarily need a structured program to connect. They need to feel ownership of the space.”

A surprising area of growth, she says, has been the number of people in their 20s and 30s coming in to get library cards. “They are excited about what they see when I give them a tour. They don’t know we have movies or eBooks.”

Asked what she thought was the reason, she replied, “I am wondering if it is a need to connect. They want to meet people.”

And this is the mission that Fobbs-Guillory projects for the branch moving forward. “We want the library to partner with everyone in the neighborhood.”

—Kit Cameron



Mary Fobbs-Guillory says more people in their 20s and 30s are taking advantage of the books, movies, you name it, at the Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Library. Photo by Art Bodner

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Art Haus owner Elizabeth Dekker stands in front of one of her “Warhol-esque” portraits, painted in acrylic. In May, she will be signing up students for week-long art summer camps.



Diane Chung reminds five artists known for their unique landscapes will be feted at a closing reception for *Touchstone* at Chung 24 on May 13, from 2 to 5 p.m. Photos by Kit Cameron

Local Gallery Owners to Show Creativity All Summer CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Art Haus

Elizabeth Dekker

Painter Elizabeth Dekker fulfilled her dream to have a gallery of her own when she opened Art Haus in late 2020.

The space, located at 3977 24th St., serves as a fine art gallery and teaching studio, and offers a variety of workshops for both children and adults.

Perhaps her favorite class to teach, she says, is the one exploration of encaustic, a seemingly magical process that uses heat to bind wax-based pigments into a many-layered, luscious-surfaced painting.

Coming up in May are life-drawing classes, starting May 29, followed by week-long art summer camps, beginning June 12 and running to the middle of August.

For more information about how to participate in any of her workshops, Dekker says, contact her by email at info@arthaussf.com.

Growing up in Tucson, Ariz., Dekker remembers, “I channeled New York City, the music of David Bowie, and the realm of the arts.” When she discovered the work of Andy Warhol and Jean-Michel Basquiat, she knew she had found her inspiration.

She describes her current acrylic paintings, on display until May 27, as “looking at polar opposites, repetition of shapes and fun colors.” She adds, “I’ve been getting more into figurative and portrait work.” The artist describes her work as “deeply personal, but at the same time [I] invite the viewer in to find meaning of their own.”

You can find out more about Dekker’s work and workshops at her website, arthaussf.com, or by email or phone (415-590-2315). As she says, “Self-expression is a necessity. Exercising creativity is good for the soul.”

Chung 24 Gallery

Diane Chung

Diane Chung is excited about the growing appreciation for fine art photography at her gallery, Chung 24, at 4071 24th St. The gallery has been in its current iteration since August 2021. “Sales-wise, it’s improving,” she says. “More people are becoming aware of the gallery. I feel we are gaining some momentum despite the economic news.”

Her shows have ranged from work that celebrates the classical monochrome print to exhibits that push the boundaries of photography. In the current exhibit, *Touchstone*, Chung shows how artists Tony Bellaver, Mark Citret, Susannah Hays, Michael Starkman, and Cindy Stokes each use a unique process to capture a landscape or other subject in black and white. Oakland photographer Bellaver will be featured May 6, 3 to 4 p.m., in conversation with artist and printmaker Mary V. Marsh. Join all of the artists at *Touchstone*’s closing reception May 13, 2 to 5 p.m.

The next show, opening May 31, Chung says, “is a completely different kind of experience. It is about essence and how we deal with our own memories of family.”

Artist Liz Steketee, based in Marin, uses photograph montage and textiles to create soft sculptural pieces with haunting imagery. Notes Chung, “Some don’t even look like photographs.”

As a photographer herself, Chung sees her gallery as a mission seeking “to nurture emerging talent, showcase new works by established artists, and investigate photography-based art practice.” You can view elements of past shows on her website: Chung24gallery.com. The gallery is open Wednesday through Saturday, 1:30 to 6:00 p.m., or by appointment (415-795-1643 or info@chung24gallery.com).

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Truck No Match for 22nd Street

Photos by Courtney Young

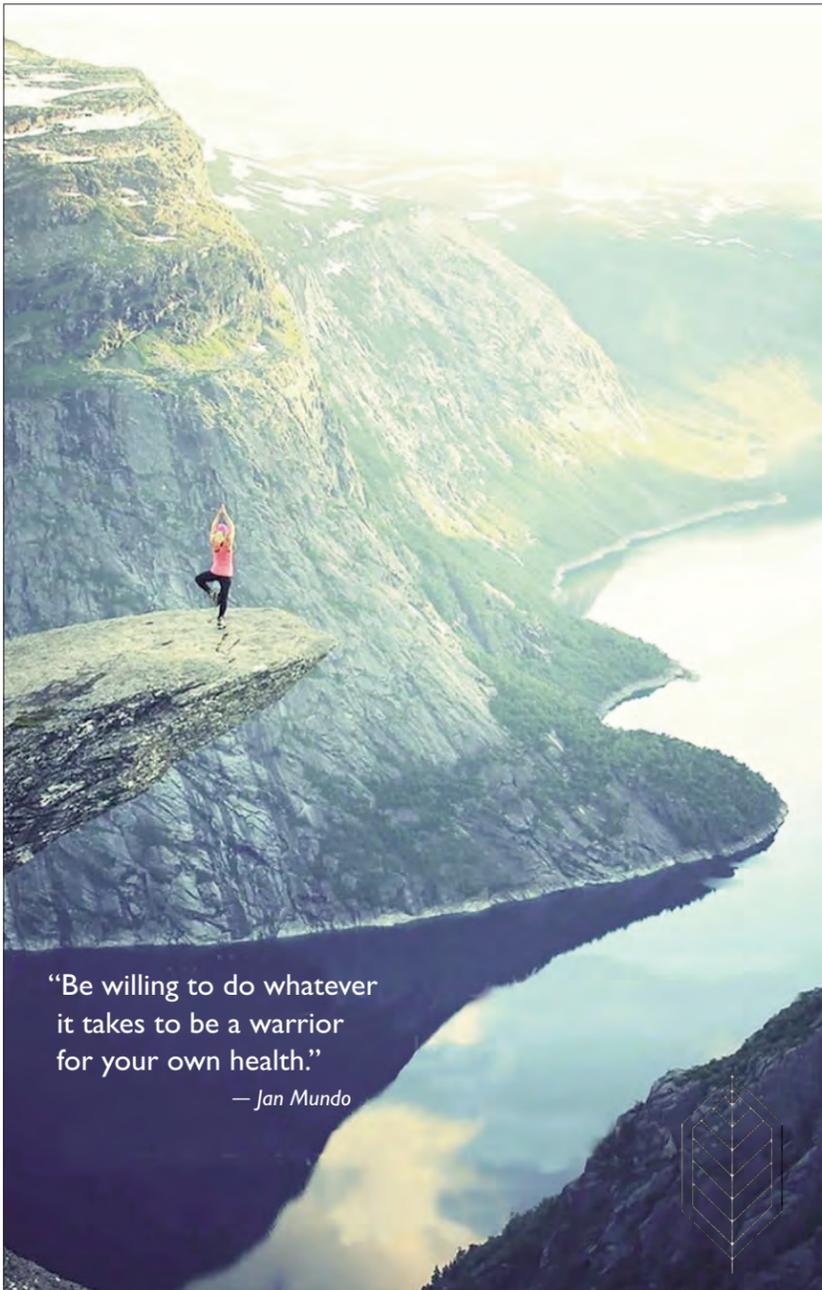


Local resident (and photographer) Courtney Young captured an incredible scene the afternoon of March 22, on 22nd Street between Vicksburg and Church streets. As Young describes it, “I heard a crash around 1:20 p.m. and came running out to see the arborists’ truck had flipped over.” A crew of tree trimmers had parked their truck facing downhill toward Church and curbed their wheels. However, said Young, it was a “rookie mistake in San Francisco to not bring blocks for the wheels.”

The truck, which was full of wood and branches, “suddenly started rolling toward the curb, then over the curb, and then flipped sideways downhill twice. I got the live play-by-play from a jogger who was running alongside the truck up the hill when it happened,” said Young.

She noted the arborists had been hired by her landlord to do maintenance on a tree. “The tree wasn’t damaged by the recent storms. It was simply getting a long overdue trim.”

Amazingly, Young said, “no one was hurt, and the cars parked on that side of the street were not damaged in any way.”



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Department Announcements

Department of Elections

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For every election, the Department of Elections publishes a Voter Information Pamphlet & Sample Ballot. The Pamphlet provides non-partisan information about voting, candidates and measures. By law, we must mail you a Pamphlet unless you opt out. There are several reasons to opt out of paper Pamphlet delivery:

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Does your household receive more than one copy of the Pamphlet? Consider having all but one voter opt out so your household can share one paper copy. Not sure you will like reading the Pamphlet online? Give it a try -- is just as easy to opt back in! If you are ready to make the switch to the digital Pamphlet, go to sflections.org/voterportal or call us at 415-554-4375.

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Child support matters can be complicated, stressful, and confusing. The Department of Child Support Services helps parents understand the process so they know their rights and options for making and receiving support payments. We are available to assist you in person or by phone. Call us today at (866) 901-3212 for more information. Apply for services online or schedule an appointment at sf.gov/dcss to learn how we can help you.

The Office of the City Attorney

The San Francisco City Attorney's Office recently launched a new consumer protection web portal and hotline, seeking reports of businesses that deceive or defraud consumers, as well as of property owners that maintain properties in substandard conditions or violate housing laws. Members of the public who wish to report a consumer complaint should contact the Office through its hotline at (415) 554-3977 or its web portal at <https://www.sfcityattorney.org/report-a-complaint/>. Our office will review the information you provide and may seek additional information from you. Please note, however, that we are not authorized to represent you as your lawyer or provide you with legal advice. Any actions we take are on behalf of the community as a whole.

Rent Board IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR LANDLORDS

San Francisco landlords now need a license before imposing annual and banked rent increases on tenants subject to the City's rent control laws. To obtain or renew a license, property owners must report certain information about their units into the San Francisco Housing Inventory Portal each year. Property owners can submit their Housing Inventory information to the Rent Board in a few ways, but are strongly encouraged to complete the process online at portal.sfrb.org. Once the system accepts the submission, a rent increase license will be automatically generated and readily available. Owners can also deliver a paper Housing Inventory form to 25 Van Ness Ave., Suite 320, San Francisco, CA 94102 or to rentboard.inventory@sfgov.org. Assistance is available by calling 311 or emailing rentboard.inventory@sfgov.org. Visit sf.gov/rentboard for more information.

The City and County of San Francisco encourages public outreach. Articles are translated into several languages to provide better public access. The newspaper makes every effort to translate the articles of general interest correctly. No liability is assumed by the City and County of San Francisco or the newspapers for errors and omissions.



CNSB#3694543

SHORT TAKES

Step Into Cuban Dancing

Strap on your dancing shoes and head to the Noe Valley Town Square on Saturday, May 13, for “Salsa in the Square: Cuban Dancing” and instruction, from 7 to 9 p.m.

Evening host Gill Guillermo will present Los Jefes, an up-and-coming band whose nine members, many of them students at Ruth Asawa School of the Arts, are all 19 years or younger. They will be joined by internationally renowned performers Anthony Blea (violin) and Mario Vega (flute, saxophone). And there is a possible surprise guest.

So, maybe you are not so confident of your salsa chops? Dance Instructor Dennis Bain Savage, along with his surprise partner, will have you on the dance floor in no time.

Guillermo notes that the term “salsa” covers a wide variety of dance styles, stemming from the meld of Spanish dance forms with West African traditions. “The style of dance that will be presented is properly called *son* (pronounced *sohn cubano*), a style which moved from the countryside of Cuba to the cities in the 19th century,” says Guillermo.

So come, stir up your senses, and glide through those quick steps in Latin dance. Most of all, have fun!

The square is on 24th Street, between Sanchez and Vicksburg streets.

Noe Music for Mother’s Day

Looking for a special Mother’s Day event that doesn’t involve brunch? Noe Music celebrates the day with a concert titled “The Power of Creation” at 4 p.m., Sunday, May 14, at the Noe Valley Ministry. Plus, a bonus for moms and dads: they offer free childcare for children over age 3 for those attending the concert.

The event, says Noe Music co-director



Ken Sakatani shows landscape paintings and “digital parodies” in his show running May 8 to July 31 at the Noe Valley Ministry Presbyterian Church at 1021 Sanchez St.

Meena Bhasin, is all about “creation energy and women’s power. We use the same power to create life as to create art.”

The works performed, beginning with two pieces sung by the San Francisco Girls Chorus, explore the feminine in all its stages. “It was important,” says Bhasin, “to have women of different ages explore what energy we create with: maidens, mothers, and queens.”

Singer/songwriters Diana Gameros, Jackie Gage, Marjan Vahdat, Naima Shalhoub, accompanied by Destiny Mohammad (harp), Bhasin (viola), and Cava Menzies (piano), also will share new lullabies created in Noe Music’s Lullaby Project. The program pairs pregnant women in challenging life circumstances with professional artists to compose and record lullabies for their babies.

A highlight of the afternoon will be the world premiere of “A Channel,” a work written for and with the San Francisco Girls Chorus and Oakland-based multidisciplinary musician Cava Menzies. Bhasin says, “The lyrics and ideas were informed by conversations with girls of the San Francisco Girls Chorus and the other four

artists in the program.

“We are venturing into new territory,” says Bhasin. “This is not an obvious sell to a classical music audience. But the musicality [of the program] is important to us. We have a wholistic picture of how we serve families here.”

For tickets and more information, visit the Noe Music website at noemusic.org. Tickets, if they haven’t sold out, are also available at the door, at 1021 Sanchez St.

Ken Sakatani at Noe Valley Ministry

Gallery Sanchez, inside the Noe Valley Ministry at 1021 Sanchez St., presents a new art exhibit this month, displaying what we all need: “Nature and Nurture.”

The show, works by multimedia artist Ken Sakatani, features some playful digital comments on Sakatani’s cultural roots, along with landscapes and still lifes of nature.

“An important aspect of my art is expressing my Japanese-American heritage,” says Sakatani.

A third-generation Japanese-American, Sakatani spent his childhood on a farm in Southern California. With a dual career as an artist and arts professor, he has shown works at numerous museums and universities, including De Anza College, Cal State University, Northridge, the University of the Arts in Philadelphia, the de Young Museum, and the Botanical Garden in Golden Gate Park.

The current exhibit opens May 8 and runs through July 31. As gallery hours are limited, it would be wise to attend the artist’s reception on Saturday, June 3, from 2 to 4 p.m. Or if you’d like a private viewing, contact Sakatani at ken@sakataniarts.com. You can preview his work at sakataniarts.com.

—Kit Cameron

Airbnb Bookings Deflate During Pandemic

The number of tourists and business travelers who stayed at an Airbnb in Noe Valley declined 37 percent during the three years of the pandemic, according to AirDNA, a national analytical firm that tracks short-term rentals.

Visitors spent 2,770 nights in the neighborhood in February of 2020, the month that a disease called Covid-19 started gaining worldwide attention, the firm reported. That figure compared to 1,741 nightly stays in February of this year.

Many Noe Valley property owners who hosted short-term rentals “left the market during the pandemic, as urban travel and international travel (which San Francisco traditionally benefits from) became either unpopular or impossible,” said AirDNA spokesperson Madeleine Parkin.

Many of the local listings have not returned to the market. There were 254 active Airbnb listings in Noe in February 2020 and 173 this February.

Still, Parkin said, there were signs of a rebound. The number of rental locations rose to 200 in March 2023, and more travelers made reservations.

“There are now about 1,660 nights booked in Noe Valley for the summer,” as of April 24, she said. While reservations were lagging for June, she said nights booked for July and August were 4 to 5 percent above the same time period last year.

—Corrie M. Anders

E4TT: Celebrating Contemporary Classical

San Francisco’s Ensemble for These Times, also known by its moniker E4TT, states in its program announcement that it “believes in the power of artistic beauty, intelligence, wit, lyricism, and irony....”

Trust then that these qualities will be in audible and visible evidence in “Crystal,” the group’s 15th anniversary celebration concert on Saturday, June 3, 7:30 p.m., at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St.

Current E4TT members and emeriti pianists Margaret Halbig, Taylor Chan, and Dale Tsang and founding soprano/artistic director Nanette McGuinness will be joined by special guests Haruka Fujii (percussion), Chelsea Hollow (coloratura), Mia Nardi-Huffman (violin), Natalie Raney (cello), and Laura Reynolds (English horn).

Yes, this team looks like they’ll be playing chamber music, but it won’t just be your great-aunt’s favorite sonatas.

Two of the program’s pieces, in fact, are world premieres commissioned by E4TT: “Sparkle,” by Chinese-Canadian composer and Santa Clara University faculty member Vivian Fung, and “Igbo Landing,” by African-American composer and conductor Marcus Norris.

The evening also will feature favorite pieces from among E4TT’s many performances and recordings, such as the Schubert-influenced “Map of Laughter” by Missy Mazzoli, Melanie Mitrano’s light-hearted “Prom Date,” and the tango-ish “Buenos Aires en tres, I” by Claudia Montero.

“If Death Is Kind” is a piece based on a poem by Sara Teasdale.

The concert’s mood and mode will swing back and forth with works like Sam Krahn’s comical “Missed Connections #1 & 3,” Lajos Delej’s “Scherzo” for piano and violin, and the slow rag of Alexandre Tansman’s “Cabaret.”

David Garner, E4TT’s co-founder and artistic adviser, will be represented by several pieces, including his “Ricercar” (fugue) for solo piano, based on an encryption of the name Pablo Picasso.

To hear music samples or get ticket information, visit <https://www.e4tt.org/>.

—Jeff Kaliss

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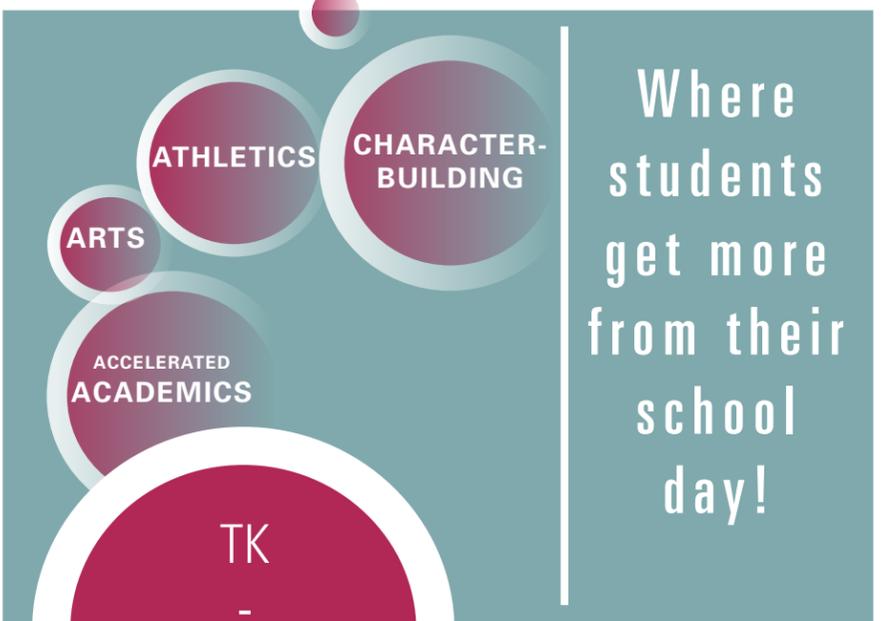


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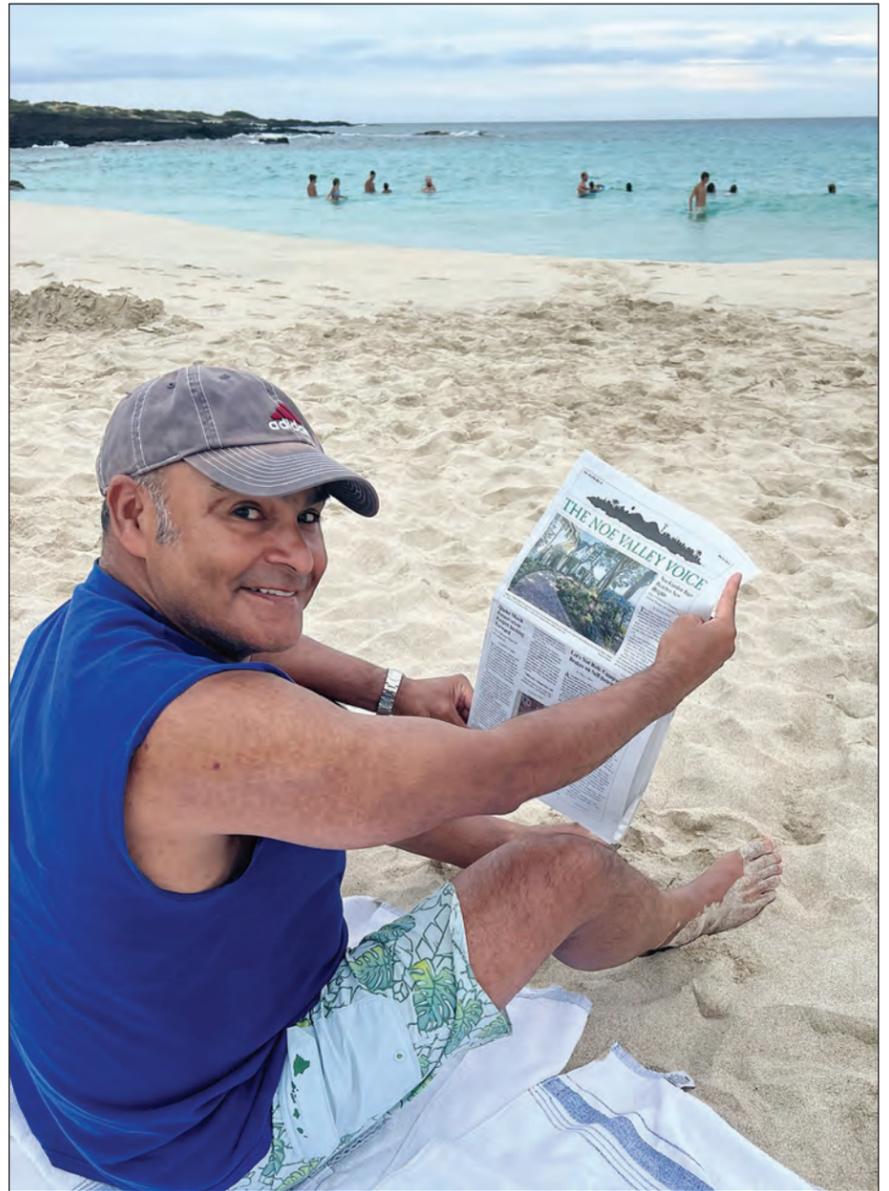
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Where the Voice Readers Roam



Katie Thiry (left) and Marissa Bialek paused on their 17 mile trek on one of New Zealand's "Great Walks"

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Peter Romero catches up on the news from home while on the Kona coast.

Photo by Paul Svedersky



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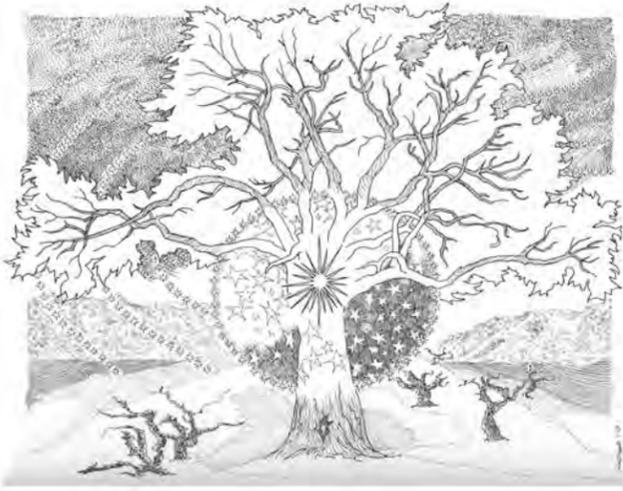
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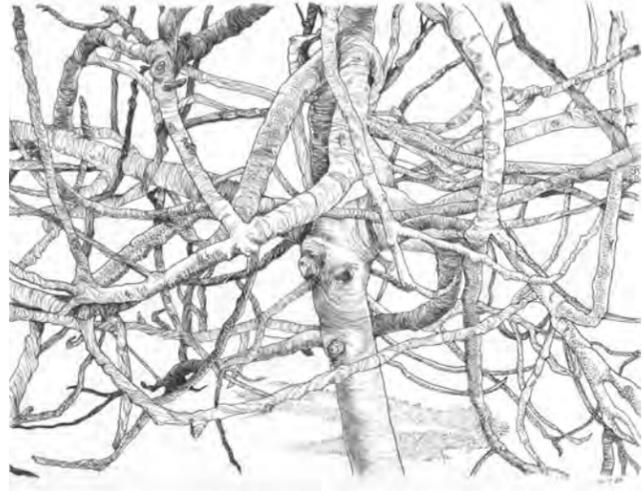
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The Cost of Living in Noe

Market Lull Continues in March

By Corrie M. Anders

Only 14 dwellings changed hands in Noe Valley in March, despite its being the start of the spring home-buying season, according to data supplied to the *Noe Valley Voice* by Corcoran Icon Properties.

That total was significantly below the number of homes and condos closing escrow in March a year ago (33), before inflation worries, interest rate hikes, and job layoffs sapped the energy of would-be buyers and sellers.

Homebuyers were “not as aggressive as they had been,” admitted Corcoran CEO Randall Kostick. Nevertheless, “it’s a time when buyers can buy at or below the asking price in many situa-



Behind the modest façade of this three-bedroom 1908 house on 22nd Street is a home with state-of-the-art living/dining features, skylights, two fireplaces, a library, and a two-car garage, all of which attracted \$4.1 million in a March sale.

tions, even when there are multiple offers” on a property, he said.

In general, March buyers took longer to make an offer and paid less.

For example, the six single-family home sales took an average 29 days to complete, as opposed to nine days in March 2022.

Also, buyers paid only 5 percent over the seller’s asking price on average, compared to 26 percent the year before. Likewise, condo shoppers paid a 5 percent bonus this March but offered 15 percent a year earlier.

Still, the most desirable properties caught the eyes of fearless home shoppers and proved exceptions to the rule.

The month’s most expensive home—a three-bedroom, four-bath gem in the 3700 block of 22nd Street, between Noe and Sanchez streets—was on the market for just five days before a buyer plunked down \$4.1 million, 5.8 percent more than the seller’s asking price (\$3,875,000).

Built by developer John Anderson two years after the 1906 earthquake, the house boasted an elegantly renovated

Total Sales	No.	Low Price (\$)	High Price (\$)	Average Price (\$)	Avg. Days on Market	Sale Price as % of List Price
Single-family homes						
March 2023	6	\$1,500,000	\$4,100,000	\$2,242,083	29	105%
February 2023	6	\$1,600,000	\$3,300,000	\$2,517,458	26	112%
March 2022	15	\$1,958,400	\$9,500,000	\$3,440,360	9	126%
Condominiums/TICs						
March 2023	8	\$830,000	\$3,260,000	\$1,789,374	19	105%
February 2023	5	\$1,205,000	\$1,850,000	\$1,442,300	30	100%
March 2022	18	\$1,080,000	\$4,000,000	\$1,989,722	14	115%
2- to 4-unit buildings						
March 2023	0	—	—	—	—	—
February 2023	2	\$1,100,000	\$2,475,000	\$1,787,500	34	102%
March 2022	4	\$1,200,000	\$2,400,000	\$1,797,000	41	117%
5+-unit buildings						
March 2023	0	—	—	—	—	—
February 2023	0	—	—	—	—	—
March 2022	0	—	—	—	—	—

*This survey includes all Noe Valley home sales completed during the month. Noe Valley is loosely defined as the area bordered by Grand View, 22nd, Guerrero, and 30th streets. The *Noe Valley Voice* thanks Corcoran Icon Properties, San Francisco, for providing sales data. NVV 5/2023



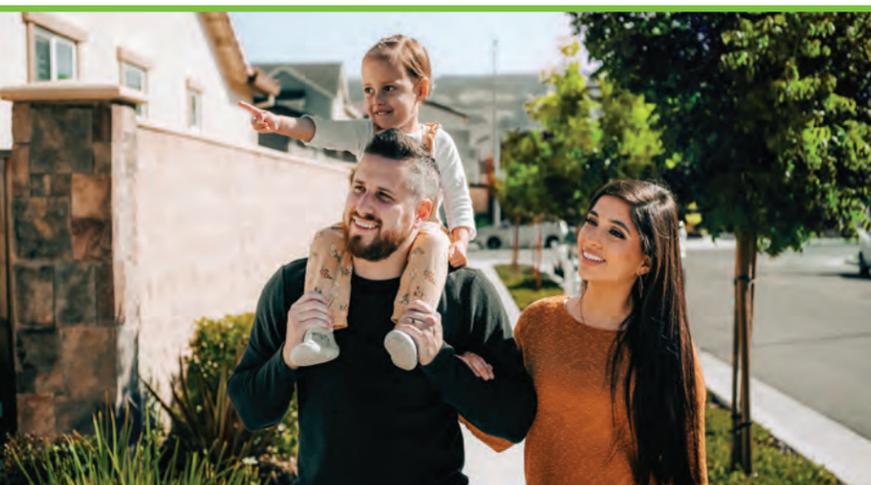
Larger than most houses in Noe Valley, a well-appointed condominium in a 1888 Victorian on Church Street sold in March for \$3,260,000. Photos by Corrie M. Anders

living/dining area with a gourmet kitchen offering bespoke cabinetry, concrete counters, and Viking, Subzero, and Miele appliances. Complementing the 2,875 square feet of living space were vaulted ceilings, a custom library, two gas fireplaces (one with a sculptural mantel), a wine and media room, three decks, and two-car parking with interior access to the home.

It was a similar story for the most expensive condominium, which sold in less than two weeks for \$3,260,000—2 percent more than its asking price (\$3,195,000). The new owners got the

upper two floors of a two-unit Victorian located in the 1100 block of Church Street, between 23rd and 24th streets.

With 3,300 square feet of living space, the condo was even larger than the 22nd Street house. Behind its 1888 façade lay a residence with five bedrooms, four baths, a to-die-for chef’s kitchen with a center island leading to a family room, two fireplaces, a master suite featuring a walkout deck and a spa-like soaking tub, and floor-to-ceiling glass walls providing scenic views of the urban landscape. There was parking for one car. ■



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Noe Valley Rents**

Unit	No. in Sample	Range April 2023	Average April 2023	Average March 2023	Average April 2022
Studio	13	\$1,700 – \$2,595	\$2,254 / mo.	\$2,420 / mo.	\$2,131 / mo.
1-bdrm	38	\$1,800 – \$6,000	\$3,096 / mo.	\$3,115 / mo.	\$2,808 / mo.
2-bdrm	33	\$2,500 – \$6,600	\$4,054 / mo.	\$4,132 / mo.	\$3,888 / mo.
3-bdrm	23	\$3,985 – \$9,500	\$5,957 / mo.	\$6,001 / mo.	\$5,249 / mo.
4+-bdrm	9	\$5,000 – \$18,500	\$9,851 / mo.	\$9,166 / mo.	\$8,991 / mo.

**This survey is based on a sample of 116 Noe Valley rental listings appearing on Craigslist.org from March 11 to April 10, 2023. In April 2022, there were 128 listings. NVV5/2023

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What's in Your Earthquake Kit?

Suzanne Herel and Sally Smith
Illustrations by Karol Barske

Are you ready to face the next earthquake, severe weather event, or health emergency? Think of the things you might need in order to live for a week without water or electricity.

Below is a list of items to put in your home preparedness kit, suggested by the San Francisco Fire Department's Neighborhood Emergency Response Team (NERT). To get more information or to find out about the department's trainings in disaster preparedness, call 415-970-2022 or visit sffdner@sf.gov or www.sfgov.org/sfnert.



Water: One gallon per person to last 3 to 5 days. (Use bleach to purify it, 2 to 4 drops per quart.)

Food for 3 to 5 days. Choose canned or dried soups, juice, milk, etc.

Cooking Supplies: A grill or camp stove (outdoors only), utensils, matches.



Clothing: Light and heavy layers for all, stored to stay dry. Include a pair of shoes and gloves.

Safety: Flashlight, radio and batteries, rope, knife/scissors, fire extinguisher, wrench for utility shut-off.



Supplies such as cash, house or car keys, important documents, maps.

Hygiene: Hand sanitizer, toilet paper, shampoo, toothbrush, and toothpaste.



Special items for children, the elderly, or people with disabilities.

Shelter: Tent, sleeping bags.

Medical: First-aid kit, prescriptions, medications, and an extra pair of glasses.



Pet Supplies, such as food, water, leash, medications, and carrier.

Checklist for the 'Go Bag'

It never hurts to have a "go bag" at your workplace or in your car.

- Comfortable walking shoes
- Flashlight
- Extra pair of glasses
- Crank or battery radio
- Food and water
- Cash (\$100 in small bills)
- Basic first-aid, medications
- Change of clothes
- Toiletries
- Big trash bag, mylar blanket
- Copy of driver's license
- Contact info, paper, pencil, family or pet photo



Families relax in sunshine on a lovely April Sunday afternoon. Fourth-graders from St. Cecilia run the bases as St. Gabriel defends. Photo by Chris Faust

Spring Into Action!

Here's the latest dispatch from Upper Noe Rec Center: Spring Session is continuing through May 26. A two-week break in classes follows, before Summer Session begins June 12. Upper Noe is not hosting a summer camp this year. Regular programming will continue with a few additions.

As usual in summer, the rec center building, 295 Day St., will be open on Mondays. Pickleball fans will appreciate additional court time on Mondays from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Also, we can kick up our heels with International Folk Dancing on Wednesdays from 10:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Many classes and activities are drop-in and free, so feel free to join the party. Call the office at 415 970-8061 to confirm the schedule, or visit www.uppernoerecreationcenter.com.

The center asks that you call 3-1-1 if there is a park maintenance issue. Friends of Upper Noe Recreation Center lobbies relentlessly to ensure the grounds are safe and attractive. The most effective way to improve park conditions is to alert San Francisco Customer Service (3-1-1), either by phone, web, or the easy-to-use phone app. Park personnel rely on your reports to support service requests. Help them keep the park healthy. For issues related to Joby's Dog Run, open 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., call 3-1-1 or email info@fundogsf.org.

—Chris Faust, Friends of Upper Noe Recreation Center

Upper Noe Spring Schedule (March 21 to May 26, 2023)

Rec Center Hours, 295 Day St.: Tues.–Fri., 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Sat., 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sun. & Mon. closed; outside activities only. Park Grounds: Daily, 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

A Place to Play (free play)

10 to 11:30 a.m. weekdays
1 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday
Hours are subject to change.

Tuesday

9 to 10 a.m. Zumba (outside) FREE
10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Pickleball (all ages) FREE
Noon to 1 p.m. Pilates (all levels)
1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Pilates (all levels)
2 to 5 p.m. Open Gym (youth)
4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Tennis—Beginning (8-9 yrs)
6 to 7 p.m. Tennis—Intermediate (18+)
5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Open Gym (adult)
6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Yoga Hatha

Wednesday

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Open Gym (adult)
12 to 1 p.m. Feldenkrais (18+) FREE
2 to 5 p.m. Open Gym (youth)
5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Drop-In Adult Volleyball (advanced players only)
6 to 7 p.m. Tennis (18+)

Thursday

10 to 11 a.m. Petite Bakers (3-5 yrs)
10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Pickleball (all ages) FREE
12 to 1 p.m. Pilates (all levels)
2 to 5 p.m. Open Gym (youth)
4 to 5 p.m. Karate—Little Kickers (6-8 yrs)
4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Tennis—Beginning (8-9 yrs)
5 to 6 p.m. Karate Kids (9-12 yrs)
5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Open Gym (adult)
6 to 7 p.m. Tennis—Intermediate (18+)

Friday

9 to 10 a.m. Zumba (outside) FREE
10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Open Gym (adult)
2 to 3:30 p.m. Open Gym (youth)
4 to 5 p.m. League Volleyball (8-10 yrs)
4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Tennis—Beg. (7-8 yrs)
5 to 6 p.m. League Volleyball (11-14 yrs)
6 to 7 p.m. Tennis—Beginning (9-10 yrs)
6 to 7:30 p.m. Girls Play Sports (14-18 yrs) Instructional Volleyball

Saturday

9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Family Zumba FREE
10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Open Gym

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STORE TREK

Store Trek is a regular Voice feature, spotlighting new stores, restaurants, and other businesses in Noe Valley. Making a big splash this month is the SF Fire Credit Union, newly arrived on 24th Street.

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<https://sffirecu.org/>

With its third branch in the city, the San Francisco Fire Credit Union is testing a new way of interacting with customers. The Noe Valley branch, which soft-opened April 22 at 3908 24th St., will be “tellerless,” with its employees moving about to greet people as they walk in the door, instead of standing or sitting behind glass or at a desk.

The roughly 1,500-square-foot space sports an open, café-style interior, with a beverage bar where the credit union’s members can grab a coffee and make use of the free Wi-Fi. Roving staffers will use tablets to provide a full suite of financial services, from banking needs to loan applications.

Customers can drop by for one-on-one support or make an appointment online. Digital queuing will be used when the branch is busy.

“It is a different way of doing banking now. People don’t want to just be talking to a teller,” said Josephine Chew, who joined the credit union as its chief marketing officer last spring. “The branch employees are supposed to come up to you and talk to you, so you don’t have to go in and line up for a teller.”

If it proves to be a successful model, the financial institution plans to remodel its other branches, in Laurel Heights and near the Stonestown Galleria adjacent to San Francisco State University. The new concept for the branch layout had been discussed prior to the Covid pandemic, explained Chew, but its rollout had to be put on hold due to the health crisis. Still, “we think it is the future,” said Chew.

With more people working from home, the credit union also wanted to open its new branch closer to where residents were spending most of their time. SF Fire Credit Union signed the lease for the Noe Valley location last year, on the ground floor of a new building with residential units above, so that it could build out the space to its specifications. In February, it closed its downtown location in the city’s Mint Plaza off Mission and Fifth streets in February.

“With the rise of work from home, we know that people are spending even more time in their neighborhoods. Keeping our members’ post-pandemic work realities in mind, we knew it was crucial to deliver easy local access to



Branch manager Pedro Murillo and member advocates Fabiola Franco and Jasmine Muscati (right) pose April 22 at a soft open of San Francisco Fire Credit Union’s new location at 24th and Sanchez streets. A fire truck will herald their opening party on Saturday, May 20. Photo by Art Bodner

our branch locations,” said SF Fire Credit Union CEO Kathy Duvall.

Opening a branch in Noe Valley made sense, noted Chew, because the neighborhood is in the heart of the city and has good public transit. Plus, many people are working remotely or on a mixed office/home schedule.

“Noe Valley has so much foot traffic,” said Chew. “This is the easiest branch for people to walk to, so it is quite perfect for that.”

As a gift to the neighborhood, the branch will host a community celebration from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, May 20. The block party, centered at 24th and Sanchez streets, will feature refreshments, balloons, giveaways, music by DJ Dre, and a vintage fire truck with off-duty firefighters.

“Now more than ever, people are seeing credit unions’ unique value in protecting and supporting members’ financial wellbeing. We invite our new neighbors in Noe Valley who might be ‘credit union curious’ to come visit and learn how serving our members is what energizes and drives us,” said Duvall.

The San Francisco Fire Credit Union was formed in 1951 by the city’s firefighters, who saw they were having trouble being approved for home loans and other financial assistance by traditional banks. It is a not-for-profit cooperative, owned and operated by its members, which reinvests its profits back into the local community.

Today, anyone who lives, works, or attends school in San Francisco, San Mateo, or Marin counties can become a member by opening a savings account, free checking account, or both. Members can access notary services or check their credit scores for free. They also can receive discounts on car rentals or apply for a loan to buy a vehicle or a house.

“We are trying to put the message out there that yes, the name says SF

Fire and we are very proud of the fact we are the SF firefighters’ credit union, but we are also open to the public,” said Chew. “It so hard to explain to people, but if you really think about it, unless you are a tourist, you probably qualify to become a member.”

According to research that the credit union has conducted, only one in three people in San Francisco understands what credit unions are. Only one in five city residents knows about the SF Fire Credit Union, said Chew.

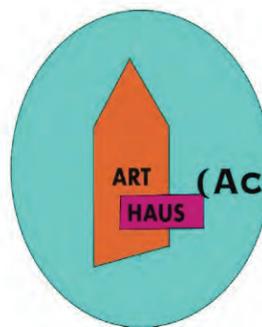
“We believe having a branch in Noe

Valley will help us build our brand a bit more,” she said. “By being in the neighborhood, people will see us and go, ‘What is that?’ It is another reason why we wanted to throw a big party, so people can get to know us and ask, ‘What is a credit union?’”

The Noe Valley branch will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays, and from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturdays.

For more information about the credit union or the block party, visit <https://sffirecu.org/party>.

—Matthew S. Bajko



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NVV5/2023

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Covid-19 Text "COVID19SF to 888-777, see sf.gov/topics/coronavirus-covid-19, or call . . . 311
Burned-Out Streetlights, city owned (wooden poles call PG&E) 311
District 8 Supervisor Rafael Mandelman, mandelmanstaff@sfgov.org 415-554-6968
District 8 Community Safety Liaison Dave.Burke@sfgov.org
Graffiti Removal, Tree Removal, Street Cleaning (DPW) 415-695-2017
Homeless Services Street Outreach Services (SOS) medical care 415-355-2250
Lost or Injured Animals Animal Care and Control 415-554-6364
Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services sfmayor.org 415-554-7111
NERT (SFFD Neighborhood Emergency Response Teams) 415-970-2022
Parking Enforcement DPT Dispatch 415-553-1200
PG&E Gas or electrical issues 1-800-743-5000
Pothole Repairs potholes@sfdpw.org 415-554-5810
Recycling Recology San Francisco (free pickup bulky items) 415-330-1300
Rent Board San Francisco phone counseling 415-252-4600
Sewer Problems, Overflows 415-695-2096
SFMTA or Muni Call 311 or email MTABoard@sfmta.com 415-701-2311
Tree Planting urbanforestry@sfdpw.org 415-554-6700
24th Street Community Benefit District (Noe Valley Association) 415-519-0093
Water Leaks, Water Pressure 415-554-3289

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—Tallulah Bankhead (1902–1968), U.S. actor

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May 2-31: Lola Gallery exhibits "California Landscapes," Acrylic PAINTINGS by Willa Owings. Tues.-Sat., noon-6 pm. 1250 Sanchez. 642-4875.

May 4, 11, 18 & 25: The Noe Valley Library offers Family STORYTIMES on Thursdays, 10:15 am and 11 am. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

May 5: The monthly self-guided Castro ART WALK features exhibits by local artists in and around neighborhood businesses. 5-9 pm. For a map and list of artists: castroart-walk.com.

May 6: Learn to knit and crochet at the Noe Valley KNITTING Circle. 10 am-12:30 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

May 6: The Noe Valley GARDEN TOUR features nine gardens on Saturday, 10 am to 4 pm. friendsofnoevalley.com

May 6: The Ingleside Terraces Home Association holds a multi-family GARAGE SALE, with items from households between Ocean Ave., Junipero Serra, Holloway, and Ashton. 10 am-3 pm. events@ihASF.org

May 6: Noe Valley author Richard May celebrates his new short-story collection *Because of Roses* in a Zoom READING with colleagues Michael Alenyikov, Liz Faraim, Anna Mantzaris, and R.L. Merrill. 2-3 pm. Email Richard.May1313@gmail.com for link.

May 6, 13, 18, 24 & 25: Omnivore Books on Food hosts AUTHORS Meg Ray (*Miette: Recipes from San Francisco's Most Charming Pastry Shop*) May 6, 3 pm; Jennie Levitt (*Paris Picnic Club*) May 13, 3 pm; Regula Ysewijn (*Dark Rye and Honey Cake*) May 18, 6:30 pm; Natasha Pickowic (*More Than Cake*) May 24, 6:30 pm; and John Ash and John Finger (*The Hog Island Book of Fish and Seafood*) May 25, 6:30 pm. 3885 Cesar Chavez. 282-4712.

May 6, 13, 20 & 27: The Noe Valley FARMERS MARKET offers fresh produce, music, and fun, Saturdays from 8 am to 1 pm. 3861 24th. 248-1332; noevalleyfarmer-smarket.com

May 6, 13, 20 & 27: The RANDALL MUSEUM invites you to "Meet the Animal Keeper" and tour the Wild in California exhibit. 2 pm, 199 Museum. 554-9600;

randallmuseum.org

May 6, 13, 20 & 27: Join NOE WALKS in a Saturday stroll around the neighborhood. Meet at 24th and Sanchez at 10 am.

May 7: The annual Fair Oaks Street GARAGE SALE includes bake sales, art, and recycled clothing on Fair Oaks from 21st to 26th streets. 9 am-4 pm.

May 7, 14, 21 & 28: Folk Yoga and Yoga Flow alternate Sundays with free YOGA classes; bring a mat and water. 11 am-noon. Town Square, 3861 24th. noevalleytown-square.com

May 8: Get Drop-In TECH HELP from the library staff; bring your own device or use a library computer. 2-3 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey; 415-355-5707; sfpl.org.

May 8-July 31: GALLERY SANCHEZ at the Noe Valley Ministry exhibits "Nature & Nurture: Landscape and Cultural Parody" by multimedia artist Ken Sakatani. Reception June 3, 2-4 pm; check gallery hours or ken@sakataniarts.com. 1021 Sanchez. 282-2317.

May 9: Children and families are invited to make a window SUNCATCHER. 2:30 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

May 10: SHAPING San Francisco celebrates its 25th anniversary with festivities starting at 7:30 pm. 518 Valencia. RSVP shaping@foundsf.org

May 11: The Noe Valley Ministry offers a meditative LABYRINTH Walk, on the second Thursday of the month, at 6:30 pm. 1021 Sanchez. noevalleyministry.org

May 11: Bird & Beckett hosts "Johnny Lonely's UNHAPPY HOUR," songs and improvisations by Brian Lohmann and Joshua Raoul Brody. 7-9 pm. 653 Chenery. 586-3733; birdbeckett.com

May 12: FRIDAY MATINEE at the Noe Valley Library features the 2018 thriller *Searching*. 2 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

May 12: LITQUAKE Epicenter hosts Grace Loh Prasad in conversation with MariNaomi, author of the memoir *I Thought You Loved Me*. 7:30 pm. Hotel Emblem, 562 Sutter. litquake.org

May 13: The World Literature BOOK CLUB at the Noe Valley Library discusses *The Joy Luck Club* by Amy Tan. 2 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

May 13: "SALSA in the Square" offers music by the band Los Jefes and Cuban salsa instruction by Dennis Bain Savigne. 7-9 pm. Town Square, 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com

May 13: The closing reception for "Touchstone" at CHUNG 24 Gallery is 2 to 5 pm. Gallery hours Wed.-Sat., 1-6 pm. 4071 24th. chung24gallery.com

May 13 & 14: Noe Valley Pet Company celebrates its 24th ANNIVERSARY with special treats; all non-edible merchandise 20 to 50 percent off. 1451 Church. 282-7385.

May 14: NOE MUSIC hosts a Mother's Day concert with an array of singers, songwriters, including the San Francisco Girls Chorus. 4-6 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. noemusic.org

May 16: LEGO Free Play at the Noe Valley Library welcomes children, ages 5 and older, and their families. 2-3 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

May 17: The Noe Valley BOOK CLUB discusses *Convenience Store Woman* by Sayaka Murata. 6:30-7:45 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

May 17: Upper Noe Neighbors hosts an in-person COMMUNITY meeting. 7-8:30 pm. Upper Noe Rec Center Auditorium, Day and Sanchez. uppernoeneighbors.com

May 18: The SF Historic Preservation Commission and the Transportation Commission hold a joint meeting on LANDMARK designation for the Castro Theatre. 10:30 am. City Hall, Room 400. savethecastrotheatre.org

MAY CALENDAR

May 20: SF Fire Credit Union sponsors a BLOCK PARTY, with music by DJ Dre, refreshments, balloons, giveaways, and a vintage fire truck. 11 am-4 pm. Sanchez at 24th Street. 674-4800.

May 20: Rhythm & Motion offers a free DANCE workout, 4-5 pm. Town Square, 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com

May 26, 27 & 30: RECOLOGY's Artist-in-Residence program hosts work by Andrew Sungetaek Ingersoll, Sahar Khouri, and Nunca No. Fri., 5-8 pm; Sat., noon-3 pm; and Tues., 5-7:30 pm. 401 Tunnel. recology.com

May 27 & 28: CARNAVAL San Francisco is 17 blocks of festivities, 50 local performers, and a Sunday parade in the Mission. 9:30 am-2:30 pm. carnivalsanfrancisco.org

May 28: The LIEDER ALIVE! concert features soprano Esther Rayo, cellist Oliver Herbert, and pianist Carols Agreda performing South American music. 5 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. liederalive.org

May 30: SF HISTORY Association hosts Taryn Edwards discussing the history of the Mechanics Institute. 7 pm. Sherith Israel, 2266 California. sanfranciscohistory.org

June 1-11: The 22nd SF DocFest, screening 36 feature FILMS and 58 shorts, will be held at the Roxie Theater (3117 16th St.) and online. sfndie.com

June 3: Chamber group Ensemble for These Times (E4TT) performs "Crystal," a gala CONCERT celebrating its 15-year anniversary. 7:30 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. E4TT.org

June 4-10: The SF AIDS Foundation and the Los Angeles LGBT Center co-sponsor AIDS/LifeCycle, a 545-mile bike ride and fundraiser from S.F. to L.A. 581-7077, www.aidslifecycle.org

June Is Soon

The next *Noe Valley Voice* will be the **June 2023** issue, distributed the first week of June. The deadline for calendar items is **May 15**. Please email calendar@noevalleyvoice.com. Events in Noe Valley receive priority. Thank you.

and now for the RUMORS behind the news

The (May) Daze of Our Lives

By Mazook

HERE COMES THE SUN: The sun is shining on me these days. I'm taking afternoon walks up and down 24th Street, from Dolores to Douglass and back to Dolores again. The fog is rolling down from Sutro Tower, pushed by the gentle winds coming from the Pacific Ocean yonder.

I relish hearing the wind-driven chimes hanging on a plum tree over the sidewalk a few steps past Philz, in front of the house at 4268 24th St. Along the street, I smell the fragrances emanating from the foliage in the sidewalk gardens created and maintained by those living here.

As I stroll down into Downtown Noe Valley (DNV), the breeze gently blows through the cherry blossom trees that line 24th Street, and the petals drift down to the sun-drenched street and sidewalks.

When I get back to the palm trees of Dolores, I pause and look west to see the fog bank settling above Grand View at the top of our urban village. I feel a sense of history, knowing that I am standing by the northern end of what used to be called El Camino Real in 1776. The road ended over the hill at Mission Dolores, where many family members of José de Jesús Noé (1805–1862) are buried. Also, I feel like maybe I should have brought a sweater...



BACK TO REALITY: Speaking of Philz at 24th and Douglass, I was glad to see they had replaced the broken windows that were covered with plywood last month. Thieves had broken into the coffeehouse and attempted to remove the store safe in the back storage room.

According to the Philz staff, "They left empty-handed." Evidently the burglars were unable to remove the safe and simply left, causing no damage other than the two broken windows.

Across the street at VIP Grooming, I inquired why the For Rent sign had been removed from the long-vacant small real estate office next door. I was told that the building had been sold. Later I queried online and saw that the building (4291–4299 24th) had been sold for \$2,190,000 on April 26.

I should also mention that both Mamahuhu and Trad Bone Broth were broken into last month. Mamahuhu had its cash drawer stolen, as did Trad, which the owners say had about \$100 in it at the time. The bad guys climbed in and out of the transom window above the front door. No damage was done on that score.

As you all know after reading Matthew Bajko's front-page story on new businesses in Downtown Noe Valley, the space recently abandoned by Village Rotisserie has been taken over by Tacolicious. Tacolicious had opened its first office in the neighborhood at 1509 Church St. in August 2014. More details to come.

In early April, the sign on Village Rotisserie's door (4063 24th) said simply, "Closed," and pointed to a notice on the window thanking the neighbor-

hood for patronizing the café's year-long run in DNV (they had opened in March 2021).

Village was owned and operated by Thomas Glenright and his sister, Priscilla Dosiou, who resided in Noe Valley.

They wrote, "Dear Noe Valley, it is with much sadness that we have had to close V.R. Thank you for letting us serve you for a short but very sweet time. We are so grateful for our incredible team, our customers, our landlords, our suppliers. It has been a pleasure. Cheers, Priscilla & Tom."

According to a laid-off employee, Glenright was having "family problems" and had to quickly return to his native Australia.

In other Bajko news, the long-vacant spot next to Martha's Coffee (once occupied by Spectacles for Humans) at 3862 24th, will open as a food business. The building's owner said a lease was signed by all parties during the last week of April, but declined further comment.

The For Lease sign on the front window of the space abandoned last year by Patxi's Pizza (4042 24th) has been taken down, and the storefront appears to have been leased. To whom is still unknown. The rumor is that a hamburger place is eyeing the spot.

The For Rent sign on the front window of the recently closed Urban Remedy food shop is still there, at 3870 24th. The rumor is they are trying to sublease the rather small (1,200-square-foot), store and asking \$8,100 a month.

Lastly, it looks like PG&E will be ripping up 24th Street starting in July, to replace the aging gas line below the street. The work is expected to start in the 4000 block. That will cause monster traffic jams, and even worse, require the "temporary" removal of parklets during the construction, creating a major upheaval for the Valley Tavern, NoVY, and other eating places on 24th Street. Give them your love.



MURAL WORRIES: The board of directors and many friends of the Noe Valley Town Square are concerned these days about Mona Caron's marvelous mural on the side of the Haystack Pizza. The Haystack building at 3881 24th St. has been put up for sale for an asking price of \$2,650,000. At April's end, building owner George Kouloulis held an open house for prospective buyers.

The worry, said Town Square manager Leslie Crawford, is that the buyer will remodel and remove the mural or even go so far as to demolish the building.

"The community raised over \$40,000 over the past year to restore the mural and the wall behind it last summer," says Crawford, "and we are very concerned that this is something that is possible."

Kouloulis bought the building at 3881 24th in 1972. He moved upstairs and opened the restaurant at street level. Haystack has been managed by Kostas Hurdakis for the past 18 years, and the chef, Tommy Phan, has worked there for nearly 20 years.

I asked Hurdakis if he thought the neighborhood's worry was legitimate. He shook his head back and forth, and said just one word: "No."

My conclusion for now, in the lyrical words of a famous Noe Valleon, Bobby McFerrin, is "Don't worry. Be happy." Only a foolish buyer would risk the possibility of a huge neighborhood protest. But as we all know, anything is possible.



SLOW MOTION: Community support for Slow Sanchez will be tested at the end of the year, as the city's Slow Streets program comes up for its annual evaluation by the SFMTA board Dec. 6.

Chris Keene, of the Friends of Slow Sanchez group which started the slow street in 2020, sent out an email notice last month, asking members to "keep it slow" and remain a part of the 16 corridors in the Slow Streets Program approved last year. "Now we need to keep this neighborhood gem well loved, so that the program will continue on Sanchez," Keene said. The group was also lobbying the PUC for two more trash bins on the northern side of Sanchez.

Meantime, the website SlowSanchez.com launched a 2023 Slow Sanchez Survey, which it says is due by May 14. Notes resident Andrew Casteel on the survey, "We want to hear your thoughts and feedback on things/activities you'd like to see on Sanchez."

Wells Fargo customers have noticed that the local branch went through a major remodel of the interior last month. Lost, sadly, was the spectacular mural depicting Noe Valley history. Why?

"Across our footprint, we're making enhancements to our branches to provide a contemporary and engaging in-branch experience for our customers through the Branch Refurb Program," responds Wells communication representative Edith Rocío Robles. "These enhancements are to better serve our customers and the communities we serve. Based on analysis of the Noe Valley branch's activity, the new size for this space will continue to meet customer needs while freeing up more space for conversation and consultation."

She explains further, "We removed this branch's mural to make room for other enhancements such as new consultation areas and digital displays. For the Noe Valley branch mural, the installation material and method used when it was installed in 2012 prevents us

from being able to donate the mural."

And in late-breaking bank news: On April 30, as I was shipping my column off to the editors, word came that First Republic Bank had collapsed and been taken over by the feds and then by JP Morgan Chase, which agreed to take on all the deposits and "substantially all assets." The next day, May Day, the Noe Valley branch was open for business with a new name and new owners. Wow.



A GOOD HAIR DAY it is for Damia Hair Salon. The business has moved from where it was for the past 10 years at 1504 Church to 1300 Church St., the former home of Purely Physical Fitness on the corner of 26th Street.

Head hair designer and owner Damian Sargent says the move came about because "the owner of the building was putting it up for sale and I felt we had to move. By a stroke of good luck, we found some space up the block and were quickly able to negotiate a lease to stay in Noe Valley. About 90 percent of our clientele lives in the neighborhood."

Sargent loves Noe Valley. He grew up here and was an altar boy at St. Paul's Church. "I have very fond memories of living in the neighborhood as a boy, at 26th and Fair Oaks, and going to St. Paul's elementary school," he says. "I was very happy when I was able to open my hair salon in Noe Valley 10 years ago. I'm now assured I will continue to work in the neighborhood."

It was 10 years ago that Holly Mason Reeves and her husband moved to Upper Noe Valley, on 28th Street near Church. Reeves, an interior designer, opened a gallery and work space last month at 1185 Church, just north of 24th. She has named it The Space.

"I create designs for home renovations and interior color schemes, floorings, wallpaper, and among other things, furnishings," says Reeves. "I now have a gallery which features fine art and supports local artisans who create ceramics, jewelry, and handbags, and vintage pieces of art and jewelry."

She praises the neighborhood: "I am so happy that our community has come together and supports local artists."

Reeves says she is planning to have events featuring artists and crafts makers, and will make the space available for private parties and receptions.



MUSIC IS IN THE AIR at the Saturday Farmers Market, and here's the lineup for May:

May 6, 11 a.m. Furey Brothers Jazz Combo

May 13, 9 a.m. Jeff Troiano; 11 a.m. Liberty Street

May 20, 9 a.m. Mibo and Mila (teen performers); Terence Jack

May 27, 9 a.m. Dave Kesler; 10:15 a.m. Tom Huber; 11:30 a.m. Projecto Novo

Farmers Market musical director Gill Guillermo welcomes everyone to a Cuban Salsa Dance Party, on May 13, from 7 to 9 p.m.

On stage will be SF group Los Jefes, with guests Bay Area powerhouse musicians Anthony Blea on violin and Mario Vega on flute and sax. Basic dance lessons by Dennis Bain Savigne will start at 7 p.m.



THAT'S 30 FOR MAY DAZE: See you all next month for the June swoon and all the Rumors fit to print. ■



MORE GROUPS TO JOIN

Action SF

https://m.facebook.com/ActionSFactivism/
 Website: http://www.action-sf.com/
 Email: ActionSFsolidarity@gmail.com
 Meetings: Usually first Sundays, noon-1 p.m.
 Virtual meeting. All welcome.

Al-Anon Noe Valley

Contact: 834-9940
 Website: al-anonsf.org
 Meetings: Wednesdays, 7:30-9 p.m.
 St. Philip Church, 725 Diamond St. (park on Elizabeth Street side; enter on 24th Street)

Castro Community on Patrol

Website: castropatrol.org
 Email: info@castropatrol.org

Castro Merchants

Contacts: Masood Samereie, President;
 Dave Karraker, 415-710-0245
 Email: Dave@mx3fitness.com
 Address: 584 Castro St. #333, SF, CA 94114
 Meetings: Email info@CastroMerchants.com

Diamond Heights Community Association

Contact: Betsy Eddy, 867-5774
 Address: P.O. Box 31529, SF, CA 94131
 Website: www.dhcasf.org. Meetings: Second Thursday, 7 p.m. Call for location.

Dolores Heights Improvement Club

Email: info@doloresheights.org
 Website: www.doloresheights.org
 Meetings: Third Thursday of every second month. Bank of America, 18th and Castro.

Duncan Newburg Association (DNA)

Contacts: Deanna Mooney, 821-4045;
 Diane McCarney, 824-0303; or Sally Chew, 821-6235. Address: 560 Duncan St., SF, CA 94131. Meetings: Call for details.

Eureka Valley Neighborhood Association

Website: https://evna.org
 Address: P.O. Box 14137, SF, CA 94114
 Meetings: See website calendar. Castro Meeting Room, 501 Castro St., 7 p.m.

Fair Oaks Neighbors

Email: hello@fairoaksneighbors.org
 Address: 200 Fair Oaks St., SF, CA 94110
 The Fair Oaks Street Fair is traditionally held the day before Mother's Day.

Friends of Billy Goat Hill

Contact: Lisa and Mo Ghotbi, 821-0122
 Website: www.billygoathill.net

Friends of Dolores Park Playground

Contact: Nancy Gonzalez Madynski, 828-5772
 Email: friendsofdolorespark@gmail.com
 Website: friendsofdolorespark.org

Friends of Glen Canyon Park

Contact: Jean Conner, 584-8576
 Address: 140 Turquoise Way, SF, CA 94131
 Plant restoration work parties, Wednesday mornings and third Saturday of the month.

Friends of Noe Courts Playground

Contact: Laura Norman
 Email: lauranor@yahoo.com
 Address: P.O. Box 460953, SF, CA 94146
 Meetings: Email for dates and times.

Friends of Noe Valley (FNV)

Contact: Todd David, 401-0625
 Email: info@friendsofnoevalley.com
 Website: friendsofnoevalley.com
 Meetings: Two or three annually.

Friends of Upper Noe Recreation Center

Contact: Chris Faust
 Email: info@uppernoerecreationcenter.com
 Website: uppernoerecreationcenter.com
 Meetings: Email or check website.

Friends of Upper Noe Dog Owners Group (FUNDOG)

Contacts: Chris Faust, David Emanuel
 Email: info@fundogsf.org
 Website: www.fundogsf.org

Glen Park Association

Contact: info@glenparkassociation.org
 Website: glenparkassociation.org
 Address: P.O. Box 31292, SF, CA 94131

Juri Commoners

Contact: Dave Schweisguth, M17-6290
 Email: dave@schweisguth.org
 Website: meetup.com/Juri-Commoners
 The group is on hiatus and seeking a new leader. Contact Dave.

Liberty Hill Neighborhood Association

Contact: Dr. Lisa Fromer, president
 Email: efromer3@gmail.com
 Meetings: Quarterly. Email for details.

Noe Neighborhood Council

Contact: Ozzie Rohm or Matt McCabe
 Email: info@noeneighborhoodcouncil.com
 Website: noeneighborhoodcouncil.com
 Meetings: Quarterly at Sally Brunn Library, 451 Jersey St., with date publicized on website and Nextdoor.com.

Noe Valley Association-24th Street Community Benefit District

Contact: Debra Niemann, 519-0093
 Dispatch: To report spills or debris on 24th Street, call Billy Dinnell, 802-4461.
 Email: info@noevalleyassociation.org
 Website: noevalleyassociation.org
 Board meetings: Quarterly. See website.

Noe Valley Democratic Club

Contact: Carrie Barnes, President
 E-mail: noevalleydemocrats@gmail.com
 Website: www.noevalleydemocrats.org
 Meetings: Monthly at the Valley Tavern, 4054 24th St., with dates publicized on website.

Noe Valley Farmers Market

Open Saturdays, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., and Tuesdays, 3 to 7 p.m.; 3861 24th St. between Vicksburg and Sanchez.
 Contact: Leslie Crawford, 248-1332
 Email: info@noevalleyfarmersmarket.com

Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association (NVMPA)

Contact: Rachel Swann, 225-7743
 Meetings: Last Thursdays, Old Republic, 4045A 24th St., 9 a.m. Call to confirm.
 Website: www.NoeValleyMerchants.com

Noe Valley Parent Network

An e-mail resource network for parents

Contact: Mina Kenvin
 Email: minaken@gmail.com
 noevalleyparentssubscribe@yahoogroups.com

Noe Walks

Contact: Chris Nanda
 Email: christopher.n.nanda@gmail.com
 Website: NoeWalks.com
 Meetings: Saturdays, 10 a.m. Starts 24th and Sanchez. Ends Noe and Duncan for photo.

Progress Noe Valley

Facebook: ProgressNoeValley
 Email: progressnoe@gmail.com
 Website: progressnoe.com
 Meetings: Check Facebook page for current meeting and event schedule.

Resilient Noe Valley

Contact: Antoinette
 Email: resilientnoevalley@gmail.com
 Newsletter: http://eepurl.com/gYuCD5
 Website: www.resilientnoevalley.com

San Francisco NERT (Neighborhood Emergency Response Team)

Contact: Noe Valley NERT Neighborhood Team co-coordinators Maxine Fasulis, mfasulis@yahoo.com; Carole Roberts, carole_roberts@faludi.com
 Website: https://SF-fire.org
 Visit the SF NERT website for more information.

San Jose/Guerrero Coalition to Save Our Streets

Contact: Don Oshiro, 285-8188
 Email: contact@sanjoseguerrero.com
 Website: sanjoseguerrero.com
 Meetings: See website.

Friends of Slow Sanchez

Contacts: Christopher Keene, Andrew Casteel
 Email: info@SlowSanchez.com
 Website: SlowSanchez.com

Upper Noe Merchants

Contact: Info@UpperNoeNeighbors.com
 https://uppernoeneighbors.com/merchants/

Upper Noe Neighbors

Contact: Chris Faust, President
 Email: Info@UpperNoeNeighbors.com
 Mail: 235 30th St., SF CA 94131
 Meetings: Bi-monthly on third Wednesday. Confirm by email.

THE NOE VALLEY VOICE
 editor@noevalleyvoice.com
 All phone numbers are in the 415 area code, unless otherwise noted.



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Adult Fiction

A policeman who has retired in Ireland becomes intrigued by a decades-old case in *Old God's Time* by Sebastian Barry.

In *River Spirit* by Leila Aboulela, an orphaned girl searches for safety while being sold and traded during the Mahdist War in 19th-century Sudan.

Thomas Mallon's *Up With the Sun* investigates the murder of a gay actor in 1980s Manhattan.

A politician's wife becomes the unwitting leader of a social movement in Jane Roper's satire *The Society of Shame*.

In the mystery *Vera Wong's Unsolicited Advice for Murderers*, by Jesse Q. Sutanto, a lonely woman who owns a San Francisco tea shop seeks to solve a murder.

Adult Nonfiction

In *The Best Strangers in the World: Stories From a Life Spent Listening*, NPR broadcaster Ari Shapiro recounts a variety of adventures around the globe.

Paul Scharre describes the global fight to control data, talent, power, and institutions in *Four Battlegrounds: Power in the Age of Artificial Intelligence*.

In *Ghosts of the Orphanage: A Story of Mysterious Deaths, a Conspiracy of Silence, and a Search for Justice*, Christine Kenneally interviews survivors of residential institutions for children.

True Life is a collection of writings by the late Polish poet Adam Zagajewski.

Erica Berry examines the myths about wolves, real and symbolic, in *Wolfish: Wolf, Self, and the Stories We Tell About Fear*.

Adult eBooks

Deepti Kapoor's thriller *Age of Vice* begins with the death of five after the crash of a speeding Mercedes in New Delhi.

The lives of five strangers become enmeshed after they discover a burnt corpse in a Sudanese border town, in *Ghost Season* by Fatin Abbas.

The Great Escape: A True Story of Forced Labor and Immigrant Dreams in America, by Saket Soni, tells how Indian migrant workers in forced labor camps in 2006 Mississippi launched a march on Washington.

Carmela Ciuraru's biographies of five women in *Lives of the Wives: Five Literary Marriages* get to the core of their complicated relationships.

Adult Blu-Ray / DVD

In the 2022 thriller *Alice, Darling*, a young woman begins to see the truth of her abusive relationship with her boyfriend.

An asteroid miner who has crash-landed on an alien planet must find the only other survivor, in *Distast*.

Andrew Skarsgård and Mia Goth star as vacationers at a horrifying resort, in the 2023 mystery *Infinity Pool*.

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

Chinese Takeout by Michael Blake

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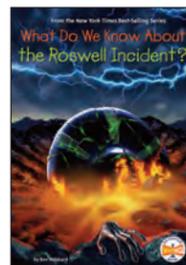
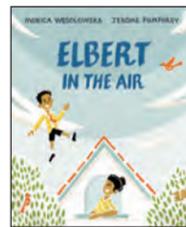
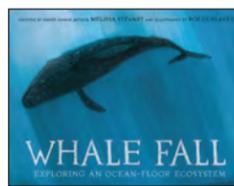
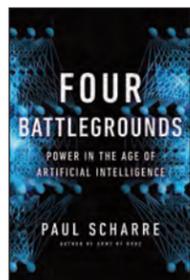
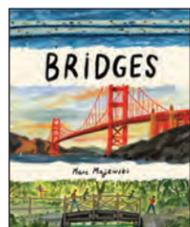
MORE BOOKS TO READ

Expert Advice

The Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Library not only welcomed a new branch manager this spring (see story, page 7). It also joined the nine locations to be featured in the Friends of Noe Valley Garden Tour on Saturday, May 6 (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.). Seems like a perfect time to visit the branch and meet our trio of experts: manager Mary Fobbs-Guillory, adult services librarian Amy Lewis, and children's librarian Julieanne Randolph. Lewis and Randolph are fairly new to the library, too.

As you can see by the lists on this page, the librarians are continuing to supply the *Voice* with More Books to Read (and movies to see), following in the footsteps of Jack Tilney and Catherine Starr, Noe librarians who have moved on to other roles in the San Francisco Library system. We thank them all for agreeing to share in the paper's 40-year tradition.

Voice bookworm Karol Barske, who writes the annotations, says this month's list of titles gave her plenty to chew on. There are non-fiction books on "literary wives," South Asian immigrant protesters, and Navajo Code talkers during World War II. Not to mention a tome on the struggle to dominate artificial intelligence.



In the children's section, you will find works on bridges, bees, and whales, plus a story about a boy who can float. But you'll also see a book on the 76-year investigation into a "flying saucer" sighted in Roswell, N.M.

Quick, put it on hold at sfpl.org. Or walk speedily to 451 Jersey St., between Castro and Diamond streets. If you need assistance, call the Noe Valley Library at 415-355-5707 or email info@sfpl.org.

The branch is open every day: Monday noon to 6 p.m., Tuesday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Wednesday noon to 8 p.m., Thursday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday 1 to 6 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday 1 to 5 p.m.

One reminder, though: Like all city branches, Noe Valley/Sally Brunn will be closed on Monday, May 29, for Memorial Day.

In *Missing*, a 2023 sequel to *Searching*, a young woman tries to find her missing mother using online tools.

Hugh Jackman stars as a man struggling to help his depressed teenage son, in the 2022 drama *The Son*.

Children's Fiction

A boy who can float has to decide whether or not to stay on the ground, in *Elbert in the Air* by Monica Wesolowska, with illustrations by Jerome Pumphrey. Ages 4-8.

Friends Beyond Measure by Lalena Fisher is a story told through charts and infographics. Ages 4-8.

Caldecott winner Marla Frazee describes the ups and downs, the good and bad, in her new *In Every Life*. Ages 4-8.

A young girl leaves China to live in Los Angeles with her parents and little sister, whom she hasn't seen in five years, in

Finally Seen by Kelly Yang. Ages 8-12.

You Are Here: Connecting Flights by Ellen Oh tells overlapping stories taking place in a busy Chicago airport. Ages 8-12.

Children's Nonfiction

Marc Majewski's *Bridges* looks at the amazing variety of structures around the world. Ages 4-8.

All the birds in the world, both backyard and exotic, are in *Birds Everywhere*, written by Camilla de la Bedoyere, illustrated by Britta Teckentrup. Ages 6-9.

Honey Bee, by Priyadarshini Chakrabarti Basu with illustrations by Astrid Weguelin, is dubbed "a first field guide to the world's favorite pollinating insect." Ages 6-9.

In *Thomas H. Begay and the Navajo Code Talkers*, Alys Landry uses oral history to show how Navajo culture helped

LIBRARY EVENTS

Mark Cormier leads a chair-based **Yoga Class** for seniors on Monday, May 1, from 2 to 3 p.m.

The Noe Valley Library hosts a **Family Storytime** on Thursdays, May 4, 11, 18, and 25 at 10:15 a.m. and again at 11 a.m.; space is limited.

The **Noe Valley Knitting Circle** meets on Saturday, May 6, from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The library has supplies to practice on but bring your own yarn and needles or hooks if you have a special project in mind.

The **Noe Valley Garden Tour** makes a stop at the Noe Valley Library, Saturday, May 6, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Get **Drop-In Tech Help** from the library staff, including downloading ebooks, using electronic resources, and basic computer tasks; bring your own device or use a library computer. Monday, May 8, 2 to 3 p.m.

Children and their families are invited to make a **suncatcher** on Tuesday, May 9, from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.

The **Friday Matinee** is *Searching*, a 2018 film directed by Aneesh Chaganty, starring John Cho and Michelle La, on May 12, from 2 to 3:45 p.m.

The **World Literature Book Club**, meeting on Saturday, May 13, 2 to 3 p.m., reads *The Joy Luck Club* by Amy Tan. Copies of the book are held at the Noe Valley Library circulation desk for checkout.

The Noe Valley Library hosts **LEGO Free Play** for children ages 5 and older and their families on Tuesday, May 16, from 2 to 3 p.m.

The Noe Valley **Book Club** discusses *Convenience Store Woman* by Sayaka Murata on Wednesday, May 17. 6:30 to 7:45 p.m.

All events take place at the Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Library, 451 Jersey. For information, call 415-355-5707 or visit sfpl.org.

develop an unbreakable secret code during World War II. Ages 10-13.

Heather McGhee examines the pitfalls of divisiveness, in *The Sum of Us: How Racism Hurts Everyone*. Ages 10-14.

Children's eBooks:

This Is a Story by John Schu, illustrated by Lauren Castillo, extols the wonders of books. Ages 4-8.

Discover how a whale contributes to the ocean in *Whale Fall: Exploring an Ocean-Floor Ecosystem*, by Melissa Stewart and Rob Dunlavy. Ages 4-8.

A boy who loves to ice skate enters his first competition in *Wei Skates On* by Olympic gold medalist Nathan Chen with illustrations by Lorraine Nam. Ages 4-8.

Ben Hubbard tries to solve the mystery surrounding reports of a glowing object in the skies of New Mexico in 1947, in *What Do We Know About the Roswell Incident?* Ages 8-12.



Annotations by *Voice* bookworm Karol Barske

BRANCH HOURS

Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Branch Library 451 Jersey St., 355-5707							
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	
1-5	12-6	10-8	12-8	10-6	1-6	10-6	
Mission Branch Library 1234 Valencia St., 355-2800							
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	
1-5	10-6	10-8	10-8	10-8	1-6	10-6	
Glen Park Branch Library 2825 Diamond St., 355-2858							
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	
1-5	10-6	10-6	12-8	10-7	1-6	10-6	
Eureka Valley-Harvey Milk Branch Library 1 José Sarria Ct. (3555 16th St.), 355-5616							
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	
1-5	10-6	10-8	10-8	10-6	1-6	10-6	

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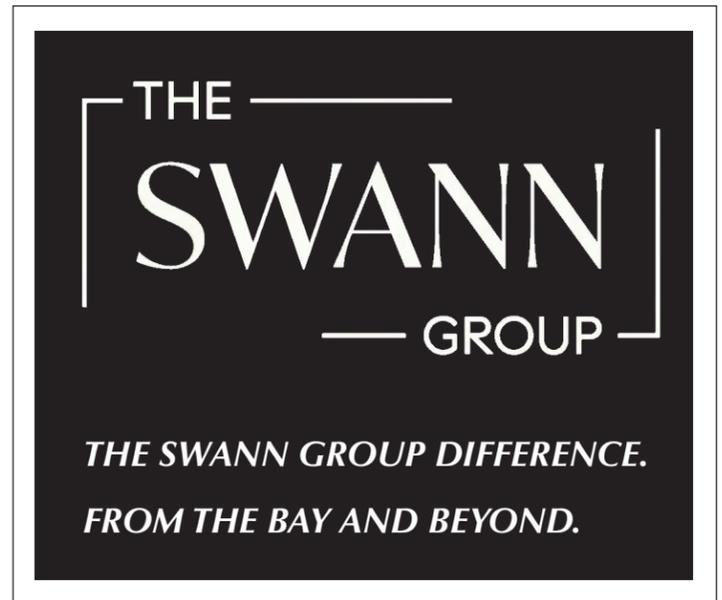
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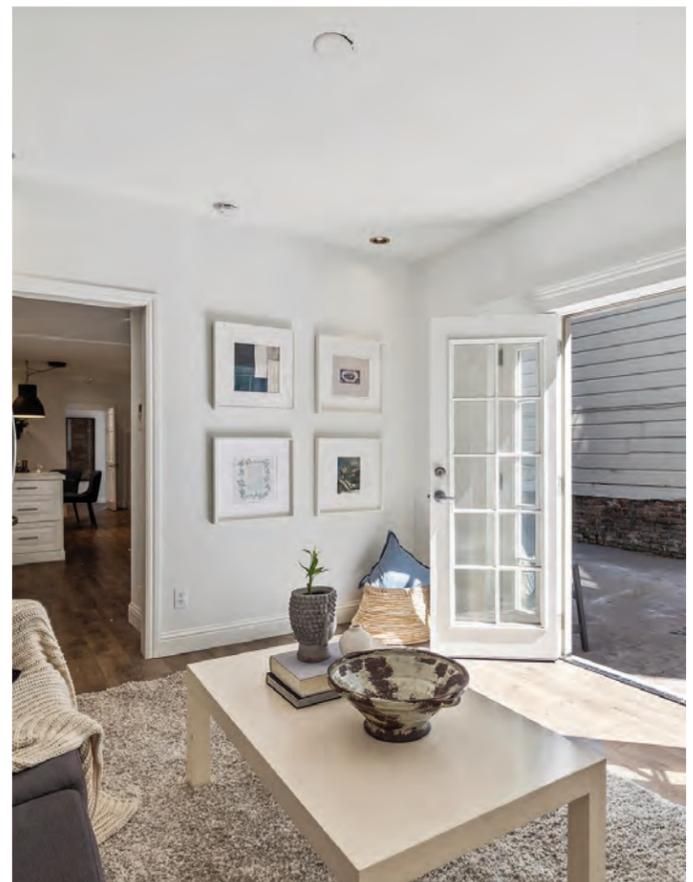
6 RESIDENCE BOUTIQUE BUILDING
ONLY 3 RESIDENCES LEFT!

Welcome to this stylish and substantially renovated boutique, 6-residence building! The residences within have all of the modern amenities you could dream of. Wide plank oak floors throughout, beautifully appointed kitchens with new high end appliances, in-unit laundry by Miele, large windows that bring in tons of natural light and air conditioning. One car parking.

533 Oak Street

3 BED | 1 BATH | Offered at \$799,000

This spacious full-floor residence in a boutique 3-residence building is one block from the heart of Hayes Valley. With a private entrance, three bedrooms, one large bathroom, laundry, an expansive private courtyard, and an upgraded kitchen and bath - this is a perfect place for entertaining and relaxing! Located in one of the city's most desirable neighborhoods, this residence is moments from the best boutiques, most delicious restaurants, and lifestyle destinations.



1169A Alabama Street

2 BED | 1 BATH | Offered at \$749,000

This newly updated, garden-level two-bedroom and one-bathroom home with laundry, is located in the vibrant 24th Street Mission corridor. Stylish, generously sized rooms, an eat-in kitchen, and an indoor/outdoor living experience are fitting for one of SF's hottest neighborhoods. This TIC caters to creature comforts including air conditioning! Enjoy direct access to a landscaped shared backyard that's perfect for al-fresco dining and entertaining.



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