



THE NOE VALLEY VOICE



Who'll Let the Dogs In? What once was a soggy lake is now a sea of green, but the dogs of Noe Valley, including Murphy and Scooter (right), may have weeks to wait before they can romp in Upper Douglass Dog Park on 27th Street. For the scoop on the park's closings and openings, see our story, page 9. *Photo by Beverly Tharp*

How a Plucky Store Survives and Thrives

Cliché Noe Could Be a Model For Small Retail

By Richard May

Stores come and go on 24th Street and Church Street, Noe Valley's two main shopping areas. Have you passed by an empty storefront and thought: I could have a store! I could sell clothes/run a restaurant/open a nail salon! Then you remember reading somewhere that most small businesses fail in their first two years and you decide maybe that 9-to-5 job downtown or in Silicon Valley doesn't seem so bad after all.

What does it take for a store to succeed in Noe Valley? Why do some work and others fail?

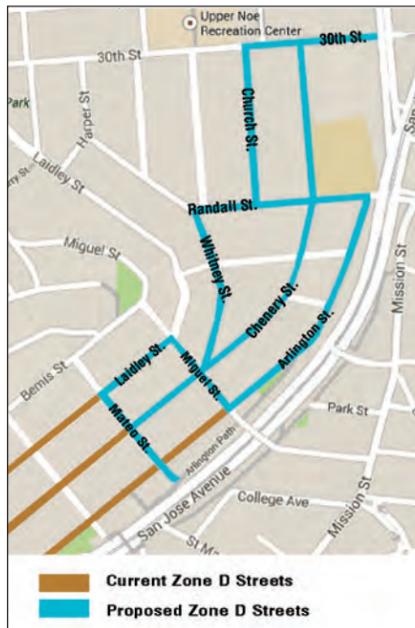
Dani Sheehan-Meyer of Cliché Noe Gifts + Home knows for sure. Her store has passed the three-year mark, achieves its revenue goals, and expands its business every year.

Things did not start off so well, however. The store opened at 4175 24th St. the day after Thanksgiving 2011, which, if you recall, was at the bottom of the Great Recession. That was bad enough, but there was another stumbling block. Sheehan-Meyer says she knew "on the first day that the store was wrong. It wasn't San Francisco. It wasn't Noe Valley." It had "too much of too little," meaning the shop didn't have enough variety. She began making changes immediately—

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13



Dani Sheehan-Meyer combines positive energy, community involvement, and smart business strategies to give her store the best chance for success. *Photo by Pamela Gerard*



Expansion Plan: A proposal put forth by residents in Glen Park would extend permit parking all the way to 30th Street.

Drive to Restrict Parking Hits Roadblocks

Neighbors Worry About Spread of Glen Park Permit Zone

By Corrie M. Anders

A group of residents, tired of commuters and other nonresidents using their streets for free all-day parking, has launched a petition drive to extend permit parking to the northeast corner of Glen Park, an area also known as the Fairmount.

The campaign has spawned so much controversy that the Friends of the Noe Valley Recreation Center hosted an informational meeting on Feb. 4. It drew

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

Word Week Promises Wonderful Wit

Humor Joins Irish, Queer, Arty, Food, and Kid Lit

By Olivia Boler

Noe Valley's Word Week Literary Festival is returning for its ninth year this spring. From March 16 through 21, the neighborhood celebrates words, written, spoken, sung, and—new this year—delivered with a punch line.

"Word Week appeals to anyone who loves to read, aspiring writers, even singers," says Peggy Cling, who is the treasurer of Friends of Noe Valley, the organizing sponsor of the event. Other sponsors include Martha & Bros. Coffee,

Noe Valley Bakery, and Valley Tavern. "It's a chance to get out into the neighborhood, meet up with friends, have fun, and support our local businesses."

Word Week is completely free of charge, so take advantage of all it has to offer. You can show support for local businesses during the festival by purchasing a book or two—or more! Here's what's in store each day:

The week kicks off on Monday, March 16, at 7:30 p.m., with **Word Wit: Noe Valley Comedy Night** at Caskhouse Bar and Bites on the corner of 24th and Vicksburg streets. Former state assembly

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

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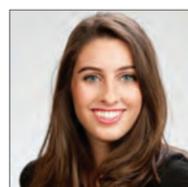
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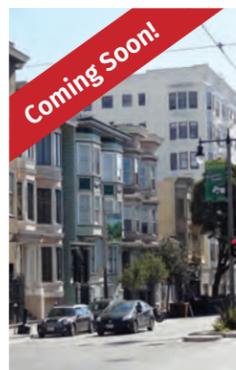
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LETTERS

History of Butting Heads Over Billy Goat Hill

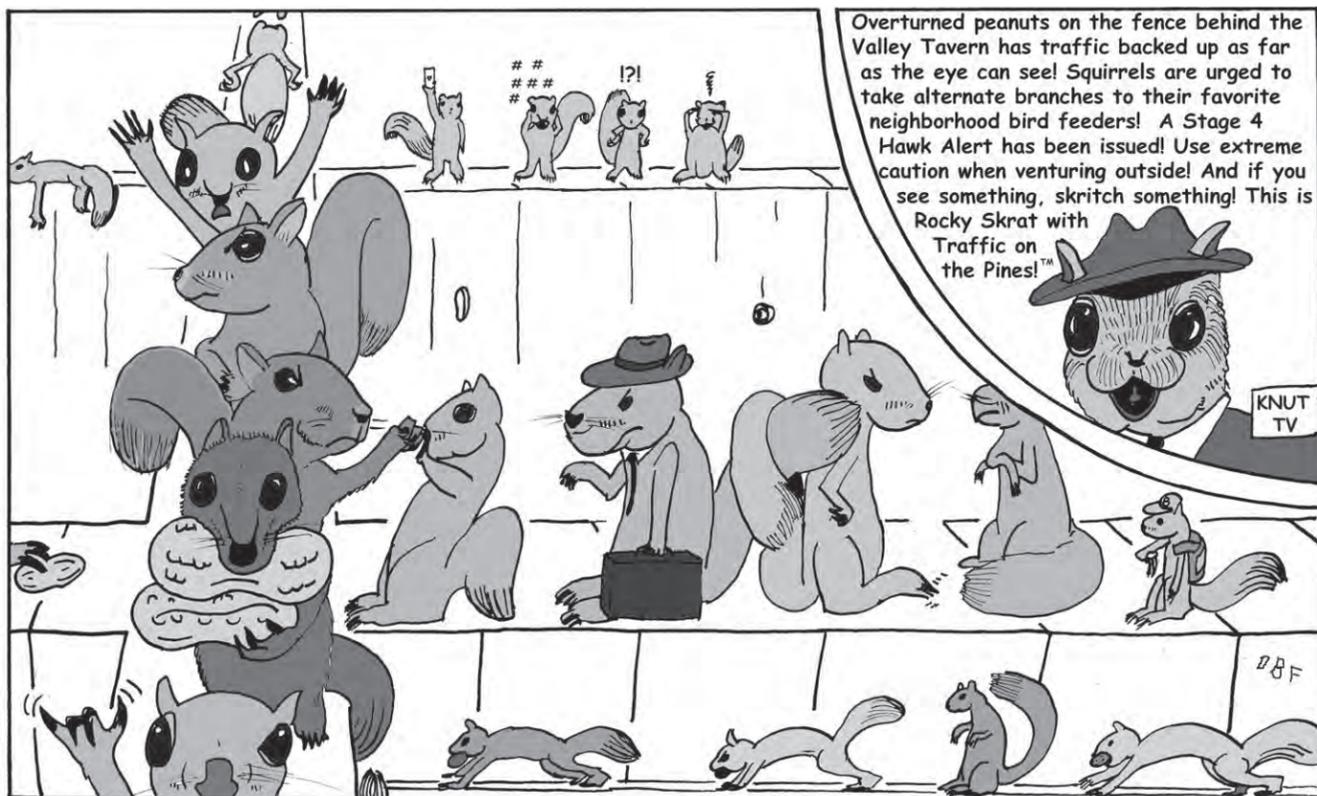
Editor:

Great article about the street trail ["City on Path to Improve Beacon Street Trail," February 2015]. My husband and I are thrilled that the city is going to improve access. We are daily users of the trail and walk through Goat Hill up to Haas Park every day and sometimes twice daily with our two dogs.

The part of the story that you missed was the intense neighborhood battle over the use of that property. Some residents have been vehemently opposed to any use of the land and as you noted would prefer to have it fenced off to keep out undesirables. They have resorted to piling debris at the lower entrance of the park and have cut down any swings put up on the tree any time they are hung there. Having scrambled over the pile of garbage and debris that the residents nearby put there, I can attest to the fact that there is almost no litter or garbage strewn about that trail, and Goat Hill is remarkably clean. If we see any garbage, we pick it up.

Thankfully, after some neighborhood activism, the area rallied to support improving the park rather than fencing it off. I moved here 27 years ago, and one constant theme is this idea that if you were here first, and longest, somehow that gives you the right to keep others out. It's so tiresome. San Francisco is a dynamic, changing city and will never stay the same. How boring it would be if it did.

There are other places people can go if they want to be away from the "riffraff" and tourists of San Francisco. With property values so high, I'm sure they could move to Davis and buy a huge house with



Traffic Reports for Squirrels

a lot of land and no tourists or people to bother them. There are plenty of other folks who would love to live here.

Andrew Goldfarb

Local RadioShack Still Humming

Editor:

Hey there, my name is Chuck Weyand. I'm the store manager over at our local RadioShack. I've been getting several calls and walk-ins daily with concerns about our store closing.

I just wanted to let the neighborhood know that our store is going forward, thanks to the support of this wonderful community. We will not be one of the 2,000 stores closing and liquidating.

We have been incredibly successful since our re-launch after the fire. The only unknown is what we will look like after the restructuring. There has been acknowledgment that Sprint is currently the highest bidder for our remaining stores, so I remain hopeful that little will change and we will continue to serve Noe Valley for several years to come.

Charles Weyand
RadioShack
4049 24th St.
415-285-3300

Town Hall on Housing the Homeless

Editor:

I enjoyed reading last month's article about Edward Smith ["How Edward Smith Got Linked In," February 2015]. Stories like these, and the work of HandUp keep us from forgetting the human stories behind each of our city's poorest residents. Edward Smith's hope to move out of his Sixth Street SRO into his own apartment illustrates the need for us to build a stronger housing ladder to help everyone into real homes.

To address this, San Francisco Cares and Project Homeless Connect are putting together an #EndHomelessness Town Hall on March 11 in San Francisco, bringing the best in unconventional, affordable ideas together with the city's service providers and volunteers to help us provide shelter and services to 100 percent of our homeless population. This town hall [at the Nourse Theater, 275 Hayes St., 6 to 9:30 p.m.] will be a space where Noe Valley residents can come together with people from all over the city to weigh in on how to address the housing needs of people living on the streets and in parks in our neighborhoods, and learn how they can participate in this effort to provide everyone with a safe place to live.

Thousands of people are signing up for the town hall, which is an exciting collaboration between people from the tech industry and homeless advocates, bringing

new energy and funding sources to create real alternatives to homelessness.

Research shows that communities spend far more money leaving a person on the streets than if they house them. As if treating people humanely weren't enough reason, the savings in emergency room, police and jail time, psychiatric and substance abuse treatment, and other costs should compel us all to support this effort to help everyone into a home.

Alex Darr
givingchange.blogspot.com

A Little More Caring

Editor:

The outpouring of support for Edward Smith by the Noe Valley community and beyond has been absolutely tremendous. Edward had his appointment with Project Homeless Connect on Feb. 11 to get his glasses, and should be seeing a little better when he receives them in early March.

Additionally, through HandUp, altruistic people have raised \$6,575 dollars to help Edward with his basic needs. This money will help provide him with food for many months. At 72 years old, with no retirement money, every dime allows Edward to live life with a bit more dignity, something we all deserve.

Perhaps most importantly, Edward definitely feels less invisible than he did before the *Voice* article came out [February 2015]. I see him weekly and we talk. He has told me that more people stop by to say hi, and see how he is doing. I have overheard people talking about giving Edward their bus transfers, and have seen individuals give more donations.

There are many traditional jobs in our society. In a non-traditional way, perhaps Edward's "job" is to remind all of us to be a little more human, a little more caring, and a little more present to people in our lives.

Daniel Polk
25th Street

LETTERS to the EDITOR

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Or write Noe Valley Voice Letters, P. O. Box 460249, San Francisco, CA 94146. Please include your name, street, and contact information. (Anonymous letters will not be considered for publication.) Be aware that letters may be edited for brevity or clarity. We look forward to hearing from you.



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The *Voice* welcomes your letters, photos, and stories, particularly on topics relating to Noe Valley. All items should include your name, address, and phone number, and may be edited for brevity or clarity. (Unsigned letters will not be considered for publication.) Unsolicited contributions will be returned only if accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

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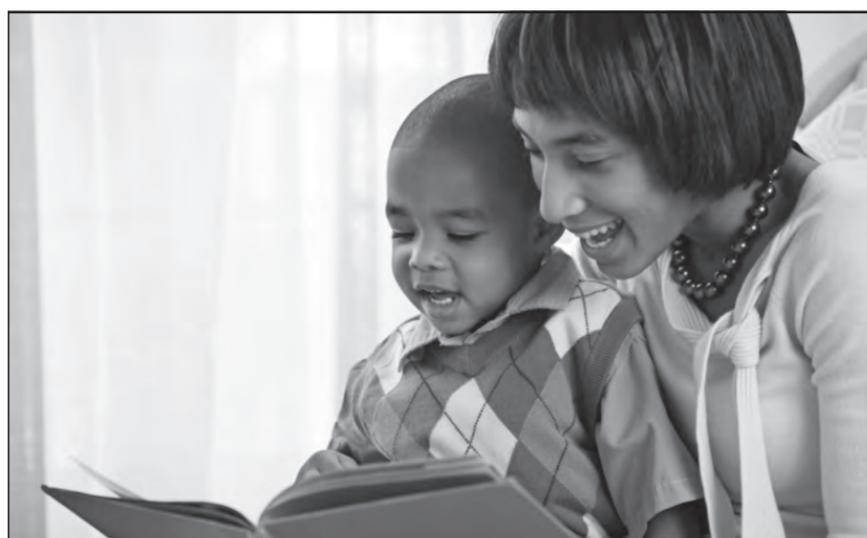
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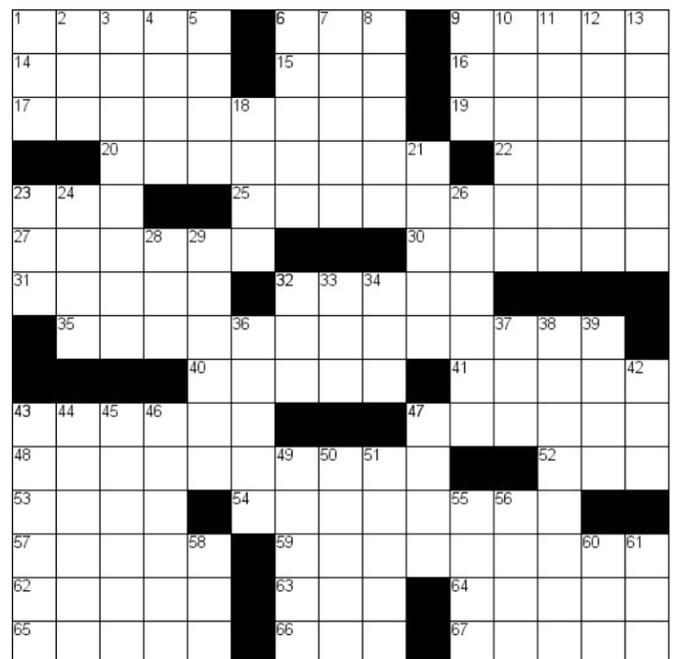
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THE CROSSWORD BY MICHAEL BLAKE

I Call Disassembly To Order

ACROSS

1. Company car, expense account, etc.
6. Parseghian of Notre Dame
9. Groups of 2
14. Alaskan native
15. Giant tub
16. Instant Lunch noodles
17. BALLET STEP+KIDS' RUNNING GAME+BAREFOOT CONTESSA GARTEN
19. Overact
20. Coat-of-arms artistry
22. L x W calculation
23. ___-o'-shanter
25. EGYPTIAN GOD+GOD IN SPANISH+BAD WRITER
27. Short and thickset
30. Droubi or Alain Pinel
31. Arabic for "book"
32. Brazilian ballroom dance
35. DOG OR HAMSTER+KEYBOARD KEY+NEAR-RINGERS IN HORSESHOES
40. Yearned (for)
41. Specialty at Savor
43. Skimpy swimsuit
47. First word of "Dancing Cheek to Cheek"
48. NOT SICK+GIANTS' LOGO+BEST PICTURE OF 2012
52. Where to apply for unemployment: Abbr.
53. Et ___ (and others)
54. München miss
57. Bad thing to be in drinking water
59. 3-WORD ANSWER TO, "SON, ARE YOU HIGH ON



WHISKEY?"

62. CBS series starring Gary Sinise
63. Element end, often
64. '___ man with seven wives'
65. New staffer
66. "Tarzan" star Ron
67. Fortunetelling card

DOWN

1. Dot on a die
2. Bambi's aunt
3. Where Washington is mounted?
4. What Ben Franklin flew
5. ___ Bakery: old sign still hanging above Getzwell Pediatrics
6. Home to St. Teresa
7. Corp. creativity department, for short
8. Company that

created Pong

9. Rap's Dr. ___
10. Big name in violins and vehicles
11. Without principles
12. Uncover
13. Not completely trustworthy
18. Indiana City near Chicago
21. ___ Linda (Nixon's California birthplace)
23. Cluck of disapproval
24. Surmounting
26. Spirited meeting?
28. ___ Ballou ('65 film)
29. Prepares, as dough
32. Adda Clevenger, e.g.: Abbr.
33. Pint in a pub
34. Club ___ all-inclusive vacation
36. Deride, with "at"
37. Tide competitor

38. T-man, to bootleggers

39. Zoomed
42. Aim
43. Timex rival
44. First female Speaker of the House
45. Cure-all potion
46. "Seinfeld" woman
47. "Hey, Jose!"
49. Golfer Palmer, to his "army"
50. Swedish diplomat Wallenberg
51. ___ Bear: jellybean cousin
55. Pull-down menu in Word
56. "___ la Douce"
58. "Bill ___ the Science Guy"
60. 1960's Pontiac muscle car
61. Took a chair

Solution on Page 29

A Park for Most Seasons

Upper Douglass Dog Heaven Has Been Anything But

By Gary Kauf

At a meeting in February, the city's Recreation and Park Department told a group of Noe Valley residents that the only way to keep their beloved Upper Douglass Dog Park green was to close it one or two days a week, and several months each winter. The response could be summed up in one word: grrr.

Rec and Park has spent about \$500,000 on the park at 27th and Douglass streets in the past two years—including \$17,000 from Friends of Upper Douglass Dog Park (FUDDP)—replacing crumbling underground drains with a seemingly innovative, and definitely environmentally friendly, drainage system designed to hold rainwater and let it gradually seep into the soil, with the overflow running down a single 6-inch drainpipe to the city sewer. They also installed a new water fountain.

All of it was completely overwhelmed by two furious storms in December (as were sewer drains all over the city). The thousands of gallons of water that fell on the dog park temporarily turned it into a pond, dubbed "Lake Douglass" by some residents. The water fountain became a mud pit, at least two old trees fell down,



Its gates locked and grass re-seeded, Upper Douglass Dog Park was resting in February. Park officials say the play area will reopen March 16 but will continue to close for maintenance at least one day a week—likely Thursdays—and also again next winter. Photo by Beverly Tharp

and the park was closed on Dec. 6. It had been open less than five months since its renovation.

Once the storms had passed and the pooled water seeped back into the ground, Rec and Park did some soil testing and modified the new system. They also re-seeded and re-fertilized the park.

But those things in no way pacified the neighbors, dog owners, and park advocates, who had been lobbying for better drainage, field maintenance, tree work, fence work, and other improvements since they successfully petitioned the city to make Upper Douglass an off-leash dog park back in 2003.

Which brings us to last month's community meeting, held Feb. 19 in the Up-

per Noe Recreation Center on Sanchez Street. Noe Valley Supervisor Scott Wiener spoke briefly before turning the mike over to four Recreation and Park employees.

Working as a sort of tag team, they showed slides and tried to explain to the 60 or so people assembled why the dog park was still closed, when it would be reopened, how come it took 16 months to replace the old drains, and what was with the new, so-called high-density grass that began turning brown even before the first storm.

Andy Welch, a park user who's lived on Diamond Heights Boulevard for 19 years, said the department "built a drainage system without doing any research into how the ground would drain."

Al Wergar, a dog walker who brought his chow chow to the meeting, said the department had forgotten that San Francisco gets big storms sometimes, probably, he speculated, because it hasn't rained much in the past couple of years.

Rec and Park representatives gave their response:

Turf Overuse. Rec and Park Services Area Manager Marianne Bertuccelli, who oversees Upper Douglass Park, admitted the department had not tested the soil until after the December rains. But the park is a busy one, she said. "We were caught by surprise by the overwhelming number of people who use this site," estimated at more than a thousand people and well over a thousand dogs each day.

Slow Drainage. Rec and Park's operations manager for the project, Steve Cismowski, said, "Perhaps we were stubborn, perhaps we were naïve, but we decided we would use our best technologies. This drainage system wasn't de-

signed to have water fall on it and for the water to be taken away," he said.

That brought a collective jeer from the audience—a drainage system that doesn't drain water away? Cismowski trudged on. "The drainage system works when it's raining, but not at the rate people thought."

The meeting very nearly disintegrated at that point, as audience members lambasted Rec and Park for allegedly not doing its homework, for keeping the park closed during weeks of sunny weather, and most of all for not listening to FUDDP suggestions, which were primarily to have the rainwater run into city sewers.

An exasperated Bertuccelli told the audience, "We are more than willing to try any experiment you folks would like."

She promised the dog park would reopen Monday, March 16, but said for the grass to survive, the park might need to be closed one or two days a week, as well as annually from Thanksgiving to mid-March. That is nearly a third of every year. "We are still looking at our options," Bertuccelli said. "Nothing has been decided for sure."

Still, with those facts to chew on, the meeting broke up. None of the Rec and Park representatives was willing to tackle what the department will do if there are heavy rains in April or May. ■

To check on the park's reopening, email Park Services Area Manager Marianne Bertuccelli at Marianne.Bertuccelli@sf.gov.org. Or visit the San Francisco Parks Alliance website or the Facebook page for Friends of Upper Douglass Dog Park.



Park users dubbed the park "Lake Douglass" in early December, when rains toppled two trees and swamped the southeast corner. Photo courtesy Jim Collins



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Get Ready to Rock: Here Comes Blue Bear

By Suzanne Herel

Tune up that guitar—Blue Bear School of Music is coming to the Noe Valley Ministry this spring, offering classes for adults and tykes alike.

“As a San Francisco community-based organization, we’re especially excited to establish a partnership with an institution that is so important to the life of the community,” says Steve Savage, co-founder and executive director of the school, which was founded in 1971.

Blue Bear’s spring quarter evening sessions for adults will include Monday guitar classes and Thursday voice workshops. Little Bear’s music classes for infants and toddlers will be held during the day on Mondays and Fridays.

Classes start April 13, and enrollment is available now at bluebearmusic.org/noevalley. The Noe Valley Ministry, which recently underwent a major renovation, is located at 1021 Sanchez St. near 23rd.

Blue Bear also offers private lessons, group classes, and band-playing instruction at Fort Mason Center and at other satellite locations. Income-based sliding-scale tuition is available for all instruction and summer camps.

VOICE ARTIFACTS

THE NOE VALLEY VOICE
website at

www.noevalleyvoice.com

features the current issue’s news and Class Ads. The site also is our archive for *Voice* issues from 1996 to the present. Older editions, dating back to 1977, are stored at the San Francisco Main Library. You can also find recent copies at the Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Library.

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Permit Parking Petition Sparks Controversy

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

close to 200 people, many of whom expressed concern over how the expansion would impact local workers, teachers, and visitors.

The initiator of the drive, Franco Cirelli of Fairmount Street, is hoping he and his neighbors can add nearly two dozen blocks to Area D, Glen Park's existing Residential Permit Parking (RPP) zone.

Cirelli, a 48-year-old financial consultant, said the Glen Park BART Station, the J-Church Muni line, and a new tech shuttle stop on 30th Street had lured a wave of outsiders to the unrestricted parking in his area.

"Our neighborhood has become a magnet for cars. We have too much demand and too little supply," said Cirelli, who began collecting signatures in January.

Bus Stop Attracts Cars

Area D, which limits nonresidential parking during weekdays to either two or four hours, is currently centered around the BART station, at Diamond and Bosworth streets. Cirelli's group would extend the zone's boundaries to the northern edge of Glen Park, where it meets the Church Street business corridor. Included in the zone would be the block of 30th Street between Dolores and Church streets, which many consider Noe Valley turf.

Supporter Michael Mahoney, a 17-year Chenery Street resident, said he had observed people driving down from Diamond Heights or Twin Peaks to park their cars on Chenery and walk to 30th and Church streets. That's the location for both the Muni line heading downtown and a stop for shuttle buses ferrying workers to jobs in Silicon Valley.

His neighborhood, Mahoney complained, had become the "daily and long-term parking lot for people who don't even live here."

'The Wrong Solution'

There was some sympathy but little enthusiasm for the cause among the overflow crowd at the meeting, which went on for two hours in the auditorium at Upper Noe Recreation Center, 295 Day St.

The often contentious debate was re-



Residents in the Fairmount neighborhood and on 30th Street in Noe Valley will see more signs like this if a plan to add 21 blocks to Glen Park's permit parking zone wins approval. Photo by Corrie M. Anders

plete with petitions for and against the restrictions and PowerPoint presentations, including one that adopted the slogan "Keep Glen Parking Free."

"It's the wrong solution for our community," said opposition leader Dave Wang, a 15-year Chenery Street resident. He argued that the targeted area did not have a parking problem, and noted that the \$110 price of the annual permits was "ever increasing."

Some critics protested that expanding the parking permit area would seriously inconvenience family and friends visiting residents.

Others expressed concern for local employees, who might also have to get parking permits. They specifically mentioned teachers and staff at Fairmount Elementary School on Chenery, employees at On Lok senior center on 30th Street, the medical staff at St. Luke's Hospital, residential construction workers, and small businesses along Church Street.

"It will be difficult for our schools to get enough permits," said Deborah Bowes, a businesswoman who works across the street from Fairmount School.

"Every two hours, the teachers, the aides, the kitchen staff, the janitorial staff have got to be running out" to move their cars, Bowes said. "They're going to be extremely preoccupied with avoiding tickets."

A Burden for Employees

Educational institutions can obtain from five to 15 permits, according to Kathryn Studwell, a senior analyst for the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA), who attended the meeting to help clarify the residential parking rules. However, that number would be insufficient for Fairmount, which has a staff of 45.

Marianne Hampton, a volunteer who sits on the boards of both On Lok and the residents group Upper Noe Neighbors, said the cost of permits could be a heavy burden for some employees.

"It would make for a tough situation for the teachers and low-income workers at On Lok," she said. "Many of them come in from the East Bay, and many will be forced to take public transportation."

Hampton said she had also heard from Noe Valley residents who were concerned that Area D expansion would chase cars across 30th Street and into their unregulated blocks.

"They know if you're the only little area that doesn't have permit parking we are going to get terribly impacted," she said. And that pressure could force Noe Valley residents near 30th Street to seek their own restricted parking zone.

It's a question of "do we change it now,

Zoning Change Proposed for 24th Street

Office Uses on Ground Floor Would Need Special Permit

By Matthew S. Bajko

Medical offices, title companies, and other non-retail businesses would have a harder time opening their doors on 24th Street under a proposed zoning change for Noe Valley's main retail corridor.

With the backing of neighborhood leaders, District 8 Supervisor Scott Wiener has submitted a change to the city's planning code that would require businesses offering a limited financial service or a professional service to seek a conditional use permit from the city's Planning Commission in order to open in a ground-floor retail space.

The additional scrutiny would apply to commercial spaces on 24th Street between Diamond and Chattanooga streets, according to Wiener's office. The review is similar to the permitting process already required of formula retailers, such as banks and retail chains.

"The neighborhood has had ongoing concerns about office uses on the first floor on 24th Street and wanting to make sure that 24th Street remains a vibrant retail corridor with active retail uses," said Wiener in an interview with the *Voice*.

Debra Niemann, head of the Noe Valley Association, 24th Street's community benefit district, supports the proposed zoning change as a way to limit the spread of office-type businesses, which she says can create "retail dead zones" during weeknights and weekends, the times when offices are normally closed. "Put them upstairs where they belong. It is not something that needs to be on street level," said Niemann. "You need active retail that brings people into the neighborhood. Otherwise, it creates a lot of darkness at night where you want more activity on the street at that time."

Similar concerns about the kind of businesses setting up shop along upper Market Street, which has seen a rise in buildings with residential units over ground-floor retail in recent years, led Wiener two years ago to propose an 18-month interim rule requiring office uses to seek Planning Commission approval in order to open along the busy thoroughfare.

Enacted in July of 2013, the temporary zoning control had been set to expire by the end of January. But the Board of Supervisors unanimously voted at its Jan. 13 meeting to extend

the rule through July of this year. Then last month the supervisors passed additional legislation so that all of upper Market between Castro Street and Octavia Boulevard would be covered by the measure.

Wiener is now seeking to make the zoning control permanent not only for upper Market Street but also along 24th Street in Noe Valley and on the 400 and 500 blocks of Castro Street in the heart of the Castro District.

The rule falls short of an outright ban on office-type uses in ground-floor spaces and instead allows for more public discussion of whether a proposed business makes sense for the retail corridor.

"As we all know, a vibrant and successful commercial corridor requires active retail. It requires retail, and eating and drinking establishments, and a diversity of retail uses on days, nights, and weekends," Wiener said during a supervisors committee hearing in February about his zoning proposal. "When there are too many non-retail uses on the ground floor, it can really negatively impact the vibrancy of a commercial corridor. That is not to say these office uses are never appropriate. Every healthy commercial corridor will have a mix of these types of uses."

Todd David, president of the residents group Friends of Noe Valley, said he is generally supportive of the zoning change as it allows for some flexibility and does not prevent an office-type business that has community support from opening along 24th Street.

"What my personal concern is is taking a snapshot in time and making a rule about it. What worries me is what are the unintended consequences," said David. "Thirty years ago, Noe Valley had a ban on any more restaurants. During I think former District 8 Supervisor Bevan Dufty's last year in office, they reversed that because people realized a 30-year-old piece of legislation was no longer serving the interests of 24th Street."

The Planning Commission is expected to take up Wiener's zoning ordinance in late March or April. Once it is heard by the oversight panel, the supervisors' land use committee will take up the legislation. The Board of Supervisors will need to vote on it twice before it is sent to the mayor for signature.

To check on the rule's progress, email Supervisor Scott Wiener at scott.wiener@sfgov.org or the Planning Commission via commissions.secretary@sfgov.org. ■

BLOCKING PARKING

A group of Glen Park residents wants to expand the Residential Permit Parking Area D up to and including 30th Street. The following streets are proposed to be added (both sides):

200 to 299 block of 30th Street
(Dolores to Church)

000 to 399 Chenery Street
(30th to Mateo)

1800 to 1899 Church Street
(30th to Randall)

000 to 199 Randall Street
(Whitney to Arlington)

000 to 199 Fairmount Street
(Whitney to Arlington)

100 to 299 Whitney Street
(Randall to Chenery)

000 to 299 Arlington Street
(Randall to Miguel)

100 to 400 Mateo Street
(Laidley to Arlington Path)

300 to 399 Laidley Street
(Mateo Street to Miguel)

200 to 399 Miguel Street
(Laidley to Arlington)

or do we wait until [parking congestion] is so horrible and we change it later," she said.

Another Permit Parking Proposal

Coincidentally, 25th Street resident Dan Hubig was in the early stages of trying to add nine blocks to Noe Valley's existing restricted zone, known as Area Z. His proposed expansion includes the blocks bounded by Jersey, 26th, Castro, and Sanchez streets.

"Our area is one of the magnets" for drivers squeezed out of Area Z, "plus we get the lunch crowd from 24th Street," said Hubig, a semi-retired illustrator. "In the daytime, you cannot get a parking space. I'm home all the time and I notice it."

Hubig, who was trying to gather the qualifying signatures on his own, said he planned to scale back his efforts after observing the mood at the community meeting.

"I've got to get my block first," he said. "If I can get my block, I've got a chance at connecting [the other blocks] to Z."

Cirelli and Mahoney said supporters would continue their push for signatures over the next few months. Fifty percent (plus one) of households on each block must sign petitions for transit officials to consider their inclusion in the RPP, a city-wide program run by the SFMTA and in operation since 1976.

Upon receipt of petitions, transit officials validate the signatures as well as analyze whether the area has a serious enough problem to warrant inclusion in the RPP program. Parking signs go up two to three months after agency approval of a zone. A household can receive a maximum of four permits, which are stickers attached to vehicle bumpers. Violations carry a \$74 fine.

For more information about the program, go to www.sfmta.com and select Parking Permits in the Services menu. ■

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Photos by Jack Tipple



Our Winner Last Month

Rebecca Bridges, was our winner in February. She correctly identified the store that Bernadette the French Bulldog guards as Two Birds at 1309 Castro Street.

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Cliché Noe Already A 'Destination'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and still is.

Business gurus say there are five main reasons why most small businesses fail. Reason #1 is that the business didn't know its customers. Sheehan-Meyer doesn't have that problem, as you know if you've ever been in her store. She is very conversational, and she really does want to get to know you. Her marketing strategy is "B.I.K., Be Insanely Kind." Tell her whom you're buying for and she'll come up with gift ideas. If you're buying for yourself, she has an uncanny—if not eerie—ability to remember what you like.

Failure reason #2 is that a store wasn't different from its competitors or different enough or didn't communicate its differences well. There are other stores akin to Cliché Noe in Noe Valley. Think of Just for Fun, Wink, and Rare Device. But each one is different. You get that as soon as you look in the store windows or walk inside. Sheehan-Meyer says you have to work at that. You have to figure out who you are and know what the other stores offer.

Noe Likes Quality

Next problem: If potential customers don't perceive value in your goods, you have just made Big Mistake #3.

At first, Sheehan-Meyer bought products that were bargains for her customer but which, she now feels, didn't communicate value. She learned that, in Noe Valley at least, it pays to stock better quality and that brand names still sell. That's why she offers Alex and Ani expandable bracelets, Bering watches, and Waterford crystal. Her most popular items, she notes, are Pandora jewelry, Papyrus cards, and Be Home mango wood and teak housewares.

The fourth reason most small businesses fail is poor leadership skills and poor decision-making. No manager can be successful without these job tools, and if the business is yours, you really need them. Sheehan-Meyer says managing employees is the hardest part of the job. She trains hers to reach out to people who come into the store, to know the store's products, and to make good decisions.

Number 5 on the failure list is the most basic one of all: The store doesn't have a profitable business model with a proven revenue stream. Sheehan-Meyer researched the idea of a store for years before she actually opened one, then prepared a detailed business plan and created best practices and procedures. She says you really need the latter when you have to make decisions, especially momentous



Dani Sheehan-Meyer says listening to your customers is one of the keys to success for a small shop in San Francisco. Lucky it's a pastime she really enjoys. Photo by Pamela Gerard

ones, such as radically changing your product list.

Other reasons often cited by pundits for small business failure are: opening a business for the wrong reasons, starting with insufficient operating funds, choosing a poor location, expanding too fast, and not having a website.

Art Gallery on Its Way

Sheehan-Meyer jokingly says she started her business because she likes to shop. But she adds that for a store like hers, being a good shopper is not a bad ability to have. She goes to gift shows and product displays all around the country. Good shoes and a good sense of what's going to sell are both necessary. When asked what the weirdest "gift" she ever saw was, Sheehan-Meyer said immediately "the Ball Bag" (which did not seem like a story for a family newspaper).

Location of her shop seemed like a no-brainer. Sheehan-Meyer's partner is Fred Meyer, a retired San Francisco Fire Department lieutenant. Members of the Meyer family have lived in Noe Valley for four generations. The family house on

corner of the store. The first event will be an art show of Sheehan-Meyer's photos from a recent guided tour of Cuba and a book-signing for *San Francisco Jazz* by Medea Isphording Bern.

Cliché Noe already has a busy schedule of events that draw people into the store, everything from trunk shows to eyeglass frame demonstrations. Prosecco wine and chocolates are always provided.

All About Community

Business has been good, but challenges do remain. Sheehan-Meyer says the biggest hurdle is that Noe Valley is not a "destination," but she's working to change that as an active member of the board of the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association, the business group for the 24th Street corridor. She's also an avid supporter of neighborhood events like the Garden Tour, Word Week, and Noe Valley Chamber Music, as well as events produced by the merchants association and the Noe Valley Association, the local community benefit district. She donates time, space, products, and dollars. "Our entire business revolves around our community," she explains.

Sheehan-Meyer's background is in marketing, and she helped create a successful promotion piece, an annual guide to 24th Street businesses. She's also helping cultivate relationships on behalf of the neighborhood with groups that promote San Francisco, like San Francisco Travel, which promotes tourism, and the Northern California Concierge Association. She's also on the board of the San Francisco Council of District Merchants Associations.

The economic road has been bumpy and there have been some sudden turns, but Sheehan-Meyer is still loving it and taking time to help others. What advice—beyond have enough money and listen to your customers—would she give folks looking at empty storefronts? Sheehan-Meyer answers, "You have to like people. You have to be very flexible and yet be clear about your vision."

Cliché Noe Gifts + Home is located at 4175 24th St., between Castro and Diamond streets. The store is open seven days a week. For information, visit www.clichenoe.com or call the store at 415-282-5416. ■

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A Tree Grows in Noe. In this photo from 2006, construction preparation removed all traces of the building that once stood on this lot, but the backyard was left intact.

Photo by Jack Tipple

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Stand-up Comedy Joins Word Week

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

member **Tom Ammiano** will headline the show. Before diving into politics, Ammiano was a teacher and stand-up comic deemed “the Mother of Gay Comedy,” according to his website.

Marilyn Pittman, of the weekly radio show “Out in the Bay” on KALW 91.7 FM, will also be performing. **Wayne Goodman** will be hosting and will also entertain the audience with a routine.

Since Word Week often takes place on March 17, St. Patrick’s Day has become an integral part of the fun. This year, the theme within the theme is a celebration of **Contemporary Irish Literature**, brought to you by the Odd Mondays series (albeit on a Tuesday). From 7 to 9 p.m., at Folio Books on 24th Street, local Irish writers will read and sing as only those who hail from the Emerald Isle can. The lineup includes memoirist **Renee Gibbons**, novelist **Byddi Lee**, journalist and Noe Valley resident **Mary Jo McConahay**, short story writer **Ethel Rohan**, and author and spoken-word artist **Eddie Stack**. Enjoy Irish food and drink—including “adult refreshments,” according to Cling.

“Have you ever read a book and felt so strongly about it, you wished you could talk to someone about it, yet you don’t belong to a book group?” Cling asks. Welcome to the **Pop-up Book Club**, on Wednesday, March 18. Cling’s brainchild, the club grew organically out of her desire to hash over Donna Tartt’s *The Goldfinch*. A dozen people showed up at the first pop-up last spring. “It was a one-time book club for one book,” she says.

This time around, the club will be discussing *The Department of Speculation*, a *New York Times* best-selling novel by Jenny Offill that the *San Francisco Chronicle* calls “introspective and resonant... Offill uses her novel to explore the question of how to be an artist as well as a wife and mother, when these states can feel impossibly contradictory.” At 192

pages, it’s a quick read. Paperback copies are available for sale at Folio, where the Pop-up Book Club will take place from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Get your hands on a copy today and get your talking points ready.

On Thursday, March 19, head over to the Noe Valley Library on Jersey Street for **Preview Copies**, a sneak peek at the soon to be published works of local authors. From 7:30 to 9 p.m., **Joshua Mohr**, the author of the novel *Damascus*, whose new work *All This Life* will be published in July, will be joined by two other writers in progress. **Janis Cooke Newman** is the author of *Mary: Mrs. A. Lincoln*, and her new novel, *A Master Plan for Rescue*, also comes out in July. **Ruhama Veltfort**, who has published several books including the novel *Strange Attractors*, will also read.

There are two Word Week events on Friday, March 20. **Bookworms Club** is Folio Books’ monthly event for young readers ages 8 to 12. It takes place every third Friday, from 6 to 7:30 p.m., and this month’s meeting happens to dovetail nicely with Word Week. Participants meet for pizza and discuss the latest cool read.

At this gathering, they’ll be hosting special guest **Jordan Jacobs**, archaeologist and author of the Samantha Sutton children’s book series. Jacobs’ novels, *Samantha Sutton and the Labyrinth of Lies* and *Samantha Sutton and the Winter of the Warrior Queen*, were inspired by his work at Chavín de Huántar, Peru, an ancient pre-Columbian holy site, and in Cambridge, England. He now lives in Noe Valley and works as the head of cultural policy at the Phoebe Hearst Museum of Anthropology at UC Berkeley.

“We do ask that you RSVP for these club meetings, so we know how much pizza to order,” says Folio manager Martha Pettit. To RSVP, go to tiny.cc/springworms.

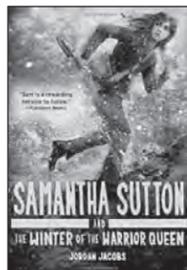
The second Word Week event on Friday will be held in the Noe Valley Min-



Wayne Goodman



Tom Ammiano



Deborah Kelson

istry’s beautiful new community space at 1021 Sanchez St. **Queer Words** goes from 7 to 9 p.m., and includes **Gr Keer**, **Vincent Meis**, **Courtney Moreno**, **Monica Nolan**, and Noe Valley’s own **Rob Rosen**.

Keer prefers the pronoun “they” and their works have appeared in various publications, including the anthology *Troubling the Line: Trans and Genderqueer Poetry and Poetics*. Meis’s most recent novel, *Down in Cuba*, is a story about a southern California Latin American studies professor coming out of the closet in Havana.

Moreno’s first novel, *In Case of Emergency*, was named one of the Best Books for Fall 2014 by the *Huffington Post*. Nolan writes lesbian pulp fiction and will be reading from *Dolly Dingle*, *Lesbian Landlady*. Rosen has been a reader at Word Week in the past, and his latest satirical and speculative novels are *Creature Comfort* and *Queens of the Apocalypse*, both about zombies and drag queens.

On Saturday, March 21, Word Week is all about food, beginning with a **Peanut Butter or Jelly Party** at Folio Books. Noe Valley author and illustrator **Deborah Kelson** will read from her Kickstarter-funded children’s book, *Peanut Butter or Jelly: A Story About Taking Turns (or Not)*. Kelson, who is also a marketer and a mom, used the crowd-funding website to bankroll the book’s printing. Every half hour from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., she’ll be reading from the book, which she describes as “a scrumptious story that explores the sticky relationship between everyone’s favorite condiments.” Like any good kids’ party, there will be an art project, as well as the

making of PB & J (or J & PB) sandwiches. In addition, you can vote for which ingredient should get top billing.

The Complete Vegetarian: Word Week wraps up at Omnivore Books, located on Cesar Chavez at Church Street, Saturday at 3 p.m. **Jack Bishop**, executive editor and device demonstrator extraordinaire from the public television cooking show *America’s Test Kitchen*, will

discuss his new book, *The Complete Vegetarian Cookbook*. Bishop will sign copies purchased at Omnivore.

Of the many literary events on the calendar, Cling

thinks Word Wit will be a lot of fun, “because Tom Ammiano is just hilarious.” She’s also excited about the Peanut Butter or Jelly Party. “It’s going to be a real treat for kids especially. And the Pop-up Book Club promises to be a truly interesting discussion.”

Have more questions about Word Week? Friends of Noe Valley will be at the Saturday Farmers Market on 24th Street, handing out flyers. You can also check out the Facebook page, Word Week, or the website www.friendsofnoe-valley.com.

More Ways to Word

Try the *Voice* **Crossword!**

See **page 8** for this month’s puzzle. You can also go to our website to find old puzzles. You can do them online or print them out to work with pencil and paper.

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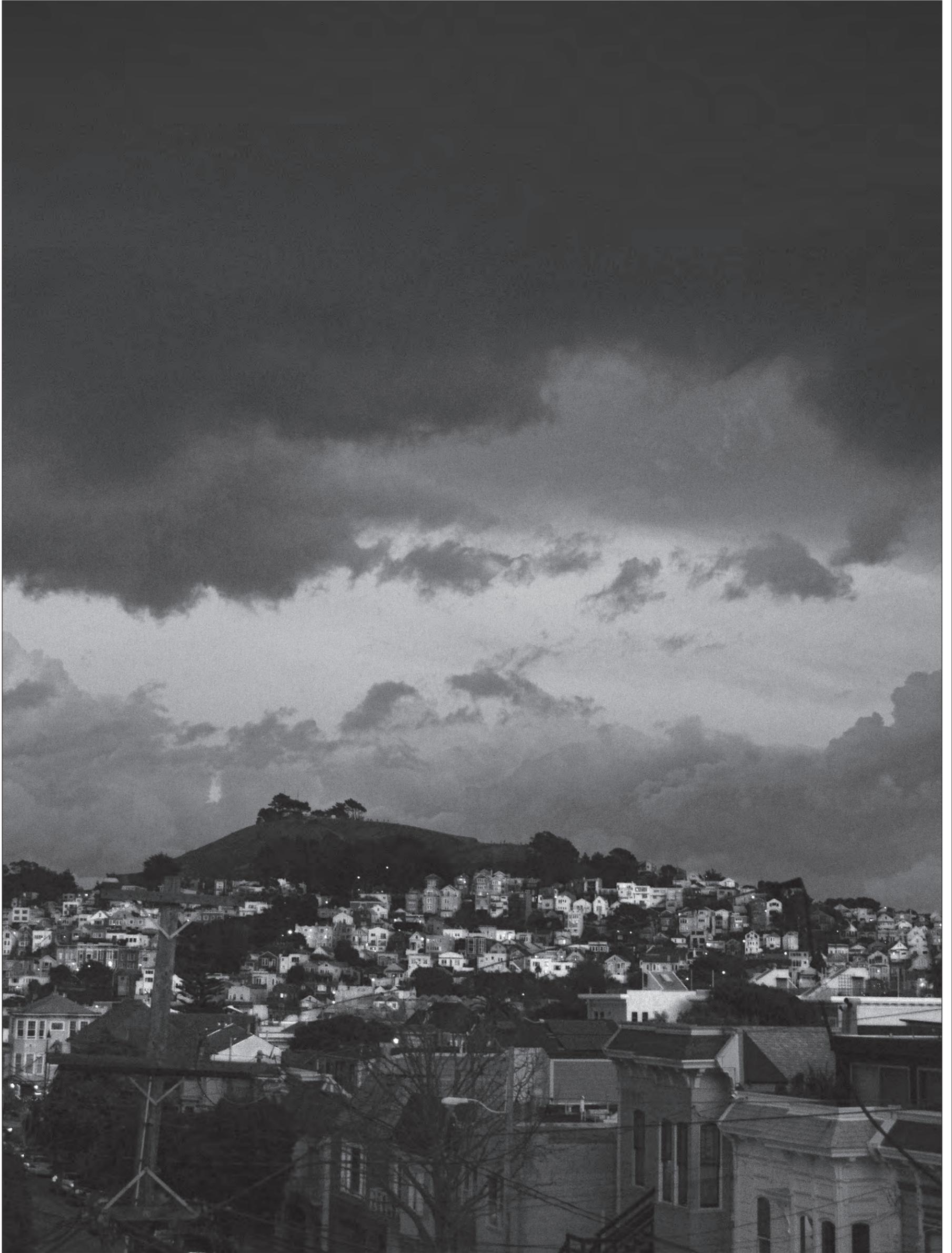
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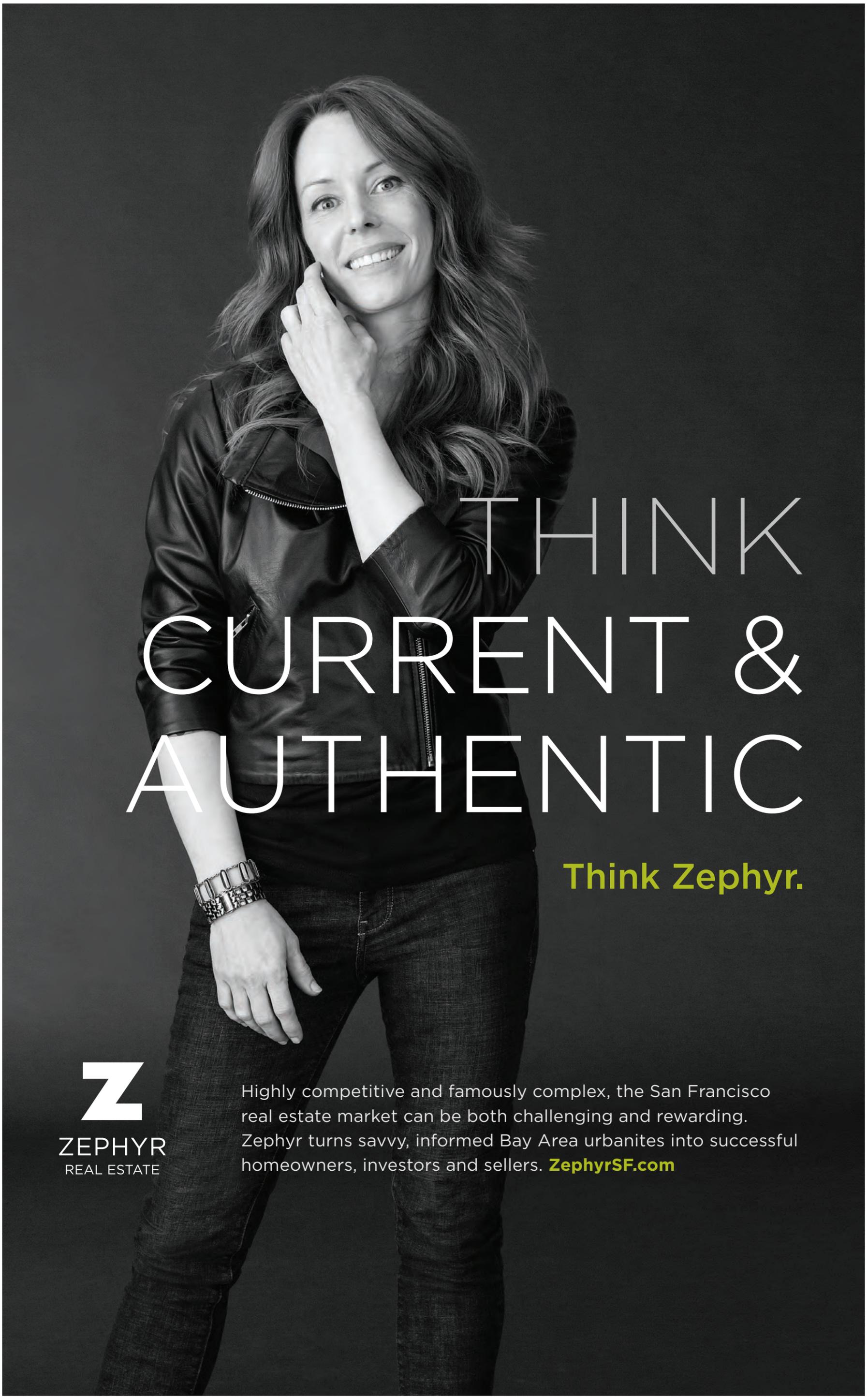
Call for information or tour 415-282-0143

Noe Valley Views



We Held Our Breath on the first day of March as the sky colored orange, purple and black. Thunder and lightning completed the cosmic display as our brave photographer pointed his lens toward Bernal Hill and caught part of the action.

Photo by Najib Joe Hakim



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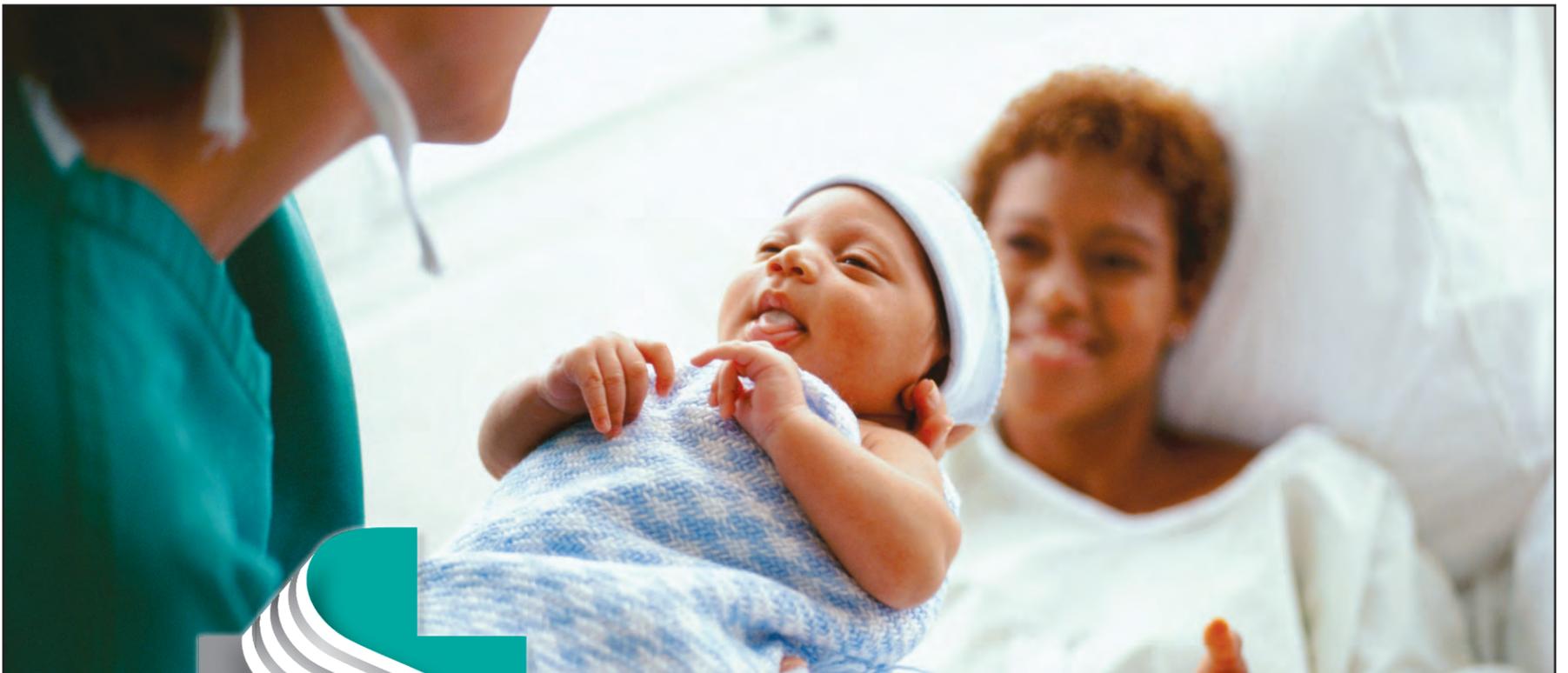


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The Cost of Living in Noe

Sales Dry Up Over Holidays

By Corrie M. Anders

With buyers and sellers both taking naps over the year-end holidays, Noe Valley recorded only three sales of single-family homes in January.

That number was six fewer than the sales tally the previous January, according to data provided to the *Noe Valley Voice* by Zephyr Real Estate.

One reason the market was as quiet as a mouse was that buyers had very slim pickings, said Zephyr president Randall Kostick. There were only five houses on the market in December, when buyers who closed escrow in January were on the hunt.

"There was nothing for sale," Kostick said, "a complete lack of inventory."

He said home shoppers often "got exhausted" at the end of the year and put their search on hold. This year, sellers "took time off as well."

The general lethargy was evident in the offers buyers made to sellers. They paid an average 1 percent more than the asking price—a retreat from the extra 5 to 12 percent they paid through much of 2014.

The value of a detached home in Noe Valley in January was \$2.5 million—approximately 25 percent above the \$2 million buyers typically paid the same month a year earlier.

The priciest home was in the 4000



Buyers paid \$3,575,000 for this home on 23rd Street, which offered a chef's kitchen, four bedroom suites, and a garage with space for two cars. Photo by Corrie M. Anders

block of 23rd Street between Noe and Castro streets. It sold for \$3,575,000, \$80,000 more than the asking price.

The renovated property, built in 1900, featured four bedroom-bathroom suites, a chef's kitchen, radiant floor heating, a patio, and two-car garage.

Condominium sales also were languid in January. Buyers purchased four of the attached units, as compared with six in January a year ago.

But the most expensive condo garnered \$2,215,000, 23 percent more than the seller's asking price of \$1,795,000. The property, located in the 3700 block of Cesar Chavez Street between Dolores and Guerrero streets, offered three bedrooms, four bathrooms, a patio and garden, and one-car parking. ■

Noe Valley Home Sales*

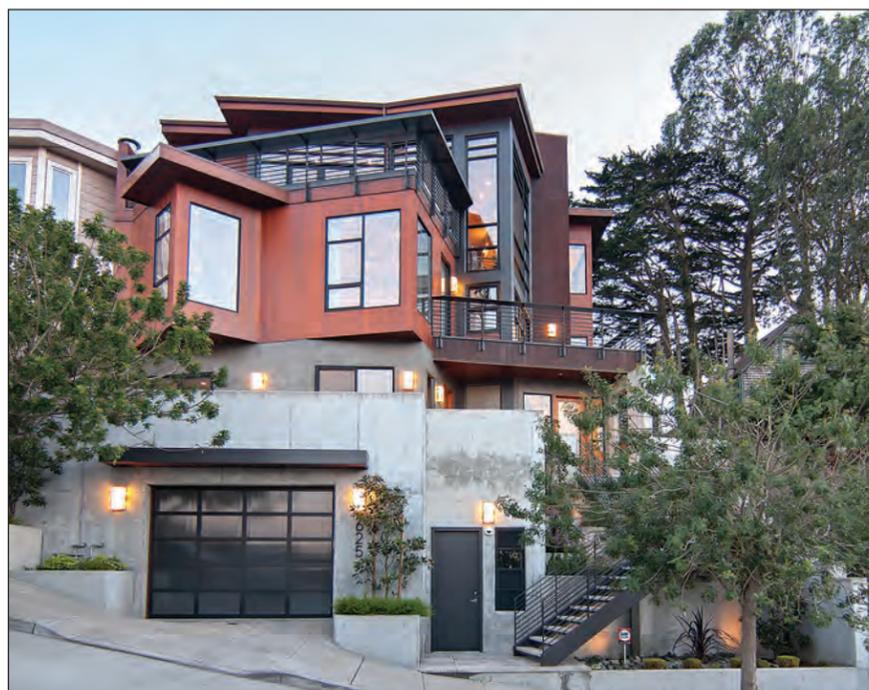
Total Sales	No.	Low Price (\$)	High Price (\$)	Average Price (\$)	Avg. Days on Market	Sale Price as % of List Price
Single-family homes						
January 2015	3	\$1,900,000	\$3,575,000	\$2,530,000	24	101%
December 2014	8	\$785,000	\$3,575,000	\$2,053,750	46	109%
January 2014	9	\$675,000	\$3,550,000	\$2,011,667	43	105%
Condominiums						
January 2015	4	\$365,000	\$2,215,000	\$1,120,000	37	123%
December 2014	6	\$955,000	\$1,610,000	\$1,350,000	38	105%
January 2014	6	\$750,000	\$1,275,000	\$1,050,160	34	112%
2- to 4-unit buildings						
January 2015	4	\$1,325,000	\$1,890,000	\$1,614,250	40	106%
December 2014	0	—	—	—	—	—
January 2014	3	\$900,000	\$3,499,000	\$2,136,667	107	105%
5+-unit buildings						
January 2015	0	—	—	—	—	—
December 2014	0	—	—	—	—	—
January 2014	0	—	—	—	—	—

* Sales include all Noe Valley home sales completed during the month. Noe Valley in this survey is defined as the area bordered by Grand View, 22nd, Guerrero, and 30th streets. The Voice thanks Zephyr Real Estate (www.zephyrsf.com) for providing sales data. NVV 3/2015

Noe Valley Rents**

Unit	No. in Sample	Range February 2015	Average February 2015	Average January 2014	Average February 2014
Studio	5	\$1,850 – \$2,300	\$2,079 / mo.	\$2,017 / mo.	\$1,955 / mo.
1-bdrm	21	\$2,350 – \$3,995	\$3,185 / mo.	\$3,250 / mo.	\$2,945 / mo.
2-bdrm	26	\$3,149 – \$7,000	\$4,367 / mo.	\$4,435 / mo.	\$4,253 / mo.
3-bdrm	19	\$3,800 – \$7,480	\$5,580 / mo.	\$6,708 / mo.	\$5,483 / mo.
4+-bdrm	4	\$7,500 – \$14,000	\$9,875 / mo.	\$8,211 / mo.	\$7,661 / mo.

** This survey is based on a sample of 116 Noe Valley apartment listings appearing on Craigslist from Jan. 31 to Feb. 12, 2015. NVV 3/2015



The eye-catching manse at 625 Duncan St. is on the market again, for \$1.5 million less than it fetched last year. Photo by Sean Poreda/LuxeHomeTours

Price Cut for Home on Duncan

A mystery buyer who paid a record-breaking \$7 million for a home in Noe Valley last March has put the house back on the market less than a year later—for \$1.5 million below what he paid for it.

The contemporary dwelling at 625 Duncan St. was put up for sale in January with a \$6.5 million price tag. A month later, the price was reduced to \$5.5 million. Known for its striking, multi-angled design, the seven-year-old home boasts four bedrooms, an elevator from a four-car garage, a separate apartment for guests, and views of Noe Valley, downtown, and the East Bay.

However, the house has undergone a partial renovation, and that may explain the hefty discount. The interior has been stripped, according to Nina Hatvany, the Pacific Union International real estate agent marketing the property, and "the next owner can put the finishes back."

Hatvany would not disclose why construction on the house had been halted.

The current owner purchased the property using a limited liability corporation. Real estate agents involved in the transaction were under contract not to reveal the buyer's identity.

—Corrie M. Anders



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*Cordially invites you to join us for
Holy Week Services 2015*

Palm Sunday, March 29:

The blessing of the palms (outside) before the **10:30 a.m.** Mass, with procession into the church. (Masses: Saturday, **5:00 p.m.**; Sunday: **8:00 and 10:30 a.m.**) Palms distributed at all Masses.

Holy Thursday, April 2:

Soup Supper at **6:30 p.m.** in the Parish Hall. Mass of the Lord's Supper **7:30 p.m.** Concludes with Eucharistic Procession and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until **10:00 p.m.** (in the daily Mass chapel).

Good Friday, April 3:

12:00 Noon: A presentation on the Stations of the Cross by our choir and speakers including the Celebration of the Lord's Passion, which includes the reading of the Passion, Veneration of the Cross and Holy Communion.

7:15 p.m. - The traditional Stations of the Cross

Holy Saturday, April 4: Easter Vigil begins at **8:00 p.m.** with the blessing of the Easter fire and lighting of the Easter Candle.

Easter Sunday, April 5: Masses: **8:00 and 10:30 a.m.**



Celebrate with us

Palm Sunday, March 29
and
Easter Sunday, April 5
10:45 a.m.

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Holy Week and Easter Events

Palm Sunday, March 29

Worship at 10:30 a.m.

A Service of Joyful Noise!

Maundy Thursday

Thursday, April 2, 7 pm

Communion Worship Service

Festive EASTER Worship

Sunday, April 5, 10:30 a.m.

Special Music

Children's Program and Childcare

Festive Refreshments After Worship

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*Holy Week and Easter
Services 2015*

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Saturday, March 28
Sunday, March 29

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4:30 p.m.
7:45 a.m., 9:15 a.m., 11:00 a.m. (Spanish),
12:30 p.m., and 5:00 p.m.

HOLY THURSDAY
April 2

Mass of the Lord's Supper (Bilingual) **7:30 p.m.**
Eucharistic Adoration until **10:00 p.m.**

GOOD FRIDAY
April 3

Celebration of the Lord's Passion
Confession / Reconciliation, **11:00 a.m. - Noon**
Good Friday Bilingual Services, **Noon - 3:00 p.m.**
Confession / Reconciliation, **3:00 - 4:00 p.m.**

HOLY SATURDAY
April 4

Confession / Reconciliation, **3:30 - 4:30 p.m.**
Vigil of the Lord's Resurrection, **8:00 p.m.**

EASTER SUNDAY
April 5

Celebration of the Lord's Resurrection
Masses at **7:45 a.m., 9:15, 11:00 (Spanish)**
and **12:30 p.m.** - No 5:00 p.m. Mass

Together, we shall celebrate new Life!
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PLEASE NOTE: Mass Times for Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday have changed.
8:00 a.m. Mass will begin at 7:45 a.m. • 10:45 a.m. Mass will begin at 11:00 a.m.
12:15 Mass on Palm Sunday will begin at 12:30 p.m.
Easter Sunday Mass Times: 7:45 a.m., 9:15 a.m., 11:00 a.m., and 12:30 p.m.

SHORT TAKES

Fire Relief Fund for TECA Families

A Noe Valley elementary school is raising money for seven students whose families lost their homes in a devastating fire the night of Jan. 28. The blaze killed one person, injured six others, and displaced dozens of residents and businesses occupying the large three-story building at the corner of 22nd and Mission streets.

Thomas Edison Charter Academy, located at 3531 22nd St., between Dolores and Church streets, has organized a GoFundMe campaign to raise \$35,000. The funds would be distributed equally among the five TECA families displaced by the fire.

To help, go to GoFundMe and search for “7 TECA Students Fire Relief Fund.” At press time, 192 donors had contributed nearly \$13,000. The campaign will be open at least through the first two weeks of March 2015. A special bank account will be set up for donations received after that date. Contact the school at 415-970-3330 or go the website, www.teca-sf.org, for more information.

The GoFundMe campaign was set up the day after the fire by Erin Lee Sears, programs director at the school and a Noe Valley resident. Other parents have donated uniforms, and teachers and staff have supplied the affected students with new study materials, but the families, all low-income, need money to start over. Sears said the school, the students, and the families all “appreciate the support of the community.”

Thomas Edison Charter Academy is on the site of Thomas Edison Elementary, founded in 1934. It became a charter school in 1998. TECA has nearly 600 students, enrolled in grades K-8. It offers dual language instruction for students in kindergarten through second grade.

Music All Around

Noe Valley Chamber Music is hosting its annual benefit concert on Sunday, March 22, 4 to 7 p.m., at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 1111 O'Farrell St. at Franklin Street. (Not to worry: the music series will return to Noe Valley for the majority of its concerts in the 2015-16 season, now that the renovation of its home—the Noe Valley Ministry on Sanchez Street—is just about finished.)

The benefit starts at 4 p.m. with wine, hors d'oeuvres, drawings for door prizes, a raffle for an “instant wine cellar,” and a silent auction. Door prizes have been donated by many local merchants, including Common Scents, Contigo Kitchen & Cava, DavidsTea, Firefly Restaurant, Folio Books, Olive This Olive That, and Cliché Noe Gifts + Home. PlumpJack Wine and Spirits contributed the instant wine cellar—two cases of wine, which is 24 bottles.

The silent auction will be held for “up close and personal events” in Noe Valley. Nine people can attend an Italian feast and speak with composer Jake Heggie at the home of Judi and Nick Daddio. Another nine can have brunch with soprano Ann Moss at the home of Jessica and Richard Anderson. Andy Ferguson and Tanya Shadoan will host a concert in their home, featuring cellist Angela Lee and guitarist Marc Teicholz. And Noeteca Café and Wine Bar on Church Street has donated a private cocktail party.

All proceeds will benefit Noe Valley Chamber Music, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. NVCM executive director Tiffany Loewenberg says only 15 percent



Felicia Lowe's grandmother (above left) came to the United States with her two daughters in 1937, during a period when Chinese immigration was banned. Lowe (the baby held by her mom, above right) explores her mother and grandmother's journey in her new film, *Chinese Couplets*, which will be screened at CAAMFest 2015. 1920 and 1950 photos courtesy Felicia Lowe

'Paper Children': A Family Secret



Filmmaker Felicia Lowe

For years, Noe Valley filmmaker Felicia Lowe pondered the mystery of how her Chinese-born mother had immigrated to America during the Chinese Exclusion Era. It was a story her mother chose not to share.

Eventually, Lowe learned her mother's secret, though, and decided to document the discovery in a 53-minute film, *Chinese Couplets*, premiering this month at CAAMFest 2015, the annual film showcase presented by the Center for Asian American Media.

The 11-day festival, which includes Asian and Asian American music and food as well as film, runs March 12 to 22 at a dozen Bay Area venues. More than 100 films and videos from 20 countries will be shown.

In *Chinese Couplets*, Lowe—an award-winning writer, producer, and director—reveals that her grandmother used false papers to sneak into the United States with two daughters in 1937. One of the daughters was to become Lowe's mother.

Thousands of immigrants used the tactic to get around the federal Chinese Exclusion Act, which barred entry to Chinese laborers from 1882 until the law's repeal in 1943. Those who made it across U.S. borders were understandably secretive, fearing deportation.

“If anybody asks where I come from, say Hawaii,” instructed Lowe's mother, Lettie Lowe Cooper—a name that was one of six false identities she used during her lifetime. She died in 2001.

Lowe, 69, a longtime resident of Alvarado Street, said “a culture of silence” grew up around those who came as “paper children.”

It left “many of us born in America dangling in the wind” and asking the question “who am I?” said Lowe, a descendant of Angel Island detainees and an active supporter of the preservation of Angel Island Immigration Station artifacts.

Lowe's film will screen Saturday, March 14, at 7 p.m., at the Great Star Theater, 636 Jackson St., in San Francisco, and on Saturday, March 21, 5 p.m., at the New Parkway Theater, 474 24th St., in Oakland. It will be paired with Lowe's 1979 documentary *China: Land of My Father*.

CAAMFest's opening night features *Seoul Searching*, a comedic coming-of-age film about Korean youth. Directed by Benson Lee, the film will be shown Thursday, March 12, at 6:30 p.m. at the Castro Theatre, 429 Castro St.

Tickets, which cost \$14 for adults and \$13 for students, seniors, and those with disabilities, can be reserved online or purchased at the CAAMFest box office at Sundance Kabuki Cinemas, 1881 Post St. For information, go to caamedia.org.

—Corrie M. Anders

of the NVCM budget comes from ticket sales. “We work very hard to keep our concert prices affordable,” Loewenberg explains, adding that the rest of the series' budget is derived from the annual benefit concert, individual donors, and foundation grants.

The concert itself starts at 5 p.m. It will last an hour and include pieces by Beethoven, Berlioz, Clarke, Glinka, Kurtz, Loeffler, and Massenet, performed by mezzo-soprano Susanne Mentzer and musicians Ronny Michael Greenberg, piano; David Kim, viola; Scott Pingel, contrabass; Livia Sohn, violin; and Peter Wyrick, cello.

A champagne reception follows the concert.

Benefit tickets are \$50 and can be obtained at the Noe Valley Chamber Music website, www.nvcm.org, or at www.eventbrite.com. At Eventbrite, search for: nvcm.benefit.

In Remembrance of Pets

It is a tradition of some religious faiths to have an annual blessing of living animals, but what about pets who have died? For eight years, St. Aidan's Episcopal Church in Diamond Heights has organized an annual interfaith pet memorial service to provide a space to grieve for animal loved ones.

This year, the service is scheduled for Sunday, March 22, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the church, which is located at 101 Gold Mine Drive and Diamond Heights Boulevard. Free parking is permitted across the street in the Safeway lot.

Both adults and children are invited to attend with photos and mementoes of their pets. There will be an opportunity to create a temporary altar for the service out of the photos and mementoes (collars, food dishes, toys, etc.), which will then be returned at the end of the service.

Betty Carmack and Lois Roach, parishioners at St. Aidan's, will lead the service. Speakers from the Buddhist, Catholic, Jewish, and Protestant faiths will talk about the role of animals and how their lives are honored in their traditions. There will be song and music. Attendees will be invited to write memories and thoughts on a memorial cloth, which will then be used in subsequent annual services.

All kinds of animals will be honored. It does not matter how long ago your animal friend died. The event is free.

Christopher to Get a Facelift

The city has tapped George Christopher Playground in Diamond Heights for a makeover. The playground, at Diamond Heights Boulevard and Duncan Street, was allotted \$2.8 million as part of the parks bond proposition voters passed in 2012. Construction is scheduled to begin in April 2017, after a community outreach and planning process is completed.

According to Connie Chan, spokesperson for the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department, the process will begin “later this spring.” Chan could not give a more specific date at this time but said the first step would be a community meeting to discuss the makeover. She said the Community Design and Planning Phase was “likely to last for about a year to a year and a half.”

The anticipated scope of the makeover, according to Chan, includes as yet unspecified improvements to the children's play area, community clubhouse exterior, restroom fixtures, and park access. There was no mention of improvements to the softball field or tennis and basketball courts. The *Voice* will follow up and notify the public once the community meeting is scheduled.

SHORT TAKES CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

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SHORT TAKES

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Christopher Playground was named for the 34th mayor of San Francisco, George Christopher (1907-2000). He served two terms, from 1956 to 1964, and was the last Republican elected mayor of San Francisco.

Nominate Your Favorite Garden

The 10th annual Noe Valley Garden Tour will roll out on Saturday, June 6, and you too can be a part of it. The garden tour committee is still considering gardens and deciding who this year's beneficiary will be.

Any garden within the boundaries of Noe Valley is eligible for the tour. The of-

ficial, city-decreed borders of Noe Valley are 30th on the south, Guerrero Street on our east, 21st Street to the north, and Grand View Avenue and Diamond Heights Boulevard on the west.

Tour organizers make an effort to ensure homeowners' privacy is protected. Only ticket-holders receive the addresses of the gardens. Tickets are sold through the sponsor (Friends of Noe Valley), via local merchants, and at tables set up outside the Noe Valley Farmers Market.

Each year, a donation from tour proceeds is made toward a Noe Valley beautification project. The only stipulation is that the project be in a public place or open to the public.

Previous donation recipients include the gardens at James Lick Middle and Alvarado Elementary Schools, tree-planting along 24th Street, a landscaping project at Upper Noe Recreation Center, and garden restoration at the Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Library.

To nominate your garden—or a friend's—for the tour, contact Friends



An "artist's garden" on Alvarado Street, with lemon trees, roses, and other bright blooms in the front, and ferns, orchids, and a dawn redwood at the rear, was one of the highlights of the 2014 Noe Valley Garden Tour, sponsored by Friends of Noe Valley. Perhaps, if Nature allows, you will share your garden this year. The date for the event is Saturday, June 6.

Photo courtesy Michelle Echenique and Michele Cobble

Schools Raise Funds to Enrich and Expand

Two Noe Valley schools are holding auctions in March. Both will take place on Saturday, March 21, 2015. Alvarado Elementary School at 625 Douglass St. is raising money for school enrichment programs. St. Philip the Apostle School at 665 Elizabeth St. is continuing to build its expansion fund.

Collect an Alvarado Auction Souvenir

The 22nd annual Alvarado School auction goes on the block from 6 to 10:30 p.m. at the Janet Pomeroy Center, 207 Skyline Blvd., to raise money for school programs in technology, art, physical education, and music. Admission includes dinner, a souvenir Alvarado wine glass, an open bar, and a chance to bid on items in the silent auction. The most popular items are traditionally sporting event tickets, chocolates, restaurant gift certificates, handmade food and clothing, and bottles of wine and champagne. All auction items have been donated by parents of Alvarado students or by local businesses.

Tickets are \$50 ahead of time, \$55 at the door. Last year, the event sold out. Make your reservations at www.alvaradoschool.net. Everyone in the community is welcome to attend.

St. Philip School Holds 'Paddle Raise'

St. Philip the Apostle School of Noe Valley is holding its spring auction Saturday, March 21, from 6:30 to 9 p.m., at the SOMArts Gallery, 934 Brannan St., between Eighth and Ninth streets. Hors d'oeuvres, a cash bar, music, and silent and live auctions will be on the program. Auction items have been donated by local businesses and individuals.

General admission is \$80, with admission for seniors priced at \$60. Check out www.saintphilipschool.org for information on how to purchase tickets. Neighbors and friends are welcome.

There will also be a Fund in Need Paddle Raise at the event. Fund in Need is an opportunity to make a donation toward a specific project during the live auction. Paddles will be provided.

The designated Fund in Need for 2015 is the continuing capital campaign for a major expansion of St. Philip School, including new educational space and outdoor activity areas. The former convent building at 4174 24th St. has become available. Renovating it will add 9,000 square feet of educational space. In addition, more usable outdoor space will be created on the roof of the building on Elizabeth Street, almost doubling outdoor activity space for students. The expansion is budgeted at \$500,000.

—Richard May

member Linda Lockyer at lindalockyer3@gmail.com. You can also use her email to nominate a beautification project in Noe Valley.

Little Libraries Multiply

The Little Library movement is alive and well in Noe Valley. The first is in one of the newspaper boxes outside Whole Foods on 24th Street, as reported last month in the *Voice*. A second has been discovered on the east side of our urban village, on Chattanooga Street between 24th and Jersey streets. More traditional in its design, it still houses a small shelf of free books and its philosophy is still "take one, leave one," so on your way to or from BART, take a slight detour up Chattanooga and see what your neighbors have left you. And if you find any more Little Libraries in Noe Valley, let the *Voice* know.

Lifelong Lectures at 30th Street

Noe Valley will get a taste of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at San Francisco State—without having to drive across town—on Thursday, March 19, from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the On Lok 30th Street Senior Center, 225 30th St., between Church and Dolores streets.

Gerard Heather, professor emeritus of political science at SF State, will lecture and lead a discussion on presidential politics. An expert on ethics and religion, Heather holds a Ph.D. in political science from Syracuse University.

The event starts with a reception and ends with a wine-and-cheese mixer. It's free and open to all ages. (Usually, Osher Institute programs cost \$95 and are for people over 50 years of age.) Based on attendee response, a series of Osher Lifelong Learning lectures may be established in Noe Valley at the 30th Street center. At the mixer, Friends of the 30th Street Senior Center will be circulating, asking if people are interested, what lecture topics they'd like, and what times and dates would work best.

Register to attend at olli.sfsu.edu under Events. You also may sign up at the senior center or call Marianne Hampton of Friends at 415-601-7845. Advance registration is required.

Another event of note at 30th Street is a free six-week group workshop on how to manage diabetes. The weekly workshop, a test of a program piloted at Stanford University, will run from April 14 to May 19 every Tuesday from 1:30 to 4 p.m. Trainers will teach how to use better nutrition to lose weight and gain better health, become more adept at managing blood glucose levels, and employ

additional tools to reduce diabetes symptoms. A registered dietician will also work with participants in pre- and post-workshop classes.

Besides having a diagnosis of diabetes, participants in the workshop must be 65 or older, English speaking, see a physician regularly, obtain a doctor's referral for the project, provide lab results, and be willing to make the time commitment.

If you meet these criteria, go to Room 316 at the 30th Street Senior Center to complete an application. (Ask for Luz or Jean.) For information, call the center at 415-550-2210.

This month's Short Takes were compiled and written by Richard May.

Expert on Drones at Science on Screen

Since fall, the Roxie Theater at 3117 16th St. has been participating in Science on Screen, a nationwide film series that explores the links between science and the humanities through the screening of entertaining and provocative films. Each film shown in the series is introduced by a top science or technology expert.

Next in the Roxie series—on Monday, March 16—is the Sundance award-winning sci-fi thriller *Sleep Dealer*. Directed by Alex Rivera, the 2008 film is set in a future where borders are sealed, drones are omnipresent, and the nervous systems of people in Mexico are plugged into a grid that controls worker robots in America.

Preceding the film will be a talk by UC Berkeley Professor J. Karl Hedrick, who currently directs the university's Vehicle Dynamics Laboratory and worked for MIT in the same capacity from 1974 to 1988. Hedrick will discuss "The Future of Drones" as well as the present-day design of these remotely piloted aircraft. The event starts at 7 p.m., and will include time for Q&A.

Science on Screen is funded by grants from the Coolidge Corner Theatre Foundation and the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. Another science evening at the Roxie is being planned for later this spring.

Tickets cost \$10. For more information, visit www.roxie.com or call 415-863-1087.

—Corrie M. Anders

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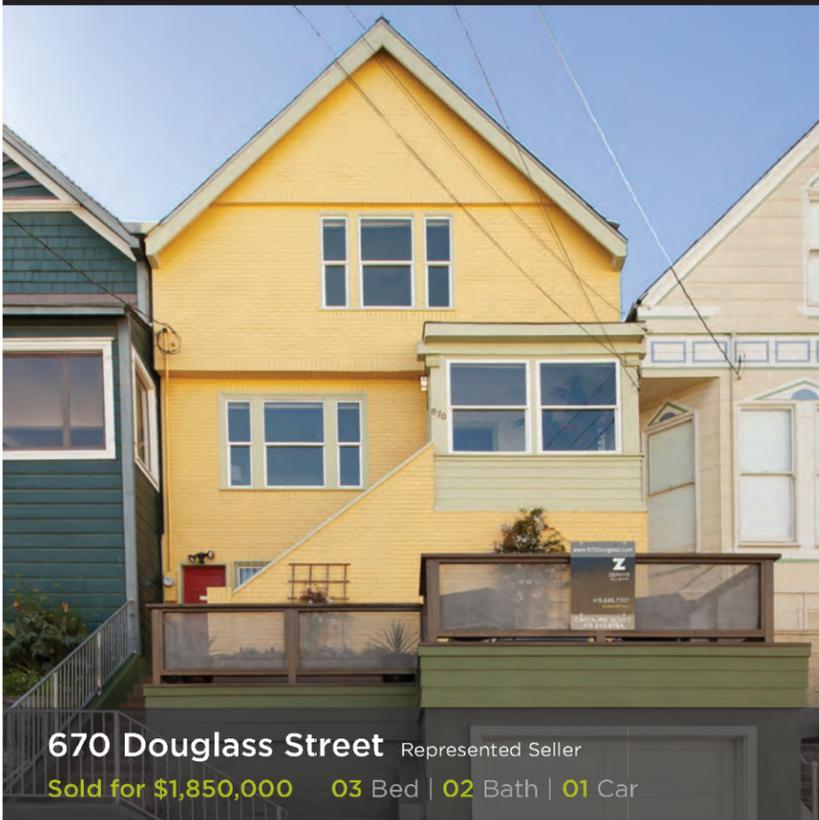
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Coloring the Approaching Night. Our photographer climbed to a high vantage point to show the end of day in the City beyond our fair valley.

Photo by Najib Joe Hakim

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2014 was an incredible year for me and my many clients in our perennially popular neighborhood.

Whether moving in or moving up, it was a privilege to represent so many of my neighbors as they achieved personal and financial goals through home ownership. I'm looking forward to doing more of the same in 2015.

If you are thinking of buying or selling a home here in Noe Valley, or throughout San Francisco, I'd love to hear from you. It would be my privilege to **donate \$1,000 to your favorite charity** at close of escrow when you use my services. Give me a call or send an e-mail any time!

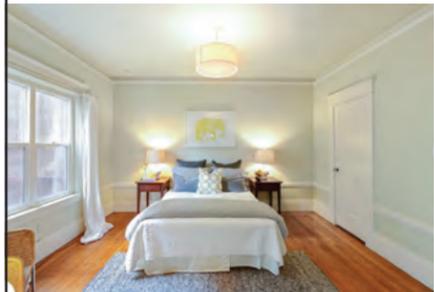
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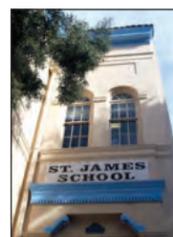
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Antique Reed Organ Restored for Bethany Church

Melodeon Originally Dedicated In 1866

By Bruce Pettit, Member,
Bethany United Methodist Church

The Gold Rushers of 1849, far from home and loved ones, must have longed to connect with the divine through music. So much so that they arranged for a reed organ which had been manufactured in Buffalo, N.Y., to be shipped all the way to San Francisco, where it was dedicated in 1866—according to a brass plaque still on it.

The organ, also called a melodeon, now has been restored and is in working condition again—and being played again—at Bethany United Methodist Church, at the corner of Clipper and Sanchez streets. Bethany acquired the instrument in the mid-1960s with the merger of two churches—Grace Methodist Church in the Mission District and Epworth Methodist Church at 1270 Sanchez St., where Bethany is today.

The plaque on it reads: “In memory of Henry Thomas and wife, nee Mary Foster, who presented this the first organ to Grace M.E. Church in 1866. Mr. Thomas was chorister and Martha Beaumont 1st organist. This plate was furnished by their children in loving remembrance.”

It was the first organ of a predecessor to Grace Methodist, then likely located at Mission and 18th streets. In 1896, the organ followed Grace to a new edifice at 21st and Capp streets. That building, originally called Grace Methodist Episcopal Church, was demolished in 1967.

Shirley Perkins, a longtime member of

Grace and now a member of Bethany Church, said, “I recall, as a child, that little melodeon, and I think it was still in working order. But it sat as a piece of furniture” in the church—just as it did later at Bethany. She said she was glad it had the brass plaque, which prompted Bethany to keep the organ when it renovated its facility a few years ago.

The organ debuted in a completely rebuilt state at two services on Christmas Eve 2014. The guest organist was Sharon Affelranger, who also plays as a professional harpist.

The Buffalo company that made the melodeon was named George A. Prince & Co., so Bethany is calling its restored organ—well...Prince. A note by the craftsman, found inside, indicated it was built in 1855.

Current Bethany member Gloria Soliz knew George Lipp, who works for the Reed Organ Man shop in the Bayview District. Lipp took Bethany’s organ to the shop, where James Tyler, an internationally known expert on reed organs, took charge of the repair. The brass, iron, wood, leather, wool, denim, and canvas had deteriorated over time. Moths had made a meal out of the felt. The bellows had been punctured by internal slippage. Each reed was polished, and each key cleaned. Much of the shellac finish was restored.

Lipp said, “The Bethany instrument is an incredible testimony to American design and ingenuity.” It is, he said, “a class instrument—which operates on a vacuum until a key is pushed, allowing air to go over a reed.” Without electricity, it takes some effort to play. Pedals must be constantly pumped to get the air going. ■

If you search “Battmann: Christmas March” on YouTube, you can see Michael Hendron, one of the three men who helped restore the melodeon, playing it at Bethany after its return.



After careful restoration, a melodeon built in 1855 returned home in December to Bethany United Methodist Church on Sanchez Street. The organ features a rosewood cabinet and wood-embellished pedals, which are pumped to force air through reeds sounding the musical notes. A plaque says the instrument was a gift to Grace Church in 1866. Photos by Beverly Tharp



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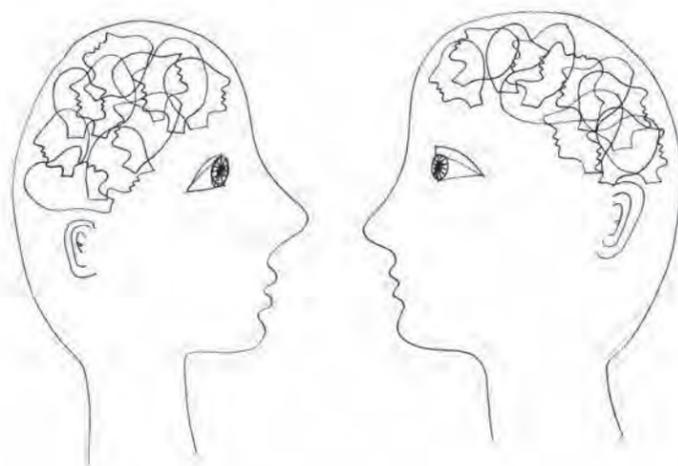
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I located my practice in Noe Valley (“Stroller Valley”) because of an interest in working with individuals and couples of Generation X & Y (21-55 year olds). I have provided psychotherapy to Bay Area residents who are struggling with life transitions related to their work and family for over 10 years. Relationship issues, anxiety & emotional problems, as well as the quarter & mid-life crises commonly come through my office door. Prior to pursuing my doctoral degree in Psychology, I received a Masters of Fine Arts degree. It was as an artist that I became fascinated by how human connection and creative expression can lead to individual growth.

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Second Book by Noe Valley Native: CEL-LITOONS No. 2. By Dan Celli. Keeps things interesting by mixing in some photo-realistic illustrations, even knockoffs of or tributes to other artists such as Paul

Madonna, another Bay Area artist. There are Far Side cartoons, surreal humor. Some cartoons are labeled "Funnyolddays" and feature senior citizens...a collective voice of experience that has learned to find humor in growing old. Celli saves the most risqué cartoons and gags for the back of the book in a section marked "Slightly R rated." It's a wild ride and sometimes that's enough. (From Peter Dabenne's review in Clarion Review). \$19.95 or cheaper.

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Submissions: The Noe Valley Voice welcomes submissions of short fiction, essays, or poetry, particularly those relating to Noe Valley. Email editor@noevalleyvoice.com or write Noe Valley Voice, P.O. Box 460249, San Francisco, CA 94146. Please include a phone number.

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The Class Ads also will be displayed at **www.noevalleyvoice.com.**

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LIBRARY EVENTS

Classic Films of the 1950s: Rick Winston discusses the directors and stars who made their mark during the '50s and the controversial issues that were addressed in films, despite the Hollywood blacklist. Saturday, March 28, 2 to 3 p.m.

The **Noe Valley Knitting Circle** is for both beginners and experienced knitters and crocheters. You're welcome to bring your own yarn, needles, or hooks. Saturday, March 7, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Friday Matinee at the Library features the 1941 Humphrey Bogart film based on the book *The Maltese Falcon* by Dashiell Hammett. Friday, March 13, 2 to 4 p.m.

Opera for the People: View excerpts from Antonin Dvorak's *Rusalka*, starring Latvian soprano Kristine Opolais as a water nymph who wants to become human. Saturday, March 14, 2 to 3 p.m.

Hoopla! Attend a Screen Time workshop on how to use **hoopla!**, eLibrary access to music, TV shows, films, and audiobooks on your laptop, tablet, or smartphone. Tuesday, March 17, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

The **Noe Valley Book Discussion Group** meets on third Wednesdays to discuss current fiction and nonfiction. Wednesday, March 18, 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Great Books: Adam Smith's *Wealth of Nations* is the March and April choice for the Great Books Discussion Group, sponsored by the Great Books Council of San Francisco. For information, contact Elena at eschmid@sonic.net. Wednesday, March 11, 6:15 to 8:15 p.m.

Events take place at the Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Library, 451 Jersey St., between Castro and Diamond streets. For information, call 415-355-5707 or visit www.sfpl.org.

BRANCH HOURS

Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Branch Library 451 Jersey St., 355-5707							
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	
1-5	12-6	10-9	1-9	10-6	1-6	10-6	
Mission Branch Library 300 Bartlett St., 355-2800							
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	
1-5	1-6	10-9	10-9	10-9	1-6	10-6	
Glen Park Branch Library 2825 Diamond St., 355-2858							
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	
1-5	10-6	10-6	12-8	12-7	1-6	1-6	
Eureka Valley-Harvey Milk Branch Library 1 José Sarria Ct. (3555 16th St.), 355-5616							
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	
	12-6	10-9	12-9	10-6	1-6	12-6	

WIN A FREE SUBSCRIPTION to the Noe Valley Voice

See page 12 of this edition for our new contest: *Where in Noe Valley?*

Each month we'll run a photo taken somewhere in our fair neighborhood. If you can identify the location, and are the first to email us with the info, we'll start sending you our print edition for a whole year – all ten issues – free.

Good Luck!

MORE BOOKS TO READ

In Like a Lion

The March list of books, films, and eBooks, offered by Adult Services Librarian Susan Higgins, Children's Librarian Catherine Starr, and *Voice* bookworm Karol Barske, features poetry by Diane Di Prima, an in-depth analysis of recent Supreme Court decisions, and the true story of Ivan, the shopping mall gorilla. To check out those and other marvelous media at the Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Library, visit the branch at 451 Jersey St., call 415-355-5707, or log on to the San Francisco Public Library at www.sfpl.org.

Children's Nonfiction

Ivan: The Remarkable True Story of the Shopping Mall Gorilla, written by Newbery medalist Katherine Applegate, illustrated by G. Brian Karas, tells the tale of a baby gorilla's voyage from the Congo to a Tacoma, Wash., mall to the Atlanta Zoo, where he became a national symbol of animal welfare. Ages 4-8.

Robert Burleigh writes about the life of an American artist in *Edward Hopper Paints His World*, with paintings by Wendell Minor. Ages 5-9.

M Is for Monster: A Fantastic Creatures Alphabet, by Patrick Lewis, with illustrations by Gerald Kelley, features characters of myth and legend in alphabetical order. Ages 7-10.

In *Where on Earth?* by DK Publishing, you can pore over 75 three-D maps showing the worlds of geography, nature, people, history, arts and entertainment, and science and technology. Ages 7-12.

Part of the Scientists in the Field series, *Beetle Busters* by Loree Griffin Burns and Ellen Harasimowicz examines problems caused by the Asian long-horned beetle. Ages 10-14.

Children's Fiction

No Nap! Yes Nap!, a sing-song read-along written by Margie Palatini and illustrated by Dan Yaccarino, follows a fast-paced chase through every room in the house. Ages 3 and up.

In *Before We Eat: From Farm to Table*, by Pat Brisson and Caldecott medalist Mary Azarian, you can find out where food comes from. Ages 3-7.

When Sophia becomes aware that her best friend's parents can't afford some food items, she learns how to help, in *Maddi's Fridge*, by Lois Brandt, illustrated by Vin Vogel. Ages 4-8.

Tales of Bunjitsu Bunny, by writer-illustrator John Himmelman, introduces Isabel, the best Bunjitsu artist in school, who never hurts another creature...unless she has to. Ages 6-8.

Friends who get in and out of wild messes are the heroes in *More of Monkey and Robot*, written and illustrated by Peter Catalanotto. Ages 6-9.

Sesame proves what a good detective she is in *Sleuth on Skates*, book one of the Sesame Seade Mystery Series, by Clementine Beauvais, illustrated by Sarah Horne. Ages 8-12.

Five kids on a boat ride around a harbor suddenly find themselves on an island where they have to struggle to survive, in *The Fog of Forgetting*, a fantasy adventure by G.A. Morgan. Ages 10 and up.

Books: Adult Nonfiction

The Poetry Deal, a collection of poems from Beat poet Diane Di Prima, is a recent addition to the City Lights Foundation Poet Laureate Series.

Harvard law professor Laurence Tribe and legal expert Joshua Matz examine Supreme Court opinions on issues such as Citizens United and Obamacare, in *Uncertain Justice: The Roberts Court and the Constitution*.

Novella Carpenter traces her family's unconventional history as they moved from Mexico to Europe to Idaho in *Gone Feral: Tracking My Dad Through the Wild*.

Dana Goldstein explains the roots of hot-button issues and the results of past attempts at educational reform, in *The Teacher Wars: A History of America's Most Embattled Profession*.

Films on Hoopla!

Watch films online with **hoopla!** At www.sfpl.org, click on *eLibrary*, then scroll down to *Videos*, click, then look for *hoopla!* Learn more at our workshops on Tuesday March 17 or April 21 at 10:30 a.m.

Julianne Moore stars as a teacher who helps a former student who failed to make it as a playwright in *The English Teacher*.

Learn about efforts to save Myanmar's elephants from extinction in the documentary *Of Oozies and Elephants*.

A group of 20-something college friends reunite for a weekend in *About Alex*.

Twenty-eight-year-old William gets help from a local girl when he travels to Denmark to search for his grandfather, in *Copenhagen*.

New eBooks

The Martini Shot is the first story collection from crime writer George Pelecanos.

Full of imagery from Greek mythology and Bulgarian legends, *Wildalone* by Krassi Zourkova is the story of a Bulgarian woman studying at Princeton.

Plan a fun weekend getaway with *Fodor's Northern California 2015: With Napa, Sonoma, Yosemite, San Francisco, and*

CHILDREN'S EVENTS

Make a Terrarium: If you bring a glass container, the library will supply soil, plants, and instructions for making a terrarium. Space is limited. To register, call 415-355-5707 or send an email to nvamgr@sfpl.org. Saturday, March 14, 11 a.m. to noon.

You can continue to celebrate SFPL's Maker March with "**Bubbleology**"! The library will have gallons of bubble mix, some interesting bubble makers, and wands. You can also bring your own objects to experiment with. Ages 3 and up. Meet on the second-floor patio outside the Children's Room. Wednesday, March 18, 3:30 to 4:15 p.m.

Toddler Tales: Join Children's Librarian Miss Catherine for stories, songs, chants, and more. These half-hour story times are geared to children age 16-36 months, accompanied by a parent or caregiver. Thursdays, March 5, 12, and 19, 10:15 to 10:45 a.m. and 11 to 11:30 a.m.

Reel-to-Reel Preschool Films: Children ages 3 to 5 years with parent or caregiver are invited to see short films on Thursday, March 26, 10:15 to 10:45 a.m. and 11 to 11:30 a.m.

FOR TEENS AND UP:

The AAC Conversation Club—for teens and adults who use communication devices like Dynavox, QuickTalker, and Talk Bar or smartphones and tablets — meets on Mondays, March 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30; 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Events take place at the Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Library, 451 Jersey St., between Castro and Diamond streets. For information, call 415-355-5707 or visit www.sfpl.org.

Lake Tahoe, written by Michele Bigley, et al.

For the biography **The World of Raymond Chandler: In His Own Words**, editor Barry Day collected correspondence, passages from Chandler's novels, and over 100 photos.

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

I Call Disassembly to Order by Michael Blake

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PASTAGINA	EMOTE	
HERALDRY	AREA	
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KORAN	SAMBA	
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	ACHED	CREPE
SPEEDO	HEAVEN	
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March 1 & 15: SF City Guides leads a free WALKING TOUR of Noe Valley on first and third Sundays at 1:30-3:30 pm. Meet at the Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 557-4266; sfcityguides.org.

March 1-29: The Glen Park Village FARMERS' MARKET is open Sundays, 10 am to 2 pm, in the Glen Park BART parking lot at Bosworth and Arlington. pcfma.com.

March 1-29: Meet at the gold fire hydrant at 20th and Church at 11 am Sundays for a City Guides walking tour of the MISSION DOLORES area. 557-4266; sfcityguides.org.

March 1-31: Meet under the rainbow flag at Harvey Milk Plaza (Castro and Market) for a City Guides walking tour of the CASTRO. Sat., Sun. & Tues., 11 am. 557-4266; sfcityguides.org.

March 1-29: The SF Museum and Historical Society gives Sunday tours of the OLD MINT at 1:30 and 3 pm. 88 Fifth Street. 537-1105, ext. 100; sfhistory.org.

March 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30: The Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) Conversation Club meets from 4:30 to 5:30 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

March 2-31: Noe Valley OVEREATERS Anonymous meets Monday through Saturday, 7 am, at St. Aidan's Church, 101 Gold Mine. oasf.org.

March 2-31: 30th Street SENIOR CENTER serves lunches for people over 60, weekdays and Saturdays. Noon and 1 pm. 225 30th. 550-2211.

March 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31: The Eureka Valley Library offers its TODDLER TALES on Tuesdays, 10:30 am. 1 Jose Sarria Court (16th & Market). 355-5616; sfpl.org.

March 3-31: Folio Books hosts a STORYTIME for toddlers every Wednesday at 10 am. 3957 24th. 821-3477; foliosf.com.

March 3-31: Larkin Street Youth Services gives free HIV TESTING for youth 24 and under. Tuesdays, 5-7 pm. 1800 Market. 673-0911; sfcenter.org.

March 3-31: Dogs 6 months and older are invited to the Tuesday PUPPY SOCIAL at K9 Scrub Club. 7-8

pm. 1734 Church. Register: k9scrubclub.com.

March 3 & April 7: The de Young Museum and the Legion of Honor have FREE ADMISSION on the first Tuesday of the month. 750-3600; deyoungmuseum.org.

March 3 & April 7: "Write Now! @ Folio Books" is a monthly WORD JAM led by writer/editor Kathy Dalle-Molle; all levels welcome. 7-8:30 pm. 3957 24th. 821-3477; sign up at foliosf.com/events.

March 4: Elizabeth Crane hosts at a World Read Aloud Day PAJAMA PARTY Storytime at Folio Books. 6 pm. 3957 24th. 821-3477; foliosf.com.

March 4 & 18: The PUPPY DOG TALES reading program allows children to practice reading to Oliver, a calm canine; ages 4 to 7, but older welcome. 7-8 pm. Eureka Valley Library, 1 Jose Sarria Court (16th & Market). 355-5616; sfpl.org.

March 4, 11, 18 & 25: The Eureka Valley Library offers BABY RHYME and Playtime on Wednesdays, 1:30 to 2:15. 1 Jose Sarria Court (16th & Market). 355-5616; sfpl.org.

March 4-25: Folio Books hosts a STORYTIME for little ones, Wednesdays at 10 am. 3957 24th. 821-3477; foliosf.com.

March 4-25: Chris Sequeira conducts free senior QIGONG classes Wednesdays 1-3 pm at the Glen Park Rec Center, 70 Elk. 773-8185; livingtaichi@yahoo.com.

March 4-25: The Castro Farmers' Market has fresh PRODUCE on Wednesdays. 4-8 pm. Noe at Market. pcfma.com.

March 4-25: AL-ANON meets Wednesdays 8 to 9:30 pm at St. Philip's Church. 725 Diamond. 834-9940; al-anonsf.org.

March 4 & April 1: The GLBT HISTORY Museum has a free day on first Wednesdays. 11 am-7 pm. 4127 18th. 621-1107; GLBThistory.org.

March 5, 12 & 19: Miss Catherine tells TODDLER TALES with books, rhymes, music, and movement. 10:15 & 11 am. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

March 5-26: Attend PUB QUIZ NIGHTS on Thursdays at the Dubliner, 3838 24th. 8 pm. 285-0674; brainstormer.com.

March 6-27: The Friday-night JAZZ series continues at Bird & Beckett with artists Don Prell, Jimmy Ryan, and the Third Quartet. 5:30-8 pm. 653 Chenery. 586-3733; birdbeckett.com.

5707; sfpl.org.

March 7: The reception for Stephen Labovsky's PHOTOGRAPHY exhibit, "The Village: Life on the Corner of Chenery and Diamond," runs from 3 to 5 pm; show will be up through May 7. Glen Park Library, 2825 Diamond. 355-2858.

March 7: The Southwest Airlines CHINESE NEW YEAR Parade for the Year of the Ram begins at 5:15 pm at Second and Market.

March 7: Elbo Room hosts a Literary DEATH MATCH hosted by Adrian



Celebrate St. Patrick's Day in Noe Valley, Tuesday, March 17.
Photo by Sally O'Smith

March 6-27: Shout "BINGO!" at St. Paul's on Friday nights at 7 pm (doors open at 5 pm). St. Paul's Parish Hall, 221 Valley. 648-7538.

March 6-27: Dolores Park Cafe hosts Friday-night MUSIC and spoken word. 7:30-10 pm. 501 Dolores. 621-2936; doloresparkcafe.com.

March 7: REGISTRATION for spring activities at Upper Noe Rec Center, Day and Sanchez, begins at 10 am. For a catalog and schedule, go to sfreconline.org.

March 7: The Noe Valley Library's ongoing KNITTING CIRCLE meets on the first Saturday of the month, from 10:30 am to noon. 451 Jersey. 355-

Todd Zuniga. 6:30-9 pm. 647 Valencia. 552-7788; elbo.com.

March 7 & 14: 30th Street Senior Center/On Lok co-sponsors a free HEALTHIER LIVING workshop, Saturdays from 9:30 am to noon. Park Station Community Room, 1899 Waller. 550-2257; cahelathierliving.org.

March 7-28: Each Saturday, the Noe Valley FARMERS MARKET brings you fresh produce and live musicians from 8 am to 1 pm. 3861 24th. 248-1332; noevalleyfarmersmarket.com.

March 7-28: Upper Noe Rec Center offers free YOGA CLASSES Saturdays 9:15-10:15 am. Day and Sanchez. 205-5855; noevalleyreccenter.com.

March 7-28: Saturday night JAZZ at Bird & Beckett features local performers from 8 to 11 pm. 653 Chenery. birdbeckett.com.

March 8: Closing Reception and BENEFIT for Gaza's Children from 2 to 6 pm at the offices of Rebuilding Alliance, 178 South Blvd., San Mateo. www.RebuildingAlliance.org. Features the photo exhibit Home Away from Home: Little Palestine by the Bay, by Najib Joe Hakim.

March 9: The ODD MONDAYS series hosts a reading by Wendy Bertrand from Enamored with Place: As Woman and As Architect. 7 pm at Folio Books, 3957 24th. No-host supper, 5:30 pm. Haystack Pizza, 3881 24th (rsvp jlsender@webtv.net). 821-2090; oddmondays.com.

March 10: JOHN MINDERMANN discusses "Integrity in the Line of Duty: Lessons Learned as a SF Cop in the Turbulent 1960s Challenged as an FBI Agent Unraveling the Watergate Scandal." 7:30 pm. The Old Mint, 88 Fifth Street. 537-1105, ext. 100; sfhistory.org.

March 11: The CANADIAN Women's Club of the SF Bay Area hosts a lunch with a discussion of physical activity, "Keep It Moving." 11 am. Basque Cultural Center, South San Francisco.

March 11: The GREAT BOOKS Discussion Group reads Adam Smith's Wealth of Nations both March and April. 6:15-8:15 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. Elena at eschmid@sonic.net.

March 11, 18 & 25: The Castro FARMERS MARKET is open every Wednesday, from 4 to 8 pm, through mid-December.

March 12: The LGBT SENIOR discussion group meets at 30th Street Senior Center. 10-11:30 am. 225 30th. 296-8995, ext. 5.

March 12: Litquake hosts "REGRETURATURE 2015: The Wrath of Taste," benefit readings "to hear what happens when good writers start bad." 8 pm. Verdi Club, 2424 Mariposa. litquake.com.

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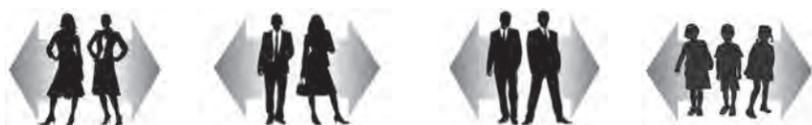
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CALENDAR

March 12-April 22: Creativity Explored hosts a group ART show, "Tree of Life." Reception March 12, 7-9 pm; Mon & Tues., 10 am-3 pm; Wed.-Fri., 10 am-7 pm; Sat. & Sun., noon-5 pm. 3245 16th. 863-2108; creativityexplored.org.

March 13: The Noe Valley Library shows the 1941 Humphrey Bogart FILM *The Maltese Falcon*, based on the book by Dashiell Hammett. 2-4 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

March 13: TAIZE service at Holy Innocents Church is offered on the second Friday of the month, at 7:30 pm. 455 Fair Oaks. holyinsf.org.

March 14: Mission High School hosts an all-you-can-eat PANCAKE BREAKFAST fundraiser. 9 am-12:30 pm. 3750 18th. 241-6240.

March 14: The LADYBUG GARDENERS dish the dirt from 9 am to noon; bring a hat and gloves. Upper Noe Rec Center, Day & Sanchez.

March 14: Make a TERRARIUM at the Noe Valley Library; bring a glass container; all other materials provided. 11 am-12 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

March 14: Bring a pie to the 1:30 pm PI DAY POTLUCK at Folio Books to celebrate math; the countdown to the "magic moment" starts at 1:59 pm. 3957 24th. 821-3477; RSVP at foliosf.com.

March 14: OPERA for the People discusses *Rusalka* by Antonin Dvorak. 2-3 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

March 14: Natural Resources invites you to meet doulas (2-4 pm) and home-birth MIDWIVES (4-6 pm). 1367 Valencia. 550-2611; naturalresources-sf.com.

March 14: Noe Valley FILMMAKER Felicia Lowe screens her 1979 documentary *China: Land of My Father*, and her new film, *Chinese Couplets*, in the annual Asian American Film Festival. 7 pm. Great Star Theater, 636 Jackson. caamedia.org.

March 15: PFLAG's support group meeting recaps the setbacks and triumphs for LGBT rights in 2014. 2 to 4:30 pm. St. Francis Church, 152 Church. 921-8850; pflags@aol.com.

March 15: Teri Lyn Fisher and Jenny Park discuss *The Perfect Egg: A Fresh Take on Recipes for Morning, Noon, and Night*. 3-4 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

March 15: Music on the Hill hosts "Light & Shadow," a concert of 20th- and 21st-century CHAMBER MUSIC. 7 pm. St. Aidan's Church, 101 Goldmine. 820-1429 for information. musiconthehill.org.

March 16: TOM AMMIANO and Marilyn Pittman headline *Word Wit*



Photo exhibit *Home Away from Home: Little Palestine by the Bay*, by Najib Joe Hakim closes March 8 in San Mateo
Najib Joe Hakim

COMEDY NIGHT at Caskhouse. 7:30-9 pm. 3853 24th. 834-5005.

March 17: The Odd Mondays series and Word Week host Contemporary IRISH LITERATURE Night, with readings by Renee Gibbons, Byddi Lee, Mary Jo McConahay, Ethel Rohan, and Eddie Stack. 7 pm at Folio Books, 3957 24th. No-host supper. 5:30 pm, Haystack Pizza, 3881 24th (rsvp jlsender@webtv.net). 821-2090; oddmondays.com.

March 18: The BUBBLEOLOGY event, on the second-floor patio off the Children's Room, provides bubble mix and wands for ages 3 and up. 3:30-4:15 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

March 18: The Noe Valley BOOK DISCUSSION Group meets from 7 to 8:30 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

March 18: The Pop-Up BOOK CLUB, at Folio Books for Word Week, features *The Department of Speculation* by Jenny Offill. 7:30 pm. 3957 24th. 821-3477; foliosf.com.

March 19: The Osher LIFELONG LEARNING Institute hosts a lecture on presidential politics by SF State Professor Emeritus Gerard Heather. 3:30-6:30 pm. On Lok's 30th Street Senior Center, 225 30th. 601-7845; olli.sfsu.edu.

March 19: As part of WORD WEEK, authors Joshua Mohr, Janis Cooke Newman, and Ruhama Veltfort read from "Preview Copies" of upcoming work. 7:30-9 pm. Noe Valley Library, 415 Jersey. 355-5707.

March 19: Omnivore Books hosts a COCKTAIL PARTY at Bar Agricole, 355 11th, for the authors of *Death & Co: Modern Classic Cocktails*. 6-9 pm. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

March 20: The Minoan Dancers perform traditional GREEK DANCE at the Rotunda Dance series at SF City Hall. Noon. dancersgroup.org.

March 20: Folio Books hosts the BOOKWORMS CLUB with Jordan Jacobs, author of the *Samantha Sutton* series, for ages 8 to 12. 6 pm. 3957 24th. 821-3477; foliosf.com.

March 20: LGBT authors Gr Keer, Vincent Meis, Courtney Moreno, Monica Nolan, and Rob Rosen read from their work. 7-9 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez.

March 21: Deborah Kelson, author of *Peanut Butter or Jelly*, reads and leads an art project for kids; lunch will be served. 11 am. Folio Books, 3957 24th, 821-3477.

March 21: Supervisor Scott Wiener's office is open to the public from 11 am to 1 pm, at Martha & Bros. Coffee, 3886 24th. 554-6968; scottwiener.com.

March 21: Jack Bishop introduces *The Complete VEGETARIAN Cookbook*. 3-4 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

March 21: Alvarado Elementary School hosts its 22nd annual AUCTION to benefit school programs. 6-10:30 pm. Janet Pomeroy Center, 207 Skyline. alvaradoschool.net.

March 21: St. Philip the Apostle School hosts its SPRING AUCTION to benefit its expansion fund. 6:30-9 pm. SOMArts Gallery, 934 Brannan. saintphilipschool.org.

March 21: Rainbow Girls and The Shapes perform at 8 pm. SF Live Arts (Noe Valley MUSIC SERIES) at St. Cyprian's, 2097 Turk. 454-5238; noevalleymusicseries.com.

March 22: St. Aidan's Episcopal Church hosts an interfaith PET MEMORIAL service from 3:30 to 4:30 pm; bring photos and mementos, if you wish. 101 Gold Mine.

March 22: Noe Valley CHAMBER MUSIC hosts a benefit concert with mezzo-soprano Susanne Mentzer. 4 pm. St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 1111 O'Farrell. 648-5236; nvcn.org.

March 23: The ODD MONDAYS series hosts a discussion by SFSU Professor Emeritus Gerard Heather, "Political Round-Up: Looking Forward and Looking Backward." 7 pm at Folio Books, 3957 24th. No-host supper. 5:30 pm, Haystack Pizza, 3881 24th (rsvp jlsender@webtv.net). 821-2090; oddmondays.com.

March 25: Leah Koenig discusses *Modern JEWISH COOKING: Recipes and Customs for Today's Kitchen*. 6:30-7:30 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.

March 26: Reel-to-Reel FILMS for preschoolers screen at the Noe Valley Library at 10:15 and 11 am. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org.

March 28: The JURI COMMONERS begin a 9 am workday at Juri Commons Park, near 26th and Guerrero. RSVP to meetup.com/Juri-Commoners.

March 28: OWL SF hosts a talk by Adam Scow, California director of Food and Water Watch, on "FRACKING and Water." 10 am-noon, Flood building, 870 Market, room 1185. 989-4422; owlsf.org.

March 28: The Glen Park Library screens the 1948 Fred Astaire and Judy Garland FILM *Easter Parade*. 3-5 pm. 2825 Diamond. 355-2858.

March 31: MISSION POLICE STATION holds its community meeting the last Tuesday of the month. 6 pm. 630 Valencia. 558-5400.

March 31: Catherine Accardi discusses SF LANDMARKS at a meeting of the SF History Association. 7 pm. St. Philip's Church, 725 Diamond. 750-9986; sanfranciscohistory.org.

April 4: Michael Dietsch introduces *SHRUBS: An Old Fashioned Drink for Modern Times*. 3-4 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com.



MARCH FORTH

The next *Noe Valley Voice* will be the **March 2015** issue, distributed the first week of March. The deadline for Calendar items is **Feb. 15**. Write Calendar, *Noe Valley Voice*, P.O. Box 460249, San Francisco, CA 94146, or email calendar@noevalleyvoice.com. Events in Noe Valley receive priority. Thank you.



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Upcoming Events at Folio Books

3-4
WEDNESDAY
6PM
World Read Aloud Day Pajama Party with Elizabeth Crane
Join us for hot chocolate, stories and fun!

3-9
MONDAY
7PM
Odd Mondays: Wendy Bertrand
Enamored with Place: As Woman + As Architect
A memoir of an architect

3-14
SATURDAY
1:30PM
Pi Day Pie Potluck (& Trivia!)
Come eat pie and test your math trivia skills. Bring a pie to share and get 20% off your purchase!

3-17
TUESDAY
7PM
WORD WEEK: Odd Mondays on Tuesday
Contemporary Irish Literature Night
Featuring readings from local authors: Renee Gibbons, Byddi Lee, Mary Jo McConahay, Ethel Rohan and Eddie Stack

3-18
WEDNESDAY
7:30PM
WORD WEEK: Pop-Up Book Club
Join us to discuss *The Department of Speculation* by Jenny Offill. "Shimmering... Breathtaking... Joyously demanding."
—*The New York Times Book Review*

3-20
FRIDAY
6PM
WORD WEEK: Jordan Jacobs
Every 3rd Friday of the month means it is time for pizza and bookish things with readers ages 8-12 at Folio Books! This month we will be hosting Jordan Jacobs, author of the *Samantha Sutton* series. RSVP REQUIRED: tiny.cc/springworms

3-21
SATURDAY
11AM
WORD WEEK: Deborah Kelson
Peanut Butter or Jelly Party
Deborah will read her book, conduct a real-time voting session, and lead an art project for kids to create their own Peanut Butter and Jelly characters to take home.

3-22
SUNDAY
3PM
Shelia Grau Launch Party
Dr. Critchlore's School for Minions
Welcome to Dr. Critchlore's School for Minions, the premier trainer of minions for Evil Overlords everywhere.

3-23
MONDAY
7PM
Odd Mondays: Gerald Heather
Political Round-up: Looking Forward and Looking Backward
A talk on the current political landscape

WRITE NOW WORKSHOPS

at 7pm
3/3 & 4/7

For details email:
dallemolle.kathy@gmail.com

STORYTIME

at 10am
Every Wednesday

For a full description of all our upcoming events visit: foliosf.com/events



UPCOMING EVENTS AT OMNIVORE BOOKS

SUN
MAR
15

TERI LYN FISHER & JENNY PARK • THE PERFECT EGG: A FRESH TAKE ON RECIPES FOR MORNING, NOON, AND NIGHT • 3:00-4:00 P.M. FREE • Every culture has its own take on eggs—for breakfast, lunch, and dinner—and *The Perfect Egg* features a dazzling, delicious variety of globally influenced dishes. From Blackberry Stuffed Croissant French Toast to Hot and Sour Soup, and from Poached Yolk-Stuffed Ravioli to Creamy Lemon Curd Tart, the more than seventy recipes in *The Perfect Egg* offer a fresh, unique, and modern take on the most humble of foods.

THU
MAR
19

OFF-SITE EVENT! COCKTAIL PARTY (WITH FOOD) AT BAR AGRICOLE FOR THE AUTHORS OF DEATH & CO: MODERN CLASSIC COCKTAILS! \$50 • 6:00-9:00 P.M. • Both New York's *Death & Co.* and San Francisco's Bar Agricole are famed for their inventive cocktails. On March 19, Bar Agricole will pay homage to *Death & Co.* by creating several specialty cocktails from their book - and the authors will be there to sign copies (and we will happily sell them to you!). Enjoy cocktails and small plates at Bar Agricole, 355-11th St., San Francisco. To purchase tickets - www.eventbrite.com/e/death-co-book-party-tickets-15842912578

SAT
MAR
21

JACK BISHOP • THE COMPLETE VEGETARIAN COOKBOOK 3:00-4:00 P.M. FREE • Whether you're a committed vegetarian or simply want to eat more vegetables and grains, this collection of re-imagined, meatless comfort food and all-new recipes inspired by ethnic cuisines will help you cook and eat well. Of the 709 total recipes, 300 are fast (start to finish in 45 minutes or less), 500 are gluten-free, and 250 are vegan. **PLEASE NOTE: Jack will sign copies of his new book purchased at Omnivore.**

WED
MAR
25

LEAH KOENIG • MODERN JEWISH COOKING: RECIPES & CUSTOMS FOR TODAY'S KITCHEN • 6:30-7:30 P.M. FREE From a leading voice of the new generation of young Jewish cooks who are reworking the food of their forebears, this take on the cuisine of the diaspora pays homage to tradition while reflecting the values of the modern-day food movement. Author Leah Koenig shares 175 recipes showcasing handmade, seasonal, vegetable-forward dishes.

SAT
APR
4

MICHAEL DIETSCH • SHRUBS: AN OLD FASHIONED DRINK FOR MODERN TIMES • 3:00-4:00 P.M. FREE • The history of shrubs, as revealed here, is as fascinating as the drinks are refreshing. These sharp and tangy infusions are simple to make and use, as you'll discover with these recipes. Mix up some Red Currant Shrub for a Vermouth Cassis, or Apple Cinnamon Shrub to mix with seltzer, or develop your own with Michael Dietsch's directions and step-by-step photographs.

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It's Spring at Upper Noe Rec Center

Here's the latest dispatch from the park's newsletter: Painters recently refurbished the bleachers at the ball field and refinished the heavily used exterior walls around the basketball court. They went the extra mile to chip away layers of loose paint and hand-prime the surface so that it would withstand the punishment of high-impact activities such as baseball pitching and tennis practice.

Meanwhile, gardeners completely renovated the struggling garden in the north-east corner along Day Street. They pulled a huge mound of weedy pampas grass, along with the unhealthy ground cover. They then planted a mix of California natives and succulents in a bed of fresh bark mulch. (To help the plantings thrive, join Ladybug Gardeners on Saturday, March 14, 9 a.m. to noon.)

In late March, park workers will undertake a project to refinish all of the interior wood floors. The downside is that, for health reasons, **the rec center must close from March 23 to April 4**, until the vapors fully dissipate. The exterior will remain open, and all scheduled activities will proceed without interruption.

On-site registration for Spring Session classes begins on Saturday, March 7, at 10 a.m., at the center, 295 Day St. Signups for **Day Camp** start on March 21 (see <http://sfrecpark.org/recreation-community-services/find-a-class/>). For a catalog of all Rec and Park offerings, go to www.sfreconline.org. Remember, most activities at Upper Noe are open to drop-in guests for a small fee. And some—volleyball, women's futsal, zumba, tango, open gym, and Saturday yoga—are free.

Friends of Upper Noe Dog Owners Group (**FUNDOG**) recently presented a proposal to Rec and Park to install a new gate in the middle of Joby's Dog Run. See the full proposal at <http://fundogsf.org/news.html>. The run, along the north and east sides of the park, is open 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., daily.

For more news about Upper Noe Rec Center, visit Friends of Noe Valley Recreation Center at www.noevalleyreccenter.com, or call the center at 415-970-8061.

UPPER NOE REC CENTER SPRING CLASSES

MONDAY (Center closed; outside activities only.)	
Tennis (7-12 yrs)	Mon., 3:30-4:30 p.m.
TUESDAY (Center open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.)	
I...2...3...Ready (10 mos-3 yrs)	Tues., 10-11:30 a.m.
Rec 'n' Tot Soccer (3-5 yrs)	Tues., 10-11 a.m.
Petite Bakers (3-6 yrs)	Tues., 10:15-11:15 a.m.
Movin' & Groovin' (2-4 yrs)	Tues., 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Open Gym	Tues., noon-3 p.m.; 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Auditorium Free Play	Tues., 1-3:30 p.m.
QuickStart Tennis (8-13 yrs)	Tues., 3:30-4:30 p.m.
Soccer (5-8 yrs.)	Tues., 3:30-4:30 p.m.
Combat Athletics, Int. (8-16 yrs)	Tues., 4-5:30 p.m.
Soccer (9-12 yrs.)	Tues. 5:30-6:30 p.m.
Tennis (adult intermediate)	Tues., 6-7 p.m.
Yoga - Vinyasa (18+)	Tues., 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Adult Boot Camp (18+)	Tues., 7:45-8:45 p.m.
WEDNESDAY (Center open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.)	
Baby and Me (1-3 yrs)	Wed., 9:30-10:30 a.m.
Pilates (18+)	Wed., 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Open Gym	Wed., noon-2:30 p.m.
Auditorium Free Play	Wed., 1-2:30 p.m.
Karate Kidz: Little Kickers (4-5 yrs)	Wed., 3:15-4:15 p.m.
Karate Kidz: Little Kickers (4-5 yrs)	Wed., 4:30-5:30 p.m.
Karate Kidz: Little Kickers (5-6 yrs)	Wed., 5:30-6:30 p.m.
Tennis (adult beginner/intermediate)	Wed., 6:30-8 p.m.
Home Cooking 101 (18+)	Wed., 6:30-8 p.m.
Drop-in Volleyball (18+; free)	Wed., 6:30-8:30 p.m.
THURSDAY (Center open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.)	
I...2...3...Ready (10 mos-3 yrs)	Thurs., 10-11:30 a.m.
Tots Movin' & Groovin' (2-4 yrs)	Thurs., 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Open Gym	Thurs., noon-5 p.m., 6:15-8:30 p.m.
Senior Argentine Tango, beginner (free)	Thurs., 1-4 p.m.
Mini-Players Acting (5-6 yrs)	Thurs., 4:30-5:30 p.m.
Zumba (family; free)	Thurs., 5:30-6:30 p.m.
Yoga - Hatha gentle (18+)	Thurs., 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Core Stability and Balance (18+)	Thurs., 7:45-8:45 p.m.
FRIDAY (Center open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.)	
Baby and Me (1-3 yrs)	Fri., 9:30-10:30 a.m.
Pilates (adult)	Fri., 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Open Gym	Fri., noon-6 p.m.
Auditorium Free Play	Fri., 1-3 p.m.
So You Think You Can Act (7-11 yrs)	Fri., 3:30-4:30 p.m.
Combat Athletics (8-16 yrs)	Fri., 4:30-6 p.m.
Skateboarding: Shred 'n' Butter (6-13 yrs)	Fri., 4:30-6 p.m.
Future Chefs (9-13 yrs)	Fri., 6:30-8 p.m.
Drop-in Women's Futsal (18+; free)	Fri., 6:30-8:30 p.m.
SATURDAY (Center open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.)	
Yoga - Vinyasa (18+; free)	Sat., 9:15-10:15 a.m.
Rec 'n' Tot Soccer (3-4 yrs)	Sat., 10-11 a.m.
Zumba (family; free)	Sat., 10:30-11:30 a.m.
Auditorium Free Play	Sat., noon-4:30 p.m. (time varies)
QuickStart Tennis (7-9 yrs)	Sat., 1-2 p.m.
SUNDAY (Center closed; outside activities only.)	
Tennis (8-11 yrs)	Sun., noon-1 p.m.



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and now for the
RUMORS
behind the news

Marching Down 24th Street

By Mazook

WALKIN' AND TALKIN': We start this month's ramble in mid-January at the top of Downtown Noe Valley, at 24th and Douglass. We stroll in to Philz and are surprised to see that the old couches, tables, and wooden chairs in the coffeteria have been replaced by nouveau patio furniture and now there's a well-defined line for Philz' pholks to stand in before they place their order.

Philz' manager, Max Wecter, says they wanted to spruce up the décor, and brought in an interior designer to help with "the aesthetics and improve the flow of the line." The funky couches were replaced by metal-frame chairs and fewer and smaller tables, as well as "a console to more clearly define the ordering line."

Wecter says they also put in a suggestion box for customer input on the changes, "and we have been collecting the feedback and have had a lot of responses, with many comments telling us that it was not cozy and comfortable, so we have been making changes over the last month."

So, all you regulars can expect another couch or two, along with bigger tables, but "the status of the metal chairs is currently up in the air." He encourages customers to keep submitting their suggestions, indicating that "this is an ongoing process because we want to do the best

for our customers."



STROLLING EAST on 24th to Diamond, we see that nothing has happened at the commercial space on the corner at 800 Diamond St. It's been vacant for almost five years. Originally the rumor was that it would be a place for children's activities, and shelving with cubicles appeared, but then nothing more. While notices have occasionally appeared on the window for contractor's work and the glass partially papered over, the only inside activity has been that the shelving was moved from one side of the storefront to the other. A couple of months ago, a hole was dug in the floor by the front door. The hole is still there.

Walking past Cliché Noe at 4175 24th, we see that the house next door is very, very vacant. Rumors are that the 1880s single-family dwelling has been sold to a developer who plans to demolish it and build several residential units, and probably a commercial unit on the ground floor.

Moving on down the street, we learn that Skyline Designs, a retail store selling furniture and home accessories, is closing after little more than a year at 4159B 24th (see *Rumors*, September 2013). The "Be Back at 11" sign on the front door will be removed, the front windows papered over, and new occupants will move in after a new floor is installed.

That floor will accommodate the clients of Yoga Mayu, which will be opening a Noe Valley branch for their popular Vinyasa yoga studio in the Mission (16th and Harrison).

"We have been looking for a space in Noe Valley on and off for several years," says owner and head teacher Gizella Donald, "but feel very lucky to have found a space where we will feel very comfortable." She says they have many students

who live in Noe Valley and hope to expand their clientele even further. Now they are primarily teaching students and "techies," mostly in the 25 to 35 age range.

"Also, we are pretty well known in the city, our teachers are quite popular with our students, and we are strictly yoga; other studios focus on other things, like exercise and Pilates."

They expect to get the keys by mid-March "and open, hopefully, by the beginning of April, to give us time to replace the current flooring with a yoga floor of much softer material."

Finally, for those going postal, it was a welcome relief when the UPS store at 4104 24th reopened last month, especially for the mailbox holders. There are vacancies because more boxes have been installed.



AT CASTRO WE TAKE A DETOUR and update the updates on Video Wave, which for 30 years has been at 1431 Castro near Jersey. After convening two well-attended meetings in January and another last month to discuss the future of the shop, Video Wave's Gwen Sanderson says she is very encouraged. "We have actually formed a steering committee of some very knowledgeable people, who have the skills to help out.

"Again," says Sanderson, "I want to make it clear that we are not closing and have no intention of closing, although our lease is up in July and we have the effects of that ADA legal action to deal with, as well as the need for space for our 21,000-piece library collection—and create an online catalog for movie browsing and reservations, and contingency plans for relocating in the neighborhood."

If you have any ideas, want to become involved in Video Wave's preservation, or just want to make sure you are on the

email list, contact Sanderson at Videowavesf@earthlink.net. Remember, it's the closest thing we have to a movie theater in this neighborhood—and the popcorn is always free.



AMBLING BACK TO MAIN STREET, we walk down to our beloved Radio Shack (now RadioShack), the oldest chain store in the neighborhood, at 4049 24th St. since 1982. In that same 24th Street spot, some might remember, Abraham and Greta Kass opened a five-and-dime store called Meyer's Variety back in 1960.

The Shack had to close abruptly on Sept. 10, 2011, when a fire in a flat upstairs caused smoke and electrical damage to the storefront. Reconstruction began in November and out of the ashes came a state-of-the-art prototype for future Radio Shacks around the country. It reopened the summer of 2012.

However, at or about that same time, Radio Shack wizards realized they had fallen seriously behind the times and had to substantially alter their retail strategy.

Too little, too late, and it was no surprise to some that RadioShack filed for bankruptcy on the first of February this year. There were mass store closings throughout the U.S., with only select stores allowed to remain open while RadioShack reorganized its affairs.

According to a smiling Chuck Weyand, manager of Noe Valley's store, "we are one of the eight stores left in San Francisco, and six stores have closed. And all eight are the new concept stores, with a good quality assortment of products, and with good performance."

Weyand says no one can guarantee the future, but the rumor is that Sprint will take over many of the locations, primarily those along the east and west coasts.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 34

CHARLES SPIEGEL
ATTORNEY & MEDIATOR

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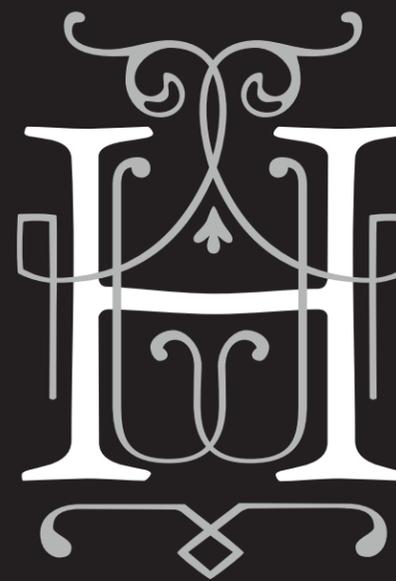
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RUMORS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 33

"This store has performed very well with what we are selling now, and fits this demographic perfectly and is one Sprint would bid for, but we will just have to wait to see what happens in the bankruptcy court."

The busiest department in the store, by the way, is the "Fix-it" technician in the front window who repairs handheld devices, most often those with broken screens or battery problems.



JAYWALKING ACROSS THE STREET: A hearing at the San Francisco Planning Department was set for the end of February, regarding the plans for what will replace the space that used to be Bliss Bar. An early morning fire on Feb. 3, 2013, gutted the bar and caused other damage to the building at 4026 24th St.

The hearing now has been postponed to March 19 at or after 1 p.m. at the Planning Commission. The project architect, Ross Levy, says the owners needed a short delay to amplify their plans, which were to extend the build in the back and create a restaurant (and bar) in the space. He says the owners used to operate a Thai Restaurant and the eatery fare "will be Asian-inspired noodle dishes with vegetables." The plan is to stay open for late-night dinner service, otherwise not available on 24th Street.

Levy doesn't foresee any problems and anticipates that construction will start sometime this spring and take about a year to complete.



HIKING DOWN THE BLOCK: Foodie

blogs, Facebook, and everyone else in the neighborhood has their eyes on the opening of NōVY, the new restaurant at the northwest corner of Noe and 24th.

As most of you know, the family who originally opened Panos' Restaurant at that location—4000 24th St.—has put together a new culinary concept. On their new website, novysf.com, they tell us their history:

"In 1977, John Gianaras purchased the L&F Corner Market and turned it into a casual dining restaurant named Panos' (after his father). In 1988, newlyweds John and Vi expanded and remodeled the space into a fine-dining California-Greek restaurant. They operated the ever-popular Panos' for a total of 20 years. Flash-forward 17 years...the Gianaras family has reclaimed the space, with daughters Kristen and Kathryn running the show. NOVY, our nickname for Noe Valley, is again a family-owned, neighborhood restaurant... Our Cali cuisine is fresh, local and organic whenever possible, with a splash of Mediterranean flavors to honor our Greek roots."

"We have been having a great time putting this all together," says Kristen Gianaras, "and are excited to open our doors to the neighborhood."

The grand opening is scheduled for March 10, with "soft opening" events planned for friends and family on March 7 (dinner) and March 8 (brunch). The following day, March 9, they've planned a lunch seating for their Noe Valley merchant friends.



MEANDERING TOWARD SANCHEZ: The Noe Valley Book Exchange, located in two of the now-obsolete newspaper racks in front of Whole Foods, is becoming very popular.

As reported in the *Voice* last month, Elizabeth Street resident Beatrice Von

Schulthess has started a free book exchange (with help from Folio Books across the street). One of the boxes is filled with children's books and the other with grownup books, on a give-a-book/take-a-book system.

"We have really gotten a lot of interest in it," says Von Schulthess, "and I am putting in about 40 books a week, and have to store some at my house."

She says she is very gratified by the neighborhood's response. "A teacher from Rooftop School called me about having her class design some signs to post on the outside of our two boxes, and another person has offered to help maintain the books, and now the Department of Public Works tells me they are going to make our neighborhood book exchange the model for a city-wide program as a way to use these abandoned newspaper stands in other neighborhoods."

If you turn around at the Book Exchange and look across the street, you will see the old Real Food storefront unchanged, basically, for more than 10 years. After the January public meeting, apparently it was back to the drawing board to work out a plan for the commercial and residential design of that spot. No word as to whether there will be a second community meeting.



SAUNTERING ON: The neighborhood said goodbye and best wishes to Pamela Wiston-Charbonneau, who is moving her custom jewelry and accessories shop, Successories in the Button Box, from 3904 24th to a new location in Pacifica's Rockaway Beach Plaza (450 Dondee). "I will miss Noe Valley, but am very excited that I have found a new location, and all my customers are invited down, and for many, to stroll the baby by the beach."

The building that housed Successories and the adjacent store, most recently Tug-

Tug children's clothing store (which also packed up and moved down to 1003 Guerrero, at 22nd, after Christmas), is soon to be demolished and replaced with a residential and commercial building adjacent and annexed to St. Clair's Liquors.

The applications have been pending for around a year, and the family confirms that they have heard nothing from City Planning. At this time, they have no plans to rent either store space. Both would be ideal locations for pop-up stores, just for a short time, or for a longer time, as the case may be. Just sayin'.



CROSSING THE J-CHURCH LINE: Yes, we have finally reached the corner of 24th and Church Street. And we suppose you have too, and are gleeful, joyful, and glad to see that Happy Donuts has reopened with a partially remodeled interior.

The shop closed and the windows were papered over in December. A sign went up that the donut emporium was closed for remodeling, and that it would reopen on Jan. 26. When that date came and went without donuts, the buzz on Main Street was that our only 24-hour eating establishment would close indefinitely. OMG!

But by now you know the kitchen has been reduced in size, counters have been replaced, and an ADA-compliant bathroom has been built. And hopefully, little else of the classic all-night décor has been changed.



THAT'S 30, boys and girls. March madness will invade Downtown Noe Valley this month, highlighted by St. Patrick's Day on March 17. Next month, be prepared for a quiz, with first prize being a glazed donut from Happy Donuts, second prize a donut hole, and third prize a cup of Happy coffee, or if you wish, its cash equivalent. Ciao for now.

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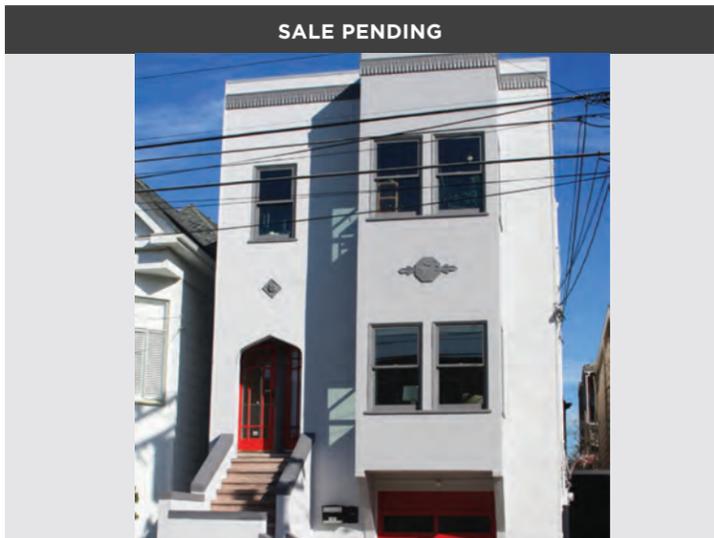
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Visit www.JessicaBranson.com to view more properties sold by Jessica, SF sales stats, and get her insider's take on the market.

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Sam's Got Good News!

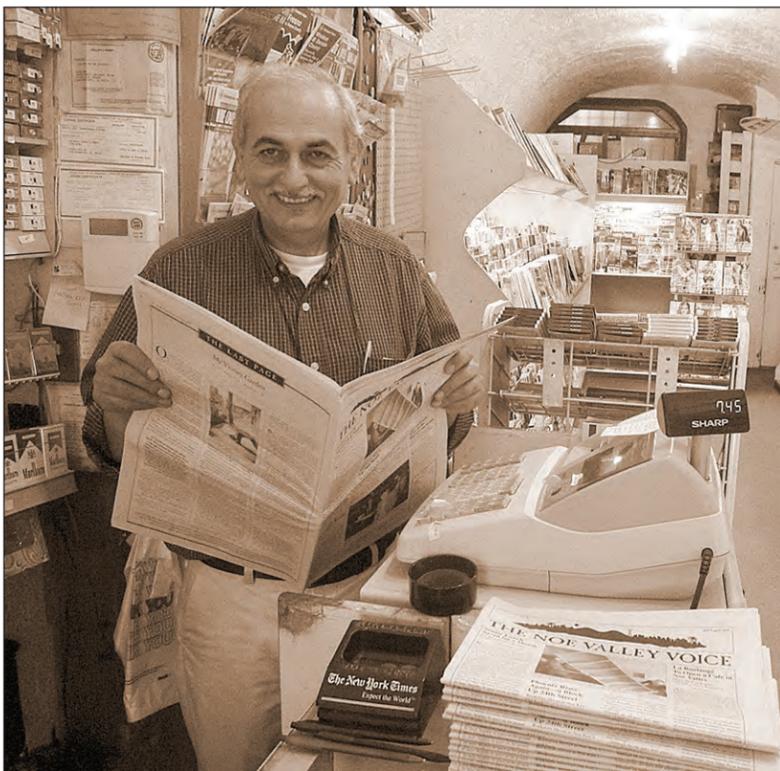


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MORE GROUPS TO JOIN

Al-Anon Noe Valley

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

Castro Area Planning + Action

Contact: 621-0120
 Email: info@capasf.org
 Meetings: Second Thursday, Eureka Valley Rec Center, 100 Collingwood St., 7:30 p.m.

Castro/Eureka Valley Neighborhood Association

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

Castro Farmers' Market

Wednesdays, 4 to 8 p.m. (March through December), Noe Street at Market Street
 Contact: Steve Adams, 431-2359
 Sponsor: Merchants of Upper Market & Castro; www.CastroMerchants.com

Diamond Heights Community Association

Contact: Betsy Eddy, 867-5774
 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 31529, San Francisco, CA 94131
 Website: www.dhcasf.org
 Meetings: First Thursday, 7:30 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: Pat Lockhart, 282-9360; Diane McCarney, 824-0303; or Deanna Mooney, 821-4045
 Mailing Address: 560 Duncan St., San Francisco, CA 94131
 Meetings: Call for details.

Fairmount Heights Neighborhood Association

Contact: Gregg Brooks
 Email: sflyric@yahoo.com
 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 31059, San Francisco, CA 94131
 Meetings: Email for details.

Fair Oaks Neighbors

Email: hello@fairoaksneighbors.org
 Mailing Address: 200 Fair Oaks St., San Francisco, CA 94110
 The annual street fair is 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: www.friendsofdolorespark.org
 Meetings: See website.

Friends of Glen Canyon Park

Contact: Richard Craib, 648-0862
 Mailing Address: 140 Turquoise Way, San Francisco, CA 94131
 Meetings: Call for details.

Friends of Noe Courts Playground

Contact: Laura Norman
 Email: lauranor@yahoo.com
 Mailing Address: c/o Friends of Noe Valley, P.O. Box 460953, San Francisco, CA 94146
 Meetings: Email for dates and times.

Friends of Noe Valley (FNV)

Contact: Todd David, 401-0625
 Email: info@friendsofnoevalley.com
 Website: www.friendsofnoevalley.com
 Meetings: Two or three annually; held at St. Philip's Church or James Lick School

Friends of On Lok's 30th Street Senior Center

Contact: Marianne Hampton, 601-7845
 Mailing Address: 225 30th St., San Francisco, CA 94131
 Meetings: Occasional. Call for details.

Friends of Noe Valley Recreation Center and Park

Contact: Alexandra Torre, Kate Haug, or Molly Sterkel
 Email: info@noevalleyreccenter.com
 Website: www.noevalleyreccenter.com
 Meetings: Email or check website.

Juri Commoners

Contact: Dave Schweisguth, M17-6290
 Email: dave@schweisguth.org
 Website: www.meetup.com/Juri-Commoners
 Meetings: Most last Saturdays, 9-noon. Check website.

Liberty Hill Neighborhood Association

Contact: John Barbey, 695-0990
 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 192114, San Francisco, CA 94119
 Meetings: Quarterly. Call for details.

Merchants of Upper Market and Castro

Contact: 835-8720
 Email: info@castromerchants.com
 Mailing address: 584 Castro St. #333, San Francisco, CA 94114
 Meetings: Call for details.

Noe Valley Association—24th Street Community Benefit District

Contact: Debra Niemann, 519-0093
 Dispatch: To report spills, debris, or garbage on 24th Street, call Ron Vanini, 596-7089.
 Email: info@noevalleyassociation.org
 Website: www.noevalleyassociation.org
 Board meetings: Quarterly. See website.

Noe Valley Democratic Club

Contact: Hunter Stern, 282-9042; hls5@ibew1245.com
 Website: noevalleydems.com
 Meetings: Third Wednesdays, St. Philip's Church, 725 Diamond St., 7:30 p.m. Call to confirm meeting dates.

Noe Valley Farmers Market

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

Noe Valley Library Campaign

Contacts: Kim Drew, 643-4695, kkdrew@yahoo.com
 Friends of the San Francisco Public Library, 626-7500, info@friendssfpl.org

Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association (NVMPA)

Contact: Robert Roddick, 641-8687
 Meetings: Last Wednesdays of January, February, March, April, July, October, and November, at Bank of America, second floor, 9 a.m. Breakfast meetings May and September at Noe's Nest, 10 a.m.
 Website: www.NoeValleyMerchants.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
<http://www.sf-fire.org/index.aspx?page=879>
 Meetings: See website for training schedules.

Noe Valley Parent Network

An e-mail resource network for parents
 Contact: Mina Kenvin
 Email: minaken@gmail.com

Noe Valley Parents, San Francisco

Listserv contact: noevalleyparent-owner@yahoogroups.com. Subscribe: noevalleyparentssubscribe@yahoogroups.com

Outer Noe Valley Merchants

Contact: Jim Appenrodt, 641-1500
 Mailing Address: 294 29th St., San Francisco, CA 94131
 Meetings: Call for details.

Residents for Noe Valley Town Square

Contact: Todd David, 401-0625
 Email: noevalleytownsquare@gmail.com
 Website: www.noevalleytownsquare.com
 Meetings: Call for details.

San Jose/Guerrero Coalition to Save Our Streets

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

SafeCleanGreen Mission Dolores

Contact: Gideon Kramer, 861-2480
 Email: safecleangreen@bigfoot.com
 Website: www.safecleangreen.com

Upper Noe Neighbors

Contact: Vicki Rosen, 285-0473
 Email: president@uppernoeneighbors.com
 Meetings: Quarterly. Upper Noe Recreation Center, 295 Day St., 7:30 p.m.

MUNI TRACKWAY IMPROVEMENTS

Twin Peaks Tunnel Community Meeting

Please join us to discuss the Twin Peaks Tunnel Trackway Improvements project on Thursday, March 26 at 6 p.m. The meeting will take place in the Castro Community Meeting Room at 501 Castro Street (at 18th street, above Bank of America).

The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) will provide further information and address your questions and concerns at the meeting.

For more information and updates in the meantime, please visit www.sfmta.com/twinpeaks.

Summary:

SFMTA, which operates Muni, is replacing the light rail tracks along the entirety of the Twin Peaks Tunnel in an effort to keep the Muni system in a state of good repair, allowing trains to move faster through the tunnel and improve travel times. Additional work to the tunnel's infrastructure will take place at the same time as the track replacement.

The tunnel connects Castro Station to West Portal Station and carries a number of the light rail lines, including the K, L and M.

For Muni route, schedule, fare and accessible services information anytime: Visit www.sfmta.com or contact 311

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Jeff Salgado 415.296.2188



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