



Eureka!

News for Eureka Valley, Upper Market, Castro, Duboce & Twin Peaks. Published by the **Eureka Valley Promotion Association**
Serving the neighborhood since 1881.

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www.EVPA.org

www.PinkTrianglePark.org

Castro's 2007 Safe Halloween by Gustavo Serina

Thanks to the leadership of District 8 Supervisor Bevan Dufty, Mayor Gavin Newsom, and many city agencies, including the Police, Sheriff, Fire, Traffic and Parking, and Public Works Departments, this year's Halloween was safe and uneventful. For several years, EVPA and other organizations have advocated for an end to the officially sponsored Halloween "celebration," because it has grown too big for our neighborhood and because it has attracted troublemakers to the Castro area. Last year, nine people were shot. Fortunately, all survived. A few years ago, someone was stabbed.

EVPA recognizes that ending the event had an adverse impact on many merchants in the area. We hope that members will support those businesses who voluntarily closed down Halloween night to help them recoup their lost revenues.

Supervisor Dufty has already announced that Halloween 2008 will have to be different. It falls on a Friday night and he, understandably, will not ask businesses in the neighborhood to close early again. He will be introducing legislation, supported by the Mayor, to create a new position to coordinate major events in San Francisco. Responsibilities will include finding a suitable venue for Halloween and arranging for entertainment to draw visitors and minimize any negative impact on the Castro.

Dufty's leadership regarding Halloween 2007 reflects his understanding of what the vast majority of Castro residents want. Our primary concern has long been one of public safety. Dufty's few critics, some of whom don't live in our neighborhood, have received a disproportionate amount of attention from the media. Most EVPA members know these critics do not represent our views.

Planning for next year's Halloween will begin soon and EVPA will be involved in it. Some people want full "community" participation in the planning process, which is fine. However, "community" is a vague term, while "neighborhood" is quite clear. Whatever the Castro may mean to others, it is above all else a residential neighborhood. When it comes to Halloween, people who live in

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Upcoming EVPA Elections- The Chance to Vote for Your Leadership Team

At the November EVPA meeting, we will be voting for next year's EVPA Leadership team. Here are the candidates currently scheduled to run:

President: Steve Clark Hall

Treasurer: Joe Caruso

Secretary: Scott Weiner

At Large Board Members (up to three):

- Mike Babbitt (incumbent)
- Demian Quesnel (Incumbent)
- Gustavo Serina (Incumbent) (Newsletter editing and mailing)
- David Weiss (Incumbent)
- Judy Hoyem
- Alan Beach-Nelson

Immediate Past President: Frank Weiss

Nominations will be accepted from the floor at our November 15th meeting; please attend.

Planning Department Enforcement Priorities by Steve Clark Hall

The SF Planning Department is seeking the views of the EVPA on our priorities for enforcement of the SF Planning Code. The Planning Department is attempting to prioritize individual neighborhood enforcement concerns. With our input, the Planning Department will tailor their regulatory tools, field activities and educational outreach to our locally identified code violation issues.

Here is the opportunity may of you have been awaiting - at the next EVPA general membership meeting, we will survey the attendees to attain the EVPA's overall priorities. Please come to the meeting with your "top three"

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Upper Market Workshop Series and Design Plan by Steve Clark Hall

The second of three neighborhood workshop series was held on Saturday, 27 October. In this second meeting, the facilitator (MIG - an urban planning design consulting firm) returned with the composite ideas and concerns expressed at the first meeting in September, when community members and workshop participants expressed their desires, wants and concerns to create a common vision for the Upper Market corridor.

The third in the series of these workshops is scheduled for Monday, 10 December, 6 PM to 9 PM at the Harvey Milk School - 4235 19th Street at Collingwood Street. Workshop #3 is intended as a focused charrette on applying the urban design framework developed in previous workshops to key sites within the project area. Everyone is invited to participate in these important neighborhood planning sessions.

For more information, visit
<http://uppermarket.sfplanning.org>.



EVPA Planning committee member Gary Weiss presents the results of his charette group to the workshop attendees.

Donations for Pink Triangle Park and Memorial Received by Gustavo Serina

Long time EVPA member Diane Nutting recently raised \$240 for the Pink Triangle Park and Memorial by holding a fundraiser with Magnet, the men's health clinic on 18th Street near Castro Street. Many thanks, Diane, for ceaseless work on behalf of the PTP&M and to Steve Gipson of Magnet.

Chris Hastings, the owner of The Lookout (the old Metro at the intersections of Market, 16th Street, and Noe Street) donated \$100 to EVPA for the PTP&M. Thank you, Chris, for joining EVPA. The Lookout will specialize in pizzas. Welcome to the neighborhood!

Should Project Sponsors be Better at Neighborhood Outreach? by Steve Clark Hall

Should Variances and CU's have the same requirement for "Neighborhood Outreach" as do 311's? The EVPA Planning Committee believes so. Join in on the discussion at the 15 November EVPA General Membership meeting.

Do you know the differences between the mailings you receive from the Planning Department and the Department of Building Inspection regarding projects near your home or business? There are three different types of notices that are mailed to nearby neighbors:

311 Notices (referring to section 311 of the SF Planning Code). These are sent to property owners within 150 feet of a proposed residential project that will result in a change of size or significant change of appearance of a building. Recipients of these notices have 30 days to respond to the proposed project. But even before the mailing, to help minimize the number of "Discretionary Reviews" filed against residential projects, the Planning Commission requires that project sponsors conduct "neighborhood outreach meetings" with the neighbors adjacent to, across the street and behind the subject property prior to issuing the 311 notice.

"Variances" and "Conditional Use" Notices. A "Variance" is the granting of permission to allow something that is not allowed in the Planning Code. A "Conditional Use" (CU) is the granting of permission to provide an extra layer of review to ensure the proposed use is in harmony with the specific location. Variances and CU's have noticing requirements different from 311's. The project site must be "posted" and mailers are sent to property owners (not tenants) within 300 feet ten days prior to the hearing date. Subtract postal delivery time, weekends and potential holidays, and the window for notice can be as small as four days, but what if you are away from home on business or vacation?

Smart project sponsors requiring Variance or CU already do reach out to the neighborhood prior to the notification of the public hearings. Getting neighborhood support will help ensure their project gets an easy and swift approval by the Zoning Administrator or Planning Commission. But some project sponsors do no outreach. This makes us wonder if they do not know better, or are trying to "get one by" the neighborhood. Join the discussion at the 15 November General Membership meeting.

Safe Halloween (Continued from page 1)

the Castro are the ones whose views and concerns should be paramount. We are confident that Supervisor Dufty will continue to be our advocate for a safe Halloween.

At our November 15, 2007 General Membership meeting, a resolution will be introduced to write a letter of thanks to Supervisor Dufty and Mayor Newsom for making Halloween 2007 the safest the Castro has had in many, many years. Please come to the meeting to make your views heard.



Market Street traffic flowed unhindered from Church Street all the way through Castro Street.



Officers of the SFPD covered every nook and corner of the Castro to ensure safety. In addition to quelling public intoxication, they managed pedestrian crossings at all the main intersections.



Some businesses, uncertain about whether this year's Halloween would be better or worse than last year's, boarded up as a precaution.

(More pictures on page 4)

Planning Dept. (Continued from page 1)

priorities of the following areas for Planning Code enforcement:

1. Unauthorized alteration of historic structures
2. Failure to provide bicycle parking
3. Failure to provide required neighborhood notice
4. Formula Retail without Department review
5. Illegal auto repair in residential district
6. Other illegal commercial or industrial uses
7. Illegal removal of required parking
8. Paving of front yard setback in residential districts
9. Illegal dwelling unit(s)
10. Unauthorized removal of dwelling units
11. Illegal business sign
12. Illegal general advertising (billboards)
13. Nuisances associated with commercial use (noise, dust, etc)
14. Violation of conditions of approval (conditional use, variance)

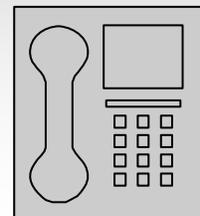
All EVPA members are strongly encouraged to take the survey as individuals before 16 November. Visit the Planning Department website at <http://sfgov.org/planning> - click on the link "Click Here to take survey" on Planning Code Enforcement Priorities. Under question 1, Please take the survey as "Resident of San Francisco" and NOT as "Representative of Neighborhood Organization in San Francisco" (the planning committee will submit the formal EVPA response after the 15 November meeting). Leave question 2 blank and enter your zip code in Question 3.

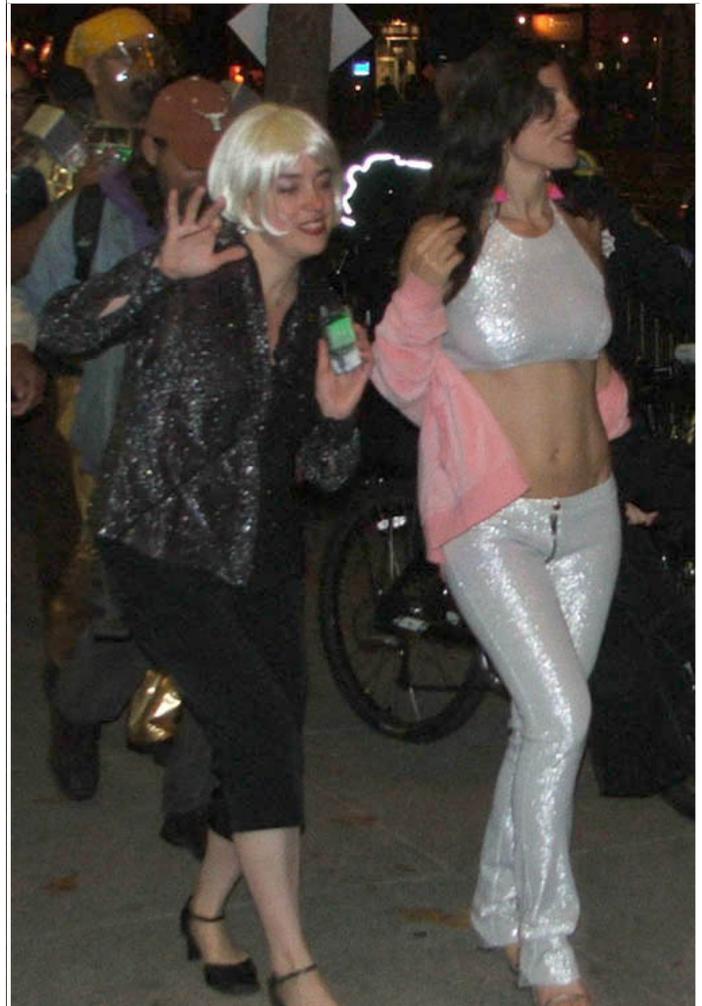
Contact EVPA Board Members

If you would like to volunteer or have questions, please feel free to contact any of the following EVPA Board Members:

Frank Weiss (President) 415-706-6597

Demian Quesnel (EVPA Board Member & Member of EVPA Planning Committee) 415-861-5084





General Membership Meeting Minutes October 2007

1. Upon Motion Made and Seconded approved September 2007 General Membership meeting minutes.
2. Upon Motion Made and Seconded authorized Planning Committee to take a position on behalf of EVPA regarding building at 376 Eureka Street.

Upcoming EVPA Meetings

EVPA meetings are back in the Eureka Valley Recreation Center Auditorium, 100 Collingwood (behind Cala Foods). See you there!

November 15
December (NO MEETING)
January 17
February 21

Photos Contributed by Frank Weiss

Clockwise from upper left:

It was such a normal night in the Castro that Walgreens, at 18th and Castro, was able to stay open for the first time in years.

Porta-potties brought in at the last minute were plentiful and largely unused.

Halloween is all about costumes, scary, clever, outrageous, or in this case, swank.

The principal tactic used to control crowds was to keep them off the streets. Here a water truck sprays the gutter to keep pedestrians off the pavement.

General Membership Meeting

Thursday, November 15, 2007
@ 7:30PM

Eureka Valley Recreation Center
100 Collingwood St.

AGENDA:

1. Introductions
2. Approval of the Minutes from October, 2007 GM meeting (Action Item)
3. Elections (Action Item)
4. Send letter of appreciation for Halloween safety efforts to city officials and businesses who participated. (Action Item)
5. Committee Reports
6. Planning Committee: Update on 376 Eureka Street
7. Planning Committee: Recommendations on Planning Dept Enforcement Priorities (Action Item)
8. Finance Committee



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Abandoned Vehicles 553-9817
DTP Dispatch 553-1200
Street Signs Missing/Damaged 554-9780
Pot Hole Repair 695-2100
Supervisor Bevan Dufty's Office 554-6968
bevan.dufty@sfgov.org
CBD Hotline 559-6968

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Frank Weiss (President) 706-6597
Demian Quesnel (At Large Board Member) 861-5084

2007 EVPA OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

President: Frank Weiss
Secretary: Gustavo Serina
Treasurer: David Weiss
At-Large Board Members: Mike Babbit, Joe Caruso, Demian Quesnel

Join EVPA by Sending Us This Completed Membership Application

Name: _____
First Last

Name: _____
First Last

Organization: _____

Address: _____ Apt. _____
City: San Francisco, CA Zip Code _____

Day Phone: (____) _____ Evening Phone: (____) _____

Email _____
Address: _____

(EVPA does not share your contact information with other groups)

My concerns for the neighborhood include _____

I am interested in working on the following issues:

City Planning/Zoning Transportation, Utilities & Neighborhood Commerce

Public Health/Safety Education/Recreation Membership & Promotion

Finance Internal Affairs Pink Triangle Park

Renewing membership. **New membership.**

I wish to receive my copy of the Eureka! Via the internet rather than by US Mail

Annual Membership dues are \$20 per calendar year for individuals, \$30 for households and \$40 for businesses or nonprofits in Castro, Upper Market, and Duboce Triangle (Eureka Valley). EVPA is a non-profit California corporation. Please return this form with your check payable to EVPA to:
EVPA, PO Box 14137, San Francisco, CA 94114-0137

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San Francisco, CA 94114-0137
Address Service Requested

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