

OCT - NOV 2023



DUBOCE TRIANGLE NEWS

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Tuesday, October 10, 2023

7:00 - 8:00 pm

PUBLIC MEETING

Harvey Milk Center for Recreational Arts

MEETING AGENDA

- **Major Infrastructure Repair Project to Begin on Noe.** Find out how to save your plants.
- **TogetherSF Presentation.** TogetherSF is a nonprofit organization with a mission to increase civic engagement and education in San Francisco. Come find out about upcoming events, education, and connection opportunities.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Friends of Duboce Park Movie Night

The Super Mario Bros Movie
Saturday Sept 30th, 6 - 9:30 pm (movie starts at 7), Duboce Park Upper Lawn.

DTNA and Bike Coalition Wiggle Fest –

Sunday Oct 22, 11 am – 2 pm.
Kids' learn-to-ride and obstacle course.
FREE BIKE REPAIR. Steiner Street between Sanchez and Waller. (see page 8)

Art Mart - First Sunday of every month, 11-5 pm., Noe and Market.

Castro Art Walk - First Friday of every month, 5-9 pm.

Friends of Duboce Park Volunteer Days
Second Saturday of every month.

Castro Farmers' Market - Wed 3-7 pm.

Note: For the latest updates on meetings and events, plus opportunities to get involved in neighborhood actions, please visit dtna.org.

Growing Up on Noe and My Awesome Public School



Knox and his family have lived on Noe Street since 2012. Knox is a second grader at McKinley Elementary School.

By Knox Moberg

Editor's Note (by Erik Honda): The Triangle is surrounded by amazing public schools. Every weekday morning during the school year the streets fill with students trooping (or sometimes biking) to McKinley Elementary at Castro and 14th, Sanchez Elementary at Noe and 17th, Everett Middle School at Church and 17th, and Mission High School at Dolores and 18th. The latter three occupy beautiful Spanish Deco buildings built in the 1930s by the Works Progress Administration (WPA), and Mission High was recently recognized for having the highest percentage of seniors who applied accepted to UC schools (91%), far higher percentage-wise than the more well-known Lowell High in the Sunset, or any private school. We at DTNA support our local public schools, believing they are the foundation of our future multiracial democracy, and we want to

celebrate the voices of our local public school students and parents. If you would like to contribute to this series, please contact us via our website at dtna.org.



The first thing I remember about growing up on Noe Street is walking to go get bagel sandwiches with my Dad. I remember having good times seeing my friends on the street, and playing with my brother - skateboarding, drawing with chalk, and biking up and down the street.

When I started kindergarten at McKinley School I found how great it was to make new friends at school that live in the neighborhood. We have a nice, funny principal who always makes everyone laugh. I like that we walk to school because it takes less time and I get to exercise my legs. I really like the artwork and murals of my school

Continues on page 8

Supporting Arts in the Castro and Moving Toward Vision Zero



Rafael Mandelman represents District 8 on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors.

Dear Duboce Triangle Neighbors,

As of September 5, the Board of Supervisors is back from our August recess! Of course, our office remained open, and we have continued to work on important community priorities during that time; nonetheless, the break from the weekly Board meetings and opportunity to plan for the fall legislative calendar was much-appreciated by your District 8 team.

CLARIFYING THE RYU INJUNCTION: For those of you who have been following the long saga of San Francisco's struggle with unsheltered homelessness, there have been important developments over the summer, specifically the implications of an injunction issued by Magistrate Judge Donna Ryu in a lawsuit brought against the City by the Coalition on Homelessness and the ACLU. The precise meaning of the injunction has been much disputed, but one troubling interpretation has been that the City could not dismantle encampments, even when the City had offered the inhabitants of those encampments alternative shelter. On September 5, the Ninth Circuit did issue a clarification, noting that indi-

viduals who had received and refused real offers of shelter should not be considered "involuntarily homeless" and thus were not within the scope of the injunction's language. The clarification will allow City staff to move ahead with encampment resolutions, to the extent the City has shelter available to offer.

Which, in my mind at least, again highlights the great need to move forward with implementation of my Place for All legislation, which would provide a safe exit from the streets for any unsheltered person willing to accept it, and allow us to move forward with consistent encampment removal citywide.

SUPPORTING ARTS IN THE CASTRO: The arts have been and will continue to be an important part of the revival of the Castro and commercial districts citywide. In July 2019, we passed legislation to make it easier to open art galleries in the Upper Market Neighborhood Commercial District. My office has also continued to work through the City's annual budget processes to appropriate funding for arts activations in public space and vacant storefronts in the Castro. I was particularly delighted to see two days of Arts activations in the Castro on September 1 and 2, as Castro residents, merchants, and visitors enjoyed the Castro Art Walk, Castro ArtMart, and Art Walk SF. It was a great weekend for the neighborhood, our merchants and our local artists.

MAKING OUR STREETS SAFER: If it seems like there isn't any traffic enforcement in San Francisco, that's because there largely isn't (not true of parking enforcement of course, but that's another story). I have held and participated in more

hearings on the topic than I care to remember during my time in office, but at the most recent one (last October), we highlighted data showing SFPD was only issuing 10 traffic citations per day in 2022, compared to 350 per day in 2014. *That is a 97% decline in traffic citations between 2014 and 2022.* Unsurprisingly, 2022 also saw the most traffic fatalities in the City since 2007. I want to thank neighbors who have been putting pressure on SFPD to increase enforcement. Captain Jack Hart from Park Station has been working to increase traffic enforcement within Duboce Triangle, but more needs to be done across the City to prevent unnecessary injuries and deaths. In May, I sent a Letter of Inquiry to the Department asking that they describe in writing the reasons for the decline in traffic enforcement over the last decade and formulate a plan to reverse it,

with a focus on those violations most likely to lead to pedestrian injury or death. We have received a response from the Department, and on September 28 we'll be digging into the substance of the Department's response at the Public Safety & Neighborhood Services Committee, in the hope that we can set some tangible benchmarks for restoring traffic enforcement, and ultimately get Vision Zero back on track.

If you have any questions, concerns, or want to sign up for time with me at our regular virtual or in-person office hours, please contact my office at Mandelman-staff@sfgov.org, or by calling (415) 554-6968. For periodic updates on my office's work, please call or email and ask to be added to our newsletter list.



The Power of Membership: Building a Stronger Duboce Triangle Community



DTNA President Frank Tizedes lives on Noe Street.

At the heart of Duboce Triangle, your DTNA membership holds the key to a vibrant, thriving community. Over the past few years, our organization has witnessed remarkable growth in both its membership and its engagement, which has been instrumental in making our neighborhood a better place for all of us to live, work, and connect.

One of the most visible examples of the impact of your membership is the ongoing revitalization of our community's sidewalk parklets on Sanchez and Noe. Since they were installed as the result of neighborhood activism in the 1970s, these charming sitting areas have served as places for neighbors to gather, share stories, and enjoy a coffee together. After 50 years, though, they have fallen into disrepair, posing safety hazards. Thanks to your support, we've collaborated with neighbors, secured funding from Supervisor Mandelman and Mayor Breed's budget, and partnered with MTA to kickstart these much-needed repairs. Unfortunately the restorations will require removal of planter boxes surrounding some trees, and following the restoration parking will no longer be allowed on the bulbouts. Please remove any plants you want to save, and thank you for your wonderful gardening work, which we hope will continue!

Another exciting development is our Tree Canopy Restoration



Excited neighbors gather at Duboce Park for our monthly neighborhood cleanup.

project. We have plans to add over 50 new trees, and an equal number of neighbors committed to caring for them, thus fostering a greener, healthier environment for everyone. Your support ensures that these trees thrive, providing shade, improving air quality, and helping to meet our carbon goals. You can make a difference by giving your local tree a gallon of water; even an older tree will be grateful.

In the spirit of community identity, we are proud to introduce our new logo, designed with the creative input of Duboce Triangle resident and neighbor Ellie Cotari. Look out for fun shirts and stickers displaying this emblem, showcasing your Duboce Triangle Pride.

Safety remains a top priority, and we continue to address concerns on Slow Noe Street and the Duboce/Steiner/Sanchez traffic areas. Collaborating with MTA and Supervisor Mandelman, we are working tirelessly to create safer conditions for all residents.

Additionally, we are excited to

announce the reopening of one of Duboce Triangle's iconic restaurants on Noe and Market (formerly Cafe Flore). The New Fisch & Flore Cafe is set to open early in 2024, and promises to be a cornerstone of our community once again.

And the good news doesn't end there. We have exciting events in the pipeline, including a Wiggle Fest on Steiner this fall and a Winter Wonderland celebration in December. These events are only possible because of your membership, your commitment to our community, and the time you invest in making Duboce Triangle a better place.

To ensure that these positive changes continue and new initiatives thrive, we need your ongoing support. Your membership is the lifeblood of our community. If you are not already a member join DTNA today, and together, we'll keep building a stronger, more vibrant Duboce Triangle for all of us to enjoy. Thank you for your dedication and involvement – it truly makes a difference!





DTNA Rebrands with Innovative and Integrative New Logo



Ellie has lived on 14th Street with her family since 2017. She is a graphic designer and a public school parent, and was the winner of the 2023 DTNA logo redesign contest. Pictured are Ellie, her daughter Pipra, and her son Huxley (on the right, in elephant PJs), all celebrating the beauty and the symmetry of the Triangle.

By Ellie Cotari

Hello! First - Thanks so much to the DTNA and the Duboce Triangle community for your vote. I had a really fun time getting a chance to design a logo for the best neighborhood in San Francisco (in my opinion)!

A little about myself - My name is Ellie and I've been a Duboce Triangle resident for nearly six years. As a long-time city dweller, I value how central the neighborhood is to everything. It connects me to all the facets of life - where I live, work and parent. I work from the comfort of my home, my daughter attends McKinley Elementary, and my son's daycare is conveniently right by Duboce Park!

I've been working as a graphic designer for almost 20 years. At present, I work as a designer for a nonprofit, and I also take on freelance work whenever I get the opportunity. Among the various design projects, I love working on logos the most - I relish the puzzle of distilling complex ideas into one single icon.

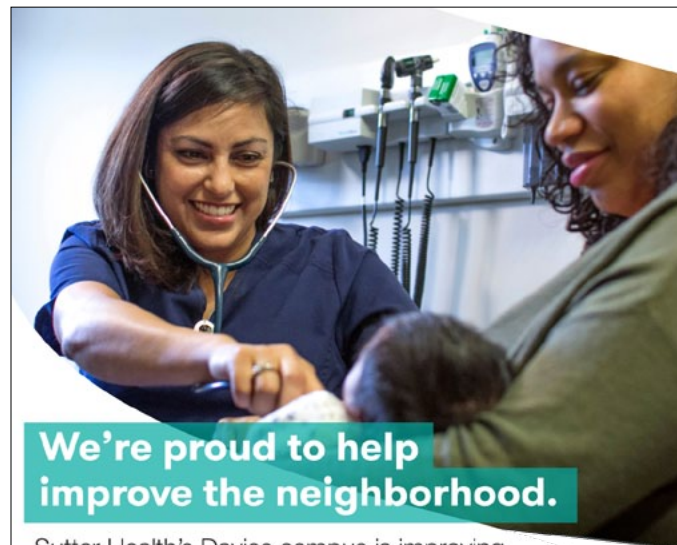
As I contemplated the design of the Duboce Triangle neighborhood logo, my goal was to capture our unique locale. Duboce Triangle is the per-

fect intersection of city amenities on Market Street, the charm of Lower Haight's restaurants and services, and the more suburban neighborhood vibe west of Castro street. These distinct elements converge to form our Triangle, (and let's not forget the residents on Waller Street!). The bold lines and the geometric shapes in the design are abstract enough to stand alone, but instantly recognizable to anyone who calls this neighborhood home. For the font, I chose something that felt modern, yet bold and elegant, to bring out the combined elements of the historic, timeless houses and the new, vibrant neighbors living within it.

When it came to the color palette, I chose green to represent our park - our community gath-

ering space - it is the place where dogs go to frolic, where neighbors set up picnics on sunny days, and where we take our kids to let their energy out on the playground. I added yellow, purple and blue as a nod to the colorful houses sprinkled throughout the neighborhood. These lively, unconventional hues reflect the unique expressions of our neighbors, all of which undoubtedly bring smiles to the passersby.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the community! Please say "hello" if you see me around the neighborhood, and also "good-bye" to my 10-month-old son, who just learned to wave and say "Bye-bye." See you in the park!



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Crosswalk Injuries Reveal Need for Immediate Changes to Pedestrian Infrastructure



By Hans Galland and Corbin Muraro, co-chairs of DTNA's Vision 2030 project. Hans lives on Divisadero Street, and Corbin lives on Waller Street.

In late August we and a group of interested neighbors took a walk with Calvin Ho, the legislative aide for Supervisor Mandelman's office who is responsible for Duboce Triangle. Unfortunately, the tour began on a somber note as a neighborhood resident in a wheelchair was struck by a car while attempting to cross the intersection of Duboce Avenue and Sanchez and Steiner Streets, underscoring the urgent need for safety improvements not only at that intersection, but throughout the neighborhood. The victim was taken to the hospital in an ambulance, but has thankfully since been released and is recovering.

As part of Vision 2030 the intersection in question had been identified by residents as the

least safe due to the congestion due to the convergence of pedestrians, bikes, MUNI trains and cars. Pedestrians heading from senior housing to Duboce Park and cyclists along the "The Wiggle" bike route are a constant presence, and sadly, despite years of advocacy from DTNA, neither the San Francisco Department of Municipal Transportation (MTA) or the Department of Public Works (DPW) have made traffic flow or infrastructure changes that would make the intersection safer. Possible upgrades include closing The Wiggle to cars, installing a traffic light with priority for Muni trains, or implementing raised crosswalks on Steiner and Sanchez Streets.

The group then moved north along The Wiggle to Waller and Steiner Street, where they

discussed possible surface enhancements on the south side of Steiner along Duboce Park, such as cobblestones, textured concrete, retractable bollards, raised crosswalks and speed bumps; a possible three-way stop at Hermann and Steiner Streets, or installation of a raised intersection at Waller and Steiner Street to reduce both vehicular and bike traffic speed.

The group also visited the intersection of 14th Street and Sanchez Street, which had been identified by neighbors as the second most dangerous intersection during Slow Triangle Community Workshops in 2022. Potential interventions to alleviate pressure there include implementing a raised crosswalk on the northern side of the intersection and explor-

ing opportunities for improving visibility, placemaking, and neighborhood greening on the bulb-outs. A UC Berkeley study facilitated by DTNA has shown that cars travel more slowly and carefully through intersections that are activated with local businesses such as cafés, flower stands and taco trucks, and that serve as social gathering spots for the neighborhood.

The Vision 2030 team concluded the walk with an urgent request for a meeting with MTA and Supervisor Mandelman's office to prioritize the study, funding, and implementation of these proposed interventions. To get involved and help us drive forward on our path toward safer streets, email the Vision 2030 team at vision2030@dtna.org. And walk safely!

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DTNA Land Use Committee Has Been Busy



Former DTNA President and Planning Commissioner Dennis Richards is the chair of the DTNA Land Use Committee. He lives with his husband on Beaver Street.

By Dennis Richards

This summer the DTNA Land Use committee has been busy crafting input for the San Francisco Planning Department and Supervisor Mandelman's office in anticipation of the upcoming

rezoning of not only Duboce Triangle, but of most of the city west of Twin Peaks. We will vet that input with the wider membership at a special General Meeting on Tuesday September 26. We hope to see everyone who cares about these issues show up for this last chance to provide input that will shape the Triangle for years to come.

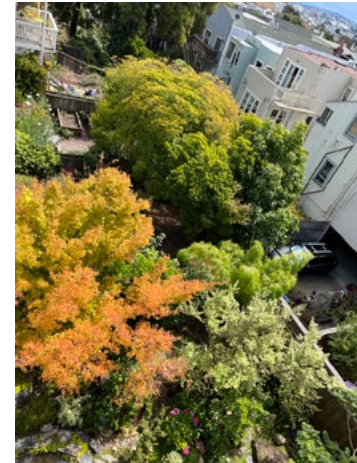
As mentioned in our previous newsletter, committee members have completed a walk-around of part of the Triangle from Church Street to 15th and Noe, to get a sense of what makes our neighborhood so livable and where we hope to steer development in the coming decade.

We followed up with meetings in June and July and had thoughtful discussions and an exchange of ideas on what we envisioned the rezoning should consider, focusing on what aspects of livability were most important

to preserve while encouraging growth. Meeting participants were eloquent and engaged in active listening, appreciating other's points of view, even when they disagreed. Several of us actually changed some of our opinions as the result of these thoughtful and very cordial discussions.

The issues we will focus on at the September 26 meeting are imagining how large-scale development can fit in an historic neighborhood, and what that could actually look like, as well as how to upzone with equity in mind, to allow disenfranchised groups access to the high resource areas of the city, including ours. We will also discuss objective design standards for both historic resources as well as for newer buildings that are not historic resources, and what building design should look like in the case of lots that are merged in order to accommodate larger buildings.

One key issue that we all felt was important was our desire to preserve most aspects of the current mid-block open spaces which comprise all the backyards in a block in which trees and wildlife thrive. While we felt that rear yards could be reduced on some corners in order to welcome more new residents, we also felt strongly that rear yards were incredibly important to us all for livability, for recreating, and to maintain the city's tree canopy to help meet our carbon goals.



A much-appreciated Triangle amenity are the mid-block open spaces. With no alleys, shared or adjacent yards visible to multiple units on four blocks create an urban oasis enjoyed by all. One lovely example is located between Henry and 15th Streets.

The Committee agrees that the biggest opportunity site in the neighborhood is the Safeway building and parking lot. Urban Design lecturer at Stanford University Dehan Glanz recently led his undergraduate class in a series of imagined redesigns of the Safeway site. All the ideas were well received not only by members of the Land Use Committee, but also by members of the Safeway's corporate development division, which suggests they may come to fruition at some point. We look forward to hearing your feedback on the work that we have done at the September 26 meeting at Harvey Milk Rec Center. See you there!

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Neighborhood Heroes

By Nick Sklaroff

Nick is a DTNA Board member.

"I love our city and our neighborhood"

Perhaps you've seen them. Or perhaps you passed them without noticing them. But they are everywhere in the neighborhood, if you just watch out for them. They don't wear special uniforms or capes. They are just ordinary neighbors, doing extraordinary things.

We begin by celebrating three neighbors who don't ask for any help, don't ask for any compensation, but who quietly and regularly help to keep our sidewalks clean. Armed only with their rakes, brooms or leaf blowers, and inspired by their love for the neighborhood, these three gentlemen help to keep our streets clean. They don't just sweep in front of their own homes, as deserving of celebration as just that would be. They tirelessly keep their entire blocks clean, even cleaning sidewalks on other blocks too. And while each is doing it on his own without coordination with the others, they share similar motivations, experiences and a love for the neighborhood.

Howard Mutz arrived in the Triangle in 1975, and lives on 14th Street with his husband and their dog, Evelyn. Howard can be found picking up litter every day, often several times a day. He sweeps and weeds, and also paints the brick-colored stripes on the bollards on Noe and Sanchez, and plants and maintains flowers on 14th Street. He and his neighbors have recently engaged in the new project of putting wooden fences around the tree surrounds for the plants that



Tim Sheridan has been cleaning up Castro Street since 1989.

they take care of, and they look lovely.

Howard reports that "I started doing it as part of my retirement, and as a pay back for the lovely rent-controlled apartment that I have had for the past 48 years."

Tim Sheridan and his wife moved into their home on Castro Street in 1989. Their children are now 20-something adults, but are remembered for their frequent lemonade stands in front of their home. The flowering magnolia trees that line both sides of Castro Street, create a beautiful green treescape, but also drop large heavy leaves all year long. Tim can be found sweeping up the leaves several days a week, for hours at a time, cleaning large swaths of Castro Street. Neighbors who live blocks away have been surprised and grateful to find him sweeping up the leaves or pulling weeds in tree planters in front of their homes, and carrying away the debris.

Tim says "I really like making the neighborhood look nicer," and adds that "I have been cleaning up our neighborhood ever since I moved in."

Bill Holt moved to 15th Street



Bill Holt serves the neighborhood with twice-weekly leaf blowings on 15th Street.

in 1989 with his husband Jay. He is usually out twice a week using an electric leaf blower and cleaning the sidewalks of leaves and trash. Bill started cleaning the streets when he retired in 2000, and comments "I enjoy doing it, and have met most of my neighbors in the process." He adds "It has created community."

While each of these neighbors works independently, they report similar reactions from passersby. Bill says "Most appreciate it, some probably think I am a homeless person - or at least that's how it feels." He adds "when new neighbors move in they are skeptical of me, but eventually become supportive." Howard reports similar reactions: "Many folks are lovely and appreciative and thank me, regularly." But he quickly adds

"Others look at me like I am off my rocker!"

Tim notes that "most people walking around are staring at their phones and never see me. Others think I am a street person and ignore me." He adds "sometimes people do recognize what I am doing and I really appreciate it when they say something. I also really like it when people see my work and then start doing it themselves on areas I have not gotten to."

Bill notes that "if everyone would maintain the front of their house it would really improve the neighborhood... it promotes community and neighborliness." Tim adds "There are many things that I love about doing this. Just walking around and seeing that our neighborhood is cleaner than most is very gratifying."

Let's close with Howard's comment: "I love our city and our neighborhood and love to see it as clean as it should always be." If you see these neighborhood heroes out in the 'hood, give them a big, well-deserved thank you!

Have you spotted other neighbors doing good deeds to be celebrated as "Neighborhood Heroes"? Send them to DTNA at <https://www.dtna.org/contact.html>.

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Inaugural Wiggle Fest Brings Fun and Family to Steiner Street

By Doug Thorogood

Doug serves on DTNA's Vision 2030 public realm enhancement committee, and is the lead organizer for Wiggle Fest. He lives on Hermann Street.

The Wiggle is the main bike artery across town and an important pedestrian corridor that runs through our neighborhood, connecting people of all ages to parks and much more. In celebration of The Wiggle's past and future, we are excited to announce the inaugural Wiggle Fest on October 22!

cess to Duboce Park for all. Amidst the fun and kid-friendly atmosphere including a kids' learn-to-bike program and free bike repairs, the festival will also be a place to share your ideas, concerns, and aspirations for our neighborhood, as well as to engage in meaningful conversation about the future of our streets.

We are seeking:

- Neighbors with a passion for an activity or idea that you'd like to share at the event. Live music? Bike decoration? Arts and crafts? We're all ears.
- Day-of volunteers for the event

Join us on Steiner between Duboce and Waller for an afternoon of festivities, celebrating community and promoting safe ac-

Please reach out to us at vision2030@dtna.org if you'd like to contribute. Hope to see you then!



Macromobility! Eight bikes and a pedestrian on Steiner between Duboce and Hermann.

Wiggle Fest will be held on Sunday October 22 from 11 am - 2 pm on Steiner Street between Duboce and Waller.

Growing Up, continued

Continued from page 1

and the trees on the lower play yard - it's a good place to be. I also learn cool skill at clubs at school; Chess, Digital Sound Arts, Drums, Soccer, Basketball and Gardening.

This year I made a poster for our McKinley fundraiser Dogfest in Duboce Park. I drew our mascot Rocket the Rocket Dog, and his blue rocket. DogFest was really fun - I got to see my friends in the park and run around a lot. I also went to the slow street painting event, and there were a lot of games and a lot of food - my favorite was the cotton candy. It felt very good to paint on the street. It was a really joyful time.

My classmates at McKinley are cool and nice. They all play together around the neighborhood at Duboce Park. Lots of them bike around the city. Lots of us play on a McKinley soccer team. Playing soccer in the city with my classmates makes me feel proud, nervous and happy. It

makes me feel like we're really important in that moment.

The diversity of McKinley reminds me what I love about living in one of the most diverse cities in the world. It's nice. It feels special. I'm glad I have a lot of friends that can help me get through my life. I know "te amo" means "I love you" in Spanish - my friend Vida taught me that. My friends sent me postcards from other countries when they visit family there. My good friend Theodore moved to Lisbon and we still talk on What's App.

Today, when I think about growing up in Duboce Triangle and going to school at McKinley my main takeaways are that it makes me feel very good to live in the neighborhood. It's so nice to have friends in the neighborhood and be loved. It's nice to be part of community events like the cleanups that DTNA President Frank leads. Frank is my Noe neighbor. He is friendly and nice and he helps the neighborhood and organizes

fun things. I remember going to Guy's Flower Stand on Mother's Day for flowers and I made scrambled eggs for my mom and my grandma. One morning I was feeling kind off and my neighbor Dez popped up with a yoyo kit that made my heart full of love and full of joy to have a good friend, and also a nice new toy.

I hope all kids who grow up here try smoothies at Sidewalk Juice,

and that they visit the library every now and then. If they feel like a burger night they should go to Super Duper - it's right around the corner. Oh and buy Legos at Cliff's Variety - it's a fun place to go and a fun walk with your family. There are also great barber shops in the neighborhood where you can have fun sitting in the seat, and afterwards feel confident with a new nice style. See you around the neighborhood!

Friends of Duboce Park Celebrates 25 Years of Advocacy



Helene is President of Friends of Duboce Park. She has lived on Pierce Street since 2004.

By Helene Kocher

Hello Neighbors! I'm Helene (one of just many of your neighbors on the FDP board) and I'd like to (re)introduce Friends of Duboce Park to the neighborhood.

Friends was started in 1997 by a group of neighbors determined to improve and beautify the heart of our neighborhood, Duboce Park. Some of our projects have been helping build the playground and youth play area, laying out the labyrinth, and installing lighting and benches for everyone to enjoy amongst many others. What you see today is vastly different than it was 25 years ago, and much of that is due to the tireless efforts of Friends of Duboce Park.

Currently, we're organizing volunteer park cleanups on the second Saturday of every month, working to repair and replace some of the playground equipment, and hosting free movie nights for all to enjoy. The movie showing this past spring was a total success, despite the wind trying its hardest to blow the screen down.

As we look ahead, we need your help! We're looking for input. What would you like to see changed in the park? Are there things you love, or don't? Do you have any ideas for great community building events (Silent Disco, anyone)? We gather community input, then work with the fantastic folks at SF Recreation and Parks to make changes a reality.

Duboce Park remains the heart of our local community, providing our Town Square, and as such, it needs the voice of all of us. And if you have some time to help, we could always use more people, engaged and ready to roll up their sleeves to make something happen.

We also love building community and meeting more neighbors by hosting events in the park. This month we are hosting another free movie night *Super Mario Bros.*, Saturday September 30th around dusk - 7pm-ish. We will also host a neighborhood gathering and pumpkin carving party for Halloween, on Sunday October 29 from 2-4pm. All are welcome; kids, adults, everyone!

For more information and to sign up for our newsletter, you can find

us at <https://friendsofdubocepark.org>, on Instagram @friendsofdubocepark, or just reach out to us via email board@friendsofdubocepark.org. We're looking forward to working together to protect and improve our beautiful park. See you soon in the town square!

99sanchezstreet@gmail.com

David K. Highsmith

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How a Medical Institution May Shorten Your Life Expectancy

By Hans Galland

In April 2023, DTNA filed a San Francisco Department of Public Health (DPH) noise complaint against Sutter Health's CPMC Davis Campus. A number of neighbors had reported aloud humming noise from HVAC equipment on the main building roof, particularly at night.

In July the DPH issued a Notice of Violation to CPMC, since they had recorded noises of up to 61 decibels on the campus perimeter, 50% above the World Health Organization's limit for night noise outside of bedrooms (40 dBA) to prevent adverse health effects. Decades of research document a close correlation between noise levels and life expectancy. A recent *New York Times* article "Noise Can Take Years Off Your Life. Here's How" provides a good summary of findings.

A 2020 study found that people who live in areas with high noise levels are more likely to have inflamed arteries, an overactive amygdala, and a higher risk of major cardiac events. Nighttime noise is particularly harmful to health because it can disrupt sleep and trigger stress. A 2022 study followed more than four million people for over a decade and found that the risk of dying from cardiovascular disease increased by 2.9% for every 10-decibel increase in exposure to road traffic noise. There is obviously something ironic in the idea that a leading medical institution, to which many of us neighbors entrust our health is the undisputed direct cause of a pollutant that is proven to shorten our lifespan.

The Department of Public Health has instructed CPMC to correct the violation, some maintenance is in progress, and the organization reportedly engaged a noise consultant, but as of this writing DPW still finds that Sutter Health is non-compliant, and an additional notice of violation with penalties has been issued. Unfortunately, the assessed penalties (\$100 for a 1st violation and up to \$500 for each additional violation) are meaningless token amounts for a \$15 billion corporation like Sutter Health.

For years and in many instances DTNA



Exposed HVAC equipment on CPMC's roof is evident in this view of the campus from above Castro Street.

has been committed to building a constructive dialogue with the CPMC and its parent Sutter Health. The institution regularly turns a deaf ear to its request to be a good neighbor, and its awareness of the recent noise issue has yet to be translated into corrective action. In this spirit, we presented his article to CPMC a month

prior to its publication and invited the organization to submit a response. In the meantime, DTNA will continue to work with Supervisor Mandelman and the Department of Public Health, and we hope to see expeditious change soon.

The Duboce Triangle News is published at the beginning of February, April, June, August, October and December by the Duboce Triangle Neighborhood Association (DTNA), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. (EIN 23-7440874)

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McKinley School Celebrates a New Year



Kelly lives on Noe Street with her family, and her cat, David Bowie. She's currently serving as VP of Communications on the McKinley PTA, and her son is a third grader at McKinley.

By Kelly Gillease

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year! McKinley hopes everyone in the neighborhood had a relaxing and fun summer break. Our school community held its annual welcome picnic on August 12th, and it was a joy to welcome new and returning families and see friends reunited after summer break.

McKinley is also excited to welcome new staff for this school year! Catherine Mulligan joined McKinley as the new librarian and Maria Meara joined as a teacher for the fifth grade. Shona Mitchell is the new dance instructor, and Hope Cory is the new music instructor. McKinley also has Jenna Lee as the new PE instructor and Trezhan Cannon and DJ Maxwell-Garcia joined as recess and lunch support staff. Sarah McNitt is McKinley's newest paraprofessional. Lastly beloved third grade teacher Robin Mantius has moved over to Kindergarten, where she will be an amazing teacher to instill in new students a love of learning!

Now that school is back in session, McKinley would like to remind all our neighbors to **please drive safely around the school**. Unfortunately last year a parent and child were hit by a car near the school grounds (thankfully they are okay). Small actions that only take drivers a few more seconds make a big difference in safety for McKinley's students.

Please do not run the light at 14th and Castro, and drive slowly and carefully through the crosswalks at 14th and Divisadero. Thank you in advance to everyone for keeping kids' safe on their way to and from school!

Upcoming events at McKinley are Back to School night on September 7th and the annual Harvest Festival on October 27th.

With SFUSD enrollment at one of its lowest levels ever, and school funding decreasing, it's more essential than ever for our community to rally to support our wonderful neighborhood elementary school. McKinley encourages all our neighbors to show their support by joining the PTA at <https://tinyurl.com/mv6rvu7s> or donating to McKinley's annual fund at <https://tinyurl.com/h64w4e2t>.

Editor's note: DTNA and a group of McKinley parents headed by Lindsey Sunden, Shannon Cairns, and Emily Rodda have managed to get the Bureau of Urban Forestry to plant four trees in



Local volunteers have beautified the Castro Street side of McKinley's schoolyard with new trees, plantings, and some butterflies!

empty tree wells on the streets fronting McKinley - 14th Street, Castro Street, and Henry Street. Teams of parents and students have been lugging a big water cart around on weekends to water the trees (they need care for about three years). If you would like to help with this effort by signing up for a weekend shift, talk to Lindsey or Emily or contact DTNA via our website. Green is good!



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How to Vote in the 2024 DTNA Board Election

The election of the 2024 DTNA Board will be held in December 2023. All DTNA members who have been a member for 90 days (joined on or before September 14, 2023) are eligible to run for a Board position, and members who have been a member for 30 days prior to the election (on or before November 13, 2023) are eligible to vote.

The election of Board members will be conducted online using Election Runner, starting Wednesday, December 6th and closing on Tuesday, December 12th at 7:30 p.m. during the December DTNA Public Meeting.

Paper ballots will be mailed to members without an email address on file. Mail-in ballots need to be postmarked by December 12th and received by Tuesday, December 19th to be counted.

All Officer positions, Editor and Director seats are up for election for one-year terms. Nominations need to be submitted between November 1st and November 15th to be on the ballot. After the close of nomination submissions, a candidate webpage on www.dtna.org will include candidate statements and pictures. The December ballot will provide space for write-in candidates.

If you have an interest in joining the Board or want to learn more about how the Board and DTNA function, please contact DTNA at info@dtna.org or by using the website contact form on our website www.dtna.org.

DTNA

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