Church Street Gets Greener, Tastier, and Quieter (maybe)

By Erin O’Brien

Ten new trees will soon take root, four restaurants are preparing to open, and even the squeaky wheels on the J-Church will be getting some extra grease. The signs are all there: Upper Church Street is on the fast track.

Screeching to Halt

Church Street neighbors may soon get the good night’s sleep they’ve been dreaming of—that is, if Muni officials live up to the promises they made at an Upper Noe Neighbors meeting the evening of Thursday, June 22.

Screeching Muni cars on the J-Church line have kept residents up at night—and during the day, too—for close to a decade. Marianne Hampson, who lives at 30th and Dolores streets, is still paying off the $6,000 double-pane windows she installed in her home four years ago. The noise from the Muni cars screeching around curves in the Church Street tracks was so bad, she says the only other option was to move. It isn’t just the J-Church trains causing the noise. It seems the Church Street line is the fastest route back to the car barn for other Muni lines, including the N and F. “At 1:45 a.m., all the trains go past my house, and at 6:45 a.m. they come by again,” says Hampson, who notes that the ongoing sleep loss hasn’t helped her attitude toward Muni. “This has been so discouraging,” she adds. “It’s big government paid for by my taxes, thumbing their nose at us.”

Many of her neighbors agree. “We are desperately fed up with sleep deprivation, being ignored, lied to, and not given the information we ask for,” says Suzanne Raddiffe, who also lives near 30th and Dolores streets. “Homeowners in this neighborhood who rent out apartments have lost tenants over this situation.”

Worst of all, the problem isn’t all that local.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

Common Scents Smelling Sweet For 35 Years

By Kate Volkman

If you live in Noe Valley and enjoy taking bubble baths, there’s a good chance your bubbles come from the 24th Street bath shop Common Scents.

Common Scents is a local treasure. It has such a rosy reputation, in fact, that the San Francisco Board of Supervisors recently honored the store for 35 years of pampering Noe Valley with your wide assortment of quality creams, candles, oils and soaps.” The commendation was awarded at a May 19 party hosted by the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association.

So how did this business blossom? Common Scents owners Helen Norris and Linda Ramey opened their shop, at 3920 24th Street near Sanchez, in the fall of 1971. But it might not have happened without a nudge from another small business owner.

“Helen and I were not good friends in particular. We [just] knew each other,” recalls Ramey. “I ran into a mutual friend of ours one day. He said, ‘Wouldn’t it be great to open a body shop?’ And I didn’t even know what a body shop was. I was like, ‘A body shop—like a car repair or somewhere like that?’”

The friend, George DuBois, who worked as a sandal maker, explained that he meant a store that carried soaps, similar to The Body Shop, a hip new store in Berkeley.

“I was totally not interested,” Ramey says. “I was a school librarian at the time. And then he ran into Helen and he did the same thing with her. So she called me and said, ‘George says you’re interested in opening a body shop.’ And I said, ‘Well, not exactly.’ But she asked if I’d be interested in talking about it, so we did. And then everything fell into place.”

The more they thought about it, the more they became convinced that opening an ecology-minded shop, where customers could refill their lotions and shampoos using the same containers, would be an ecology-minded shop, where customers could refill their lotions and shampoos using the same containers, would be

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

The squealing of metal against metal as the J-Church cars round 30th Street has tormented the neighborhood who rent out apartments in the Dolores streets. “Homeowners in this neighborhood who rent out apartments have lost tenants over this situation.”

The Noe Valley Voice Takes 30 Days Off

T

his newspaper is on vacation until Aug. 1. (Don’t worry, we do this every summer!) Please save your news, announcements, and calendar items until then. Thanks. You actually have until Aug. 15 to get stuff to us for the September issue, which is due on the streets of Noe Valley on Friday, Sept. 1.

If you want to buy a display ad, you have until Aug. 14. If you want to purchase a classified ad, your deadline is Aug. 10. The address is 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114, or you can e-mail editor@noevalleyvoice.com.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13
The Noe Valley Co-op Nursery School families gathered in Douglass Park June 16 for their graduation class photo and to honor Director Nina Youkelson (top row, sixth from right), who has retired after running the school for 37 years.

Photo by Beverly Tharp

FLORA GRUBB GARDENS

The Palm Broker and Guerrero Street Gardens will answer to one name now—Flora Grubb Gardens. Yes, Flora Grubb is my name. Makes sense then doesn’t it? Come grow with us!

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Safeway Predicates Little Bell on Castro
Editor:
Regarding the Noe Valley History Quiz in the Rumors section of the April and May issues: The column is great, and the quiz was fun. You were right that Little Bell Market preceded the Walgreen’s store in the former cablecar barn on Castro Street near Jersey. But here’s an interesting footnote: Before Little Bell landed on Castro, the building was occupied by Safeway.

Hard to believe now.

Take care, and keep up the good work.

Lynn Thompson
Via e-mail

Awash in Surf Super Memories
Editor:
On a whim I googled “Surf Super Market” and came up with your Noe Valley Voice quiz (“Rumors Behind the News,” May 2006). My grandparents, and later my parents and uncle, owned Surf for many years. It was at 4045 24th Street [where the Rite Aid is now], a couple of doors down from Hopwell’s [now Le Zin Bistro]. As kids, my sister and I were crazy about the Hopwell’s doughnuts.

I am glad you also remember Surf. I think Renzo the butcher bought the store from my parents. Then it became a Thrifty Jr. We were always competing for customers from the Big Bell and Little Bell, a losing battle for a mom and pop store. I recall the two Bell markets as being two of the last of the big box stores in the area.

One funny story was when coffee prices were skyrocketing and Surf Super was forced to charge customers from the roof, came in, and took only coffee and cigarettes.

One day my dad put us out on the sidewalk during the 24th Street Fair selling candied apples. We could keep all the profit, he said. We sold a lot of apples.

Kristina Perez Krow
Via e-mail

Nina Says Farewell
Dear Friends in Noe Valley:
It’s hard for me to believe that 37 years have gone by since the day the Noe Valley Nursery School opened its doors for the first time on Jan. 15, 1969. The doors have been open ever since, and what a glorious and varied river of people have flowed through here! Each day at the school for me was an unknown: six parents and 24 children creating a small microcosm of learning and singing, arguing and dancing, learning and teaching. And more, of course.

It was not always easy, but it was always alive, changing, and beautiful—a place in which people open up to each other, and children and parents and me, the director of this astonishing place for all these years. (See photo, page 2.)

Well, the school will continue for another 37 years, I am sure, but without me. The school has hired a new director, Susan Edwards, a person of intelligence, sensitivity, and humor, whose son was a kid at the school 29 years ago. So she knows what an amazing place it is, and is ready to add it to its richness. And I am ready to say goodbye to all the many good friends in the Noe Valley community that for 37 years have been so supportive—especially the Noe Valley Ministry, our extraordinary landlord. Together, the Ministry and the school have changed and grown, always heading in the same direction—towards better understanding, a loving community, and a better world for all people.

Nina Youkelson
Director, Noe Valley Nursery School
1021 Sanchez Street

Editor’s Note: The Noe Valley Voice has had a small office located next to the Noe Valley Co-op Nursery School within the Noe Valley Ministry for 29 years, and throughout that time, the school and Nina Youkelson, its wise, warm, and wonderful, director have been our neighbor. Nina, we’re going to miss seeing your smiling face. Enjoy your retirement and come back to visit!

Karen Barbis

Letter to the Editor

Letters welcome; your letters may not be considered for publication. E-mail is preferred for brevity or clarity. We look forward to hearing from you.

Chicago Needed Her.

This seemingly cheerful Cubs fan insisted on spending her Fourth of July holiday in a city known to be windier than San Francisco. And rumor has it she is even going there to stay. For the illustrated story and about face: Kristina Perez Krow, page 16. Thanks to Just Talk.

What a lovely gesture of friendship to the state of Mississippi. Yes, magnolias are the state tree and flower of Mississippi. Perhaps we can name San Francisco Mississippi West? Or have a cultural exchange? Friends of the Urban Forest could visit and get some ideas on what to plant in San Francisco. Just be sure not to plant anything native to California. Not exotic enough, of course.

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Nina Youkelson
Church Street on The Upswing
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

hand to mitigate. With twice-daily track greasing, drivers can trundle down the tracks without too much noise. Trouble is, some drivers don't take the turns as slowly as they should. And neighbors say Muni doesn't grease the tracks twice a day, as it has agreed to do—or pressure drivers to slow down—unless the residents keep complaining. “I've been disappointed that Muni’s backing down on maintenance has brought back the screeching,” admits District 8 Supervisor Bevan Dufty.

That’s okay. The members of Upper Noe Neighbors will continue to prod them. “I can hear [the squealing], and I live four blocks away,” notes UNN President Vicki Rosen. “We aren’t letting go of this. This is a no-brainer.”

20 Cars to Take Another Route

Wilson Johnson, Muni’s deputy general manager for transportation; two other Muni officials; a staff member from Supervisor Dufty’s office; and a representative from the San Francisco Controller’s Office all attended the June Upper Noe Neighbors meeting. According to Rosen, Muni officials again agreed to grease the tracks twice a day during the week and once a day on weekends and holidays. They also stated that starting Aug. 26, a satellite barn at King and Sixth streets would be able to accommodate 20 more cars, taking them off the J-Church rails.

In the long term, other possible solutions include changing the tracks or using different kind of trains. “They’re going to be replacing some tracks and increasing the radius of the part of the track that makes its turn onto San Jose Avenue (530th Street),” Rosen explains. “They can’t do it at 30th and Church because the streets are too narrow, so that a long-term solution will not be available for that corner.”

Dufty says he is “aggressively pursuing” the completion of a new car barn on Third Street in 2008, so perhaps in a couple of years only J-Church cars will need to ride the Church line during the night.

The June meeting was held in the sand pile in the children’s playground off Day Street at Upper Noe Rec Center. That’s because workers discovered asbestos in the building that afternoon and closed the center on short notice. (It was already scheduled to close down on July 17 for a major 18-month renovation, so the building will remain closed until the overhaul is complete.) Now Upper Noe residents are waiting to see if Muni will get in gear.

Budding Plans for New Trees

Plans to plant additional trees on Church Street are in the very early stages, says Rosen, but she and other Neighbors hope to brighten some bare spots on the street with more foliage soon. The Bureau of Urban Forestry at the Department of Public Works has agreed to pay for and install 10 trees before next summer.

Carla Short, a forester with the Bureau, explains, “We are funded to plant 268 trees in our annual planting allowance, and we try to divide those fairly among all the districts in the city.” According to Short, her department is looking into planning two types of trees on Church Street: the Michelia doltsopa and the Magnolia grandiflora “Samuel Sommers,” a smaller tree than the better-known Southern magnolia. The Church Street corridor from Cesar Chavez to 30th Street has potential sites for 30 more trees, but Upper Noe Neighbors would have to raise the funds for those—and the trees cost $450 each. Rosen says the group’s first goal is to get property owners on Church Street interested in giving up sidewalk space for a tree. If that goes well and more than 10 people want to plant a tree, the group may try to raise additional funds.

For now, though, Rosen and the Neighbors will be content with 10 new trees. “Greenery makes people feel better!” she notes. “It will be so great to increase the trees along that corridor. The street will look better and it will cut down on wind and pollution.”

Eateries to Expand

Neighbors say they couldn’t be happier about the four new restaurants set to open soon near the south end of Church Street. “It reminds me of Manhattan, that we will be able to walk everywhere,” says Hampton. The eateries scheduled to open their doors this summer are the breakfast-lunch restaurant Toast, which will take over Hungry Joe’s space at 1748 Church Street; Joey and Eddie’s Seafood, slated to fill Yianni’s old spot on Church near 29th Street; and the French Bistro 1689, in the space formerly occupied by Long Island Restaurant at 1689 Church Street.

According to owner Roy Liu’s wife Chanel Liu, the California-Asian restaurant her husband will co-own in the old Miyokos Market location may open this fall, but might not be ready to greet customers until as late as December. She says they still haven’t decided on the restaurant’s name. “It really is fun,” Radcliffe says of the changes to the neighborhood. “Our end of Church street is getting a nice facelift with the additions.”
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"something fun to do, an adventure for us," says Norris. "I really liked the Berkeley store. And it seemed like a trend that we would enjoy doing—helping save the environment."

Norris lived on 23rd Street at the time, so one day she and Ramey drove down 24th Street and spotted the space at 2301. The 80-foot-owner of the building was very particular about selecting his next tenant. Norris remembers. "He said, 'Well, there's someone who wants to make candles here, but I don't think that's a very good idea, so you girls can have it.'"

Rent Was $90 Per Month

They rented the space for $90 per month. Norris got her first credit card, and she and Ramey each pitched in $310 to start the business. Dahliaos was the one who suggested the store's penny name.

The two women purchased bulk bubble baths and lotions from local chemists in Oakland and Berkeley, its scents ranging from Eucalyptus Mint to French Vanilla to China Rain. They arranged their wares in baskets and on orange crates foraged from the sidewalks of Chinatown. And soon they met the orange cat that was the inspiration for their cat-in-a-tub logo design.

Six-Pack was a kitten who lived upstairs, but he used to hang out down here," says Ramey. Eventually the neighbors let him to Ramey and Norris, and Six-Pack became the community draw to Common Scents. "We'd have no business at all, but the kids would come in and say, 'Is Six-Pack here?'

"To this day, people still come in and say, 'Oh, remember Six-Pack?' And then you know they've been here for ages.

Dedicated Customers

It's Friday morning, and at the same time Ramey mentions longtime customers, Cheryl Price walks in looking for unscented shampoo. She says, "I've lived in the city for 20 years and have been coming here on and off. And actually, my mother, who lives in New York City, orders by mail. It's funny because in New York you can get all sorts of things, but she's dedicated.'"

Ramey customizes that they do mail orders, mostly with former customers who have moved away from Noe Valley. "We have a very loyal base of customers," she says. Store manager Jan Van Swearingen agrees. "There are so many people who shop here because they know they're supporting actual people. You can come in any morning and meet one of them! People will come in for something, and I'll say, 'We're out of that, but you can probably get it at Target,' and they'll say, 'But I don't want to buy it at Target. I want to buy it here.'"

Happy Employees

Ramey or Norris opens the shop at 10 a.m. Then Van Swearingen and employee Claudine Tritten-Richman arrive in the early afternoon and close up about 7 p.m. They also have part-time employees Dara Spianer and Deanna Chan. Van Swearingen says, "Norris and Ramey are the best employers. They couldn't be nicer. They treat us so well—health care and dental."

Behind the counter there's a wall of photographs of current and former staff, husbands, children, grandchildren, dogs, and cats, and Six-Pack—the Common Scents family. "As you can see, we have a lot of parties," says Ramey. "Christmas parties, birthday parties.... We really socialize all together. Helen, Jan, and Chaudine especially live music, so they go out a lot. We're a real bonded group."

They love their customers, too. Ramey gets into a conversation with regular Pegine Quain about her T-shirt, which reads, "Running toward the pursuit of happiness." Quain's husband and friend are getting ready for a 100-mile race. Ramey says, "This is what makes this business so interesting. Every person has a story like that. I think as far as our enjoyment of the business is concerned, it has so much to do with the people. We have really nice customers.

"Chaudine is really good with customers," she adds. Asked what she does at Common Scents, Tritten-Richman answers, "Psychiatrist," and laughs kindly, "People will come in and ask questions, and pretty soon it will just lead to their personal lives and how they feel about the world. That's what I really enjoy about working here—the people."

An Ocean of Bath Products

And their customers love them, too. Yelp.com offers reviews of businesses by real shoppers. Poo. T. wrote of Common Scents, "Nothing but love for this tiny, locally owned, little precious shop."

Another online shopper wrote, "This is a great little hidden gem in Noe Valley. It's a very small storefront, and you'd easily walk right by it if you weren't specifically looking for it. The space is tiny, but every single inch of this place is packed with products, including a variety of Kiehl's and comparable 'fine' bath/beauty products."

The bubble baths and lotions they started with 35 years ago still sell off the shelves today. Customers can bring back their empty bottles and have them refilled, to save $1 and help save the environment. In addition, the store now carries at least 30 different lines of soaps, lotions, shampoos, deodorants, candles, incense, hair ties, massage oils, makeup, and toothpaste, including the ever-popular Thymes, Pacifica, and Tom's of Maine. They're willing to special-order products by request, too.

Not too long ago they received a deluge of requests for Jessicurl, a product for curly hair, which they now carry. And customer Shana Souls reports, "This brand Nelsons, they were kind enough to look it up and order it for me. I like the acne gel and the calendula cream. I think their products are fantastic, and it was really cool to have it ordered."
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overlapping, sometimes magical adventures of a restless Japanese teenager who leaves home, and a traumatized man fleeing his own mysterious demons.

Adult fans of Daniel Handler (a.k.a. Lemony Snicket) will find the author’s trademark wit and wordplay, interspersed with provocative musings on love, in his latest novel, *Adverbs*, a collection of 16 interconnected stories.

For good reads on the cheap, McLaughlin suggests checking out the discounted section of publishers’ overstock. Phoenix Books for bargains (approximately $5) on titles like T.C. Boyle’s *Drop City*, Bob Dylan’s *Tarantula*, and Ann Patchett’s *Truth and Beauty. Streightt*’s Wynne, co-owner of Cover to Cover Booksellers, has a few suggestions of her own. Many people have been stopping in the store to pick up Luis Alberto Urrea’s *The Hummingbird’s Daughter*, the city’s pick for this year’s One City One Book program. One City One Book encourages city residents to read the novel over the summer and participate in a series of discussions and special events featuring the book this fall. Set in pre-revolutionary Mexico, the novel follows a young girl grappling with her destiny as a healer and leader of the people.

Another popular title at CovertoCover is Lauren Weisberger’s *The Devil Wears Prada*, a novel about a fresh-out-of-college aspiring writer who snags a job as the assistant to the ruthless editor of a fashion magazine, a scenario that closely mimics the author’s own experience as the simulated assistant to Vogue’s Anna Wintour. The movie of the same name hit theaters later this month and stars Meryl Streep, Anne Hathaway, and Adrienne Gegnert.

Nonfiction Stars: Soccer and Sharks

For anyone who’s come down with a case of World Cup fever this summer, Wynne suggests *The Thinking Fan’s Guide to the World Cup*, by Matt Weiland and Sean Wilsey, and Franklin Foer’s *How Soccer Explains the World: An Unexpected Theory of Globalization.*

Sunday Money by Jeff MacGregor is another of Wynne’s top picks. In an attempt to understand the NASCAR phenomenon, the author and his photographer father hit the road in an RV and began traveling from race to race in 2001. The resulting story is a mixture of the sport’s history, an explanation of its appeal to millions of fans, and the couple’s own introduction to a sport neither previously understood.

“*It’s one of the best books about sports since Seabiscuit,*” Wynne says.

Wynne also recommends Michael Polans’s *The Omnivore’s Dilemma*, out in hardcover. The author wrestles with the paradoxical nature of our modern eating habits and explores how our society can be both obsessed with food and dieting and blind to the realities of food production.

For a read with local flavor, *The Devil’s Teeth* by Susan Casey delves into the mysterious world of great white sharks who visit the Farallon Islands each fall to feast on seals and sea lions. Along with groundbreaking insights into shark behavior, the book features in-depth interviews with the researchers. See Casey delivers background and historical information about the island habitat that will fascinate Bay Area readers.

McLaughlin says an excellent memoir out this year in paperback is *The Glass Castle* by Jeannette Walls, whose child- hood was shaped by neurotic, neglectful parents who thought romantic living was more of an adventure than an experiment in homelessness. Forced to dumpster-
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Lower Condo - $1,178,000
• Top Level: liv/rm, deluxe kitchen, dining, walk-out deck, 3 BRS, BA, breakfast bar, granite counter tops, s/s appliances.
• Lower Level: master suite w/separate spa bath & shower, liv/rm w/fireplace, patio, raised garden.
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Unit 2 - $729,000 Approx. 945 sq. ft. 2 BRS, incl. master suite w/spa tub, shower and deck. 2nd BA. Kitchen has breakfast bar and dining area. Liv/rm w/fireplace has private open space on roof of 2nd floor.

Unit 3 - $699,000 Approx. 805 sq. ft. 2 BRS, incl. master suite w/separate spa tub and shower. 2nd BA. Kitchen has breakfast bar. Liv/rm w/fireplace opens to deck with great views.

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Building a New Library—One Brick at a Time

Donate $250 and Your Name Can Be Etched in Stone

By Corrie M. Anders

Fundraising can often be a chore, but patrons of the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library have been having fun this summer as they prepared toward a goal of rounding up $130,000.

The money will be used to help support the branch, an architectural jewel now in the midst of a $7 million earthquake retrofit, when it reopens late next year. Local library lovers recently gathered for two lively events in “Downtown” Noe Valley.

First, there was a spaghetti feed, with Pasta Pompodoro on 24th Street dishing up bruschetta, rigatoni, and other Italian fare for a large crowd.

The May 25 event was “really well attended,” said Kim Drew, chair of the Noe Valley Library Campaign. “It was so much fun, and it provided great visibility for the campaign.”

The restaurant operators donated a portion of the bill of diners who identified themselves as present to support the library. Drew said the event brought in several hundred dollars.

Author Ben Fong-Torres, a Noe Valley resident, was the fundraising draw two weeks later at Le Zine French Bistro on 24th Street. Fong-Torres read excerpts and autographed copies of his new book, Becoming Almost Famous: My Back Pages in Music, Writing, and Life, a mix of current essays and articles from his days with Rolling Stone magazine.

At one point during the June 4 book-signing, Fong-Torres treated the turnout of 60 or so people to an impromptu round of song. That also helped book sales.

“Instead of selling at retail,” Drew said, “everyone was making a contribution to the campaign, and for that contribution we were giving them Ben’s book.”

The book raised $1,500, with Le Zine owners Diana and Max Brissaud donating the use of their restaurant and providing hors d’oeuvres and beverages, Drew said.

The fundraising drive will continue this summer and through the fall. The campaign plans to focus on selling commemorative bricks that will be engraved and placed on the front patio of the restored library. The bricks cost $250 each.

Approximately 45 of the 250 bricks have been sold so far.

Most bricks will be engraved with the names of donors or their children. Drew said some buyers have deceased family members they wish to honor and at least one person anonymously has purchased a brick to pay tribute to a community activist. “Some people might be surprised to see their names when the patio is unveiled because a brick has been purchased in honor of them,” Drew said.

The bricks can be purchased each Saturday at the Farmers’ Market on 24th Street, where the campaign has set up a booth. Shoppers also can buy a $16 white-and-blue canvas book bag designed by Bohdanna Kesala, a neighborhood artist and a member of the fundraising campaign.

Drew said people’s generosity in pledges, contributions, and fundraising events has helped the campaign reach the halfway point of its $130,000 target. “But we still have a long way to go,” she said.

Money the group raises will be used to purchase items that city funds will not cover, such as new computers, tables, chairs, draping, and other interior fixtures.

The seismic upgrade began shortly after the 90-year-old facility closed in February. Construction workers recently completed hazardous materials abatement and spent early summer carrying out interior demolition.

The two-story Beaux Arts building, at 451 Jersey Street, is scheduled to reopen in late 2007.

To get more information about the fundraising effort, contact Friends of the San Francisco Public Library at 415-626-7612, ext. 103, or e-mail Drew at kkdrew@yahoo.com.

Due to seismic repairs, the Noe Valley Library on Jersey Street will be a construction site throughout this year and next. Meanwhile, library patrons are busy raising funds for new interior fixtures.
Claudia Zongoro is transferring as a Business major to San Diego State University.

Robert S. Eshelman will be studying History and languages at New York City’s Columbia University.

Patrick Ifesinachi Emelife, majoring in Biochemistry, is transferring to Stanford University in Palo Alto.

Phoenix Peilian Li will be transferring as a Business major to UCLA.

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Home $$$weet Homes
By Carrie M. Anders
Noe Valley's real estate market continued its perky ways in May, highlighted by the $2.4 million sale of an elegant, turn-of-the-century house on 23rd Street. It was the most expensive home to close escrow during the month—and one of the most spectacular. The sprawling, 3,382-square-foot home, built in 1896, boasts five bedrooms, three bathrooms, decks, and a family room, and sits on an extra-wide lot in the 4200 block of 23rd Street near Eureka Street.

Though the housing market remained "fairly active" in May, there were signs of softness. The weakness was reflected in a larger inventory of homes for sale and more circumspect buyers.

"We had quite a few listings," said Marcia Thomas, assistant sales manager in Zephyr's 24th Street office. "But the premium properties...the nice properties sold quickly within two to three weeks," Thomas said. Buyers often paid more than the seller's asking price for choice residences.

"Properties that were overpriced [or] not quite as desirable are sitting around for a while," said Thomas. She said some sellers were forced to reduce their prices.

The Cost of
Noe Valley Rents*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Unit</th>
<th>Number in Sample</th>
<th>Range of Rents June 2006</th>
<th>Average June 2006</th>
<th>Average A Year Ago</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Studio</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>$ 799 – $1,500</td>
<td>$1,205 / mo.</td>
<td>$1,099 / mo.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-bedroom</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>$1,295 – $3,000</td>
<td>$1,879 / mo.</td>
<td>$1,549 / mo.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-bedroom</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>$1,700 – $5,200</td>
<td>$2,683 / mo.</td>
<td>$2,104 / mo.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-bedroom</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>$2,720 – $3,350</td>
<td>$3,038 / mo.</td>
<td>$2,650 / mo.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4+ bedroom</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>$4,200 – $5,500</td>
<td>$4,857 / mo.</td>
<td>$6,500 / mo.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

** This survey was based on a sample of 51 Noe Valley listings appearing on www.craigslist.com from June 10 to 15, 2006.

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For four years, a modest Noe Valley home built during San Francisco's infancy has been the flashpoint in an intense battle between a neighborhood developer and local preservationists.

But last month, John Williams abandoned his effort to transform the dilapidated 19th-century cottage at 39 Chattanooga Street into a residential complex four times the size of the original building. He sold the property in a deal that closed escrow June 20.

“Life’s too short,” said Williams, a resident of Elizabeth Street. “I spent years trying to make something happen there...but I just found the neighbors very difficult to work with.”

Williams’ decision to walk away from the project surprised members of the Save 39 Chattanooga organization, an ad-hoc group of neighbors and preservationists that had waged a public relations and political fight to protect the home’s heritage.

“We had been working with the developer, trying to work out a compromise,” said playwright/performer Charlie Varon, a Save 39 member who lives next door to the 986-square-foot, two-bedroom home, which may be one of the oldest houses in Noe Valley—and perhaps in San Francisco. City records indicate the two-story Victorian fixer.

Even in its present decrepit condition, even with a buyer paid $902,000 for the property—well above the $749,000 asking price—according to Zephyr Real Estate agent Diane O’Connell. “There’s a lot of upside potential in that site,” explained O’Connell, who had promoted the vacant home as a “rare opportunity to rescue a historic

said playwright/performer Charlie Varon, a Save 39 member who lives next door to the Victorian home. “We thought we had been getting pretty close to one.”

Neglect and time have taken a toll on the 986-square-foot, two-bedroom home, which featured a gable roof and a false-front parapet, in order to build a larger, two-unit dwelling.

Williams learned about the home’s pedigree soon after his purchase. With his demolition plan facing strong opposition from neighbors and city officials, Williams came up with a half-dozen alternatives that would retain all or part of the cottage and allow him to build a spacious addition.

He was still in talks with preservationists earlier this year. But after $120,000 in carrying costs and various fees, Williams said neighborhood opposition had turned the venture into “a losing proposition.”

The historic aspect of the building was a “very convenient handle with which to pitch all sorts of roadblocks,” Williams said. “I’ve got some neighbors who don’t want anything built in front of their windows.”

The new owner’s plans for the property were not immediately known.

“We’re hearing it’s an individual who wants to live in it rather than a developer,” said Varon. “We’re hopeful the new owner will preserve the building.”

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.415-695-2017

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Abandoned Vehicles
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DPT Dispatch
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District 8 Supervisor Bevan Dufty
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Three Sexual Assaults Reported in May

By Erin O’Brian

Police have confirmed that three incidents of rape were reported in Noe Valley during the month of May. Because of strict confidentiality rules governing the investigation of sex crimes, police were only able to provide limited information about each case. “We’re not trying to hide anything, but we are obligated by law to protect people if they request that,” said Lt. Dan Leydon of the Police Department’s sex-assault investigations.

As of press time, an arrest may have been made in only one case. The rape was reported at 1 a.m. on Wednesday, May 3, in the southeast quadrant of Noe Valley. According to Ingleside Police Capt. Paul Chinell, “A 24-year-old woman went barhopping with a man she met that night in a bar on Mission Street. He was well known to all of the bartenders.”

The other two rapes took place later in the month. The first was reported on Friday, May 19, at 3:45 a.m. According to the San Francisco Police Department’s online crime mapping system, the rape happened in a different location but also in the southeast quadrant of the neighborhood.

On Sunday, May 21, at 12:03 a.m., another rape was reported in the northeast part of Noe Valley. The suspect in this case has been charged with forcible rape, battery, malicious mischief, and vandalism.

According to the Police Department’s Public Affairs Office, both rapes and the associated crimes remain under investigation. Officers would not reveal the gender or age of the victims or the circumstances of the two later rapes.

In addition, the Voice reported last month that a rape occurred in conjunction with domestic violence at 2:15 a.m. on Wednesday, April 5, in the 2000 block of Castro Street, between Duncan and 28th streets.

Staying Safer

Although the crimes are frightening, Cindy Wandel of S.F. SAFE (Safety Awareness for Everyone) says, “It probably is a bit of a wake-up call, but I don’t want people to say the neighborhood is going down the drain. This neighborhood is safe, generally speaking, but people need to be aware of their surroundings.”

The best ways to stay safer, though, vary according to the type of crime. Acquaintance rape, such as the incident that occurred on May 3, is one of the most common kinds of sexual assault. When out with friends at clubs or bars, Wandel says, “Stick together. Don’t ever leave with someone you don’t know or get separated with someone you don’t know. If you get too intoxicated and you need to go home and you hop in a cab, make sure your friend knows you’re getting in that cab and have them write down the number.”

Staying safe from sexual assault by a stranger takes a different set of skills. “Stranger rape is usually less prevalent than being raped by someone you know,” Wandel says.

According to her, both men and women should walk in well-lit areas at night, stay on streets with lots of people and cars, and trust their instincts. “If you’re walking down the street and you see someone or a few people who look suspicious, cross the street. When they interview survivors of sexual assault, the [victims] talk about having that weird feeling just prior to the assault. We have our instincts for a reason.” She adds, “Even if people feel they’re in a very safe neighborhood, [crime] does happen.”

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POLICE BEAT

By Erin O’Brian

In a departure from past columns, this month’s Police Beat is a review of crime incidents in Noe Valley occurring in the most recent month for which we have statistics. The area covered is bordered by Grand View, 21st, Guerrero, and 30th streets. The May 2006 crime information was culled from police newsletters and incident reports filed by both Mission and Ingleside Police Stations.

A church was burglarized, police made a big guns-and-drugs bust on 24th Street, and property crime continued apace in Noe Valley during May 2006. Also, three rapes were reported in the neighborhood (see story at right).

Several cases of assault, some of them with weapons, were reported in the heart of Noe Valley during the month of May. Many of them took place in the two hours of the morning, including a case of battery on Sunday, May 14, reported at 1:30 a.m. in the 4000 block of 24th Street. A string of aggravated assaults occurred on or near 24th Street, including an assault on a police officer with a deadly weapon, reported on Monday, May 1, at 1:47 a.m. In the case of an aggravated assault with a deadly weapon reported at 10:20 p.m. in the 1300 block of Church Street, the suspect has also been charged with making threats against life. Not all assaults took place in the evening, though: One assault with a deadly weapon, which involved a juvenile, happened on Thursday, May 4, at 3:45 p.m. and another occurred at 1:20 p.m. on Saturday, May 27, at 25th Street and Grand View Avenue.

A couple of drug-related offenses happened in the neighborhood, but one was a doozy. According to Ingleside Police Capt. Paul Chinell, his station’s area construction site—a problem search on Tuesday, May 16, in the 4200 block of 24th Street along with Daly City police and units from Mission Station. During the search, three people were arrested, two rifles, and three other guns were confiscated, and “a quantity” of narcotics was seized. In an apparently unrelated matter, a person was charged with being under the influence of drugs in a public place on Friday, May 19, at 6:26 p.m. on 18th Avenue at an undisclosed location.

Noe Valley’s ongoing property crime continued full force in May. At least 16 burglaries were reported throughout the neighborhood, most of them for forcible entry at apartment buildings or single-family residencies. Two burglaries took place at construction sites—one such break-in was reported on Friday, May 12, on the 200 block of Valley Street, the other on Sunday, May 14, in the 300 block of Douglass Street. Burglars seemed to focus their efforts on the blocks between 22nd and 23rd streets and Fair Oaks and Vicksburg streets. A church in the 200 block of Valley Street was burglarized the morning of Friday, May 12. Vandalism struck the neighborhood several times, breaking windows and damaging property. Two cases of vandalism happened on 24th Street between Sunnyside and Castro streets, and another took place close by on Sanchez Street near Elizabeth Street.

Victims reported at least 13 cases of theft or larceny in Noe Valley during May. One was a shoplifting case, and eight involved either grand or petty theft from a locked vehicle.

As usual, cars themselves were a top target for thieves, with 11 auto thefts reported in the neighborhood for May. Two of these took place on Grand View Avenue and another on Douglass Street between 24th and Clipper streets. Meanwhile, car thieves targeted Jersey Street, too, reportedly stealing three vehicles between Noe and Church streets.

To make crime reporting easier, the SFPD recently launched an online reporting system for the following crimes: lost property, vandalism, vehicle tampering, vehicle burglary, and harassment. For more information, visit the San Francisco Police Department’s web site: www.sfopw.org/site/police.

The Voice thanks Noe Valley Police Officer Andrew MacLafferty and Ingleside Police Station Captain Paul Chinell for their help in providing information for this month’s Police Beat.
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The second annual Noe Valley Harvest Festival is Ripening on the Vine as Organ take place on 24th Street between Church and Sanchez on Saturday, Oct. 21. According to Norine Traci-Maloney, the festival chair. "We will be having many of the same fun and exciting events, such as the pumpkin patch, stroller obstacle course, and, of course, the dog and children costume contest." The Noe Valley Farmers' Market on 24th Street between Sanchez and Vicksburg will be open from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. that day. The Noe Valley Merchants will sponsor a hayride, and many merchants and artists will sell their wares.

The logo contest is officially under way for all kids under age 18 who live or attend school in (or very near) Noe Valley. Get out your sketch pads and pencils, because the winner gets great prizes: $100 cash, a free six-week drawing workshop at Artery, $50 in art supplies, plus a surprise gift certificate. (The runner-up receives $50 in art supplies and a $25 gift certificate.)

The contest winner will work with a graphic artist to produce the final logo, which will be used on festival banners, posters, and other publicity items. To participate in the contest, drop off your 8 1/2-by-11-inch logo to Donna Davis at Forbeandin, located on Church Street near 24th Street, or mail your logo to: Noe Valley Festival Logo Contest, c/o Mary Teahan-Duffy, Glenorac Graphics, 3532 23rd Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. All entries received by July 30 will be considered. Remember, parental help is discouraged. E-mail norev@nvharvestfestival.com with questions.

Organizers will also need volunteers to make the festival a success. "We especially need help day of this fair volume in chair booths, sell merchandise, and for set up and cleaning," notes Traci-Maloney. Prospective volunteers should contact Kathleen Welch at kelth645@yahoo.com. Artists and vendors who would like to purchase a booth at the fair, e-mail Donna Davis at forbeandin@worldnet.att.net or Lisa Sharrett at leeswanda@att.net. Visit www.nvharvestfestival.com for more information about the festival.

Clean It Up, Drop It Off
Got junk you literally can't throw away? Now you can. The gigantic Three program will bring large debris boxes to James Lick Middle School at 1220 Noe Street near 25th Street on Saturday, July 8, from 8 a.m. until noon. Neighbors can drop off bulky items for garbage, recycling, or composting. Used motor oil and filters, placed in plastic bags and separated from other items, will be accepted, as will non-automotive household batteries and unbroken fluorescent bulbs and tubes. Goodwill Industries will be on site accepting donations for reuse.

That same day, July 8, you also are invited to participate in the official District 8 Community Cleanup from 9 a.m. until noon starting at Harvey Milk Plaza at Castro and Market streets. Volunteers will paint graffiti, create litter-free zones, and tend to trees in the neighborhood. All supplies are provided, and lunch will be served after the event.

Two weeks later, on Saturday, July 22, a Community Clean Team will arrive at the Eureka Valley Recreation Center. 100 volunteers will get to work on gardening and beautification projects in and around the park. If enough neighbors want to help out, the cleanup day can be extended to other parks in District 8, including those in Noe Valley. "If there is a want and need for satellite locations, and there are groups that want to work at specific parks, that can be discussed and arranged," explains Naomi Lee of the Clean City Coalition. For more information or to volunteer, call 552-9201, ext. 10, or visit www.sfcleancity.com.

Louise Brooks Expert Speaks at Silent Film Fest
Noe Valley resident Thomas Gladysz is half of the duo scheduled to introduce the 1929 classic German film Pandora’s Box at this year’s San Francisco Silent Film Festival. The film stars Louise Brooks as Lulu in what Gladysz describes as ‘one of the most iconic roles in film history” Gladysz, who makes his home at 27th and Church streets, is the director of the Louise Brooks Society, which he founded in 1995. He also is the author of a forthcoming book on the actress, Louise Brooks: A Film Miscellany. Artist and filmmaker Bruce Conner, who lives in Glen Park, will also take part in the film’s introduction.

The festival, now in its 11th year, takes place July 14 to 16, at the Castro Theatre, on Castro Street near 18th Street. The event will commemorate the 100-year anniversary of the San Francisco earthquake and Fire by presenting archival newsreel footage from the library of Congress throughout the festival weekend. Between films, The Booksmith will host appearances by film historians and authors in the theater lobby.

Seventh Heavens, starring Janet Gaynor; Laurel and Hardy’s The Finishing Touch, and The Unholy Three. Of the highlights. Special guests include Janet Gaynor’s son, Robin Adrian, and Harry Carey Jr., who participated in the Red River. Pandora’s Box will be shown at 8:20 p.m. on July 15. The festival reception is also that day, starting at 6:30 p.m.

For more program details or to purchase tickets, visit www.silentfilm.org, call 925-866-9530, or fax 925-866-9597 (an order form is available online). Tickets are also available in person through July 13 at the Festival Box Office, located at 833 Market Street. Show 812 (open Thursdays and Fridays from noon until 5:30 p.m.). On the day of the show, tickets will be available at the Castro Theatre from 9:30 a.m. until 8:30 p.m.

How ‘Liberal’ Became A Dirty Word
“‘To tell their populist story, conservatives have had to distort the economic and social realities of American life. In their version, the champions of the common people are Republicans and conservatives, and the bullies are a collection of sociology professors, middlelevel bureaucrats, Hollywood actors, and newspaper reporters...’” writes Fair Oaks Street resident Geoffrey Nunberg in his pithy new book Talking Right: How Conservatives Turned Liberalism into a Two-Speed, Latte-Drinking, Sushi-Eating, Volvo-Driving, New York Times—Reading, Body-Piercing, Hollywood-Loving, Left-Wing Freak Show. Nunberg is a prominent linguist who regularly contributes to National Public Radio’s Fresh Air.

Go meet your neighbor and get a copy of his book when Nunberg reads and signs at Modern Times Bookstore, at 888 Valencia Street near 20th Street, on Tuesday, July 18, at 7:30 p.m. For more information, call Modern Times at 282-9346. Nunberg is also the author of The Way We Talk Now and Going Nasal.
A Musical Portraitist in Noe Valley

By Olivia Boler

E ven with the popularity of the Bay Area's Kronos Quartet and the Sunday afternoon classical series at the Noe Valley Ministry, chamber music still has the reputation of appealing just to academics and the high-falutin' set. But Noe Valley resident and composer Belinda Reynolds would like to change that notion with the April release of her new album, Cover, by Innova Recordings. Cover is Reynolds' first CD that is devoted solely to her own music. There are a number of other CDs on which her music is represented, but all of those collections include other composers' works and are performed by a single ensemble, like the award-winning Shock of the Old World by the chamber ensemble American Baroque. For the seven tracks on Cover, several different ensembles perform only Reynolds' compositions.

Reynolds describes her music as "a sound world that is both familiar yet undermine very different from what one would [expect]. Anyone hearing it will feel familiar with it, in that it has melodies and harmonies that are rooted in classical music. But I like to turn it on the edge."

Turning classical music on its edge might be a good definition for the labels used to categorize Reynolds' work. Critics often call it "new classical music" or "post-minimalism." As Joshua Kopman of the San Francisco Chronicle points out, the music on Cover "begins from obvious premises—a repetitive rhythmic groove, a collection of familiar tonal harmonies—but then Reynolds takes them in new directions and the seemingly straightforward turns strange and subversive. Never threatening."

Reynolds agrees with this: "I love playing with textures," she says. "I love playing with volumes—but then Reynolds takes them in new directions and the seemingly straightforward turns strange and subversive. Never threatening."

"New classical" musician Belinda Reynolds, shown here in her composing room on 26th Street, is currently composing a string quartet piece for an international music festival in Utah. Photo by Parnell Gerard.

Reynolds immediately answers, "Anytime! I actively work at bringing my music to every day changed everything for many."

Reynolds, 38, has been playing the piano since she was 3—"I don't remember not playing," she says—and composing since she was 6. She grew up in a southern Christian home, and her mother and grandmother taught her to play old-time gospel and boogie-woogie piano. She attended U.C. Berkeley and Yale University, where she was classically trained, although she went through a rock/punk phase—"I played keyboards and bass with some bad garage bands"—and also spent time in India studying music in the 1990s.

"You can hear these influences in my music in the way I use driving rhythms, strumming chords, and drones," she says.

When asked who her audience is, Reynolds immediately answers, "Anyone!" and follows up with a thoughtful discourse on how artists should be engaged in their own culture and why classical musicians have struggled to broaden their audience. Because our government does not fund the arts very generously, she says, composers have to find patronage through the private sector, mostly in universities.

"New music [becomes] removed from everyday life," she says, and has the reputation of only being understood and appreciated by the well-educated. "That is crazy! I actively work at bringing my music to a variety of audiences, from schools to orchestra halls."

Part of that work comes in the form of teaching. A few years ago, she was a composer-in-residence and master teacher at Starr King Elementary School. She also offers private lessons through her company, HeShe Music (heshemusic.com), which she founded with her husband Dan Becker, who is also a composer and on the faculty at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music.

Reynolds' students have varied backgrounds, and she teaches anything from beginning piano to singing. Additionally, she writes a weekly column for a webzine, newmusicbox.org, and through her company publishes her music.

And, of course, there are commissions. Most of her commissions come from music ensembles like American Baroque and New Millennium Ensemble. She's part of a collective called Common Sense Composers' Collective, made up of eight members who collaborate with different ensembles to produce new work.

She has many different projects cooking at the moment, including a commission for a string quartet performing this summer at the Park City (Utah) International Music Festival, and for Paul Dresher Ensemble's Electro-Acoustic Band. One area she wants to explore more is composing for television and documentary films.

With this busy schedule and years of composing, this mom of 2-year-old Eleanor has found her compositional stride, and technology is the key. "I improvise every day, and we have a grand piano that is a player piano, but it uses a computer instead of piano rolls," she explains.

Once Eleanor is at preschool for the day, Reynolds loses herself in composing. One fun new project she's working on is called "Custom Made." It allows "regular" folk to commission a new work for themselves by working with Reynolds. The commissioner gets two bound copies of the final piece, signed by Reynolds, and the work is cataloged in the American Music Center library and the Library of Congress. They get to pick the title and, for a limited time, receive exclusive rights to performing the piece. It's kind of like getting to name a star after yourself, or, as Reynolds says, "Think of it as a musical portrait."

Cover, along with other albums featuring Reynolds' work, is available online and at Streetlight Records on 24th Street.

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Karen 2003
CALENDAR

July 16: Hip Hop Price Czar Paul Craig and Supervision Review Board will attend a MEETING addressing room violence in Diamond Heights. 4 p.m. St. Acacius Church, 101 Gold Drive. 541-0888.

July 17: Peaks Fell, Vegas, Grand Nizzia, and David Meltzer read from their work. 4:30 pm. Eureka Valley Library, 16th & Market. 355-5616.

July 18: Bilingual Spanish/English storyteller appears at Modern Times to talk about his book Talking Right. 10:30 am. Sharon Meadow, Golden Gate Park. 353-1304 or 353-2220.

July 20: 7: The S.F. JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL opens with Jewish cinema at the Castro Theatre. 7 p.m. 429 Castro St. 395-0998.

July 22: Sherrie Dobrott entertains children on political language, "Coping with Cancer-Related Fatigue." 5-7 p.m. San Francisco Public Library, 888 Valencia St. 989-4422. 14 and under free. 6:30 pm. CounterPulse, 1416 Mission St. 435-7552.

July 25: All are welcome at the Eureka Valley Library's harvest festival. 1:30-6:30 pm. Eureka Valley Library, 16th & Market. 355-5616.

July 29: The S.F. Bike Coalition sponsors a MARATHON, a 26.2-mile race around the Bay. 7:30 am. Bike Race. 362-1521. 647-5835.


July 23: You’re invited to the Noe Valley Harvest Festival LOGO CONTEST, open to kids under 18 who reside or attend school in Noe Valley. 10 am to 2 pm at Noe Valley Festival Logo Contest, 21 Mission West of Noe Valley Festival Board. Info: Mary Toye-Garci, Celestial Graphics. 353-2320 or 3414. For details, see noevalleyvoice.com.

July 20: 4:45 FOR AIDS, an auction to benefit the AIDS Health Project, will take place at brunches & cocktails. 10:30-5:30 pm. 520 San Bruno Ave., noevalleyvoice.com (To view artwork before the event, contact ArtHaus, 415 Brannan St., 977-0223; info@arthaus-sf.com.)

July 27: Sharon O'Neill entertains children ages 2 to 5 with stories, songs and PATTI’S PLAYS’ Rain forest and insects. 10:30 am. Eureka Library, 10th & Market. 355-5916.

July 29: The S.F. Bike Coalition sponsors a MARATHON, a 26.2-mile race around the Bay. 7:30 am. Bike Race. 362-1521. 647-5835.


Aug. 6-12: Japantown hosts the 32nd annual JAPANFEST. 11 am-6 pm. Fillmore Street, 441-9999; or 415-392-1221.


Aug. 27: 220 San Bruno Ave.; 4740; http://sfpl.lib.ca.us. "Coping with Cancer-Related Fatigue." 5-7 p.m. San Francisco Public Library, 888 Valencia St. 353-1304 or 353-2220.

Aug. 25: "Coping with Cancer-Related Fatigue." 5-7 p.m. San Francisco Public Library, 888 Valencia St. 353-1304 or 353-2220.

Aug. 29: WE’RE ON THE BEACH Where: The Noe Valley Voice on vacation—for a month. But we promise to ring up the computers in early August to get your mail for the 1st week of September. For details, see calendar@noevalleyvoice.com.

Aug. 15: Please send e-mails to calendar@noevalleyvoice.com. Or you may write Noe Valley Voice, 701 Sengstacke St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Noe Valley events take place in Noe Valley, our other neighborhoods may appear if the events will be of interest to Noe Valley. Many other nuggets as possible.
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The Noe Valley Voice • July/August 2006
From behind the counter, the tall man with the gentle smile serves you his trademark blend of roasted coffee. Those in the know will recognize Adam Bousiaklis as the proud owner of Cafe XO, that comfortable spot with the delectable pastries on the corner of 30th and Church streets. Or perhaps as the former manager of Noe Valley Pizza on 24th Street.

Why did he open a cafe? "I like making desserts! And I like making people happy," says Bousiaklis. He likes it so much, he arrives at 5 a.m. every morning to start work on a fresh batch.

Bousiaklis has traveled far in his 34 years. Raised in Greece, where he learned to make pastries, he came to San Francisco to live with his uncle in 1989. Along the way, he modeled casual men's clothing and underwear for an East Coast department store and obtained his pilot's license to fly small private planes.

His cafe, which he designed himself and likens to a Venetian bistro, was a hit from the minute it opened in 2002. Bousiaklis lives a stone’s throw away, at the corner of San Jose and Dolores.

After his uncle died, Bousiaklis was inspired to start a second business—a funeral home offering memorial services to the Bay Area’s Greek community. He now conducts traditional Greek Orthodox services at Whitted-Williams Funeral Home in Oakland.
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Summer Films for Children (and Their Parents, Too)
By David O'Grady

On the dog days of summer—or a cool, fog-swept night in Noe Valley—nothing beats a good movie. Family films offer a great way for parents and kids to share an adventure and talk about it afterward. Unfortunately, a lot of family movies—especially summer fare—avoid anything that might spark the synapses or prompt the dreaded question "Why?" But the following films, suitable for most ages and available for rent in Noe Valley video stores, tickle the funny bone, feed inquiring minds, and sometimes even stir the soul.

Money Problems of a Different Kind

What would you do if a bag of money suddenly dropped out of the sky and landed right on top of you? In the 2004 film Millions, this is the dilemma faced by brothers Damian and Anthony, the newest residents of a commuter-rail suburb in the English countryside. For younger brother Damian, who has an encyclopedic knowledge of the lives (and deaths) of saints, the money is a miracle to be shared with others. But for older brother Anthony, it's a chance to buy status and influence with the kids at his new school. Soon the brothers' personal conflict gives way to bigger problems, as Damian's startled—and often humorously misplaced—generosity begets violence, and sometimes even stir the soul.

Heart of Gold, With an Appetite For Iron

Before animator Brad Bird joined Pixar and made the smash hit The Incredibles in 2004, he created an arguably more endearing and moving short, The Iron Giant, released in 1999. Based on a bedtime story that poet Ted Hughes told to his children, The Iron Giant tells the story of a young boy named Hogarth, as they make their way on foot to Canada. At just over two hours, Spirited Away is dark in places, curse, and Wilby may get his chance to fend for herself. With the help of a young spirit boy named Haku, Chihiro discovers that survival means working as a servant in a bathhouse for spirits. There she meets a variety of characters, from a smelly, bloated river spirit contaminated by pollution, to the curiously charming balls of soot who carry coal to heat the bathhouse. By helping the spirits, Chihiro gathers the wisdom and strength to confront the sinister keeper of the bathhouse, who has the power to restore Chihiro's parents—or serve them up as the next meal.

Life in a Bathhouse for Spirits

Stylish Japanese animation can be an adjustment for older eyes raised on Disney, but adults and kids alike will be swept up by the engaging beauty of the 2001 Japanese film Spirited Away. Directed by acclaimed animator Hayao Miyazaki, Spirited Away tells the story of Chihiro, a timid, bed-scooped girl who is moving in with her parents to a new home. On the way, the family encounters a strange tunnel that leads to an abandoned amusement park—or so they think... Dragged into the park by her parents, Chihiro watches as her mother and dad are captured and turned into pigs by the spirits who live there, leaving Chihiro to feed for herself.
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Wishing We Were There

We’ve found the solution to our reader envy. We’re going on vacation ourselves. Yes, the Noe Valley Voice is out of here until Aug. 1. Please save your news, announcements, calendar items, and class ads until we return. You have until Aug. 15 to get stuff to us for the September issue, which is due on the streets of Noe Valley and vicinity on Friday, Sept. 1. If you want to buy a display ad, you have until Aug. 18. Our address is 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. Or you can always e-mail us at editor@noevalleyvoice.com.

Maggie Kerwin and her mom Amy Penticoff, of 21st Street, kept their copy of the Voice dry while kayaking near the Jean-Michel Cousteau Fiji Islands Eco-Resort.

Jo Ann Stewart and Judy Nelson checked for Lost Pet notices in the Noe Valley Voice while visiting the Punta Tombo Penguin Colony in Argentina. No Magellanics were reported to be missing.

Brian Brockway didn’t let his vacation to China’s Great Wall interfere with a thorough reading of the April Fool’s edition Baloney Valley Voice.

Craigton “Craig” Gee took a break to scan the news from home during his picketing for the “Walk for Truth” campaign on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. Gee logged over 130 miles in laps around the White House and Capitol. More photos and information are on his web site: www.notesonamerica.com.

After a boat ride on the West Lake in Hongzhou, China, Cheryl Drake, Jackie Duncan, and Fran Buchanan (left to right) posed with a copy of the Voice that Jackie, a Noe Street resident since 1976, had packed for the trip.
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Life at Kingston Corner

There is a walk that I frequently take from our present 21st Street home to the corner of Mission and Kingston streets, a block south of 30th Street. Every time I reach "Kingston Corner," it is like a homecoming.

This is the place where Leo and I and our two young children landed when we returned to the city in 1950, after being away for several years. At the time, inexpensive housing was hard to come by, and few people would rent to couples with young children, who were inclined to be noisy. But for us, my father owned the property where his business, Michelsohn's Paint and Unfinished Furniture Store, was located at 3434 Mission Street.

Since he was in need of a new store manager, he asked me to try my hand at minding the shop for a few days. After a week or so, he decided that I could manage it, so he offered me a permanent job, as well as the adjoining living quarters—a small cottage—for our family of four.

This proved to be a wonderful arrangement. Because my father's paint and furniture business was a relatively quiet one, I was able to keep my eyes on our two young sons, watch their development every day, and get a paycheck at the same time.

Our oldest son, Michael, was in the first grade at Fairmount Elementary School, but our second son, Jan, was 2½ years younger and not yet of school age. So Jan kept me company in the store and began to learn about the business.

On Monday mornings, we went to the bank to deposit the checks and bills from the weekend sales. At the same time, we got bags of change to replenish the cash register. Jan watched all of this and naturally interpreted it according to a 4-year-old's logic. I overheard him tell a friend knowingly, "You just take a little money to the bank, and the man gives you back a whole bunch!"

Without my guidance, he learned to withdraw funds from his piggy bank with a kitchen knife, in order to invest his sweets at the 30th Street corner market. His philosophy was (and still is): "Money is no good unless you use it."

When I tried to help my son, Jan, a friend knowingly, "You just take a little money to the bank, and the man gives you back a whole bunch!"

First they constructed a slide. Then they dismantled it in order to build a seesaw, which was great fun until they converted that to a catapult.

On another occasion, an unfamiliar child came home from school with our son Michael and after spending all afternoon in front of the television refused to go home, telling us that his mother didn't care. But it was growing dark, and we finally insisted. When we took him to the street where he lived, four blocks away, we were alarmed to see a gathering of neighbors, police, and a hysterical mother, who gave us an angry tongue-lashing. We apologized and made a hasty retreat, and resolved to check out every new face in our front room thereafter.

I'll also never forget the day I returned to the cottage after work and found our two little boys innocently seated on the sofa in front of the set. Since it was chilly, I flipped on the furnace switch, then went about preparing dinner. Within minutes, a strange odor began to fill the air, and then I heard a crackling sound that grew louder as the scent got heavier.

I ran around from appliance to appliance trying to determine the source, with the boys joining me in the pursuit. Then suddenly at our feet, the floor furnace began to percolate puffs of white until a billyow cloud filled the entire space beneath the heater grating.

It smelled like popcorn—which is exactly what it was! The boys had accidently spilled the kernels earlier that day and neglected to report the mishap. However, they looked so astounded when the popcorn burst into view, Leo and I decided a harsh punishment would not be necessary.

Besides, it was one of the funniest things that happened during our seven years of raising kiddies at Kingston Corner.

Florence Holub first wrote this remembrance for the July/August 1994 Voice.
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Photo by Pamela Gerard

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A youngish mom with unusual facial piercings brings her daughter by, and I am relieved to see a girl. Again I scold myself for my bizarre attachment to gender balance. She's not even 3!

Who cares if she plays with boys or girls?

After spending a few minutes watching Grace dig in the sand, I announce that it is time for me to leave. I crouch down at kid level, and Grace clings to me harder than I have ever felt. Her arms envelope my neck and she crawls up my body like she is trying to go back inside my womb.

"Please take me home with you! Please don't go!" she begs.

"Why don't you walk us to the door?" I suggest.

She does, and the teacher's aide silently follows behind. At the door Grace cries and begs again. I tight back my own tears.

After spending a few minutes watching Grace dig in the sand, I announce that it is time for me to leave. I crouch down at kid level, and Grace clings to me harder than I have ever felt.

"I love you so much, Grace. And I am so proud of you. You are going to have a great time today, and I will come back to get you later. I promise."

She still won't let go. I start to stand up, to force the separation, no matter how painful. Grace grabs the scarf from my neck so that it unwinds as I stand. "Can I keep this until you get back?"

"Of course you can."

And just like that she switches into chatter, happy Grace mode. She turns to Roxie, the teacher's aide, and says, "This is my mommy's scarf. And I am going to keep it for her until she comes back." Then she turns and heads out to play.

And I feel okay. We leave the classroom and peck through the one-way observation window in the hall. The scarf is knotted around Grace's neck, and she is chatting away with Roxie.

I remember the game we played yesterday, initiated by Grace, where she said that she was the mommy taking me to school. She asked me to cry when she left, and then she said she would give me something to hold until she got back. I can't believe I didn't proactively remember that game this morning. Kids are so amazing at making sure their needs are met, and yesterday she was definitely letting me know what would give her comfort. Grace knew what would make her feel better, and when I forgot to give her a little something of mine, she went ahead and took my scarf. Simply amazing.

Later, when I go back to pick Grace up, she doesn't want to leave. "But I'm still playing, Mama!"

I finally persuade her to head out to the car with a promise of a box of soy milk that waits for her. In the hallway, she talks and talks about her day. The words are a blurry chatter of kid-speak, and I have trouble making it all out. But something does jump out at me.

"I had fun, fun, fun at school today. It is a full of love.

I am so relieved and grateful to hear this that I almost burst into tears.

Robin Dutton-Cookston is a full-time mom and a part-time writer. She writes an online column called "The Foggiest Idea" and also self-publishes a parenting line called Apron Strings.

Let Bylines Be Bylines

The Noe Valley Voice welcomes submissions of first-person essays. Mail manuscripts to Bylines, Noe Valley Voice, 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. Or send e-mail submissions to bylines@noevalleyvoice.com. Please include your name, address, and phone number. Thank you.
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- Andrea M.
Team in Training
Cross-Country Ski Marathon

Illustration by LeUyen Pham
A craft book on recycling old sweaters and an essay collection about friendships among women are among the San Francisco Public Library gems highlighted this month by children's librarian Pam Ow and Noe Valley Voice bookworm Karol Banke. If you'd like to reserve a book, call your favorite branch or visit the library's web site, www.sflpl.org. You may also check out the Noe Valley bookmobile, which is parked in front of St. Philip's School at Elizabeth and Diamond streets on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Note: The Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library, 451 Jersey Street, is closed for seismic repairs until late 2007. For information about the renovation, call 557-4353.

**LIBRARY SELECTIONS**

**Adult Fiction**

Twelve American tourists on a Himalayan journey find the road to Burma is paved with less than honorable intentions, questionable food, and tribal curses, in Amy Tan's *Saving Fish From Drowning.*

Resorcelous Henry Smart leaves behind a life of crime in Dublin (and his wife at jail), travels to America, and helps Louis Armstrong's musical career, in *Oh, Play That Thing,* Rody Doyle's follow-up to *A Star Called Henry.*

**Adult Nonfiction**

In the new essay collection *Stranger Than Fiction,* journalist/author Chuck Palahniuk (best known for his novel *Fight Club*) explores the climate and inners of boyhood. Ages 11 to 14. "less than honorable intentions, questionable food, and tribal curses," in Amy Tan's *Saving Fish From Drowning.*

In *The Pea Blossom* by Tama Janowitz, author of *Saving Fish From Drowning,* twelve American tourists on a Himalayan journey find the road to Burma is paved with less than honorable intentions, questionable food, and tribal curses. Ages 11 to 14.

Children's Fiction

Beast *Butterflies* by Martin Schwabacher before visiting the San Francisco Conservatory of Flowers' Butterfly Zone exhibit. Ages 8 to 10.

Dip into the collection of stories, memories, advice, poems, and drawings in *Gays Write for Gays Read,* edited by Jon Scieszka, for glimpses into 91 authors' and artists' experiences of boyhood. Ages 11 to 14.

Unleash your crafting creativity by recycling and transforming clothing into items such as minions, hats, and purses, as seen in *Second-Time Cool: The Art of Chopping Up a Sweater,* by Anna-Stina Linden Ivarsson, and others. Ages 12 and up.

—Pam Ow, Children's Librarian, Eureka Valley-Harry Milk Memorial Branch Library

**LIBRARY EVENTS**

*Stories & Lapsits*

Bethany United Methodist Church, at the corner of Sanchez and Clipper streets, is now offering space for the Noe Valley Library's weekly programs for children. This month's lapsits, for newborns to 3-year-olds, will be held Tuesdays, July 11, 18, and 25, at 10:15 a.m. *Preschool story time,* for kids ages 3 to 5, takes place at 11 a.m., also on Tuesdays, July 11, 18, and 25.

Meanwhile, the Eureka Valley and other local libraries, along with the Main Branch, host a variety of lapsits, lectures, and special events, for both children and adults. Go to www.sflpl.org for complete listings.
40¢ a word!

The deadline is the 15th of the month. Write Voice Class Ads, 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114.

NOE VALLEY VOICE CLASS ADS


Conversations with Art, bring a special object, an art piece, and/or a question, or just bring yourself. Conversations with Art.

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CLASS ADS

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Noe Valley Short-Term Furnished Rental. For details go to www.rcmrc.com or call 415-695-7924.

Health Fitness Group. Welcome to our support group. Our focus is taking a preventative approach to staying physically and mentally fit, along with social interaction and friendship. 415-516-6070.

Need a Writer or Editor? Put your experience to work. I am a published author and experienced copyeditor with an M.A. in Creative Writing. I can answer questions and point you in the right direction. Design from scratch, renovate, reduce costs. I'll help you make wise, economical choices which yields quick results. Call 415-252-0566.

Repairs with a Woman’s Touch. Handywoman Julie will repair those inside and outside problems you aren’t getting to and wish you could. Get reliable, friendly, and creative help now. Picture-hanging, windows repairs, lock replacement, door adjustments, furnishing assembly, baby-proofing, minor plumbing, and electrical. Call Julie Pinger, Repairs with a Woman’s Touch, 415-517-4013.


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SECRETARY’S OFFICE SERVICES: Data entry, bookkeeping, projects, files, receipt organizing, moves, etc. Helen: 415-550-2277.

Vacation Retreat for Noe Valleyians: Calla at 415-379-5923

Gentle Computer Consulting 48 The Noe Valley Voice • July/August 2006

Tourism: park, movies, theater, restaurants, bars, sports, shopping, etc. Melanie has news and photos from the current issue, and searchable archiving dating back to 1996. Visit the Voice Web Site.
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MARKET WATCH DOGS

By Mazook

GOOD NEWS hit the Chronicle’s business page in a June story headlined, “Kroger Talking to Buyer for 12 Bay Area Stores.” Listed among the 12 stores was our own Bell Market at 3950 24th Street. And the name of the buyer was none other than Harvey DeLano. As you Rumors-mongers know (see March-June Voice), DeLano is the home-town guy who owned Bell during the 1990s. Over the past six months, he has been trying to recapitalize the stores from Kroger/Ralphs in a package deal that would include up to a dozen other Bay Area Cala/Bells.

The clerks at our market are pretty excited about the prospect of DeLano taking over, after eight years under the control of Cincinnati-based giant Kroger Co. (And do we mean giant—Kroger’s profits for the first quarter of 2006 came to over $350 million.) Still, they were a bit surprised by the revelation in the June 23 Chronicle, because the previous news had been that a DeLano deal had fallen through. But the same afternoon, the Chronicle story broke, the employees’ union, Local 648, sent out a representative to Bell to let everyone know that, yes, the story was true—the DeLano group is back at the bargaining table, with the union representing the Cala/Bell crew.

“I was really sorry to see that the landlord at the Haight Street store sold the property for what I understand would be $1.50 less, but he didn’t have a choice,” said one of the clerks. “It leaves that neighborhood without a supermarket, but the Eureka Valley Cita is close by the Haight, which is not that long a drive.”

The other market to watch is Real Food Co-op. The DeLano group has been very encouraging through this process, and I look forward to having him attend the community meetings in Noe Valley and the Castro this fall.

YES, VIRGINIA, THERE IS A REMODEL: DeLano also sent greetings to our Board of Directors, saying that since Nutraceutical News had been bought by a public company, he would be working with architects on the plans. Still, we are excited to be part of this exciting transformation of the local supermarket. The store is 2008. Meanwhile, our health food needs will have to be filled by Bell Market, Bi-Rite, and the Mom-and-Pops.

NOISE IN THE NEWS: Bay Guardian critic Paul Reidinger gave a favorable review of the new cupcake revolution. The chocolate cupcakes are gorgeous, and a bargain: $1.50 each. The other flavors are springing up everywhere. Can I sniff out a rumor? I grab my kids to make a quick tour of the chain coffeehouses. This place sells five big and beautiful cupcakes: Fudge, Moose-ter (the brand name Hostess), Rocky Road, Zingered (also like the Hostess brand), and a plain yellow one without a cute name. According to a bakery counterperson, Alex, most-est is the biggest seller. Each cupcake is $1.95. My children purchase and inhale a Fudge and a Moose-ter. They are thrilled.

Up the street at Kooker Cafe, manager Desna Lovecio is watching over the cupcake display at the front of the restaurant. The little fluffs are gorgeous, and a bargain: $1.50 space; there for $1.95 a doz for $12. Deano says on a recent evening he sold three cupcakes to a customer who was waiting to be seated for dinner. “More adults than kids come in and buy them,” he says. You can’t ruin your dinner—with three types of cake: chocolate, vanilla, or strawberry, iced with sweet cream, chocolate, or chocolate late, coconut, blue sprinkles...need I go on? Deano says strawberry is the top seller. I hung a quick right on Diamond (kids still not tired), and we find the tiniest of the cupcake trend, perched atop the deli case at Pasta Bella. These mini-cupcakes are vanilla cake with strawberry topping. Manager Steven says the store rotates the flavors. The cupcakes sell for 99 cents each, and according to Steven, customers usually try to buy just one, but...

Emerging by our success (can’t possibly be the sugar), my kids and I swing back down through Tulley’s, Martha’s, and Staub’s, Alas. The chain coffeehouses have not been informed of the cupcake revolution. The chocolate muffins, about $1.75 at each store, are a tempting substitute. However, wonder if any editor surveys a survey of chocolate.... *Stop! Kids, no!”

Our most popular at Cate Ponte is the carrot cupcake. The vegan cupcake sells for $3 and the others are $2. The Noe Valley Voice • July/August 2006
end in San Francisco, where he spent a lot of time having cocktails in Downtown Noe Valley. He was even more of a punk than the punk bar we went to a few nights before. The bartender...was a...cutie, who regaled us with tales of her strange regulars.

And then Noe Valley Bakery owner Michael Gassen was in the Chronicle describing to writer Tara Duggan how his bakers make their scone dough with butter. He says, "We want some dough to be shaggy," he told Duggan, noting that his secret was to add chunks of butter to the dough.

Gassen added that the neighborhood's favorite scone was Blueberry-Pecan, and that he sells between 100 and 200 a day. Quick check with bakery guru Reed Morton revealed that Blueberry-Pecan is now being challenged by the Carretta-Orange for top spot.

The NAG AND THE FLAG: Another Noe Valleyian in the news is a horse, our most famous sprinter, Lost in the Fog. He won the Aristides Breeders' Cup at Churchill Downs last month. On July 15, according to owner and local character Harry Ato, Fog will be running again in a high-stakes sprint at Calder Raceway.

This Fourth of July, Ato is making the same offer he made last year (on a sign in his window at Twin Peaks Properties on 24th Street): "Free flags to celebrate the 4th of July. On the other window, he prefaces a CNN quote in a small space behind St. Clair's Liquor

The Larkspur store in '98, and now Opera Plaza, was opened in 1987, near the corner of Sanchez and 24th, in a small space behind St. Clair's Liquor store. Business prospered during the tech boom, and Noe Valley Computers moved to Clipper Street in 1991. He says he would have preferred to stay at the Clipper Street location, but his lease expired after the building was sold—reportedly for $1.7 million—and the rent doubled.

Another computer shop, Castro Computer Services, recently had a similar experience. With a restaurant taking over its storefront at 1320 Castro, Castro Computer will now be moving to August in the corner of 25th and Castro, where Open Door Yoga used to be.

Since it opened almost six years ago, the shop has migrated from one storefront on Castro to another—from 1236 (above 24th) to 1320 (below 24th) and now to 1500 Castro, across from James's Lick's rear play yard.

Castro Computer does in-house and home computer repairs and upgrades, and builds custom PCs. "We're also known as the Internet cafe for Noe Valley," says Susan Wallis, who's co-owner of CCS with her brother Rajat. "We have computers that people can just jump on and right heri in our shop."

Though moving is a lot of stress, Susan says she is getting excited about the new location. "It's a much bigger space. Parking is going to be a whole lot easier for us and our customers."

The extra room will enable her to offer more classes. "We already hold free classes in spywear—spywear is a bear. But we want to increase our training programs so that we can have more free classes."

KUDOS GO OUT to the crew who work for the Noe Valley Community Benefit District. I am sure you all have noticed how much spiffier 24th Street is, now that we have a daily cleaning. CBD chair Debra Niemann wants every- one to know that you can call 559-8492 to report major spills, like coke, gum, garbage, loose papers, vomit, or dog-doo messes, on 24th Street between Church and Douglas streets. The CBD gang will be on it in a jiffy.

You might be interested to know that only 35 percent of the 596 Noe Valley Greens turned out to vote (36.5 percent), and almost all of them (319) voted for Schwarzenegger. You might be interested to know that only 35 percent of the 596 Noe Valley Greens turned out to vote (36.5 percent), and almost all of them (319) voted for Schwarzenegger.

You might be interested to know that only 35 percent of the 596 Noe Valley Greens turned out to vote (36.5 percent), and almost all of them (319) voted for Schwarzenegger.
**Noe Valley**

$2,795,000

This meticulously renovated home is located on a quiet tree-lined street just steps from all the shops and cafes of sunny 24th Street.

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The upper level has a master bedroom suite, adjoining spa-like bath with soaking tub, dual vanities, and a two-person steam shower! Completing this level are two additional bedrooms, full bath, and laundry. There is also access to the large undeveloped attic space and possible roof deck.

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Joe Marko 415.738.7076
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**Noe Valley**

$1,395,000

Mid-century 3BR/2BA home on corner lot with dramatic city & bay views. Living room, formal dining room, family room, remodeled kitchen & baths, office w/built-ins, garden, and 1-car garage.

Gary Johnson 415.738.7068

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**Noe Valley**

$989,000

Beautiful & tastefully renovated 2BR/2BA home w/honed limestone floors, gourmet kitchen w/top-of-the-line appliances, spa-like baths & elegant fixtures throughout. Updated systems, ideal location.

Diane Chin/Marcia Doty 415.738.7043/7034

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**Noe Valley**

$1,395,000

Painless integration of structure & function in this 3BR/2.5BA condo. Well-designed floor plan w/ limestone entry, custom lighting & cabinets, in-floor radiant heat, cherrywood floors & landscaped garden.

Ruth Dawson 415.738.7048

---

**Noe Valley**

$1,049,000

Three-level, 3BR/2BA, remodeled, Spanish Mediterranean home. Open kitchen/dining/living area, built-in media system, Brazilian cherry floors, top-line appliances, deck, level yard & spectacular views.

Sam Avery/Jennifer Post 415.701.2607/2606

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**Noe Valley**

$939,000

Lovely 2BR/2.5BA townhouse-style condo features spacious living room w/fireplace & oak floors, gourmet kitchen w/ stainless appliances, 2 master suites, in-unit laundry, and 2 deeded parking spaces.

Dan Bunker/Dan Bartley 415.701.2648/2604

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**Eureka Valley**

$799,000

2BR/1BA + office (or 3rd BR) condo in 3-unit building. Kitchen w/granite counters & refaced cabinets opens to living/dining area w/fireplace & hardwood floors. Deeded garden & parking.

Dan Bunker/Dan Bartley 415.701.2648/2604

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Friends of Glen Canyon Park
Contact: Richard Crab, 685-0662
Mailing Address: 140 Tarascon Way, San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: May, by e-mail for details.

Friends of Noe Courts Playground
Contact: Laura Norman
E-mail: laurano@ yahoo.com
Mailing Address: c/o Friends of Noe Valley, PO. Box 469953, San Francisco, CA 94166
Meetings: E-mail for dates and times.

Friends of Noe Valley
Contact: Richard May, 206-0221
E-mail: rumbo@ pacbell.net
Web site: www.friendsatnoevalley.com
Mailing Address: PO. Box 469953, San Francisco, CA 94166
Meetings: First or second Thursday of the month (call or e-mail to confirm), at St. Philip's Parish Hall, 725 Diamond St.

Friends of On Lok's 30th Street Senior Center
Contact: Marian Hampton, 601-7845
Mailing Address: 225 30th St., San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Occasional. Call for details.

Friends of Upper Noe Recreation Center
Contact: Christina Goettel, 867-7772
E-mail: christina.goettel@yahoo.com
Mailing Address: Call or e-mail for dates and times.

Liberty Hill Neighborhood Association
Contact: John Barry, 695-0990
Mailing Address: PO. Box 19214, San Francisco, CA 94119
Meetings: Quarterly. Call for details.

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See Jane Run Running/Walking Committee
Meetings: Sundays, 10 a.m. (Runners meet at See Jane Run to pick up the 5K run/walk route. Info? www.seejanerunSports.com)

Southwest Mission Neighborhood Association (SWMINA)
Boundaries: 24th Street to Cesar Chavez and Fair Oaks to Mission
Contacts: Don Oshiro, 285-8188
Mailing Address: 169 Valley St., San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Last Thursday of the month (call to confirm), Upper Noe Recreation Center, Day and Sanchez streets, 7:30 p.m.

Noe Valley Preparedness Committee
Contact: Mindy Kernin, 377-3900
E-mail: mkinny@vzw@aa.net
Meetings: Call for details.

Outer Noe Valley Merchants
Contact: Jim Appenrodt, 641-1500
Mailing Address: 294 24th St., San Francisco, CA 94118
Meetings: Call for details.

San Jose/Guerrero Coalition to Save Our Streets
Contacts: Den Oshin, 285-8188
E-mail: contact@ sanjoseguerrero.com
Web site: www.sanjoseguerrero.com
Meetings: See web site.

Save Our Streets Committee
Contact: Andy Fleischman, 641-5838
Mailing Address: 448 Cortland Avenue, Bernal Heights, San Francisco, CA 94110
Meetings: Third Thursday of the month; Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St., 7:30 p.m.

Noe Valley Farmers' Market
Meetings: E-mail for dates and times.

Noe Valley Library Campaign
Contact: Kim Drew, 641-4655; kdrew@yahoo.com; Maran Chatfield-Taylor, 626-7512, ext. 103
Mailing Address: Friends of the San Francisco Public Library, 391 Grove St., San Francisco, CA 94110
Meetings: Call for information.

Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association
Contact: Carol Scott, 867-9554
Mailing Address: c/o Small Fry's, 4066 24th St., San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Last Wednesday of the month, Bank of America, 24th and Castro, 9 a.m.

Noe Valley Parent Network
An e-mail resource network for parents
Contact: Mina Kennin
E-mail: minaemail@gmail.com

Noe Valley Stroll on Wheels
Contact: noestroll@aol.com

Noe Valley Democratic Club
Contact: Andy Fletcherman, 641-5838
Meetings: Third Wednesday of the month; Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St., 7:30 p.m.

Noe Valley Neighborhood Council
Boundaries: 24th Street to Cesar Chavez and Fair Oaks to Mission
Contacts: Kim Drew, 821-4045; Deanna Mooney, 821-4045
Mailing Address: 225 30th St., San Francisco, CA 94118
Meetings: Call for information.

Upper Noe Neighbors
Contact: Vicki Rosen, 285-0473
Mailing Address: 169 Valley St., San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Last Thursday of the month (call to confirm), Upper Noe Recreation Center, Day and Sanchez streets, 7:30 p.m.
Meet Marietta, Kevin, Miki and Kobe Bernstein, Founders of Vavadog, hip gear for the urban pet. From Chihuahuas to Great Danes, Marietta and Kevin’s trend-setting doggie duds adorn Hollywood celebrities’ fur kids and other canines around the country. From catwalks to sidewalks, their sensible fashions are all the rage. When it comes to design, these entrepreneurs have a keen eye. So, when it came to the dog-eat-dog world of San Francisco real estate, they chose a Zephyr agent who fit their style and found the perfect condo in the Haight that they call “Best in Show.”

Zephyr Real Estate. We’re all about San Francisco.
I moved to San Francisco in 1973, and immediately sat down in the Meat Market & ordered a cup of jasmine tea. I worked at Gwynnace, Catheriit, and Panetti's, lived on Dolores, Chappaqua, and Sanchez — and watched Noe Valley change and re-arrange. Now I'm moving back to Chicago, where I grew up — and I will miss everything and everyone so much... – Karol Barry, 2006