

THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

Slow Sanchez Gets the Green Light

SFMTA Votes to Keep the Street Pro-Pedestrian

By Matthew S. Bajko

San Francisco transit officials have given the go-ahead for extending the Slow Street designation for Sanchez Street beyond the Covid-19 pandemic—in other words, indefinitely. New signs alerting drivers about the roadway—and showing what types of vehicular and non-vehicular uses are allowed on it—should arrive this fall. The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency board of directors voted 7-0 at its Aug. 3 meeting to maintain Slow Sanchez Street and three other Slow Streets. Additional ones are likely to follow, as transit staff is looking at creating a network of Slow Streets across the city. “With careful consideration with each community, I think Slow Streets are in our toolbox as we move forward,” said SFMTA board member Fiona Hinze. Backers of keeping Sanchez Street slow hailed the board’s vote. Christopher Keene with the Friends of Slow Sanchez praised it on the group’s website as “a huge step forward in redefining how we use streets in our city, making them more people-centric.”

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This One's Good. Four-year-old Ruby Andrews shows her mom, Terra, one of the books she wants to check out from the newly reopened Noe Valley Library. Photo by Corrie M. Anders

Book a Date With a Noe Valley Landmark

Library on Jersey Street Finally Reopens

By Corrie M. Anders

They returned in a trickle at first, slowly walking up the stone steps and into the 115-year-old building at 451 Jersey St. But as word spread, the book lovers began to stream in, smiling as they climbed the stairs and reached the light-

filled temple of their imaginations. “They were just happy to see our faces, and we were happy to see their faces again,” said adult services librarian Francisco Cardona. “We were very well received.” It was July 20. And after 16 months of closure due to the Covid virus, the Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Library had finally reopened for in-person visits. (Hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.)

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Residents Say Make the J Go Downtown Again

Riders Blow the Whistle on Truncated Train

By Matthew S. Bajko

A new group of J-Church Muni riders has formed to demand that the city’s transportation planners return the subway line to its full route into downtown. As part of an ongoing project to improve speed, the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency altered the route in December, when the train cars for the J-Church returned to service after being mothballed for much of 2020 due to the Covid pandemic. Rather than heading underground via the tunnel at Church and Duboce streets, the J-Church line’s inbound trains now make their final stop at that intersection. The trains then turn around to head back outbound to the J-line’s terminus at the Balboa Park Station. Passengers wanting to continue downtown can disembark at the final stop and catch an inbound N-Judah train at the stop at the Duboce and Church intersection. Alternatively, they can get off one stop earlier, at the J-Church stop at Church and Market, and enter the underground Church Station to grab an inbound K, L, or M train. Another

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Peeling Back History: Weather and splitting wood have damaged the mural painted 13 years ago on the west wall of the Noe Valley Town Square on 24th Street. Park funds should help with repairs and may convince artist Mona Caron to rework her magic. Photo by Jack Tipple

New Life for Town Square

Music Events, Yoga Classes, and Mural Restoration Planned

By Matthew S. Bajko

For the first time in 18 months, events are set to return to the Noe Valley Town Square, the small public park in the heart of the 24th Street commercial corridor. Due to the Covid pandemic, park managers suspended public performances and classes at the square in March 2020. The Saturday morning farmers market, deemed an essential service, continued to operate in the space during the health crisis. And last summer the stewards for the park were allowed to once again put out tables and chairs for the public’s use. Yet no formal gatherings have been held there, other than early morning pilates classes offered by a private instructor twice a week. That will change Saturday, Sept. 11, when Ensemble San Francisco: Son et Lumière is set to perform in the Town Square, located at 3861 24th St., between Sanchez and Vicksburg streets. Hosted by the neighborhood’s

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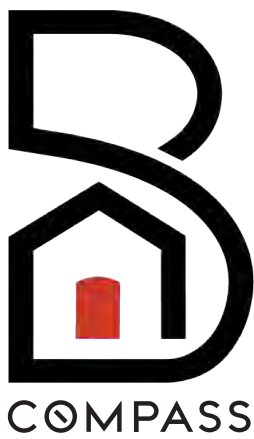


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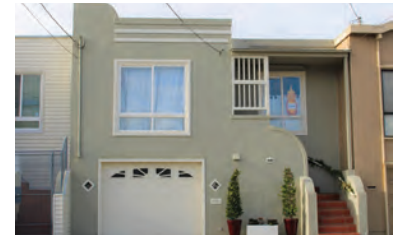
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SELLER REPRESENTED
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BUYER REPRESENTED
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BUYER REPRESENTED
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1,177 Sq Ft



SELLER REPRESENTED
446 Collingwood Street | \$3,600,000
Condo | 3 Bed | 2 Bath | 1,570 Sq Ft



BUYER REPRESENTED
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600 Sq Ft



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Michelle Long
Realtor®
M. 415.602.0307
michelle.long@compass.com
DRE 01266200


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Calling All Seniors, Retirees, and Lifelong Learners



OLLI members' hike in June 2021. Photo: Ana Linder

By Joe Castrovinci

Looking for ways to make new friends and exercise your mind? Here's a suggestion: How about trying some classes that are fun, thought-provoking, and free from tests and grades?

Osher Lifelong Learning (OLLI) at San Francisco State offers classes just like this — everything from six-week-long semesters to two-hour mini-classes — on subjects that range from the scholarly (*West Meets East: How Japanese Art Influenced Western Modern Art*), to the topical (*Inequality Rising: The Rapid Increase in Social Inequality in 21st Century America*), to the artistic (*The Genius of Sondheim and Rock'n' Roll's First Decade: From Elvis to the Beatles*).

As a special bonus, each class gives you the opportunity to meet active, like-minded seniors eager to learn and make new friends. And now's the perfect time to check OLLI out because we're about to launch a new season of classes and talks.

Our Fall 2021 session starts on Oct. 11th

OLLI SF State is more than a collection of courses — it is truly a learning community.

David Perper
OLLI Member since 2010

and offers a unique, carefully chosen mix of online classes, including the ones mentioned above. We're also planning an OLLI Members' visit to the S.F. Botanical Garden's Flower Piano event on Sept. 17th. Plus, in September, before our Fall semester starts, we're offering a separate set of shorter, two-hour-or-longer mini-classes and a free Speaker Series. September mini-classes cover topics as diverse as *Emerging Infectious Diseases*, *The World of the Maya*, and — for people who want to get out and get some exercise — *A South of Market Hidden History Hike*.

That's not all. In addition to classes, OLLI offers access to ten interest groups, including French and Spanish conversation, OLLI Hikers, Poetry Writing, Share-a-Film, and more.

For the well-being and health of our members and friends, all Fall courses will be offered remotely via Zoom.

To learn more about OLLI at San Francisco State and join our community of friendly, active, inquiring adults — or to sign up for any of the classes mentioned above — please visit <http://olli.sfsu.edu>

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¹ Siemens U.S. and Canada Green City Index



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2020 Statistics

- #1 in Residential Sales Volume in Noe Valley, Eureka Valley, Dolores Heights *
- Ranked among the top 5 San Francisco real estate teams (based on sales volume) *
- Sales Volume over \$141 million

* Source: San Francisco Association of Realtors (SFARMLS) 2021

DROUBI TEAM RECENT LISTINGS & TRANSACTIONS



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NOE VALLEY VICTORIAN
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228 JERSEY STREET
NOE VALLEY
ACTIVE
\$1,795,000



2279 BRYANT STREET
MISSION TOP FLOOR CONDO
ACTIVE
\$1,595,000



2277 BRYANT STREET
MISSION CONDO
ACTIVE
\$1,375,000



1076 PAGE STREET
TOP FLOOR VICTORIAN CONDO
LIST: \$1,450,000
SOLD: \$1,575,000



4721 17TH STREET
COLE VALLEY HOME
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SOLD: \$4,300,000



4184 CESAR CHAVEZ
NOE VALLEY VIEW HOME
LIST: \$3,195,000
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2244 STEINER STREET
PACIFIC HEIGHTS HOME
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Support New Housing

Editor:

The Bay Area seems to be in the grip of denial. As an editorial in the *Chronicle* on July 13 bluntly points out, we aren’t housing our own population because we simply refuse to.

Our region creates more than three jobs for every one new home. The cost of rent requires a San Franciscan to make nearly \$70 an hour to afford an apartment. We claim to care about climate change—and have seen its impact devastate the region through drought and wildfire—but consistently fail to enact green policies. Instead, we refuse to build more housing, requiring our workers to “supercommute” to get here, or worse, call their cars shelter.


This is the price of our refusals.

Unfortunately, there is no easy solution to a chronic housing shortage—just the hard, steady work to make up for 40-plus years of neighbors saying “no.” Even Home-SF proposals, designed to sprinkle needed homes for working families across our neighborhoods, such as 4512 23rd Street on the slope of Twin Peaks, are met with neighborhood opposition in the name of “character.” What is the character of a community that refuses to use its voice to support land use that helps the environment and reverses housing discrimination?

We must come together and begin supporting new housing. Saying no—whether to preserve neighborhood character or avoid “gentrification,” or because a given project lacks the ideal percentage of affordable units—is quite simply a vote in favor of more homelessness, displacement, and the further acceleration of climate change.

Milo Trauss and Joe DiMento

Noe Valley renters and members of Progress Noe Valley



THE NOE VALLEY VOICE
P.O. Box 460249 • San Francisco, CA 94146
www.noevalleyvoice.com

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

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Email: Editor@noevalleyvoice.com or Sally@noevalleyvoice.com
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CO-PUBLISHERS/EDITORS
Sally Smith, Jack Tipple

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS AND EDITORS
Corrie M. Anders, Associate Editor
Olivia Boler, Other Voices Editor
Heidi Anderson, Matthew S. Bajko, Owen Baker-Flynn, Karol Barske, Michael Blake, Gabe Castro-Root, Liz Highleyman, Kala Hunter, Jeff Kaliss, Charlotte Kane, Richard May, Roger Rubin, Tom Ruiz, Astrid Utting, Megan Wetherall

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS
Art Bodner, Pamela Gerard, Najib Joe Hakim, Beverly Tharp

ACCOUNTING
Jennifer O. Viereck

PRODUCTION
Jack Tipple, André Thélémaque

DISTRIBUTION
Jack Tipple

WEB GURU
Jon Elkin

ADVERTISING SALES
Pat Rose, Jack Tipple

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LETTERS 58¢

A Longstanding Practice

Editor:

As a longtime resident of Noe Valley and a longtime reader of the *Noe Valley Voice*, I am writing to object strenuously to the proposal that our elected school board should be replaced by one appointed by the mayor.

Contrary to the allegations made by Christine Cordaro and Laurance Lee in their Rising Voices columns (June 2021 and August 2021), mayoral control is far from being a solution for San Francisco public schools.

Promoting mayoral control has long been a goal of conservative groups (like the notorious Broad Foundation), which have a clearly articulated agenda that includes overreliance on high-stakes testing, support for non-unionized charter schools, and the promotion of a corporate framework for running public schools. However, when a school district’s leadership is appointed by one individual, that school board is no longer accountable to the public. Is this where San Francisco should be heading?

Direct election of local school boards is a longstanding practice of American democracy through which citizens choose who will set educational policy. Over 90 percent of school boards in the U.S. today are elected boards. Only a few major cities have appointed school boards. The trend is going in the opposite direction. For example, in 2017, Detroit returned to electing its school board and just this past June, the Illinois state legislature voted to phase out mayoral control of Chicago’s school board by 2027.

At this moment, when the pandemic has exacerbated social and racial inequities in our city, we should be fighting to preserve and expand those means by which parents and community members can help shape our schools, including continuing to elect the school board.

Lita Blanc
25th Street

Political Agendas Can Corrupt

Editor:

“Why I Support an Appointed vs. Elected School Board,” by Christine Cordaro, June 2021 *Voice*, is spot on. Appointing experts to serve on the SFUSD board is a great step toward turning around our city’s failing school system.

Today, I run an organization that works with public utility commissions across the country. Overseeing energy reliability, safety, cost, and cleanliness is critical to a thriving economy and society. Energy is a public “good” similar in importance and complexity to education. Like education, leaving its oversight exclusively to politicians is a mistake. The most successful public utility commissions are appointed by governors, who prioritize selecting experts that know how to run an energy system. If the commissioners fail at their jobs, then a governor may fire them and appoint better ones.

This is not to say that appointees ignore politics, but they predominantly prioritize activities that advance their institutions, not political agendas that corrupt them. When politics rule the day, whether on a school board or a public utility commission, the execution of the mission of those institutions often suffers dearly.

It is an atrocity that politics are thwarting public schools in San Francisco. Empowering our mayor to

appoint the school board is a good way to improve the governance of SFUSD. Whether appointed or elected, the current SFUSD board must be removed promptly because they have proven their incompetence as well as their inability to rise above politics and put kids’ interests first.

Nat Kreamer
Noe Valley parent

The Board Should Be Elected

Editor:

I have read a couple of commentaries in the *Noe Valley Voice* arguing that our school board should be appointed. The general thrust of this point of view is that our school board has become too “political.”

Back in 1999, the same argument—that governance of Muni had become too “political”—was used by downtown groups like SPUR to convince San Francisco voters to fall for Proposition E, which consolidated power over Muni in the hands of a board appointed by the mayor. How did that work out?

Yeah, democracy is messy. But consolidating power in the hands of corporate autocrats is worse.

Marc Norton
29th Street

Give Boudin a Chance

Editor:

We are homeowners in Noe Valley, residents since 1971. We love the *Voice*, though I will admit missing picking up a few during Covid. Thank you for all you do.

But I had to write because I was so shocked to see a full-page ad advocating for the recall of our newly elected district attorney in the August 2021 issue. I’m sure it does not reflect the editorial view; nonetheless, I was stunned to see the ad. Such an ad suggests support for its content. Disappointed is a better word. Honestly, I found it very troubling and wished you had not done it.

I work directly with the San Francisco Police Department and the district attorney on police reform and other policing issues. There is no way our district attorney is responsible for what people complain about. And crime, of course, as the SFPD statistics consistently demonstrate, has not risen.

We need to give Chesa Boudin a chance. We elected him and we can vote him out next time around. But the recall is driven by conservatives in the city who I don’t think reflect the views of Noe Valley. And views I thought did not reflect the views of the *Voice*. I’m sorry you went down that road.

Julie Traun
Noe Valley resident

Picture Yourself Voting

Editor:

Our Noe neighborhood Action-SF group, which has been entirely focused on national politics since January 2017, now faces the California phony Republican Recall election Sept. 14. Everyone who cares about keeping California blue and maintaining progress on all our national issues, needs to make sure they VOTE NO on their recall ballot and mail it as soon as possible.

No need to answer the ballot’s second question. It’s just that simple. This is all or nothing. There are NO credible candidates to replace Governor Gavin Newsom.

Republicans are counting on enough Democrats and progressives ignoring

this recall so they can install a right-wing radio personality who is anti-science, pro-gun, and against California’s minimum-wage workers. It sounds crazy, but it could happen if too many voters ignore this threat.

We urge you all to vote no, return your ballot as soon as possible, and please tell your friends.

If you email us a photo of yourself mailing your ballot—like this one—we’ll post it on Instagram, etc.! Mail to ActionSFTeam@gmail.com. Thank you!

Tomas Tucker
Action-SF



Courtney Broaddus, MD, gets ready to mail his ballot in the Sept. 14 special election.
Photo courtesy Charles Spiegel/Action-SF.com

The Sanchez Spillover Effect

Editor:

Mr. Tumlin* (also known as “Mr. Bicycle”) has given Sanchez Street a golden egg of no traffic. Noe and Church streets are bewildered because all of a sudden they are the recipients of the Sanchez Street traffic. They did not bargain for this when they bought their homes.

Safety? Sanchez Street is loaded with vehicles parking in very few vacant spots. These cars do move. It is just a matter of time before a kid running around gets behind a car backing up to park and you have a tragedy. It has been noticed that when the Sanchez people cross the streets, they cross anywhere and not in the crosswalks. They are usually busy with their phone or talking while walking very slowly and paying no attention to traffic. Kids will pick up on the crossing locations and there is another potential tragedy.

About Mr. Bicycle: When he was appointed by Mayor London Breed [in 2019], he stated he was going to sell his car. In addition, there should be no free parking in the city. That means in front of your house.

In addition, he is already working on congestion pricing because the streets are so congested. Will the red painted streets, the No Left Turns and No Right Turns, Slow Streets, closed streets, and elimination of lanes possibly lead to more congestion?

Well folks, as you try to navigate the speed bumps and other traps, remember that elections are coming for London Breed and Supervisor Mandelman and other supervisors. Vote well after paying to have your car suspension and wheel alignment fixed.

P.S. We may even get our 35-Eureka bus, as spastic as the schedule was, back in 2024!

Eric Mollen
Diamond Street

*Jeffrey Tumlin, current head of the SFMTA (San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency)

LETTERS

Unfair Attack

Editor:

I realize you have to make money to keep the *Noe Valley Voice* published, but a FULL-PAGE AD on page 3, with irrelevant assertions in support of a recall of Chesa Boudin? And its questions based on propagating fear with misleading data?

Of course “every neighborhood has been touched by crime.” Likewise, most of us have “experienced a break-in,” or some such. Mine was several years ago, long before Boudin was voted into office. And as for pharmacy “looting,” that has been shown to be way overblown and largely based on one widely viewed video of a man on a bicycle. And as for Boudin’s “accountability,” that can be handled in the next election.

Please, share your standards for deciding on copy for political ads, if you have them. I would hope you could do better than other media sources, which shall go unnamed, by not perpetuating misleading and unfair attacks.

Donna Calame

37-year Noe Valley resident

Editor’s Note: The Noe Valley Voice accepts most types of advertising, including those of a political nature. We value the exchange of views, though we may not necessarily share those views. Readers should note that some ads in our pages have been sold at a group rate via the San Francisco Neighborhood Newspaper Association.

Competing Claims

Editor:

Regarding Bernie Corace’s letter (“Graffiti at the Chabad House,” August 2021 issue):

Mr. Corace writes that he is the father of two young Jewish children. He says he abhors the anti-Semitic graffiti at the gate of the Chabad pre-

school, and applauds the condemnations of anti-Semitism by state Senator Scott Wiener and Supervisor Rafael Mandelman. He would like the reader to believe these statements establish his credentials for a license that would permit him to defame Israel and Jews in an especially insidious manner through references to “ethnic cleansing” and “genocide of the Palestinian people” perpetrated by Israel.

They don’t. The Encyclopedia Britannica defines genocide as “the deliberate and systematic destruction of a group of people because of their ethnicity, nationality, religion, or race.” Regardless of one’s views about the conflict between the Jews and the Arabs, nobody with an ounce of objectivity would suggest that any of these criteria apply to the circumstances of the Palestinians.

Essentially, Mr. Corace is pronouncing that Israel and the Jews are fully guilty and that the Palestinians are fully innocent. This shameless bias constitutes willful ignorance of the history and complexities of the situation. The conflict between Israel and the Palestinians is over competing claims to the same land. The Jewish claim rests on a profound bond to their homeland that was forged more than 3,000 years ago, that was severed by war almost 2,000 years ago, and which has never been relinquished or forgotten. The Arab settlement of the land is far more recent, and dates from the Muslim conquest of the Levant in the first half of the 7th century.

Mr. Corace glosses over exactly where, in his view, Israel inflicted “ethnic cleansing” and “genocide,” so we are left to assume he is talking about the recent conflict with Gaza. While stressing the need to “recognize the humanity of the Palestinian people,” he chooses to ignore the humanity of the Israeli citizens who endure and die from rockets regularly fired at their cities from Gaza. Too many Palestinians have suffered and died. In Israeli responses to these rocket attacks, but these harms would not have

occurred if Hamas had not cynically placed their rocket launchers in densely populated civilian areas. Would Mr. Corace prefer that the Israelis meekly tolerate the rocket attacks? (It should be noted that the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza in 2005 did not end the stated goals of Hamas to obliterate the Jewish presence between the Mediterranean and the Jordan River, and to establish Palestine as an Islamic possession.)

In any situation of competing claims, there are three possible outcomes: there is a stalemate; one side wins, and one side loses; or the parties compromise. One can only speculate why Mr. Corace insists that Israel is the source of all evil and should do all of the compromising, which of course would not be a compromise, but the complete surrender that he apparently wants.

David Bradlow

Noe Valley resident

Attitudes Changing

Editor:

I was pleased to read the letter you published in August by Bernie Corace, and a little surprised. I’m certain you will receive many angry letters about his comments, from people who unconditionally support anything and everything Israel does. But those people are out of step with the times and doing us all a disservice by ignoring what are so obviously violations of international

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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law and crimes against humanity.

The graffiti on the Chabad house was anti-semitism and unacceptable. If the original article reporting on the graffiti had provided more context (for example that nearly all the 250 plus people killed recently were Palestinian) and told us what the Chabad’s position on Israel’s occupation was, perhaps it wouldn’t have been necessary to print this letter. However, according to the FAQ on Chabad’s site, they have many members who participate in the IDF (Israel Defense Forces) and they support Israel’s right to exist throughout “all of its boundaries,” which means they do support Israel’s policies of occupation, annexation, and ethnic cleansing. Fortunately, there are many Jewish congregations that do not.

Jeff Pekrul

Church Street

CRIME SNAPSHOT

Vehicles Targeted Again in July

Car thefts and break-ins in Noe Valley rose again in July after declining in early spring, according to the city’s digital record of San Francisco Police Department incident reports. (*See table below.*) There were 63 incidents classified as larceny/theft in July, the highest monthly tally reported this year. Most involved items stolen from cars, trucks, or bicycles—both locked and unlocked. Five were so-called package thefts, items taken from steps or doorways of homes. In addition, 18 vehicles were stolen.

As in June, burglaries in July accounted for the second largest category of crime. However, the good news was the number of reported incidents fell from 38 in June to 23 in July. While a handful of Noe Valley businesses or construction sites were targeted, the majority of break-ins were at residential properties. Typical among them was a home break-in at 2 a.m. on June 30 near Duncan and Dolores streets. According to the police report, “The victim stated that he and his wife were sleeping when they heard their garage door open. The victim turned on the porch light in an attempt to scare off any possible intruder. Some minutes later, the victim and his wife went outside and observed that their garage door was open and that two bicycles were missing from the garage.”

Overall, there were 130 incidents reported to police in July in the 10 categories the *Noe Valley Voice* monitors monthly.

The *Voice* gathered the numbers on Aug. 17, 2021, from the digital “Map of San Francisco Police Department Incident Reports: 2018 to Present” at [Data.sfgov.org](https://data.sfgov.org). That map defines Noe Valley as the area bordered by 21st Street, San Jose Avenue/Guerrero Street, 30th Street, and Grand View Avenue/Diamond Heights Boulevard.

In terms of police coverage, Noe Valley falls within two jurisdictions—Mission and Ingleside. In an emergency, call 911. But if you have regular crime concerns in the area north of Cesar Chavez Street, contact Captain Rachel Moran at Mission Police Station by calling 415-558-5400 or emailing rachel.moran@sfgov.org. If incidents are occurring south of Cesar Chavez, call Ingleside Station at 415-404-4000 or email Ingleside Captain Nicole Jones at nicole.h.jones@sfgov.org.

—Corrie M. Anders, Sally Smith

CRIME SNAPSHOT DATA

Noe Valley Incident Reports January – July 2021

Incident Reports 2021	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July
Larceny/Theft	33	27	29	24	36	26	63
Burglary	36	54	17	11	16	38	23
Malicious Mischief	13	13	11	5	7	8	10
Motor Vehicle Theft	18	12	15	12	23	11	18
Assault	4	4	2	1	4	3	6
Robbery	1	0	0	0	2	5	0
Other Miscellaneous	8	8	3	7	6	5	5
Fraud	3	3	2	2	3	3	4
Family Domestic Violence	1	0	2	0	2	0	0
Vandalism	0	0	1	2	1	0	1
TOTALS	117	121	82	64	100	99	130

Source: Dataset titled “Map of Police Department Incident Reports: 2018 to Present” at <https://data.sfgov.org/Public-Safety/Police-Department-Incident-Reports-2018-to-Present/wg3w-h783>. This dataset includes police incident reports filed by officers and by individuals through self-service online reporting for non-emergency cases. Disclaimer: The San Francisco Police Department does not guarantee the accuracy, completeness, timeliness, or correct sequencing of the information, as the data is subject to change as modifications and updates are completed. June and July data were culled by the *Noe Valley Voice* Aug. 17, 2021.

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THE CROSSWORD BY MICHAEL BLAKE

Unfinished

ACROSS

- Dictator Hussein
- Wait in hiding
- Inquires (about)
- Louisiana language
- Fencing piece
- Big Apple restaurateur Toots
- Golfer's dream shot (unfinished)
- 9/11 heroes, for short
- Cancun coin
- German sausages
- Dad's "hermano"
- Motel freebie
- "___ was saying..."
- Off to the bathroom, slangily (unfinished)
- Korea's capital
- Audio system
- Bach's Mass ___ Minor
- Italy's Isle of ___
- Bikini explosions
- Celebration planner's store on Church Street... and the words you need to finish four entries in this puzzle
- Shower buildup
- Chief ___ (non-PC mascot of the Cleveland Indians)
- ___ Cristo Rey: school at 24th and Guerrero
- Salary-stub phrase
- 15 mg. of zinc per day, e.g.; abbr.
- Gathering at a home where plastic containers are sold (unfinished)
- "___ the fields we go"
- Down in the dumps
- 20-vol. reference work
- Like air over Los Angeles, too often
- Slammer
- Skillful
- What Harvey Milk owned on Castro Street (unfinished)
- Teen's bane
- Bundle
- Blackjack winner
- Jokes
- Fundraising grps.
- Past, present, and future
- Rabbit, Run author
- French impressionist
- Purchase at Locksmith Central
- Furry friends' protection org.
- A little embarrassed
- Bout-ending slugs
- "No seating" letters on Broadway
- With "Babe," a Sonny & Cher refrain
- Amt. on a new car window
- Below, to poets
- Division word
- Recipe amt.
- La Jolla campus, for short
- Approached the witching hour
- Might
- Those, in Tijuana
- Leave off
- Preemie's ward, for shorticu
- Slipping by, as time
- People getting prizes
- Comic actress Martha whose nickname was Big Mouth
- Rinky-dink
- Saffron rice dish at Fresca
- ___ Thesaurus
- Bachelor's or master's
- Indo-Europeans
- ___ in comparison
- "Shoo!"
- Nutmeg relative
- Portent
- Car with a cat logo, briefly
- Obamacare, briefly
- Smartphone software

Solution on Page 22
Find more Crosswords at noevalleyvoice.com

Steady March Toward Slow Sanchez Street

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Though the transit agency gave its seal of approval to seven blocks of Slow Sanchez, it at the same time removed the Slow Street designation from Duncan Street between Sanchez and Guerrero streets, citing Duncan's lack of community support in SFMTA surveys.

Instantly Popular

The Slow Streets concept was instituted in April 2020 as a way to provide more recreation space to the city's residents, many of whom were sheltering in place in response to pandemic health orders.

In Noe Valley, transit officials closed Sanchez to vehicular through-traffic from 23rd to 30th streets, creating a path almost from one end of the neighborhood to the other. With few cars on the road, bikers, joggers, walkers, and

children flocked to the area for exercise and fresh air. Musicians and dog owners also embraced the street, as a space to perform or to stroll with their canine companions.

Sanchez Street residents, people looking for a place to park, and drivers of delivery trucks or shared-ride vehicles can still access the street. So, people walking, running, or biking on the roadway should take safety precautions.

"I can't imagine it going away," a woman who only identified herself as Kathrin told the SFMTA board. "I like being able to walk up there alone as a woman. I feel like there's someone always jogging or walking their dog. It's nice. I haven't seen any of the negative impacts."

Noise and Other Complaints

Not everyone embraced the new designation. Some residents complained about an increase in noise, dog poop, and bad behavior.

"We've gone from a residential street to a loud and dangerous boardwalk. There's constant noise and litter. Bands can set up and play whatever they like in the middle of the road. There's now

no sense of privacy or civility," said one Sanchez Street resident who called into the SFMTA board meeting to voice opposition to the Slow Street.

Sanchez Street homeowner Karen Kennard expressed concern about traffic being diverted onto Church Street, where it might cause delays for the J-Church train. She also argued that pedestrians could manage fine without walking in the middle of Sanchez Street.

"Sanchez is unusually wide and has wide sidewalks and a park that ends at 30th Street. There's no need to use Sanchez as a walking street or a park," she said.

Stay on the High Road

The Slow Streets program has its detractors, not only in Noe Valley but also in other parts of the city. Just prior to the SFMTA board meeting, someone using a power saw sliced through new signage that had just been installed along one Slow Street, though transit staff did not disclose which roadway it was.

SFMTA board chair Gwyneth Borden advised proponents to avoid being adversarial or negative to car drivers, as that would not "endear them" to the concept of Slow Streets.

"That is critical, because the only way Slow Streets will be successful and to expand or continue to do this program is where people don't feel alienated and neighborhoods aren't driven apart by people who drive versus people who don't drive," said Borden. "That will never work."

Besides Sanchez, the SFMTA approved parts of Lake Street, Golden Gate Avenue, and Shotwell Street as "Post-Pandemic Slow Streets." Slow Streets program manager Shannon

Hake noted that all four streets had received strong support from residents who lived near them. At the same time, she acknowledged, there was significant blowback.

"Sanchez Slow Street is well utilized. It's often filled with people walking and biking in the roadway, especially on weekends. However, we heard loud and clear from the Sanchez community, there were major impacts due to the increased use of the Slow Streets," said Hake. "There were quality-of-life impacts related to noise and trash on the street. And we made sure that the design for Sanchez didn't change traffic operations."

New Signs Could Get a Push

The design for Slow Sanchez includes new crosswalks and signs that will indicate to drivers that they may encounter pedestrians and cyclists on the street.

The final design approvals for Slow Sanchez Street are expected to come at the SFMTA's engineering public hearing on Sept. 3, said Hake.

"And pending these approvals, we'll be able to implement these Slow Streets by the end of this year and return to the board with an evaluation of how these streets are working in 18 months," said Hake.

For more information about the design process for the four Post-Pandemic Slow Streets, visit <https://www.sfmta.com/projects/permanent-slow-streets>. In late August, the site stated that implementation work was "planned to start in mid-September 2021."

To learn more about the city's Slow Streets program in general, visit <https://www.sfmta.com/projects/slow-streets-program>. ■

Library Deck and Children's Room Open

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Cardona, who has worked at the branch since 2018, said many of the returning patrons were children accompanied by parents.

"They are now a foot taller," he said.

Some were families that had recently moved to Noe Valley, with youngsters just beginning to read books.

"We've been nonstop producing library cards," said Cardona.

One of those who couldn't wait to return was Gitanjali Menon, a 9-year-old fourth-grader who showed up with her mother, Sujata Menon.

During the long closure, the pre-teen said, she and her family ordered books online or reserved library books at branches with outdoor pick-up.

"It's really good because now I have access to so many more books that I might not have known about before," Gitanjali said. "Now I can explore different books and see which series I want and which series I don't like."

Gitanjali, who said she'd read the complete Harry Potter series during the pandemic, left the Noe Valley branch clutching *The One and Only Bob*, the first in an adventure series by author Katherine Applegate.

Ruby Andrews, 4-1/2, spent a considerable amount of time browsing the low shelves in the children's section. She pulled out a half dozen books and made a pile on the floor, finally choosing *Stay, Benson!* by Thereza Rowe. It's about a dog with plans of its own.

Ruby also has plans. She begged her mother, Terra Andrews, to take home the entire pile of books. Her mother happily agreed.

The library is open, but there is one caveat. Masks are required for both staff and patrons, including children 2 years and older. Still, there are no rules regarding visitors touching books or other library materials.

Librarian Catherine Starr, a specialist in children's literature and a 10-year veteran of the branch, said

the staff made sure to clean surfaces on a regular basis. "But patrons are welcome to wear gloves if they are concerned."

Almost all services have resumed at the branch. The upstairs children's area is open, as is the deck, garden, and bathrooms.

However, the library has not restarted the story times, the popular readings for babies and preschool children, nor has it reopened the downstairs room for meetings or other events.

"Those are going to be [returning] as we gradually get our staff back," Cardona said. "We have a lot of empty positions that need to be filled."

The branch has a staff of 10, including both full- and part-time employees. In August there were four vacancies.

The current acting branch manager is Ramon Hernandez. Hernandez is on loan from the Mission Branch Library, which is closed for renovation.

According to Kate Patterson, communications director for the San Francisco Public Library, the Noe Valley branch entertained 4,195 visitors in the first month after reopening—about half of the pre-pandemic monthly crowd of 8,033 visitors.

"Now that school is back in session and many folks are resuming their normal schedules, we expect that this figure will continue to climb," Patterson said.

Visitors to the Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Library might want to take time to admire the architecture of the building. It was built in 1916 in the Classical Revival style, with funds provided by philanthropist Andrew Carnegie. The original architect was John Reid Jr. Sally Brunn was among the many local residents who fought to keep the library from being torn down in the 1980s (*see Voice March 1998*). The building underwent a major renovation in 2008, and that same year was awarded city landmark status. ■



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Bringing Together the Democrats of Noe Valley

Riders to Muni: Return J-Church To Full Route

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

option would be to board an F-line trolley car at the aboveground stop on Market Street at Church.

Yet all three options present problems for seniors, the disabled, and people with mobility issues, argue the members of the newly formed Restore the J Workgroup, which is advocating for the restoration of direct service to downtown via the J-Church line. About a dozen people came together to launch the group in August and have been meeting with various neighborhood organizations to drum up support for their cause and recruit new members.

“We need to restore it for everybody,” said Kathy Setian, who founded the workgroup.

Setian, a now retired Noe Valley resident, had been a frequent J-Church rider pre-pandemic, taking it to run errands and get to classes at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute campus downtown. Before her retirement, Setian said, she had commuted via the J-Church for three decades.

“I rode it every day for 30 years,” said Setian, who bought her home in the neighborhood in 1987. “The J is one of the main lines in San Francisco. It is one of the oldest and one of the most important. The reason why our neighborhood is so desirable is in large part because of the J.”

Elevator Roulette

There are a litany of problems with making J-Church riders switch trains in order to reach downtown, argues Setian.

There is only one escalator at the entrance to the Church Station nearest where J-Church passengers get off at Church and Market streets. During certain times of the day, the escalator is running upwards, so subway riders who can’t use the stairs need to cross Market Street to see if the escalator at the other entrance into the station is running downwards to take them underground. If not, they can use the elevator into the subway station on that side of Market Street.

If it is raining, said Setian, J-Church riders may have to cross four lanes of Market Street to reach the elevator or the other entrance for the subway station. And once seniors or people with disabilities do reach the underground subway platform, they may find packed trains with the seats already taken by other passengers, she noted.

Thus, not having to transfer from the J-Church to get downtown “makes it faster, more convenient, and more comfortable,” said Setian. “Very importantly, it is more accessible to vulnerable community members such as seniors, people with disabilities, and people carrying bags or traveling with strollers and children. All of them are served better by a direct line.”

Another issue, said Setian, is the safety of passengers coming from downtown in the early morning hours or at night. Now they have to get off the subway at the Church Station, ascend aboveground, and then stand at the stop on Church Street exposed to the weather while waiting for a J-Church to take them back to Noe Valley and other outbound destinations.

It would be safer, argued Setian, for passengers to board a J-Church train downtown and remain on it until it reaches their stop.

Expect More Meetings

According to the SFMTA’s website for the J-Church route change at <https://www.sfmta.com/travel-updates/route-shortened#j>, which was last updated Aug. 14, the shortened line is listed as “Temporary, Until Further Notice.”

The agency’s spokeswoman, Erica Kato, who was out of the office in August, had told the *Voice* in January that an evaluation of the route change to the J-Church and the “new accessible transfer point near Church and Market” would be conducted in the ensuing months.

The agency did post a survey online that ended in early August regarding the J-Church line. And in response to the *Voice*’s questions as to the shorter route’s permanence, Kristen Holland, the transit agency’s acting media relations manager, indicated a decision would be made sometime in 2022.

“First and foremost, our mission, as always, is to provide excellent service. We are conducting extensive outreach this fall as we plan for further service changes next year, and the ultimate service design will be based on community input coupled with extensive data analysis to provide the best service we can for the majority of San Franciscans,” wrote Holland in an emailed response.

She noted that SFMTA staff had met with residents along the J-Church line and attended a recent meeting of the Upper Noe Neighbors group to discuss the route change and other Muni service issues. Holland added the transit agency would work with the new riders’ workgroup to hear about its concerns.

“We appreciate the time they have taken to share their concerns and general feedback about the J-Church service and plans,” stated Holland. “Our senior planning staff are looking forward to continuing to work with the J-Church Workgroup this fall as part of our larger outreach effort to meet with numerous community and merchant groups, as well as the general public in our own meetings, about near-term plans for Muni service. This input will help define what the service will look like in 2022.”

Setian, who attended the same Upper Noe Neighbors’ meeting as the SFMTA, faulted the wording of the transit agency’s J-Church survey for favoring the route change and not directly asking people if they would prefer to *not* transfer trains in order to head downtown.

“The survey was very deceptive,” she said.

‘Totally Unacceptable’

District 8 Supervisor Rafael Mandelman, currently serving as chair of the San Francisco County Transportation Authority, had supported

the J-Church route change when it was first discussed back in 2019. But last month he told the *Voice* that the Restore the J Workgroup had brought up valuable points about its impact on riders, adding he was unconvinced that the shortened route had resulted in better service on the J-Church line.

“Plainly, the service we have now is totally unacceptable. We need better,” said Mandelman, who had yet to meet with the riders’ workgroup as of late August.

By not running J-Church trains downtown, the expectation was there would be less congestion in the tunnels, noted Mandelman, resulting in speedier service via the other subway lines that would pick up the transferring J-Church passengers at the Church Station.

“What they have done during the pandemic is clearly not that,” conceded Mandelman. “They put the J above ground only but did not have an increase in service to make it work, so we are much worse off.”

Based on how the shortened-J experiment has been going so far, Mandelman said, he would call it “a failure.” Unless the SFMTA can improve the experience for riders, he said, the J-Church route should go back to its prior configuration.

“I need to hear from SFMTA how they plan to deliver good service for people who rely on the J. I want it better than it was before the pandemic,” said Mandelman.

Data Says Tunnel Faster

According to preliminary data the SFMTA provided to the *Voice*, average weekday trips from 30th and Church streets to Embarcadero Station were

more than six minutes faster in July 2021 than in July 2019, even with riders having to transfer to the subway. And only one out of three such trips now takes longer than 40 minutes, compared to two out of three trips in 2019.

In May-July 2021, nine out of 10 rides from the West Portal to Embarcadero subway stations took less than 18 minutes, whereas two years before, when the J trains also used the tunnel, a quarter of rides took longer than 24 minutes, according to the data.

SFMTA credits its current service plan with cutting subway delays by 86 percent between May-July 2019 and May-July 2021.

Of course, other variables may have influenced service during that timespan, including changes in ridership patterns resulting from the Covid pandemic.

Riders Choose Convenience

Setian says J-line streetcar riders in the past had lots of transfer choices, yet they rarely used them.

“People who ride the J have always had the option, if they wanted to gamble on it being faster, to transfer at Market Street,” she noted. “What is wrong with this plan is being forced to transfer at Market Street. Think about it, have you been on Muni and ever seen a whole bunch of people get off at Market Street to transfer to the underground? The answer to that is, ‘No.’ It is not an advantage; that is a gamble.”

Anyone interested in joining the Restore the J Workgroup should email restorej@sbcglobal.net.

To follow the future plans for the J-Church line, visit <https://www.sfmta.com/projects/j-church-improvement-project>. ■



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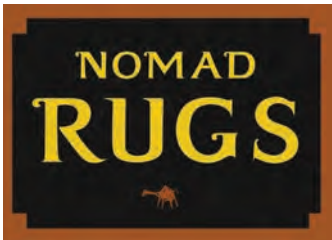
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Events to Get Rolling at the Town Square

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Schumann Music Studio, the chamber music concert will feature projections screened via live cameras. The performance will run from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

“I am not sure what the last event [in 2020] was,” said Leslie Crawford, who manages the events put on at the Town Square. “We are really looking forward to seeing friends again in the safest way possible.”

What safety protocols will be required of attendees at the concert had yet to be finalized when the *Voice* spoke with Crawford in early August. She said they would be following whatever Covid protocols for outdoor events the city had in place in September.

“I don’t know about a mask policy, as things are changing so quickly. For outdoors they are not requiring it, but if things change, they may change that,” noted Crawford. “We will do it as safely as possible.”

The 10,829-square-foot open space was purposefully designed to be a flexible plaza utilized not only by the weekly farmers market on Saturdays but also by residents and community groups for events throughout the week. Since it opened Oct. 27, 2016, as the city’s 221st park space, Crawford has worked on a part-time basis overseeing the events held there by the park’s booster group, which also goes by the name Noe Valley Town Square and is fiscally sponsored by the Noe Valley Association.

On Sunday, Sept. 12, yoga classes offered by Moxie Yoga will return for a two-month stretch (Sundays, 11 a.m. to noon). That same afternoon, the Sunday Acoustics musical offerings will return with a performance by the Big Lou Trio, featuring the Accordion Princess, from 2 to 4 p.m.

“My team is scrambling to get the permits,” said Crawford, because it has been so long since they last hosted any events.

Updates about safety protocols, if any, and additional performances on the fall schedule will be posted on the Events page of the website for the park at Noevalleytownsquare.com. Some events may need to be postponed due to inclement weather or if there is heavy smoke from wildfires, noted Crawford.

“Along with the pandemic, a lot of these events may be subject to change because of weather or smoke. If the city is shrouded in smoke, the expectation is we would probably postpone the event,” she said.

City Allocates Funding

The resumption of events follows the city’s allocation of \$114,000 to the Noe Valley Town Square for the fiscal year that began July 1. The funds will help cover compensation for Crawford and for people doing the marketing or audio/visual work to stage the events.

“Boy, when you get good news these days, you really relish it,” said Crawford of seeing the money included in the city’s budget. “And we have been so deprived of our community, we appreciate it even more now.”

District 8 Supervisor Rafael Mandelman, who represents Noe Valley at City Hall, had sought the money for the Town Square, as had his two predecessors Scott Wiener and Jeff Sheehy.

“I think this is the year where people are looking for community,” said Mandelman. “Noe Valley loves the Town Square, and being able to have some really great events and improve the space and have great programming there will make the post-pandemic year even better.”

The city funds will also be used to buy new furniture, planters, and plants, and lighting for the Town Square. New Bigbelly smart garbage bins will be bought for installation at the park, and a hand-wash station will be maintained on site with the funds. Those who use the tables and chairs are being asked to first wash their hands to help keep the furnishings sanitized.

Mural to Get Attention

A portion of the city funding will go toward repairing the east-facing wall mural at the square, which has sustained damage. Created by muralist Mona Caron, it is part of a diptych of murals that was installed prior to the conversion of a former parking lot into the park space. The colorful artwork, which drew inspiration from the farmers market bounty, depicts 24th Street in Noe Valley and the Mission on a ribbon that twirls around eggplant and artichoke plants. Both the paint and the wood surface of the mural need to be repaired.

“It is not from the sun, it is the substrate,” Crawford said of the damage. “I think the wood it is on falls apart sooner.”

The repairs are estimated to cost upwards of \$25,000, said Crawford, and will require special equipment to be brought in for the job. A restoration specialist who works with Caron will be hired to do most of the work, while the artist will need to finish some of the

finer details on the mural, explained Crawford.

“We will put some seed funding toward it and do some fundraiser or seek grants around arts to cover the cost,” she said.

One idea under discussion is for donors to have either their image or that of their children or loved ones added to the mural, said Crawford. The launch of the fund drive is still to be set but should be announced in the coming months, and anyone interested in donating should send an email via the Town Square website.

“It’s like having your own brick,” Crawford said of the fundraising concept. “We do hope to start this very soon.” ■



The Big Lou Trio featuring the Accordion Princess herself is set to perform Sunday afternoon, Sept. 12, at the square at 3861 24th St.



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GLOBAL LIVING

The Cost of Living in Noe

Hot Sales in the Summertime

By Corrie M. Anders

The real estate market in Noe Valley was sizzling this summer, according to data supplied to the *Noe Valley Voice* by Corcoran Global Living San Francisco.

Buyers engaged in bidding wars, snapped up luxury homes the very day they hit the market, and spent small fortunes to purchase 41 single-family detached homes in June and July. The new owners not only matched the seller’s asking price, they paid an average 8 percent more to seal the deal.

The competition was even more spirited for condominiums, where buyers of 18 new homes in June and July offered



Buyers in June paid \$7.6 million for this newly renovated home on Elizabeth Street, making it the second biggest home sale in Noe Valley since the *Voice* began keeping tabs in 2005.

an average 17 and 14 percent over asking, respectively.

Corcoran President Randall Kostick said the flurry of sales coincided with low mortgage interest rates, a booming stock market that provided access to down-payment funds, and, best of all, a lull in Covid cases in San Francisco.

“The market seemed to be rolling along just fine,” he noted, especially if you compared it to last year’s, when just 30 sales were recorded. “It was highly competitive [this summer]. There were a lot of multiple offers.”

The overbids helped keep the average price of a Noe Valley detached home well above \$3 million.

The most expensive purchase in June was located up the hill in the 700 block of Elizabeth Street, between Diamond and Douglass streets. Buyers paid \$7.6 million for the house—4.8 percent more than its asking price (\$7,249,000). (Notably, it was the second most expensive home recorded in our Noe Valley data over the past 16 years, after the \$12 million sale of a Duncan Street mansion in May 2017.)



Behind the façade of this peaked-roof Edwardian on Fountain Street is a modern luxury home that sold in July for \$6.3 million. *Photos by Corrie M. Anders*

Noe Valley Rents**					
Unit	No. in Sample	Range August 2021	Average August 2021	Average June 2021	Average August 2020
Studio	9	\$1,750 - \$2,200	\$2,038 / mo.	\$2,001 / mo.	\$2,168 / mo.
1-bdrm	39	\$1,950 - \$3,995	\$2,689 / mo.	\$2,713 / mo.	\$2,933 / mo.
2-bdrm	46	\$2,650 - \$5,800	\$3,975 / mo.	\$3,560 / mo.	\$3,872 / mo.
3-bdrm	15	\$3,860 - \$9,500	\$6,251 / mo.	\$5,571 / mo.	\$5,762 / mo.
4+-bdrm	11	\$3,850 - \$21,500	\$8,471 / mo.	\$8,123 / mo.	\$8,146 / mo.

** This survey is based on a sample of 120 Noe Valley rental listings appearing on Craigslist.org from Aug. 5–12, 2021. In August 2020, there were 210 listings. NVV9/2021

Noe Valley Home Sales*						
Total Sales	No.	Low Price (\$)	High Price (\$)	Average Price (\$)	Avg. Days on Market	Sale Price as % of List Price
Single-family homes						
July 2021	17	\$2,030,000	\$6,300,000	\$3,337,948	15	108%
June 2021	24	\$1,495,000	\$7,600,000	\$3,142,042	24	108%
May 2021	16	\$1,650,000	\$6,700,000	\$3,388,125	22	108%
July 2020	14	\$1,100,000	\$3,800,000	\$2,122,500	16	112%
June 2020	16	\$1,150,000	\$5,250,000	\$3,189,625	29	105%
Condominiums/TICs						
July 2021	8	\$1,310,000	\$2,500,000	\$1,650,625	19	114%
June 2021	10	\$1,000,000	\$1,765,100	\$1,364,110	21	117%
May 2021	13	\$1,075,000	\$2,225,000	\$1,658,385	10	111%
July 2020	8	\$1,350,000	\$2,360,000	\$1,692,500	27	103%
June 2020	4	\$1,295,000	\$1,710,000	\$1,502,500	57	100%
2- to 4-unit buildings						
July 2021	3	\$2,200,000	\$4,050,000	\$2,820,000	59	98%
June 2021	3	\$1,900,000	\$2,600,000	\$2,366,667	41	90%
May 2021	0	—	—	—	—	—
July 2020	1	\$2,675,000	\$2,675,000	\$2,675,000	7	99%
June 2020	1	\$1,600,000	\$1,600,000	\$1,600,000	19	100%
5+ unit buildings						
July 2021	0	—	—	—	—	—
June 2021	1	\$1,670,000	\$1,670,000	\$1,670,000	11	95%
May 2020	2	\$2,225,000	\$2,800,000	\$2,512,500	78	98%
July 2020	1	\$3,850,000	\$3,850,000	\$3,850,000	29	96%
June 2020	0	—	—	—	—	—

*This survey includes all Noe Valley home sales completed during the month. Noe Valley is loosely defined as the area bordered by Grand View, 22nd, Guerrero, and 30th streets. The *Noe Valley Voice* thanks Corcoran Global Living San Francisco for providing sales data. NVV9/2021

The buyer, who grabbed the property the day it became available, was no doubt enamored by its quiet location and modern appointments. The building had been expanded to hold four bedrooms and five baths on four levels. (No square footage was listed.) Amenities included a chef’s kitchen with a 15-foot Italian marble island, a light-filled staircase, floor-to-ceiling glass, a balcony with fire pit, “indoor-outdoor” open plan living, a walled back yard, an elevator, and two-car parking.

July’s priciest acquisition was a similar modern makeover, but this time the home had retained its 1912 peaked roof and Edwardian façade. Located in the first block of Fountain Street between 24th and 25th streets, it sold for \$6.3 million, almost 16 percent above its original price (\$5,450,000).

The new owner was rewarded with four bedrooms, 3.5 baths, and 3,889 square feet of living space, which besides a formal living room also featured a chef’s kitchen with Thermidor appliances and marble counters, glass

walls on three levels, a media/family room with wet bar, decks with expansive views, and a two-car garage.

Condos in High Demand

The highest-priced condominium in June was a three-bedroom, 2.5 bath residence located in a large, multi-unit building erected in 1976 in the 700 block of Clipper Street near Grand View Avenue. The two-level, 1,938-square-foot unit featured a fireplace, a redwood deck, downtown views, and parking for one car. The winning bid? \$1,765,100, about 14 percent more than the seller’s asking price of \$1,549,000.

Buyers paid \$2.5 million for July’s most expensive condo, a three-bedroom, 3.5-bath unit in the 1000 block of Noe Street between 23rd and Elizabeth streets. That was 19.3 percent higher than the list price (\$2,095,000).

Built in 2002 with 2,128 square feet of living space, the townhouse-style condo on three levels featured a high-end kitchen with Wolf appliances, a gas fireplace, a balcony, a shared garden, and one-car parking. ■

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The 6th Noe Valley Girls Film Festival

It's Not Just Virtual, It's Global

By Katie Burke

When planning the sixth annual Noe Valley Girls Film Festival back in February, the girls organizing the event had been hoping they might be able to hold an indoor festival screening this year. But seven months later, they are inviting their neighborhood fans to tune in to the festival on YouTube, as they did last year. The big event is Saturday, Sept. 11, at 4 p.m.

Team member Charlotte Kane, 18, says, “We decided to continue it virtually this year, which was pretty sad for a lot of us because we all love the in-person aspect of it. It’s my favorite part, getting to see everyone together. It feels very Noe Valley.” (For the first four years, the festival took place in the Noe Valley Ministry’s concert hall.)

Still, she and her co-producers are excited about showing the best short films among the 183 submissions they received this year from all around the world, including Ukraine, Bangladesh, India, Slovenia, Taiwan, and India.

The 10 finalists in the 2021 program—five in each of two age categories, 11 to 15 and 10 and under—hail from Spain, Poland, the U.K., Russia, and the United States.

The titles on the 5-minute films are enough to intrigue the viewer. Who wouldn’t want to see *Bad Bugs*, *The Power of the Mirror*, and *Hello Frisco*?

An upside to holding a virtual festival is that it can expand global attendance. The filmmakers and their fans “all get to watch it and be a part of it,” says Kane. She notes that last year the team received emails and social media posts about viewing parties, showing families eating



Team members Maggie Marks, Ella Marks, Elie Mullen, Hannah Tawadrous, Caitlin Kane, and Charlotte Kane are asking you to tune in at 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 11, to watch this year’s Noe Valley Girls Film Festival on YouTube. Photo by Art Bodner

popcorn and other snacks together while watching the festival.

Also, she says, an online festival can attract top speakers.

“Colleen Ballinger, who is very famous,” says Kane, was the guest last year. (She’s known for her Netflix and other series.) “I was so excited to have her because when I was 11 or 12, I would watch her on YouTube. It is really inspiring to see someone you’ve looked up to for a long time.”

This year’s guest speaker is Stephanie Ard, an actor/producer/director who recently moved to New York after a 10-

year stint in the Austin film industry.

Maggie Marks, 15, points out that it is easier for the team to prepare for the festival online. “We don’t have to prepare the Noe Valley Ministry. We just have to pre-record everything. We have a very nice to-do list. We have the dates when we’re getting everything done, so we just have to finish it up—but overall, we’re definitely prepared, and we’ll be ready.”

Ella Marks, 18, adds, “There are things about the pandemic and our use of technology that are helpful... We can meet from our own bedrooms.”

The downside to showing the event online? “Zoom fatigue,” says Kane.

“People have had so much from Zoom.” Also, if Covid starts to threaten, they might not get to present the People’s Choice Award in the Noe Valley Town Square, the event featuring the audience members’ favorite film.

“Hopefully, that will be something we’ll be able to do this year, because it’s totally outside, and we can bring some of the in-person essence to the Town Square,” Kane says. Let’s hope so too.

For the latest, check the festival’s website: nvgff.com. ■



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Legacy Business On 24th Street Changes Hands

New Proprietor Takes Over
Just for Fun

By Richard May

Want some good news? Just for Fun on 24th Street is going to stay in business! Founder/owners David Eiland and Robert Ramsey are retiring, but new owner Michelle O'Connor has taken the helm.

Thirty-four years ago, Eiland and Ramsey combined commercial forces to open Just for Fun & Scribbledoodles. Ramsey came to Eiland with the idea. Eiland, who was working at the time in publishing, decided to take the retail plunge.

Why two names? "We thought we were going to have a second location for the printing business," Eiland explains. But they wound up keeping toys, cards, gifts, and printing all together in one store.

Artsake became the third corner of the triangle in 2004, when the duo opened an arts and crafts supply store across 24th Street. It was brought into the fold at 3982 24th St. in 2010.

Eiland, Ramsey, and their employees—most of whom are long-term—have sold a lot of gift wrap, kitchen gadgets, toys, ornaments, and wedding invitations over the years. The big seller, they say, was the novelty Obama prayer candle. It caused quite a stir (*see Voice February 2009*). Eiland says it all started with a guy named Johnny who walked into Just for Fun one day with a sample candle and happened to have 12

in the trunk of his car. The store ended up selling 10,000.

In three and a half decades, Just for Fun has seen the neighborhood and its clientele change more than once. In 1987, when Eiland and Ramsey began, Noe Valley was known as a place that hippies from the Haight moved to when they wanted to buy a house and raise kids. It was also home to a significant concentration of lesbian couples doing the same thing. Today's customers, Eiland says, are more "elite and upscale."

Santa a Close Friend

The store and its owners have consistently and generously given back to the community over the years. Ramsey was a major contributor to the move to create a Community Benefit District and served on its board. Thank the Noe Valley Association, our CBD, for a cleaner, more beautiful 24th Street.

Eiland has served on the board of the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association, but the store's most famous community contribution may well be Santa and his reindeer, not to mention the hula dancers, each December. (Eiland is from Hawaii.) The store also sponsors the annual Hanukkah menorah and has donated untold times to local groups holding raffles.

Eiland's advice to current and would-be retailers is, "Stay involved, [but] stay as apolitical as you can."

What's next for the business partners? Ramsey is building a house in Palm Springs—with a pool—and will move there full-time. Eiland intends to split his retirement between his home in Noe Valley and the Russian River. Both stayed on for a few weeks to help new owner O'Connor get off to a good start.

In the goodbye letter they posted on



Retiring Scribbledoodler David Eiland takes a break from showing new owner Michelle O'Connor the ropes at Just for Fun...and the games, cards, and goofy dish towels.

Photo by Art Bodner

the door in August, Eiland and Ramsey thanked their customers, staff, and vendors, saying, "All of you have made the last 34 years a fun and joyful experience. We could not have imagined a better living or life."

Come In and Say Hi

Michelle O'Connor is British, as you can tell the moment you speak to her, which she hopes you'll come in the store and do. "Hello to the community," she says. "I look forward to meeting you."

O'Connor and her family moved to San Francisco two years ago, after her

husband, Kevin O'Connor, received a job offer in tech he couldn't refuse. Michelle O'Connor was looking for a business to run, and when she saw a notice online that Just for Fun was for sale, she contacted the broker.

She was already familiar with the store, thanks to daughter Sophie, age 5. During their pandemic school at home, mother and daughter found they needed school and art supplies, and so began to frequent 24th Street.

Although trained as an accountant, O'Connor ran her own property management firm in the U.K. and worked in fashion and magazine publishing. The connection that made Just for Fun appealing was her father's business. He was in car parts supply.

O'Connor worked in her father's store as a girl, taking inventory and putting stock on the shelves. "I saw his passion and the community around his business. I always wanted that too." She sees that community

around Just for Fun and intends to continue fostering it.

In fact, that's the business plan: continuation. O'Connor is keeping the name and the staff. She will continue to maintain the parklet in front of the store, the scene of so many festivities. "I bought the store because we wanted to put down roots."

There's already continuation of a different sort. Daughter Sophie is helping with inventory and restocking shelves.

Hours at Just for Fun are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., seven days a week. For now, masks are required. ■



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SHORT TAKES

Art in the Open

Noe Valley artists will be showing their paintings, sculptures, and other creations in two major open studio events this fall.

The ArtSpan San Francisco Open Studios 2021 (SFOS) will begin Thursday, Sept. 16, and run through Sunday, Oct. 17. During the festival month, member artists all over the city will open their doors to the public on any Thursday-Friday or Saturday-Sunday they choose.

One artist in Noe Valley, abstract painter Jaime Lovejoy, is hosting a pop-up art gallery in the empty storefront at 3903 24th St. (Sept. 15 to Oct. 15), as part of the Open Studios event.

To find all the artists to visit, go to www.artspan.org. Or look for ArtSpan's new app, to be launched Sept. 1. It promises to let you see art studios near you based on your live location.

In October, there is another art explosion. Several Noe Valley artists have studios in Hunters Point at the former Navy shipyard. The shipyard artists are holding their own event this year, the Hunters Point Shipyard Open Studios. A preview of participating artists' work will be available online through Oct. 31. Art lovers can visit studios in person on Oct. 23 and 24. For information, go to www.shipyardartists.com.

Folio Books Receives a Boost

Folio Books, located at 3957 24th St., was awarded a \$10,000 Survive to Thrive grant from the Book Industry Charitable Foundation (BINC), based on the bookstore's ability "to make a strong recovery from the [Covid-19] pandemic," according to the BINC announcement. "The grants are intended to stabilize bookstores that have a strong chance of regaining their pre-pandemic vibrancy," Folio owner Paula Foley says. "So being selected is a big vote of confidence."

BINC has donated more than \$1 million to 115 bookstores across the country, including eight in California. Folio Books was the only San Francisco bookstore to be included.

The money "has given us the chance to rebuild and refresh," Foley says. "We managed to keep our staff and rent and bills paid, but our strategic tradeoff was to shrink our inventory." Now the shelves and display tables are fully stocked again.

Although big-name authors and large



Folio Books owners Paula and John Foley must have felt like it was Christmas in July. Their bookstore received a Survive to Thrive grant totalling \$10,000.

publishers helped fund the one-time grants, most of BINC's contributors are individuals and most donations are small. To help independent bookstores survive an emergency, you can contribute at www.bincfoundation.org. To help them survive in general, buy books from them!

Odd Mondays & Cookbooks

September will bring a smorgasbord of book events to the still-virtual Odd Mondays Reading Series and the now live Omnivore Books on Food.

On the Odd Monday Sept. 13, from 7 to 8 p.m., Matthew Clark Davison will read and talk about his new novel, *Doubting Thomas*, via Zoom. Also on the bill will be short-story writers Bradford Philen and Angelo Presicci, reading from their collections *When the Color Started* and *Fighting the Bad War*. Philen will zoom in from his home in the Philippines, where it will be 10 a.m. the next day. You can buy copies of the books from Folio Books online or at the store, 3957 24th St.

Author Beth A. Lee will appear at Omnivore Books on Sunday, Sept. 12, at 3 p.m., with tips from *The Essential Jewish Baking Cookbook: 50 Traditional Recipes for Every Occasion*. The guide might come in handy, since there are four major Jewish occasions in September, including Rosh Hashanah Sept. 6-8. Copies will be available at the store, at 3885A Cesar Chavez St.

Other Omnivore in-store events will feature books on Colombian cooking (Sept. 8), sustainable cocktails (Sept. 16), and German cooking (Sept. 23). You must be vaccinated to attend.

Mainstage Music Is Back!

Noe Music is resuming in-person chamber music concerts for its 2021-22 season. Artistic directors Meena Bhasin and Owen Dalby promise "a year of hope, gratitude, and continued engagement with the music, artists, and community that sustain us."

Live Mainstage concerts will be back at the Noe Valley Ministry, and if all goes well, happy hour concerts and music salons will return to bars, cafes,



Pianist Stephen Prutsman performs Sept. 19 at Noe Music's 4 p.m. Mainstage concert at the Noe Valley Ministry on Slow Sanchez.

and elegant homes around the city.

Mainstage kicks off Sunday, Sept. 19, at 4 p.m., with the St. Lawrence String Quartet and San Francisco pianist Stephen Prutsman performing works by Joseph Haydn and Erich Korngold at the Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. Four additional concerts will be held in November, March, and May.

Subscriptions to the five Mainstage concerts and information about other Noe Music programs can be found at www.noemusic.org. Seating is limited to 80 people, and attendees over 12 years old must be vaccinated against Covid-19 and wear masks. For information, email info@noemusic.org or call 415-648-5236.

Thanks for the Backpacks

Urban Angels San Francisco, which has an office in the Diamond Heights Shopping Center, has been busy this fall providing 1,250 backpacks full of school supplies to children living in homeless shelters.



After raising \$30,000 in community donations, the Diamond Heights-based charity Urban Angels SF delighted kids with its third annual school supplies giveaway.

Photo courtesy Urban Angels SF

The six-year-old non-profit reports that a large share of the \$30,000 raised for this fall's backpack drive came through donations from Noe Valley, Diamond Heights, and Glen Park. First Republic Bank, with a branch in Noe Valley, was also a major sponsor.

Urban Angels volunteers also deliver hot meals, water, socks, and other clothing, and pandemic necessities like masks and hand sanitizer, to people in need. To donate or volunteer, go to www.urbanangelsf.org. Their address is 5228 Diamond Heights Blvd., San Francisco, CA 94131. For information call 415-952-0711. ■

Short Takes were compiled and written by Richard May.

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THURS SEPT 16	SHANNA FARRELL • A GOOD DRINK: IN PURSUIT OF SUSTAINABLE SPIRITS • 6:30-7:30 P.M. P.M. FREE! A San Francisco bartender's search for the bars, distillers, and farmers who are driving a transformation to sustainable spirits. For anyone who cares about the future of the planet, it offers a hopeful vision of change, one pour at a time.
THURS SEPT 23	KIT SCHULTE • MODERN GERMAN FOOD FROM A BERLIN KITCHEN • 6:30-7:30 P.M. P.M. FREE! Explore new and traditional German recipes - with a focus on vegetables, fruits, wild herbs and edible foraged plants, offering an array of seasonal and regional specialties. Includes 80+ photographs and an illustrated encyclopedia of sasonal vegetables and fruits.
THURS OCT 14	MINA STONE • LEMON, LOVE & OLIVE OIL • 6:30-7:30 P.M. P.M. FREE! Author of the cult-favorite Cooking for Artists, Mina Stone, returns with a collection of 80 new recipes inspired by her traditional Greek heritage and her years cooking for some of New York's most innovative artists.
TUES OCT 26	OFFSITE EVENT • JEFF ALWORTH • THE BEER BIBLE: SECOND EDITION • 5:00-7:00 P.M. P.M. FREE! The most comprehensive guide to the world of beer, with everything you need to know bout what to drink, where, when and why. Join us for a book launch event at Barebottle Brewing Co., 1525 Cortland Avenue.

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High winds and drought conditions have Sasha barking mad at Joby's Run. Photo by David Emanuel

Doors Opening at Last

In a week, if all goes according to plan, the rec center will be open! Flying free as a bird! Upper Noe Facility Coordinator Cheryl Woltjen snapped the photo below on one of the last Adventure Camp outings to Billy Goat Hill in August. The youngster takes to the air in a scene reminiscent of Rec & Park's logo.



Since March 13, Upper Noe Rec Center has gone from shut down, to day care for emergency workers, to summer campers only, to closure again, to summer campers only again, to a short break and *voilà*. The doors are set to open to the general public on Sept. 7, as fall programming begins. See the schedule below.

Upper Noe's schedule will be light initially but should open up once the community health situation improves. San Francisco currently requires proof of vaccination at all recreation facilities, including our recreation center. Exceptions apply to those who are ineligible for vaccinations, including children under 12 years old. Masks must be worn at all times while indoors.

Check for class availability at sfrecpark.org/register. Call Upper Noe's office at 415-970-8061 to get updates on activities.

Upper Noe Fall Schedule (Sept. 7 – Nov. 20, 2021)

Upper Noe Rec Center hours:	Tues.–Fri. 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.	Sat. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Pickleball	Tues., Thurs. 10 a.m.–1 p.m.	Drop-in (all ages).
Volleyball – Girls in Sports – Beg.	Wed. 4–5 p.m.	(7–9 yr olds)
Flag Football League, Pee-Wee Div.	Wed. 3:30–4:30 p.m.	(8–10 yr olds)
Flag Football League, Senior Div.	Wed. 4:30–5:30 p.m.	(11–13 yr olds)
Shred & Butter skateboarding	Fri. 3:45–5:15 p.m.	(6–13 yr olds)
Zumba (family)	Sat. 9:30–10:30 a.m.	FREE but registration is required. Space is limited. No drop-ins.

Check www.uppernoerecreationcenter.com or call the Upper Noe office at 415-970-8061 for more information.

—Chris Faust, Chair, Friends of Upper Noe Recreation Center



SMALL FRY'S

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TEEN TALK

The First Week Back

By Astrid Utting

August 2021: I can't believe I'm walking around my high school as a junior. The last time I was in school, I was a freshman.

I don't quite feel like an upperclassman. Juniors shouldn't get lost the first day trying to find their history class, but maybe that's just my terrible sense of direction. Regardless, I'm glad to be back in person for school, even if it's a little different.

My first day of school mainly mirrored my previous first days of school, except this time I had to factor in layers of jackets and sweaters into school outfits because classroom windows are open for ventilation. And I had to add masks to my back-to-school shopping list!

On the third day of classes, I got a notification that someone at my school



Photo collage by Jack Tipple

tested positive for Covid-19. While I didn't receive any emails notifying me of close contact with the positive person or feel any symptoms (thank goodness I'm fully vaccinated), I scheduled a Covid-19 test because that is my life now. Yikes.

The hardest part about returning in person is readjusting to the physical and mental demands of school. It's mentally draining to be "on" all the time for my teachers and classmates. I'd gotten scarily used to munching popcorn and occasionally scrolling through my phone while hiding behind a blank zoom screen.

It's also physically exhausting to have to shove notebooks, binders, and pencils into my backpack every 55 minutes to lug to my next class, which by some cruel twist of fate is usually on the opposite side of the school or through a jam-packed hallway.

Needless to say, this first week, I've arrived home wrecked. After not taking public transit for over a year, the hour-long train and bus ride actually makes

me feel bus/train-sick. I get home absolutely exhausted, hungry, and slightly nauseated. But don't worry, it's worth it to see real-life people!

Before finally returning to in-person learning, I actually learned to appreciate some aspects of distance learning. I loved my leisurely morning walks through Noe Valley and not having to pack a lunch, get up early, or take public transit.

I was almost grateful for the mask so people couldn't see me beaming at something so small as a "hello."

But back in school, I see I really missed the sense of community I hadn't realized I had in a school of 2,700 students. I'll miss my Noe Valley morning walk community, but finally giving and receiving waves and "hi's" to and from familiar faces in the hallways has given me a jolt of excitement and happiness. I was almost grateful for the mask so people couldn't see me beaming at something so small as a "hello."

I appreciate little things too, like getting to choose a desk next to a friend or meeting someone new, instead of looking at squares on a screen or waiting to be assigned to an awkward breakout room. I've even gotten to talk to my teachers, and eventually I hope they'll recognize the top half of my face!

This past week, all of the regular things that wouldn't have seemed interesting pre-pandemic have been deemed worthy of sharing with my family at the dinner table: one of my teachers shared an extensive recounting of her personal history, I've played tons of get-to-know-you games in class, and I made a friend on the bus. These are all special because they are normal, and I've missed them. It feels good to complain about the train or the crowded hallways. I don't mind the mask or the layer of clothes and hand sanitizer.

The entire world has changed dramatically since I last set foot in a real-life classroom, and I'm grateful for everything that has allowed me to return to school: my teachers, school leaders and administration, community effort, and of course, the vaccine.

I've seen articles where people mentioned the pandemic putting their lives on "pause." But life *didn't* pause. I turned 15 in a pandemic, and then I turned 16. I spent a formative year of my life stuck in my bedroom with a chromebook for company. Obviously, we all did. But we didn't stop growing or learning. We had to adapt.

Life didn't pause last year. Life happened and will continue to unfold. I'm just happy it now can happen in the hallways, the classroom, even on the train...out in the world where we all belong. ■

Astrid Utting, 16, lives with her family at Duncan and Sanchez streets. As a regular contributor to the *Noe Valley Voice*, she reports on what local teens are thinking and talking about. If you have ideas to suggest, write to her at editor@noevalleyvoice.com.



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SINGLE FAMILY	YoY% CHANGE	CONDOS	YoY% CHANGE
NEW LISTINGS	NEW LISTINGS	NEW LISTINGS	NEW LISTINGS
10	-52%	10	-44%
LISTINGS IN CONTRACT	LISTINGS IN CONTRACT	LISTINGS IN CONTRACT	LISTINGS IN CONTRACT
8	-33%	9	-31%
NUMBER OF SOLD	NUMBER OF SOLD	NUMBER OF SOLD	NUMBER OF SOLD
12	-14%	10	-17%
MEDIAN DOM	MEDIAN DOM	MEDIAN DOM	MEDIAN DOM
15	-63%	12	-43%
MEDIAN \$/SQ FT	MEDIAN \$/SQ FT	MEDIAN \$/SQ FT	MEDIAN \$/SQ FT
\$1,268	0%	\$1,183	+5%
MEDIAN SALES PRICE	MEDIAN SALES PRICE	MEDIAN SALES PRICE	MEDIAN SALES PRICE
\$2.53M	-8%	\$1.50M	+2%

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Calendar September

Sept. 1: LITQUAKE is seeking volunteers for its Festival 2021, set for Oct. 7-23. [litquake.org](#).

Sept. 1-29: PILATES BOOTCAMP classes at the Noe Valley Town Square. Wed., Fri., 8 am. 3861 24th. [noevalleytownsquare.com](#).

Sept. 1-30: 30th Street SENIOR CENTER offers lunches for people over 60, weekdays and Saturdays. 9:30 am-1:30 pm. 225 30th. 550-2226.

Sept. 3-24: Bird & Beckett bookstore hosts Friday JAZZ live-streaming from the shop. 7:30-9 pm. 586-3733; [birdbeckett.com](#).

Sept. 4 & 5: WATERCOLORS by Kit Cameron, Andy Forrest, Eddie Wolowski, and Carlo Grünfeld are on display at Far Out Gallery. Weekends, noon-6 pm, and by appointment. 3004 Taraval. 463-5537; [faroutgallery.com](#).

Sept. 4-25: Noe Valley FARMERS MARKET is open 8 am to 1 pm (8 to 9 am for seniors). 3861 24th. 248-1332; [noevalleyfarmersmarket.com](#).

Sept. 4-25: The Upper Noe Rec Center is open, and offering a FAMILY ZUMBA class, Saturdays from 9:30 to 10:30 am. 295 Day. Free with registration: 970-8061; [sfrecpark.org](#).

Sept. 8: OMNIVORE Books hosts Mariana Velasquez, in-store, discussing *Colombiana: A Rediscovery of Recipes and Rituals from the Soul of Columbia*. 6:30-7:30 pm. 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; [omnivorebooks.com](#).

Sept. 10: Folio Books' BOOKWORMS Club on Zoom features Rajani LaRocca discussing her novels and picture books. 5 pm. RSVP for sign-in, [foliosf.com](#); 821-3477.

Sept. 11: Tune in to YouTube for the Noe Valley GIRLS FILM FESTIVAL, featuring the 10 five-minute films and guest artist Stephanie Ard. 4 pm. [nvqff.com](#).

Sept. 12: ACTION SF hosts virtual meetings, open to all, from 12:30 to 2 pm. Email [actionsf-solidarity@gmail.com](#) to find out if in person.

Sept. 12: ACOUSTIC SUNDAY at the Noe Valley Town Square spotlights the Big Lou Trio, featuring the Accordion Princess. 2-4 pm. 3861 24th. [noevalleytownsquare.com](#).

Sept. 12: Beth A. Lee introduces *The Essential JEWISH BAKING Cookbook* at a free live in-store event. 3-4 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; [omnivorebooks.com](#).

Sept. 13: ODD MONDAYS features readings by novelist Matthew Clark Davison, and short-story authors Bradford Philen and Angelo Presicci. 7-8 pm. The Zoom link is on the Odd Mondays Facebook page, or email [oddmondaysnoevalley@gmail.com](#).

Sept. 14: Noe Valley Library is an election ballot

drop-off station Sept. 11-12, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sept. 13, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and ELECTION DAY Sept. 14, 7 a.m.-8 p.m. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; [nvamgr@sfppl.org](#)

Sept. 14-28: SF Camerawork's online Benefit AUCTION, "The Roof Is on Fire," features over 50 works to bid on. [sfcamerawork.org](#).

Sept. 16: Shanna Farrell discusses *A Good DRINK: On Pursuit of Sustainable Spirits*. 6:30-7:30 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; [omnivorebooks.com](#).

Sept. 16-Oct. 17: ArtSpan SF OPEN STUDIOS includes artists from the entire city on Thursdays and Fridays or Saturdays and Sundays. [artspan.org](#).

Sept. 18-19: The Church Street GARAGE GALLERY features mixed media work by David Meeker and photography by Daniel Raskin. 9 am-5 pm. Church between 24th & Elizabeth.

Sept. 19: NOE MUSIC Mainstage hosts a live concert of works by Haydn and Korngold by the St. Lawrence String Quartet and pianist Stephen Prutsman. 4-5:30 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. [noemusic.org](#).

Sept. 20: The Left Coast CHAMBER Ensemble offers a streamed performance of the world premiere of David Dominique's "Soft-Spoken," followed by an after party on Zoom. 7:30 pm. RSVP required: 617-5223; [leftcoastensemble.org](#).

Sept. 21: The Museum of the African Diaspora hosts SF's eighth Poet Laureate Tongo Eisen-Martin discussing *Blood on the Fog*, with poet Sonia Sanchez, in the Zoom Room. 6-7 pm. [moadsf.org](#).

Sept. 23: Kit Schulte introduces *Modern GERMAN FOOD from a Berlin Kitchen* at a free live in-store event. 6:30-7:30 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; [omnivorebooks.com](#).

Sept. 30-Oct. 30: The Hunters Point Shipyard OPEN STUDIOS features several Noe Valley artists. [shipyardartists.com](#).

Oct. 1: SCRAP opens its exhibit, "RePurposeful: The Art of Collage and Assemblage," with a celebration and silent auction. Randall Museum, 199 Museum. [scrap-sf.org](#).

Virtual Reality: The next *Noe Valley Voice* will be the **October 2021** issue, distributed the first week of October. The deadline for items is **Sept. 20**. Email [calendar@noevalleyvoice.com](#) or write Calendar, *Noe Valley Voice*, P.O. Box 460249, San Francisco, CA 94146. Thank you.

and now for the
RUMORS
behind the news

Business Booms

By Mazook

WHAT'S IN STORE: Downtown Noe Valley is bustling with commercial activity. Two retail favorites, Wink SF and When Modern Was, are taking over the space vacated last month by Rabat on the corner of 24th and Noe. A new do-it-yourself candle shop called Moonshot will be opening soon at 4066 24th St., where Small Frys was, before it moved down the block across the street from Just for Fun.

The neighborhood heaved a collective sigh of relief to learn that the ever-popular Just for Fun had been taken over by a new owner (*see story, page 16*). The world headquarters for the makers of a baby formula called Bobbie has opened on the corner of 25th and Castro. More on these items later.

The second most asked question I heard this summer was, when will Village Rotisserie open? Sept. 7 is the opening date, I am informed by Noe Valleon Tom Glenwright, who owns the Australian chicken shop, along with his sister, chef Priscilla Dosiou. The new eaterie will fill the space at 4063 24th St., once occupied by Le Zinc (and later Chez Marius) French restaurant, next to the Harry Aleo public parking lot,

And yes, the first most asked question was: “When is the pot store on 24th and Vicksburg going to open?” The last I heard, and reported many months ago, is “sometime in September.”

On the food front, an upscale restaurant called Dash Japanese Tapas and Sushi will soon open its second location (the first being down in Burlingame) at 737 Diamond, in the space vacated by Bacco a few months back, when Bacco moved down to 24th near Sanchez to the spot where Savor had been since the 1990s.

Word is that a Russian restaurant called Birch & Rye will open this fall at 1320 Castro, where Malaysian restaurant Mahila used to be. According to the blurb in the *Chronicle* by Elena Kadwany at the end of July, the eaterie will be opened by Anya El-Wattar, who grew up in Moscow. She comes with a background in food and Ayurvedic medicine, and worked as a line cook at Greens, the vegetarian restaurant at Fort Mason, and she ran a catering company in San Francisco.

Seismic retrofitting is in process at the Elvira building at the corner of 24th and Noe. The work is being done below the restaurant that used to be Toast, which closed in September of 2019. Expect another restaurant to open there in the future.



RETAIL TALES: Moving east on 24th Street from 4107 to 4005 is the unique gift store Wink, owned by Marcy Israel and Teresa Hagiya. They will be in the shoe-store part of the space that was vacated at the end of August by Rabat after over 40 years in Downtown Noe Valley.

Israel says the new store will have about the same space as their current store. “We are hoping for much more foot traffic.” She notes that “during the

Covid lockdown our sales went down by 40 percent, and it has been a struggle to keep the business open. We are grateful for the support we have received from the neighborhood.”

Hagiya and Israel expect to reopen Wink there sometime in October.

Also on the move is the vintage artifacts, furniture, home furnishings, and jewelry store When Modern Was, located at 4037 24th for the last 16 years. It is taking over Rabat’s corner space at 4001 24th at Noe.

“We should be opening there, hopefully, by the beginning of October,” says owner Dona Taylor, “after we refinish and paint the store.” She says she will keep some of the vintage furnishings but there will also be more modern furniture.

Also moving with When Modern Was is Karen Johnson, who has a small space in the back of the current WMW store. Johnson says hers is the only place in the city where you can find Annie Sloan Chalk Paint.



IT MAKES SCENTS: Coming soon to the heart of Noe Valley, and planning to open in September, is a new retail store called Moonshot Studio, which takes over the space at 4066 24th, where Small Frys children’s store was, before their move a block east down the street to 3985.

According to Moonshot owner Teresa Fitzgerald, patrons will be able to “experiment with scent in our fragrance-blending studio and retail store for custom-scented candles, lotions, and other luxurious home and body products.”

She elaborates: “Whether you are making one candle or a range of custom-scented home and body products, the activity of choosing from among over 80 fragrances, blending favorites into a personal fragrance medley, and mixing the blend into a product of choice will be simple, entertaining, and results in affordably luxurious items to treasure in your home and on your body. Blending scents and creating products is an innovative experience that can be enjoyed by people of a wide variety of ages, abilities, and interests, individually, with a friend or family member, or in small- to mid-size groups.

“Candles, expected to be our most popular products, are made from 100 percent soy wax and cotton wicks. They are clean-burning and long-lasting (approximately 60 hours of burning time for 8 ounces), with the natural ivory color of soy wax. Color comes from the container selected.”

Also, she says, the studio will have “reed diffusers, aromatic room mists and wax tarts [which] are flameless ways to disperse fragrance blends into your home, office, car, business and other indoor environments. These items are perfect for bringing beautiful scent into surroundings where a flame is not desirable.”

On the horizon as well are private curating classes, birthday parties, and other group events.

Fitzgerald has lived on Twin Peaks in San Francisco the past 15 years, and retired from Genentech in 2019 as a clinical developer.



BE MY BABY: The world headquarters of the baby formula Bobbie is opening at 1500 Castro St., on the southwest corner of Castro and 25th. According to Church Street resident Kim Chappell, who is vice president of marketing, the company launched online in January of 2021 and has sold four million bottles in the United States so far. “We have tens of thousands customers in all 50 states,” she says. “We need a base in San Francisco, and this space was perfect, and walkable from Downtown Noe Valley.”

The product is described as “an organic, European-inspired infant formula that meets FDA requirements which is a milk-based powder with iron” that you mix with water.

Founded by Laura Modi (who lives near Alamo Square) and Sarah Hardy (who lives in Oakland), the name comes from Hardy’s daughter, who used to call her bottle “bobbie,” according to Chappell. She expects that there will be space for retail purchases when the store opens to the public, expected to be this November, with space for community meetings and workshops.

The company is quite proud of their “Mommy Board,” which is comprised of a dozen consultants (mostly pediatricians and nutritionists), 10 of whom are women and, among other things, all moms.



DEMO MEMO: It appears that the Noe Valley Democratic Club has been rejuvenated, finally naming a new president and new board members after former president Todd David stepped down.

Taking over as president is Carrie Barnes, vice president David Katz, treasurer Colin Davitian, and secretary Stephen Dodson. Katz was a former Obama White House staffer, and Dodson was recently named to the YIMBY (housing advocates) advisory

board.

Barnes, asked her specialty, replied: “I work at the intersection of strategy, communication, and policy.” Most recently she was assistant campaign manager for Emily Murase in her District 7 run for supervisor in 2020. They lost to Myrna Melgar.

Continued Barnes in the email, “After running a marketing communications firm and working with the international economic development sector for more than a decade, I was motivated to switch my focus to pressing issues within my own community following the 2016 Presidential election, and I pursued a master’s at Berkeley to be trained in public policy analysis so that I could approach policy problems with a fresh perspective and understanding.”

Barnes added, “We plan to hold events with policymakers, make endorsements, and connect our neighborhood’s Democrats to the city’s leaders. We’re looking forward to productive discussions in the future, and have already confirmed several interesting speakers:

“(1) Kickoff in Noe Valley Town Square, October 13, from 3 to 5 p.m. Confirmed speakers: Carrie Barnes, Senator Scott Wiener, assembly member David Chiu, and D8 Supervisor Rafael Mandelman. Trivia, music, and light snacks follow, and children are welcome.

“(2) Crime and Safety Forum with District Attorney Chesa Boudin, October 10, from 3 to 5 p.m. Confirmed speaker: Chesa Boudin, and most likely Police Chief Bill Scott and a captain from one of our two police stations.”

Barnes also noted that other speakers would include District 8 Supervisor Rafael Mandelman, “who will discuss the history of the Noe Valley Democratic Club and how it influenced his political journey, as well as where he thinks San Francisco is heading and the policies it will take to get us there.”

I want a ticket for that event and I hope it is recorded for posterity so nobody can say, “Sorry I missed it.”



SUNNY SIDE UP: Apparently, the house on the northeast corner of Sanchez and 21st Street, built back in 1930 by Mayor James “Sunny Jim” Rolph (serving 1912–31) for his mistress, has been sold.

When it appeared on the market earlier this year, the asking price for 3690 21st St. was almost \$14 million. The price was gradually reduced, and last month the buyer was reported to be “under contract” for \$7,950,000, much lower than the previous owner, Frederick Roeber, spent to buy it 13 years ago.

Roeber took about four years to restore the house, which has one of the best views in the city. Sadly, Roeber died last year and left the property to his alma mater, Cal Tech, where as a graduate student, he had helped develop the World Wide Web.

Given the current asking prices for residences in our neighborhood, this one was a bargain. Really.



THAT’S 30. Oh, one more thing. I appreciated the many people who approached me on 24th Street last month and asked why I wasn’t in the August issue. As I told them: In August and January, for the last 40 years, I have gone on “holiday.” Ciao for now. ■



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Action-SF.com - Fall Kick Off Meetings Sept. 12, Oct. 3.

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Trophy Building in Russian Hill

The building boasts eight residences of which six are remodeled, luxury homes, including two posh penthouses with a roof deck / pent-room office and one newly constructed unit that overlooks the garden. There is incredible income and banked rents. The penthouses can be delivered vacant if desired. Included in the amenities is an expansive English-style garden, a 360-degree view roof deck, in-unit laundry in five units, a common laundry room and a massive garage with three independent parking spaces – making this one of the most highly sought after buildings in the City.

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FOUR-CAR PARKING
LOT SIZE: 4,950 SQ. FT.

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FOUR TWO-BEDROOM RESIDENCES, INCLUDING TWO
LUXURY PENTHOUSE UNITS AND A NEWLY BUILT
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The Noe Estate

Welcome to The Noe Estate, a unique residence offering the superb detail and craftsmanship of a bygone era with a masterful mix of modern opulence and indoor and outdoor appeal. The main level embodies grand scale and elegance and boasts a dream kitchen, formal dining, sexy library, office, powder room and sweeping views from the grand living areas. You'll enjoy three generous bedrooms on one level, media room, two guest suites, the 27x40 sport court and outdoor entertaining levels - come live The Noe Estate lifestyle!

4 BED + FLEX SPACE | 4.5 BATH
6,929 SQFT | 59x114 LOT
27x40 SPORT COURT

MODERN OPULENCE
INDOOR AND OUTDOOR APPEAL
4 CAR PARKING & WINE CELLAR

