



# THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

## A Look at the 'Next Generation'

City Shares Its Toolkit for Sanchez Slow Street

By Chris Faust

On the evening of Sept. 14, six San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) employees in bright yellow vests waited at the intersection of 30th and Sanchez streets while about 60 neighbors slowly congregated. The spirit of the gathering was as warm and congenial as the evening air. Laughter and pleasantries greeted new arrivals.

Slow Streets team member Matt Lasky began to distribute a one-sheet handout, saying, "Whatever we can do to make it better, we are here to listen."

He referred to his sheet as the toolkit. It consisted of pictures and descriptions of the six different treatments being proposed for slow streets: Community Zones, Neighborhood Traffic Circles, Landscaped Islands, Roadway Narrowing, Wayfinding and Identification Signs, and On-Street Bike Parking.

SFMTA billed the event as the "Next Generation Sanchez Slow Street Community Walkthrough." They invited anyone in the city to come and see what might be next for the slow street. Slow Streets program manager Mark Dreger introduced his team.

"We're happy to take your comments

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



An October Tradition: Firefighters from Station 11 are expected to dazzle the crowds again this year at the Oct. 15 Sanchez Street Block Party (see page 9). Photo courtesy Steve Werek

## Where Are We Now With Covid?

Dr. Wachter Takes the Neighborhood's Temperature

By Liz Highleyman

Covid cases have ticked up in the past couple of months in San Francisco and nationwide, but they remain far below the level of previous waves. Restaurants and bars along 24th Street are bustling, kids have gone back to school, and most people are no longer wearing masks.

Almost all San Franciscans have some immunity against the coronavirus, thanks to vaccines, previous bouts of Covid, or both. Hospitalizations remain low. The city's Department of Public Health reported just two Covid deaths in September, and wastewater data suggest cases are leveling off or even declining.

But, as health officials hasten to remind us, Covid is not over. An encounter with the virus can lead to a week or more of illness and missed work or school, and some people—especially those who are older or have other health conditions—can still have bad outcomes.

For a look at where we are now and where we might be headed, the *Noe Valley Voice* once again turned to long-time neighborhood resident Dr. Bob Wachter, chairman of the Department

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

## Soccer Field a Big Win at James Lick Middle School

New Turf Boosts Pride As Well As Athletic Skills

By Matthew S. Bajko

The new turf soccer field at James Lick Middle School is proving the axiom: if you build it, they will come.

"It has been thoroughly used since it was installed," said Rogelio Alvarado, the coach for the public school's boys' and girls' Bulldogs soccer teams. "Build the fields and the kids will come."

Alvarado, who has coached at the school since 2007, apart from a five-year hiatus he took, told the *Voice* that when he held tryouts for the boys' team at the start of the 2023-2024 school year, twice as many students as in previous years applied. He ended up with 31 team members for the month-long season that wraps Oct. 2; last year the team had 21 players.

"This certainly had something to do with it," said Alvarado, as he pointed to the green field with its two white goalposts during a team practice in mid-September.

Taking a brief break from practicing goalie and center back, Landon Lopez, 13, said he was happy to see the field come to fruition, especially because it was safer to play on than asphalt. The eighth-grader has played soccer since

elementary school.

"It is about time they put one in [a soccer field]. They've been saying they needed to get one for some time," said Lopez. "It changes a lot because if you

fall, it is not going to hurt like concrete."

Fellow eighth-grader David Obillo, 13, who plays left wing and first started kicking around a soccer ball at age 4,

agreed that the new field was better for him and his teammates.

"I've been waiting for a while for it,"

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



Eyes on the Goal: Members of the girls' soccer team at James Lick Middle School test the new turf installed in May after a successful fundraising drive led by students, parents, and staff. Next in the school's sights is raising money for bleachers and equipment. Photo by Art Bodner



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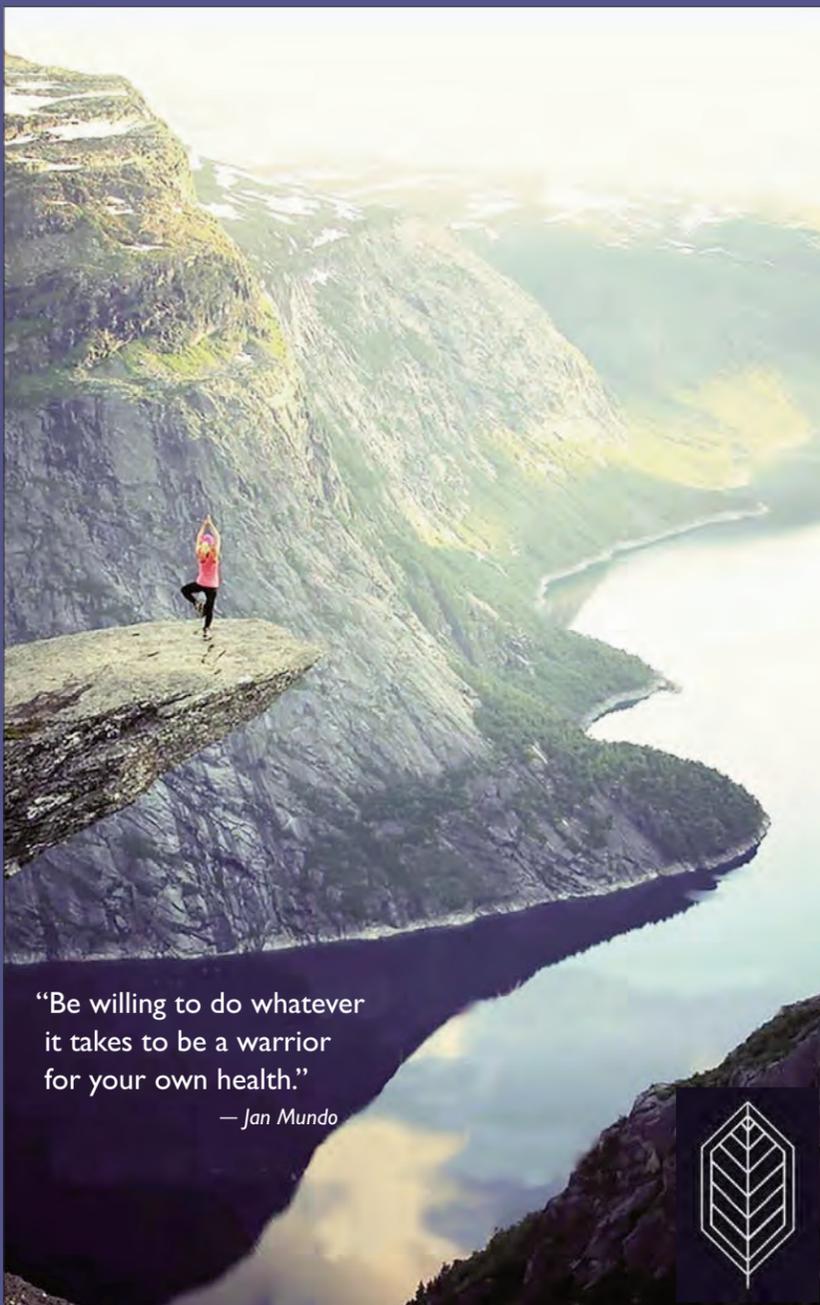
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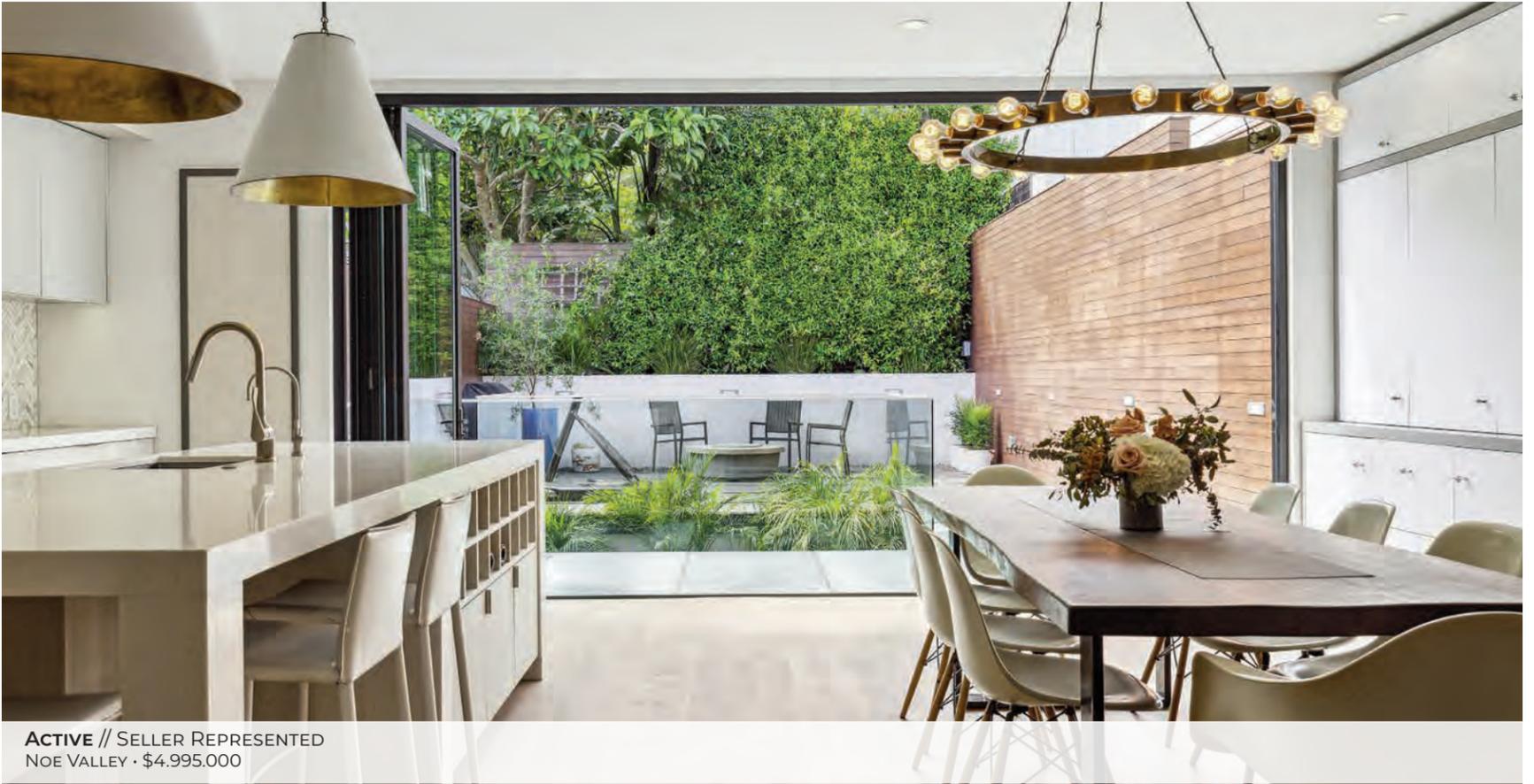
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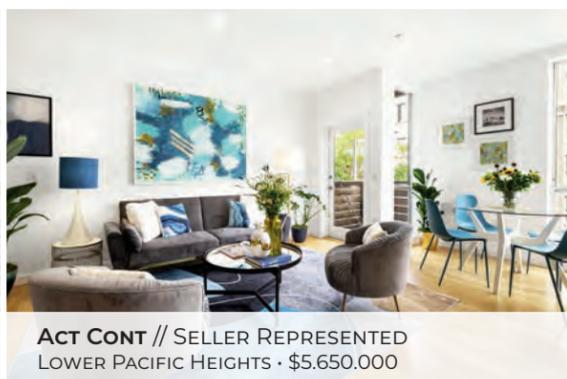
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# CRIME SNAPSHOT

## Decline in Reported Incidents in August

According to the San Francisco Police Department's digital map of incident reports, Noe Valley experienced a 17 percent drop in crime during the month of August.

In the 10 categories the Noe Valley Voice checks monthly, police recorded 90 incidents in August, down from this year's peak of 109 in July.

Despite the slowdown, however, car break-ins, home invasions, and stolen

vehicles remained vexing problems for local residents.

In the larceny-theft category, the data showed 27 incidents, including 14 smash-and-grabs from cars, three stolen license plates, two thefts of car parts, and nine incidents noted as "other."

The neighborhood suffered 20 burglaries, 15 of them occurring in private homes or businesses.

Thirteen cars, one motorcycle, and two "other" vehicles were stolen during the month—though three were later recovered. One attempted car theft was foiled.

We "scraped" the August data on Sept. 16 from the map of incident reports at [Data.sfgov.org](http://Data.sfgov.org). It identifies Noe Valley as the area bordered by 21st Street, San Jose Avenue/Guerrero Street, 30th Street, and Grand View

Avenue/Diamond Heights Boulevard.

It also places northern and southern Noe Valley in two different police districts, Mission and Ingleside. Officers from the Mission Police District, centered at Mission Station (630 Valencia St.), cover Noe Valley north of Cesar Chavez Street, while Ingleside police, headquartered near Balboa Park, keep watch on Upper Noe and beyond.

Captain Amy Hurwitz took charge of the Ingleside Police District in September. The veteran officer has won numerous awards and worked in several key roles in the department, including as a crisis/hostage negotiator, terrorism liaison officer, and field training officer. She can be reached at 415-404-4000 or via email at [sfpdinglesidestation@sfgov.com](mailto:sfpdinglesidestation@sfgov.com).

The commander at Mission Station is

Captain Thomas Harvey. Harvey has had major experience with the city's Violence Reduction Team and has served at numerous stations, including the Tenderloin, Northern, Taraval, Bayview, and Ingleside. To contact Harvey, call 415-558-5400 or via email at [sfpdmissionstation@sfgov.com](mailto:sfpdmissionstation@sfgov.com).

If you are faced with an emergency situation, call 9-1-1. Otherwise, the SFPD recommends you call 3-1-1 or its non-emergency line at 1-415-553-0123 to report the crime. You may request that an officer come to the scene of the crime, or you can go to any San Francisco Police Station to file a report (and have your vehicle fingerprinted if your car has been stolen).

You may also file a police report online at [www.sanfranciscopolice.org](http://www.sanfranciscopolice.org).

—Corrie M. Anders, Sally Smith



**THE NOE VALLEY VOICE**  
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### CRIME DATA 2023

#### Noe Valley Incident Reports August 2022 – August 2023

Incident Type	Aug22	Sep22	Oct22	Nov22	Dec22	Jan23	Feb23	Mar23	Apr23	May23	June23	July23	Aug23	YTD
Larceny/Theft	43	28	41	41	26	32	17	21	15	34	30	35	27	211
Burglary	20	16	25	10	17	11	10	13	13	7	19	25	20	118
Malicious Mischief	5	10	7	7	6	3	4	9	9	4	16	13	10	68
Motor Vehicle Theft	13	16	13	25	10	15	10	14	10	10	20	27	17	123
Assault	3	5	7	3	1	7	3	8	2	5	3	2	4	34
Robbery	0	1	4	1	1	1	0	3	0	1	4	2	3	14
Other Misc.	4	5	10	6	1	5	5	6	5	0	3	1	4	29
Fraud	1	0	0	4	6	3	3	1	0	3	6	2	5	23
Family D.Violence	2	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	5
Vandalism	2	2	0	0	2	1	1	1	0	1	1	2	0	7
<b>Totals</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>632</b>

Source: Dataset titled "Map of Police Department Incident Reports: 2018 to Present" at [Data.sfgov.org/Public-Safety/Police-Department-Incident-Reports-2018-to-Present/wg3w-h783](http://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 or updates are completed. The *Noe Valley Voice* gathered its August 2023 data on Sept. 16, 2023. "Noe Valley" on the SFPD digital map is bounded by 21st Street, San Jose Avenue/Guerrero Street, 30th Street, and Grand View Avenue/Diamond Heights Boulevard.

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## Track to Be Added To James Lick's New Soccer Field

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

he said. "It is a lot more fun to play on turf. You see a lot of kids going into the yard and playing on the turf now."

That has been an unexpected outcome, said Principal Kiara Herrera. She noted the new sense of community the field had given the student body.

"I knew our field would be utilized with sports daily, but I did not expect it to become a space where students sit every day to watch their friends play and connect with their friends," Herrera said. "It is beautiful to walk up to our yard at lunch and see kids sitting all around the field and students playing. Our school has so much heart, and I am so appreciative of our beautification projects, so that the entire community can see that heart on the outside."

### Open to All on Weekends

Since the artificial field of green was officially unveiled in May in the middle of the school's outdoor yard that faces Castro Street, it has attracted a wide array of users. Families with young children have been utilizing it since the first Saturday, as the schoolyard is open to the public on weekends.

Throughout the summer recess, youth enrolled in summer camp at James Lick could be seen playing on the 8,052-square-foot field, made by the company Revolution Turf. The school's softball team has used it for practices, while nearby residents looking for a spot to sunbathe have also begun laying down their blankets on the field on warm weekend days.

### Schmidt Scores Points

"I love it," said America SCORES Bay Area founder and executive director Colin Schmidt. "Why I think that is so cool is we do see all types of activities on these fields, from tai chi groups to graduation ceremonies and dance festivals. They become stages for different activities."

The soccer field is comprised of 4-by-8-foot panels that each have a rubber backing and can be seamed together. The new turf sits atop the asphalt in the schoolyard, so it didn't require digging out a space for it. "It looks like a professional soccer training facility," said Schmidt. "The turf is also state-of-the-art turf. It is used by college and professional teams."

Twenty-two years ago, Schmidt launched the local nonprofit. Now, America SCORES is part of a national network. A decade ago, it installed its first turf soccer field. As of this fall, it had completed 22.

The one at James Lick is not only the first one the nonprofit has installed at a middle school but is also "our biggest and most ambitious project," said Schmidt. "The space demanded it. It was begging for improvement."

### Parents at Kick-Off

After seeing SCORES install a field at Alvarado Elementary School in November 2019, as her twins attended the Noe Valley public school, parent Gina Cockburn wanted to see it do the same thing at James Lick. When her daughter and son were fifth-graders and the family was looking at enrolling them at the middle school, she reached out to its Parent Teacher Student Association about the possibility.

"I asked, 'Do you guys have a turf project?' They said they'd love to do a turf project but nobody was doing any-



James Lick students have found a variety of ways to enjoy their field, including sunbathing and having lunch with friends. When a new rubber running track is installed, they will be able to jog around the soccer pitch.

Photo by Art Bodner

thing. I said I'd love to help with that, and that is how it happened," said Cockburn, whose family lives not too far from Upper Noe Recreation Center at Day and 30th streets.

In the summer of 2022, the James Lick PTSA launched a fundraising effort with the goal of raising \$150,000. When it reached that mark, the school booster group decided to try to raise \$200,000. That drive is ongoing.

To date, it has received \$185,355. District 8 Supervisor Rafael Mandelman secured \$70,000 in city funds for the field, while an anonymous Noe Valley resident kicked in another

\$45,453.

Bank of the West, now known as BMO, contributed \$27,500. Its employees also conducted a financial literacy program for James Lick's sixth-graders in the spring.

The rest of the funds came from small donors and money raised via bake sales and other events the PTSA held.

The installation of the soccer field has had a noticeable impact at the school, said Cockburn, whose 13-year-old son Shane is a member of the school's soccer team.

"The kids love it. I think it has given

them a sense of pride," said Cockburn, who leads the PTSA's beautification committee for the school.

### A World of Difference

Herrera told the *Voice* that the school community had dreamed about adding a field to the upper yard for years. She said the school was "so grateful" that the PTSA had been able to make it happen.

"Within minutes of the turf field being revealed to our students, an impromptu pickup soccer game began," she noted. "Having a field brings joy to lunch every day, allows our sports team to practice on campus instead of traveling via public transit to a practice field, and gives more curricular options to our PE department."

Coach Alvarado said he expects to see more interest among students trying out for the girls soccer team now that the field is installed. His goal is to have a team of 20 when the girls' season begins Oct. 4.

"It has made a world of difference," said Alvarado. "The kids love it and are avoiding injuries, which is key."

### Runners' Track a First

Still to be installed around the soccer pitch is a running track for the school's track team. It will add another 3,708 square feet of protective material for use by the school's athletes.

"We set our bar high and raised more money than we ever have. We also got ambitious with this track element," said Schmidt. "It is the first time we've added a rubber track to a field project."

Cockburn will once again be tabling at the Sanchez Street Block Party, being held this year on Oct. 15, and seeking donations for the field project. She hopes more residents of the neighborhood will donate, as the field is helping to spruce up the local school and can be used by the public.

"There is still ongoing stuff we want to do to beautify the school," said Cockburn, such as installing a batting cage for the softball team and bleachers for the field. "By having a green space, we are showing we care about our school and trying to beautify the neighborhood, essentially."

Contributions to the school's field fundraiser can be made online at <https://secure.givelively.org/donate/america-scores-bay-area/james-lick-field-of-dreams>.

For further information, contact the school, 1220 Noe St., at 415-695-5675.



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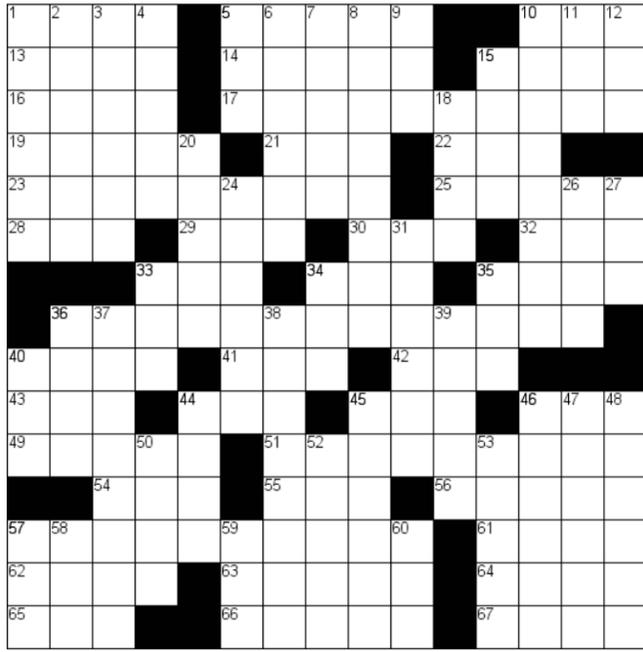
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**THE CROSSWORD BY MICHAEL BLAKE**

**At the Clue Store**

**ACROSS**

1. "Yeah, like that's going to happen"
5. Phones (up)
10. Bath
13. Singer Horne
14. "Farewell, François"
15. Extremely
16. (1) Breakaway religious group
17. (1) Mormon Choir
19. Like the food at Alice's or Eric's
21. Angry mood
22. Superlative ending
23. Old St. Mary's or Grace, in SF
25. Lightning and thunder event
28. Farm female
29. Used to be
30. Immunization trio, for short
32. Siesta
33. Animal enclosure
34. "\_\_\_ the land of the free..."
35. Stoned
36. Grocer, on a corner of 30th, whose first word can be a clue for the (1) entries and whose second for the (2) entries
40. Chaotic scene
41. Have a meal
42. Weed
43. Rower's need
44. What you renew at the DMV: Abbr
45. \_\_\_ Lingus: Irish carrier
46. Chinese food additive
49. Part of NAFTA
51. (2) Manufacture
54. Clock number
55. Where DeSantis is gov.
56. Progressive online



- news site
57. (2) Bring about
61. (2) \_\_\_ and model (car spec)
62. "Kills bugs dead!" brand
63. \_\_\_ Gantry: Lancaster role
64. Lyft rival
65. Curved line
66. Nearby
67. Bicarbonate of \_\_\_
- DOWN**
1. \_\_\_-Lorraine (French region)
2. Playground apparatus for two
3. Provoke
4. Al \_\_\_ (P.L.O. guerrilla group)
5. Feline
6. Oil-rig firefighter Red et al.
7. Sign before Scorpio
8. First Black golfer to play in the Masters
9. Big \_\_\_, California
10. Kind of plates that cause quakes
11. noevalleyvoice.com, for example
12. "Catch ya later!"
15. Extensive
18. Brand of smart thermostat
20. More recent
24. Waltzed, perhaps
26. Go ballistic
27. Speedometer abbr.
31. Name of a hotel or an eatery on Market Street
33. Place in position
34. Make a decision
35. Castaway's dwelling
36. "Later, Luigi!"
37. Shockingly gruesome
38. Like an optimist's water glass
39. Day who sang "Que Sera, Sera"
40. 1980s White House nickname
44. Fashionable
45. Diminishes
46. Capital of Equatorial Guinea (anag. of OBAMA L)
47. All fired up
48. Plural of "genus"
50. Knotted
52. "Remember the \_\_\_!"
53. *The Plague* author Albert
57. Pitcher's stat
58. Distant
59. Gumshoe, slangily
60. Poet's "before"

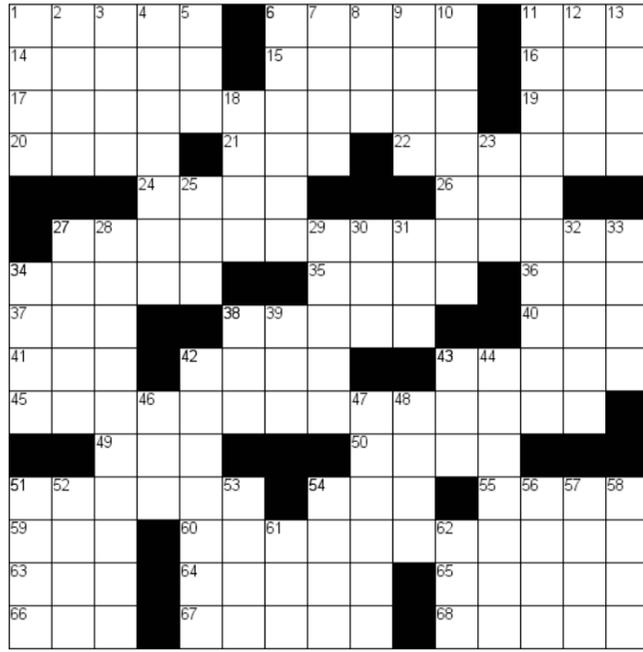
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**THE CROSSWORD BY MICHAEL BLAKE**

**Is That Tom Swift?**

**ACROSS**

1. "Oh! Susanna" instrument
6. Check for odors
11. Silly Putty container
14. Standoffish
15. Red Monopoly piece
16. Caviar
17. "I'm on my way to Noe Valley Cuts and Shaves," said Tom \_\_\_
19. Was in charge
20. Way too uptight
21. Cries of disgust
22. Up until now
24. Brother of Jacob
26. Coffee container
27. "Rafael Mandelman removed me from that commission," said Tom \_\_\_
34. "All \_\_\_ were the borogoves": "Jabberwocky"
35. Google \_\_\_: app with Street View
36. "Golly!"
37. Common download
38. 49ers and Giants, e.g.
40. "\_\_\_ tree falls in the woods..."
41. Car from Korea
42. React to a bad pun, perhaps
43. Our planet
45. "The burglars got into Whole Foods with a crowbar," said Tom \_\_\_
49. Subs \_\_\_ on 24th Street
50. "Not guilty," for one
51. Tease
54. Part of "to be"
55. "y" ending, in superlative form
59. "Raggedy" girl
60. "I prefer Waymo cars over ride-



- sharing apps now," said Tom \_\_\_
63. Common pipe material, briefly
64. Big employer in Cupertino
65. \_\_\_ Martin (James Bond car)
66. Hurricane center
67. Snoops (around)
68. One of fifty
- DOWN**
1. Rum \_\_\_: cake at La Boulangerie de San Francisco
2. Actor Arkin or Alda
3. Author Ephron
4. Unemployed
5. One \_\_\_ kind (unique)
6. Make an appearance
7. "Vous et moi"
8. Part of TGIF
9. Pool table cloth
10. "Cans of corn," in
- baseball slang
11. Female gofer
12. "Billy" or "nanny" beast
13. Late film reviewer Siskel
18. Harvest
23. Beats by \_\_\_: audio equipment brand
25. "What did you \_\_\_?"
27. Use a ladle
28. Just-can't-wait-any-longer feeling
29. Man from Muscat
30. "\_\_\_ shocked... SHOCKED!"
31. Current Alcatraz overseer, for short
32. \_\_\_ O'Doul Bridge near the ballpark
33. "Uh-huh"
34. Fabricate
38. "This Side Up" part
39. Corn unit
42. Bald grime fighter
- with an earring
43. From SF to Berkeley, as the crow flies: Abbr.
44. Opposed
46. Terminate
47. Benders
48. Robert who played A.J. Soprano
51. Back of the neck
52. Jealousy
53. Fan \_\_\_: Moscow Center event in November
54. "\_\_\_ was I ere. . ." \_\_\_ James
57. \_\_\_ machine: casino attraction
58. Newcastle-upon-\_\_\_, England
61. Fedex rival
62. Batteries in TV remotes

**Solution on Page 21**  
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**vivre**

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(vê'vr) v. [Fr.] to live; to experience.

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# Wachter's Covid Prescriptions

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of Medicine at the University of California, San Francisco.

“We had an uptick, with probably double the number of cases. The person sitting next to you on Muni or in a restaurant has a significantly higher chance of having Covid than they had six weeks ago, but it’s still relatively low,” he said in a mid-September interview. “I’m reluctant to call it a ‘surge.’ It’s definitely an uptick, but it’s not anything like prior surges.

“It looks like it’s been pretty flat for the last few weeks,” he continued. “If I were a betting person, I’d say that the current uptick will probably come back down in October. Then sometime later in the winter, there will be another uptick. The height of it really depends on factors that are entirely unpredictable,” such as whether new variants are more infectious or immune-evasive.

While Wachter and most other experts don’t expect another big winter wave, the virus could still have some surprises in store. Most medical professionals recommend shoring up your immunity by getting a new version of the Covid vaccine, which works better against the latest viral variants.

## Bob Gets Covid

After avoiding the coronavirus for three years, Wachter, age 65, had his first bout of Covid in July. In one of his famous social media threads, he told his 272,000 “X” (formerly Twitter) followers how he woke up drenched in sweat with a bad sore throat and a hacking cough.

Although his illness was not severe, he fainted while taking a shower and fell on the bathroom floor, hitting his head on a metal trashcan on the way down. He ended up with a gash on his forehead, a subdural hematoma, and a fractured cervical vertebra.

After starting the antiviral drug Paxlovid, his Covid improved dramatically within a few days. He is now fully recovered from both Covid and the fall, with no lingering symptoms, “just some bad memories,” he told the *Voice*.

That’s a relief because his biggest worry is long Covid, the collection of symptoms that can last for months or years after an encounter with the virus. And he has good reason to be concerned: His wife, journalist and author Katie Hafner, developed long Covid last year. Eighteen months later, “she still doesn’t quite feel right,” he said. “It’s better than it was, but most days she needs to take a nap in the afternoon and she’s a little forgetful, which she never was before.”

## Masks a Good Idea

With the latest uptick, Wachter said stepping up precautions is warranted, though he personally feels protected for a few months until the antibodies from his recent infection start to wane.

At this stage of the game—and with less data to rely on now that health



Bob Wachter posted this photo on his news feed while recovering from injuries he suffered after fainting in the shower during a bout with Covid in July. He’s better now, he says.

departments have scaled back testing and reporting—calculating your individual risk has gotten more complicated.

“I think you pay attention to the environment. When there’s more Covid around, it’s reasonable to pull the mask out again and wear it in crowded indoor spaces,” Wachter said. “Indoor dining is a judgment call. I would prefer outdoor dining if there were a lot of cases around, but if it’s freezing and windy outside, I will go in and be okay with it.”

Local and national health officials agree with Wachter that wearing a mask indoors is still a good idea, but they seem resigned to the fact that much of the public is unwilling to do so forever—even in liberal bastions like Noe Valley—and no one expects mask mandates to return.

While part-time masking may not make much difference on a population level, a good mask—like an N95 or KN95—provides substantial individual protection.

## The New Vaccines

In mid-September, the Food and Drug Administration approved two new mRNA vaccines from Moderna and Pfizer that were designed to target a coronavirus omicron variant circulating earlier this year. Another vaccine using more traditional technology, from Novavax, got the FDA nod Oct. 3.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends the new mRNA vaccines—which they are no longer calling boosters—for everyone age 6 months and older, and the new Novavax shot for people 12 and up, but they’re especially important for people over 65. In addition, health officials recommend a flu shot for adults and children, and this year there are new respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vac-

in supply.

Wachter recommends that most people get the new vaccine as soon as it’s available—which he planned to do three months after his recent infection.

## Get the Shot When You Can

Since antibodies wane after a few months, some people may be tempted to time their vaccine for maximum protection when they need it most, for example, for a big family gathering during the winter holidays. But this approach, he says, “is like amateurs trying to game the stock market. For most people, you’re better off getting the shot when you can.”

Some experts argue that healthy young people don’t need another Covid shot, since they still have some immunity from previous vaccines or infections and their chances of getting severe illness are low. But Wachter thinks there’s little downside.

“It’s very clear that if you’re at high risk of a bad outcome from Covid, because you’re older or you have medical comorbidities, the vaccine is a no-brainer. But as you go down to all ages, I think the benefits outweigh the downsides. I’ve told my healthy 30-year-old children that they should get it, and if I was a parent of a 5-year-old, I would give it to them.

“For the average person, the chances that you’re going to get very sick and need to go to the hospital are very low, but your chances of long Covid are probably around 5 percent,” he added. “The vaccine lowers that by about 25 or 30 percent. To me, it’s worth taking the vaccine just for that risk alone.”

*Liz Highleyman is a medical journalist who has covered HIV and other infectious diseases for nearly 30 years.*

# Next Generation Could Feature Islands and Circles

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and listen to you. A lot of people are using it, walking, biking, enjoying the street. We're going to talk about the next level of what it could be. That includes more placemaking, like paint on the street or places to sit, places to talk. I know there are a lot of mixed feelings. I don't know about here tonight, but there are mixed feelings about slow streets. They have been adopted, like Sanchez, by the SFMTA board, who is our ultimate boss. Whatever we can do to make it better, we're here to listen."

With that, he introduced Alejo Alvarado, project manager for the Next Generation Slow Sanchez Street project, who said, "As we walk through intersection by intersection, block by block, we want to get your feedback on your general experience on the street and get feedback about these specific tools. The next step will be designing a couple of different proposals for the street."

With an understanding of the features in hand, we divided by birthdays into three groups, taking the left, right, and center of the street. Former Slow Streets program manager Shannon Hake and traffic engineer Ellen Robinson led our group of 20. We introduced ourselves and mentioned our interest in this event. Almost all members of our group lived on or near Sanchez Street. Most said they used it daily or frequently, and voiced support for Slow Sanchez. A couple mentioned

## The Toolkit for Slow Sanchez

In its "Next Gen Sanchez Slow Street Survey," dated Sept. 18, 2023, the SFMTA's Slow Streets team asked residents to evaluate six potential treatments for the street:

**Painted Safety Zones / Community Zones** help to increase the visibility of pedestrians at intersections and to encourage slower turning speeds. These painted areas of the road wrap around sidewalk corners to make pedestrians crossing intersections more visible to drivers. The narrow intersection also decreases the crossing distance for pedestrians. These zones can be used for street murals, potted plants and other community uses. They may require parking removal.

**Traffic Circles**, unlike roundabouts, would maintain stop signs at all four corners if implemented on Sanchez Street. They slow vehicle speeds at an intersection by preventing drivers from traveling straight through. They also provide better cross-street visibility. They can be built of concrete or other materials like safe-hit posts and paint. Depending on materials used, this feature may require more maintenance and take longer to install. The cost is estimated at between \$50,000 to \$60,000 apiece. No more than two are proposed for Sanchez Street.

**Landscaped Islands** are concrete islands that provide a more durable barrier to discourage cut-through vehicle traffic. On Sanchez they would be used to inhibit cars from turning too sharply. These features work best on streets where there is sufficient space to maintain vehicle access in the opposite direction. Street sweeping and drainage must be considered for concrete islands located close to the curb. Concrete materials last longer, require less maintenance, and act as a more robust barrier for discouraging cut-through traffic than typical Slow Streets delineators, while allowing for bicycle and scooter access. Where possible, the islands could include space for community art and greening.

**Roadway Narrowing** uses striping and/or vertical elements to visually and physically narrow the right of way to help reduce vehicle speeds. It can use striping, bollards, and signage. This feature can provide space for community art and greening. Removal of parking spaces may be required.

**Slow Street Wayfinding and Identification Signs** indicate the location of a Slow Street for approaching motorists and people walking, biking, or rolling. Like Slow Street pavement markings, Slow Street identification signs reinforce the character of the street as a place where all users should be traveling at slow speeds. The newer signs include cars to help users be aware that this is a shared street.

**On-Street Bike Parking** provides parking for cyclists visiting the neighborhood and prioritizes roadway space for active transportation uses. On-street bike parking can also narrow the roadway to calm traffic. This tool can be co-located with Painted Safety Zones/Community Zones or Roadway Narrowing along the Slow Street. Removal of parking spaces may be required.

that walkability and Slow Sanchez were factors when moving to the neighborhood. A few called for the need to make it safer or friendlier to children.

Several expressed room for improvement. They said it could be frustrating navigating the street to come and go from their homes and do chores, or that the street was becoming a parking lot. We moved on.

## Sanchez the Best Performer

The groups moved north roughly together, demonstrating the huge capacity of this broad street and spacious sidewalks. The goal was to reach the end at 23rd Street in one hour, which seemed ambitious, and turned out to be so.

Hake addressed the need for this event here rather than at some less-performing location. Currently, Slow Sanchez out-performs all other slow streets, according to the 2023 Slow Streets Evaluation Report of May 2, 2023, with speeds well under the target typical median vehicle speed of 15 mph (Sanchez was 13 mph) and average daily traffic of 1,000 vehicles (Sanchez had 320).

Said Hake, "We are now looking not only at meeting the speed and volume thresholds but at how to make it work as a place. Slow Streets are not just transportation. They are also community spaces. We are trying to figure out how to improve them and make them work for all residents. The funding came from District 8, so this is a priority for District 8 as well."

## The Gateway at 30th Street

The first stop was Day and Sanchez, which has a heavy mix of vehicle,

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



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The Next Generation Slow Sanchez Walkthrough on Sept. 14 started at Sanchez and 30th, an intersection that might see special treatment as a gateway to the street. Photo by Chris Faust

## Some Blocks Could Have Safety Zones

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

pedestrian, and other traffic associated with the busy recreation center, which serves the entire city. Car traffic can be heavier than at other locations along Sanchez, with parents circling around to pick up and drop off children throughout the day.

Participants asked about various features for this intersection and Hake provided her expertise. Speed bumps are not appropriate for Sanchez in general since bumps are designed for 17 mph; traffic here is already below that. Small bumps near intersections were suggested to remind speeding scooters of approaching cross streets; Hake took note. What could be done about outlier speeds and cars taking corners too fast? Corner treatments to narrow the road might work here. Perhaps even a traffic circle. Robinson explained that traffic circles are not roundabouts. They retain stop signs. They would be small enough to fit within the existing intersection and accommodate certain vehicle sizes.

Hake addressed a question about using concrete median diverters to slow traffic. Those were being considered on some underperforming slow streets but not here, she said, although there was a potential to do something at 30th Street as a gateway treatment.

Robinson answered questions about whether any of the features would affect access by fire trucks or delivery trucks. “Nothing we propose is something we don’t think we can make work for emergency access to the street.”

### Bulbouts or Street Murals

Moving on down the street, we took stock of each intersection. At 29th Street, neighbors mentioned that Alice’s Restaurant did a brisk takeout business, which brought a lot of cars turning quickly onto Sanchez and stopping and parking there. It is also a key connection to Diamond Heights. Hake suggested Community Zones could be one of the features used to bulb-out the intersection. At 28th Street, Hake suggested a similar treatment.

Ideas started to pour out. A neighbor suggested painting street murals that would run the length of Sanchez to indicate more clearly the community-orientation and child-friendly nature of the street. Another suggested painting intersections to make them stand out as different from other street corners. Someone else suggested brightly painted indicator zones to remind kids to

slow and stop at intersections. Another offered an idea to paint a separate biking area for kids to the sides of the road versus “the road” that they should avoid. “Kids don’t read, so use paint.” Someone else wanted to put art at intersections.

### Busy Intersections

The tone changed at Duncan Street. The street is a dead-end west of Sanchez. Drivers there have no other choice but to cross Sanchez and that has presented issues. Participants in our group related tales of bitter confrontations, with pedestrians screaming at drivers entering and leaving the street, taking pictures of their license plates, blocking passage, or kicking doors.

Hake was reminded of the Slow Street Program’s “How to Use Slow Streets” fact sheet and its messages urging everyone to get along. Someone suggested art that reminds users to be kind to the residents, such as “We all live here together.” Such signs already exist, according to Hake, and can be adapted to Sanchez. They say, “This is Your Slow Street. Everyone is Welcome. Go Slow.”

Cesar Chavez was noted for being a very busy cross street that might benefit from a traffic circle. Twenty-sixth Street is also very busy but has an unusual set of challenges. Many lines of underground utilities come together here, which limits landscaping and curb change treatments. Lots of firetruck traffic from 26th Street station passes through. In addition, this is the site of the Noe Café and identified as a community center. Many kids are present. Things like painted Community Zones would be most appropriate, according to Hake.

Clipper and Sanchez is another of the busiest intersections, but it also has the least space. It is too narrow for a traffic circle. We discovered a crushed street planter here, perhaps emphasizing the limited room and the need for special features.

An hour and a half after starting, the tour stopped at 24th Street. Folks had the opportunity to chat with members of the other groups and compare notes. There was some question about whether efforts had been made to determine the will of residents, particularly Sanchez residents. Another expressed concern that information about Slow Sanchez was confusing as to whether plans were simply ideas or actually

## The Sanchez Street Block Party on Oct. 15 Comes With Theater, Zumba, and a Fire Truck

The third annual Sanchez Street Block Party, part of a citywide Phoenix Day celebration on Sunday, Oct. 15, will once again be an opportunity for Noe Valley to celebrate.

“The Noe Valley Sanchez Street community continues to be vibrant and active, and we’re coming together once again to create some fun and joy in our neighborhood,” said event captain Steve Werek.

The free community-wide party will be held from noon to 3 p.m. near Bethany United Methodist Church on Sanchez Street between Clipper and 26th streets.

As in past years, there will be a succulent-planting bar, face painting for kids, live music, arts and crafts, a bouncy house, food for purchase coordinated by Noe Café, and a special program from The Rabbit Hole Children’s Theater.

“The Rabbit Hole Theater will kick off the party at noon with a 30-minute performance, with their magical characters Pirate, Moon Fairy, Miss Jasmine Tea, and Mermaid,” said Werek.

The troupe will also set up children’s play stations in Bethany’s outside patio area, where kids can have their faces painted and make magic wands and potions (for potential use later!). Halloween costumes will be de rigueur.

After the show, at about 12:30 p.m., dancer Ashley Stagliano will lead everyone in Zumba dancing. “Ashley led the session last year, and it was a huge hit,” Werek said.

James Lick Middle School will hold a bake sale, and local firefighters will once again be visiting (at 2 p.m.) to raise their ladder and climb to the top of the Bethany Church steeple.

“The fire truck is always a major attraction for families with small kids,” said Werek, who has been producing the event since its inception. “Everyone is in awe of their life-saving equipment, and the neighborhood has so much respect and gratitude for the officers. It’s super cool!”

The block party is a collaboration among local residents, Bethany Church, Noe Café, and Friends of Slow Sanchez, said Werek. “It’s a lot of work but also a lot of fun with so many volunteers. It’s a great opportunity to create friendships and build relationships.”

If you’d like to pitch in, contact Werek at [stevewerek@gmail.com](mailto:stevewerek@gmail.com).

For more information, visit Slow Sanchez Street SF on Facebook or go to [www.sundaystreetsf.com/phoenixday](http://www.sundaystreetsf.com/phoenixday)

—Sally Smith

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## Noe Dojo Hosts First Judo Class For Native Children

By Megan Wetherall

One afternoon in August, a Native American drumming blessing took place in front of the Soko Joshi Judo Club at 1622 Castro St., drawing out a few curious neighbors. The drummers were relatives of the *sensei* (teacher) Dianne Albright, herself a Native American, who had driven in from her home in Petaluma to teach the dojo's very first judo class dedicated to Native American children aged 5 through 12.

Every Saturday from 4 to 5 p.m., these youngsters, who represent the Navajo, Apache, Nomlaki, Wintun, Pit River Kiwa Pueblo, Wiyot, and Choctaw tribes, are being taught traditional kodokan judo. When Albright did an outreach event at a Native American health center in the city recently, one mother told her, "This is wonderful. There have been so many doors closed to us, we can't even get our foot in."

Now they can, as this program, called the Native American Judo Club, along with a similar one for Native American high schoolers in Oakland, is fully funded by the Keiko Fukuda and Shelley Fernandez Girls and Women Judo Foundation, formed in 2012 with the vision of bringing judo to girls and women on reservations. (Fukuda, the highest-ranking female *judoka* or grand master in the world, died in 2013. Fernandez continued to own and run Soko Joshi Judo Club, which she and Fukuda had established on Castro Street in 1973.)

## Enjoy a Private Tour of City Hall

Noe Valleyans who'd like to have a personal guide to one of San Francisco's least appreciated gems, City Hall, can now have their wish.

Michael Blake, the local wiz who has been constructing the amusing and devilish crosswords in the *Noe Valley Voice* for more than 15 years, has added San Francisco City Guide to his resume. This fall, he is leading a tour of the halls of power on Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m. (The October dates are Oct. 3, 10, 17, and 24.)

It turns out our Civic Center is quite distinctive. Outside of the Federal Triangle in Washington, D.C., there is no other architecturally harmonious collection of government and cultural buildings in the nation, Blake says. His tour, called "City Hall and the Civic Center," tells the century-old story of how this campus came to be.

"After Chicago built its White City for the 1893 World's Fair," he says, "architects from around the country were inspired to create similar City Beautiful civic centers in their hometowns, and many began the process, but only San Francisco succeeded."

Though the 90-minute stroll is called a walking tour, it's not at all demanding. It starts at the Main Library and ends at City Hall. Blake takes walkers inside City Hall and discusses the history of gay marriage (a tradition born there) and the amazing earthquake retrofit of the building after the Loma Prieta earthquake.

Blake has added new material for when the tour reaches the bust of Dianne Feinstein outside the Mayor's Office, touching on the role she played bringing the city together after the Milk/Moscone assassinations. Walkers



Students in the newly formed Native American Judo Club pose under the sensei in whose footsteps they follow at the 50-year-old Soko Joshi Judo Club on Castro Street.

Photo courtesy Dianne Albright

While Fernandez grew closer to making her dream a reality, she also began forging connections with urban Native Americans in the Bay Area.

Albright had studied at Soko Joshi since 2018 and received her black belt last year. Once Fernandez realized Albright was Native American and proposed she teach the new class, Albright says she was floored. "We are going to have a place for Native American intertribal students to belong, because we all have that inner warrior spirit. To me, it very much harmonizes with Keiko Fukuda's judo philosophy: 'Be strong, be gentle, be beautiful.'"

Albright, whose father was Wiyot and mother Choctaw, came reluctantly to judo, preferring ballet as a child. "My dad studied judo in Okinawa, Japan, in the '50s where he was sta-

tioned in the Navy. He had seen someone thrown through a bar window with minimal effort and he wanted to know how that was done. He went to a dojo, and they taught him in exchange for cans of tuna."

One fateful day in her 20s, Albright finally agreed to let her father, Wilbur Seidner, show her something on the mat. He directed her into a position from which she could throw him, even though he weighed 270 pounds.

"It was with no force and all technique, because that is what judo is. From that point on, my life changed," she recalls.

Her father's passion for judo was such that he became an All-Navy judo champion, a *sensei* himself, and was a fifth-degree black belt when he passed away in 2016.

Albright also brings her experience as a public school teacher to the dojo and understands that we all learn differently.

"I'm strict because we have high standards. I teach the concept of mutual benefit and welfare. We are building community. I love to see their eyes get big when I demonstrate a throw. Here everybody is included. Nobody is neglected. Nobody is cast off. We have an instant connection that is hard to put into words. I see ownership of the new life skills they are learning, along with an exciting anticipation for the next lesson."

Albright feels her father's spirit. "He's always in my heart, but after an intensive workout he's standing on a corner of the mat in his *gi* (uniform)."

Meanwhile, Fernandez, indefatigable at almost 93, hopes that more children will hear about the weekly class and join. On Oct. 9, she will attend Indigenous Peoples Day in Yerba Buena Gardens, and the students will give a demonstration of what they have learned so far.

"My goal is for these kids to develop self-esteem, learn how to protect themselves from constant bullying, develop better powers of concentration and self-discipline, and learn to work with partners and consider themselves part of a judo family," says Fernandez.

The Native American Judo Club was recognized as an official member of the United States Judo Federation in September. The program is the first of its kind in the country, says Fernandez. And it's right here in Noe Valley

To learn more or to sign up your child, contact Dianne Albright at [dsalbright@gmail.com](mailto:dsalbright@gmail.com). Proof of tribal membership is required. To contact Soko Joshi Judo Club, call 415-706-9829.

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# SHORT TAKES

## Día de los Muertos Fair Celebrates Latiné Heritage

James Lick Middle School (JLMS), at 1220 Noe St., will host its first annual Día de los Muertos Fair on Thursday, Oct. 19, from 5 to 7:30 p.m. The outdoor event will transform the school's lower yard into a festival featuring Latiné artists, face painting, entertainment, and food in honor of the Day of the Dead and Latiné Heritage Month.

Attendees can purchase food, make Día de los Muertos crafts, and buy from local artists, many of whom are parents of students, friends of teachers, and JLMS student performers and alumni. A variety of local vendors, including Fonzie's Artisanal Goods and House of Jefas, will be on hand.

"This is our first annual event open to the local community," said Principal Kiara Herrera. "JLMS is a Spanish Immersion School. Our students are over 70 percent Latiné and 40 percent English language learners from mostly Spanish-speaking countries. We are

proud of our heritage, our programs, and our school values, and we are excited to share it with the community."

Herrera adds that Día de los Muertos "is a cultural event that honors our ancestors and loved ones who passed in the best way Latiné people know how, with music, food, and art! As a principal who is a second-generation Mexican American, I am so proud to welcome the community into our school for an event celebrated by many of us."

The school will also be accepting donations to its student Bulldog Store. The store is open twice a week for students to spend their "bulldog bucks," which they earn by demonstrating JLMS values: to be respectful, responsible, safe, and an ally.

"This is a wonderful system that highlights and rewards positive behavior and keeps students motivated to do the right thing," Herrera said.

The store sells a mix of snacks (chips is by far the favorite!), drinks, fidgets, and stickers. Herrera is hoping to include "big ticket" items like sports equipment or skateboards, so students will be incentivized to save up their money. To contact Principal Herrera, email herrera@sfusd.edu.

## See the View From Dolores Heights

The Dolores Heights Improvement Club (DHIC) is holding its annual neighborhood block party this year on Saturday, Oct. 14, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., on Sanchez Street between 21st and Hill streets. The free festival offers activities and exhibits to entertain both young and old.

A Kids' Corner will feature chalk drawing, face painting, a ring toss, and other games. A History Corner will display historical photos and stories about Dolores Heights during the 1906 earthquake and about Mayor James "Sunny Jim" Rolph, whose house, built in 1930, sits atop Sanchez Hill.

The Green Gardens Stairways Group, which organizes volunteers for monthly

gardening and cleanup at the Sanchez Street Stairs, will be on hand to share its latest plans for a community mural to fill the retaining wall next to the 20th and Noe hillside garden. The Neighborhood Block Safety group, which has block groups on nearly every block in the neighborhood, will share safety tips to help deter residential break-ins and burglaries.

The festival's popular Great Raffle drawing takes place at 12:30 p.m., with gift certificates and other merchandise donated by local businesses.

"We host this annual event so that neighbors can meet one another and connect with DHIC," said Carolyn Kenady, chair of the DHIC board. "We work to strengthen our community through our neighborhood party, ongoing programs, and advocacy."

The guest speaker will be District 8 Supervisor Rafael Mandelman.

Free snacks, beverages, and special treats will be provided by local shops.

For more information, contact info@doloresheights.org.

## Classical Music Day and Night

Music lovers have a chance to enjoy two classical music concerts on Sunday, Oct. 15. They might even be able to have dinner in between.

The Noe Music series starts first with a concert by the Danish trio Dreamers' Circus, "a driving force in Nordic world music," on Oct. 15 from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St.

The Circus, with Nikolaj Busk on piano and accordion, Ale Carr on Nordic cittern, and Rune Tonsgaard Sørensen (also of the Danish String Quartet) on violin, is known for its blend of folk, jazz, and classical distilled through the lilt of popular music. Tickets range from \$15 to \$60, for preferred seating. Discounts are available for purchases of five or more events in the seven-concert 2023-24 season. Go to noemusic.org for more information, including the scoop on Noe Music Kids events in November. Also note that Noe Music offers complimentary childcare for kids ages 3 and up. Email meena@noemusic.org to reserve.

Later in the day, at 7:30 p.m., the Bridge Music Collective will perform "Metamorphosis," a chamber music concert at the Music on the Hill series at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 101 Goldmine Drive at Diamond Heights Boulevard.

The Bay Area ensemble, whose members met through the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, will play both traditional and nontraditional music, including Medieval chants and works by Beethoven, Schubert, Dvorak, Stravinsky, Shostakovich, and Nielson. Performers include violinist Jessica Folsom, Sarah Hooton on viola, double bassist Carlos Valdez, T. Colton Potter on oboe, and clarinetist Caleb Rose.

Tickets will be available at the door or through musiconthehill.org. They are \$20, or \$70 for four concerts in the series' 2023-24 season.



The Music on the Hill series at St. Aidan's Church presents the Bridge Music Collective performing a "Metamorphosis" of Beethoven, Schubert, and Stravinsky on Oct. 15, 7:30 p.m.



The Danish trio Dreamers' Circus brings its unique mix of jazz, classical, and pop to the Noe Music series Oct. 15, 4 p.m., at Noe Valley Ministry.

## Be an Angel and Adopt a Shelter

Up the stairs between the Diamond Heights Safeway and Walgreens and at the back of the building at 5228 Diamond Heights Blvd., you will find the office of Urban Angels SF (UASF). Beside it is a large black donation bin, where clothing may be dropped off 24 hours a day.

The 501c3 charity collects and distributes clothing year-round. Especially welcome are items such as jeans, jackets, sweaters, hoodies, socks, and shoes in good condition. Besides clothing, Urban Angels accepts blankets, sleeping bags, bed linens, and towels, along with strollers, car seats, and cookware and flatware.

Volunteers deliver the clothing and blankets to unhoused children and families on Angel Runs. The group recently raised \$30,000 for its annual school supplies drive.

According to UASF founder and president Nelson Barry, Urban Angels SF is getting ready to launch its biggest drive, Give Joy!

"This year, Give Joy! begins on November 1. It's the Urban Angels holiday gift program that provides joy to 1,000 unhoused children and other families living at the poverty level, through the donation of wonderful holiday gifts," said Barry. The group's goal is to raise \$50,000.

In addition, said Barry, Urban Angels is seeking volunteers for its Adopt-A-Shelter campaign. "It is an important part of the holiday gift program, where people agree to work with family and friends to buy gifts for children, usually between 20 and 50 of them, living in a shelter, and deliver the gifts to the shelters in early to mid December."

Barry said last year's program was a great success. "People really enjoyed getting into the holiday spirit by coming together for such a generous and deserving purpose."

The group's website is UrbanAngelsSF.org. To find out how to volunteer or donate, email UASF@urbanangelsf.org or call 415-952-0711.

This month's Short Takes were compiled and written by Pat Rose.

## The City's Artists Are on Full Display This Month

Painters, photographers, and other fine artists from Noe Valley will showcase their talents at several venues this month, including the famed de Young Museum in Golden Gate Park.

Alvarado Street resident Michelle Echenique, a mixed-media artist whose specialty is art made from found objects, was among 833 artists invited to display a single work in the *de Young Open 2023*, a salon-style exhibition of Bay Area artists running Sept. 30 to Jan. 7, 2024.

"I was so happy, I was ecstatic," said Echenique, recalling the moment she got word of her acceptance. "I was jumping up and down."

The museum received close to 8,000 digital submissions for the triennial show, which is juried anonymously, without artist-identifying information. "The competition was so stiff. That's what makes it so great when you get in," said Echenique. (The first *Open* was in 2020.)

The piece that caught the judges' eye was titled "Unmuzzled." It was created from muselets, "the wire cages that sit atop a champagne bottle and hold the cork in place," Echenique explained. The wall hanging measures 46 by 21 by 2.5 inches.

Exhibition tickets are \$6 to \$15. Entry is free to Bay Area residents on Saturdays and to the general public on the first Tuesday of the month.

Back at home, at least three Noe Valley residents will participate in this fall's Open Studios, where artists invite visitors to their home studios.

The free event is Oct. 20 through Nov. 19, with each weekend devoted to a different part of the city. The weekend of Oct. 28-29 will feature artists in Noe Valley, the Castro, OMI (Outer Mission/Ingleside), Bernal Heights, the Excelsior, West Mission, Portola, Visitacion Valley, and Oceanview.

So far, the Noe artists include Elaine Pratt, photography and mixed media, 207 Hoffman Ave.; Jane Willson, figurative painting, 355 29th St.; and Ted Weinstein, photography, 287 Duncan St.

You can view their art from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., both days.

The nonprofit organization ArtSpan is the producer of Open Studios, now in its 49th year. The Art Launch party is Thursday, Oct. 19, \$25 general admission 7 to 9 p.m., at the SOMArts Cultural Center, 934 Brannan St. Also, more than 100 of the artists will display their works on three floors Oct. 28-29 at *Open Studios @ 1890 Bryant* in the Mission.

A printed guide of Open Studios venues was not available at press time. To see a digital guide and for more information, go to [www.artspan.org](http://www.artspan.org)

—Corrie M. Anders



Noe Valley artist Michelle Echenique's "Unmuzzled" (left) is among more than 800 works on display in the *de Young Open 2023* through Jan. 7. Photo by Corrie M. Anders



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<b>SUN OCT 1</b>	<b>OFFSITE EVENT! SAN FRANCISCO BENEFIT PREMIERE "THE ART OF EATING- THE LIFE OF M.F.K. FISHER" 1:00 &amp; 5:00 P.M. AT THE VOGUE THEATER • TIX: <a href="http://MFKFISHERFILM.COM/MFK/">MFKFISHERFILM.COM/MFK/</a></b>
<b>TUES OCT 3</b>	<b>OFFSITE EVENT! JAKE COHEN &amp; JHOS SINGER • I COULD NOSH • 7:00-8:30 P.M. AT THE JCCSF • TIX: <a href="http://JCCSF.ORG">JCCSF.ORG</a></b>
<b>WED OCT 4</b>	<b>NICHOLE ACCETTOLA • SCANDINAVIAN FROM SCRATCH • 6:30 P.M. FREE!</b>
<b>SAT OCT 7</b>	<b>HILLARY DIXLER CANAVAN IN CONVERSATION WITH REEM ASSIL AND BELINDA LEONG • EATER: 100 ESSENTIAL RESTAURANT RECIPES • 3:00 P.M. FREE!</b>
<b>TUES OCT 10</b>	<b>ELIZABETH POETT IN COVNERNSATION WITH GEORGIA FREEDMAN • THE RANCH TABLE • 6:30 P.M. FREE!</b>
<b>SAT OCT 14</b>	<b>NATASHA KRAVCHUK • NATASHA'S KITCHEN • 3:00 P.M. FREE!</b>
<b>SUN OCT 15</b>	<b>LAURA TILLMAN • THE MIGRANT CHEF: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF LALO GARCÍA • 3:00 P.M. FREE!</b>
<b>TUES OCT 17</b>	<b>SYLVAN MISHIMA BRACKETT • RINTARO • 6:30 P.M. FREE!</b>
<b>SAT OCT 21</b>	<b>ROBERT SIMONSON • THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF COCKTAILS • 3:00 P.M. FREE!</b>
<b>WED OCT 25</b>	<b>OFFSITE EVENT! FLY BY JING AT MOONGATE LOUNGE • TIX: <a href="http://EXPLORETOCK.COM/MOONGATE-LOUNGE-SAN-FRANCISCO">EXPLORETOCK.COM/MOONGATE-LOUNGE-SAN-FRANCISCO</a></b>
<b>THURS OCT 26</b>	<b>OFFSITE EVENT! LEAH KOENIG &amp; CHEF DAVID NAYFELD • PORTICO • 7:00-8:30 P.M. AT THE JCCSF • TIX: <a href="http://JCCSF.ORG">JCCSF.ORG</a></b>
<b>SAT OCT 28</b>	<b>NIK SHARMA IN CONVERSATION WITH SOLEIL HO • VEG-TABLE • 3:00 P.M. FREE!</b>
<b>SUN OCT 29</b>	<b>ROSE WILD • BREAD AND ROSES • 3:00 P.M. FREE!</b>

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# The Cost of Living in Noe

## A Softening Market

By Corrie M. Anders

High mortgage rates and the summer doldrums helped put the kibosh on Noe Valley home sales in August.

Buyers purchased just five single-family detached homes—at an average price of \$2.5 million—according to data provided to the *Noe Valley Voice* by Corcoran Icon Properties.

That figure was well below that of August a year ago, when eager shoppers closed escrow on 12 homes and spent an average \$3.6 million for an address in the city’s most walkable neighborhood.

There was a modest rise in sales of

condominiums, a less expensive alternative. Buyers purchased 10 condos in August, compared to seven the same month last year.

Though the sample size was small, the August data still betrayed that buyers were playing a waiting game.

Instead of aggressive overbidding, they paid just 2 percent over the seller’s asking price, compared to August 2022, when they offered a 5 percent premium. And the \$2.5 million average price was the second lowest for any August in a decade. (The lowest was back in 2014, when sales averaged \$2.3 million.)

How standoffish were shoppers as summer came to an end? The house with the lowest price tag in August was on the market for 331 days before a buyer made an offer. The home, a two-bedroom, one-bath Victorian on 29th Street, sold for \$1,485,000—nearly 12.4 percent below the seller’s asking price (\$1,695,000).

Corcoran CEO Randall Kostick said it was clear neighborhood properties were “going through price reductions and taking a little longer to sell.... We knew there was softening going on six



A buyer in August paid \$3,950,000 for this renovated home on 27th Street. The property sports sweeping views of downtown San Francisco and the East Bay.

months ago.”

The main reason, said Kostick, was the high cost of a mortgage. He noted that a common buyer sentiment was: “I’m not going to jump in here, especially with these interest rates.”

Average rates for a 30-year fixed-rate mortgage surged above 7 percent in July, following the 11th rate hike in 17 months from the Federal Reserve.

Also contributing to flat sales was people’s natural urge to go on vacation rather than hunt for a house.

“They couldn’t travel the last few summers” due to Covid, Kostick said, so they opted to get away this year.

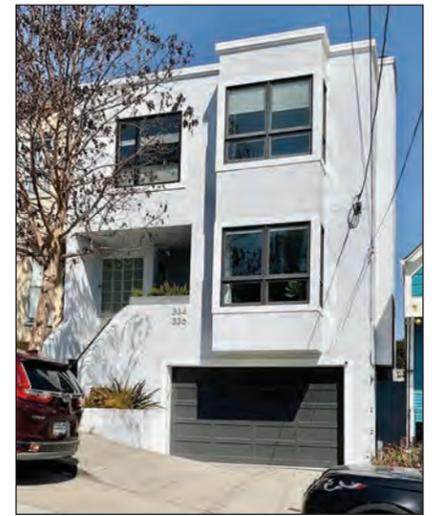
Still, a few would-be homeowners stuck around, including the buyer of a house overlooking Douglass Park in the 800 block of 27th Street. It was the most expensive home sold in August, going for \$3,950,000—12.2 percent less than the seller’s asking price (\$4.4 million).

Built in 1972 and extensively remodeled in 2019, the four-bedroom, three-bath home, with 2,642 square feet of living space, touted a gourmet kitchen with Miele appliances, a 12-foot water-

fall marble island, vaulted ceilings with skylights, floor-to-ceiling glass walls, a balcony facing the park, and a spacious roof deck with views of the city and the bay. The wow factor also included a home-office cottage at the rear of the property, garage parking for four cars, and the latest must-have: dual Tesla chargers for electric vehicles.

The most expensive condominium in August was on the market for about a month before a buyer offered \$1,800,081, or 6.2 percent more than its list price (\$1,695,000).

The two-bedroom, two-bath luxury residence is in a two-unit building first constructed in 2004 in the 300 block of 28th Street between Sanchez and Noe streets. With 1,284 square feet of living space, the home features a gourmet kitchen, skylights, glass walls, a fire pit on a private rooftop deck with 360-degree views, a Tesla power wall, and parking for two vehicles. ■



A condominium within this contemporary building on 28th Street sold in August for \$1,800,081. Photos by Corrie M. Anders

### Noe Valley Home Sales\*

Total Sales	No.	Low Price (\$)	High Price (\$)	Average Price (\$)	Avg. Days on Market	Sale Price as % of List Price
<b>Single-family homes</b>						
August 2023	5	\$1,485,000	\$3,950,000	\$2,496,000	92	102%
July 2023	3	\$2,400,000	\$3,276,000	\$2,908,667	8	119%
August 2022	12	\$2,100,000	\$5,750,000	\$3,614,583	15	105%
<b>Condominiums/TICs</b>						
August 2023	10	\$925,000	\$1,800,081	\$1,402,508	35	104%
July 2023	9	\$595,000	\$2,358,000	\$1,403,111	42	100%
August 2022	7	\$610,000	\$2,599,000	\$1,447,000	19	105%
<b>2- to 4-unit buildings</b>						
August 2023	3	\$985,000	\$1,600,000	\$1,348,000	44	99%
July 2023	4	\$1,775,000	\$4,935,937	\$2,821,484	18	96%
August 2022	1	\$2,235,000	\$2,235,000	\$2,235,000	11	93%
<b>5+-unit buildings</b>						
August 2023	0	—	—	—	—	—
July 2023	0	—	—	—	—	—
August 2022	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 Icon Properties, San Francisco, for providing sales data. NVV10/2023

### Noe Valley Rents\*\*

Unit	No. in Sample	Range September 2023	Average September 2023	Average July-August 2023	Average September 2022
Studio	11	\$1,950 – \$2,800	\$2,345 / mo.	\$2,266 / mo.	\$1,695 / mo.
1-bdrm	40	\$2,350 – \$4,500	\$2,700 / mo.	\$2,934 / mo.	\$3,178 / mo.
2-bdrm	37	\$2,900 – \$6,600	\$5,190 / mo.	\$4,294 / mo.	\$4,010 / mo.
3-bdrm	21	\$3,975 – \$14,000	\$6,989 / mo.	\$6,255 / mo.	\$7,025 / mo.
4+-bdrm	6	\$5,595 – \$19,000	\$11,731 / mo.	\$10,929 / mo.	\$8,062 / mo.

\*\* This survey is based on a sample of 115 Noe Valley rental listings appearing on Craigslist.org from Aug. 10 to Sept. 7, 2023. In September 2022, there were a total of 131 listings. NVV10/2023

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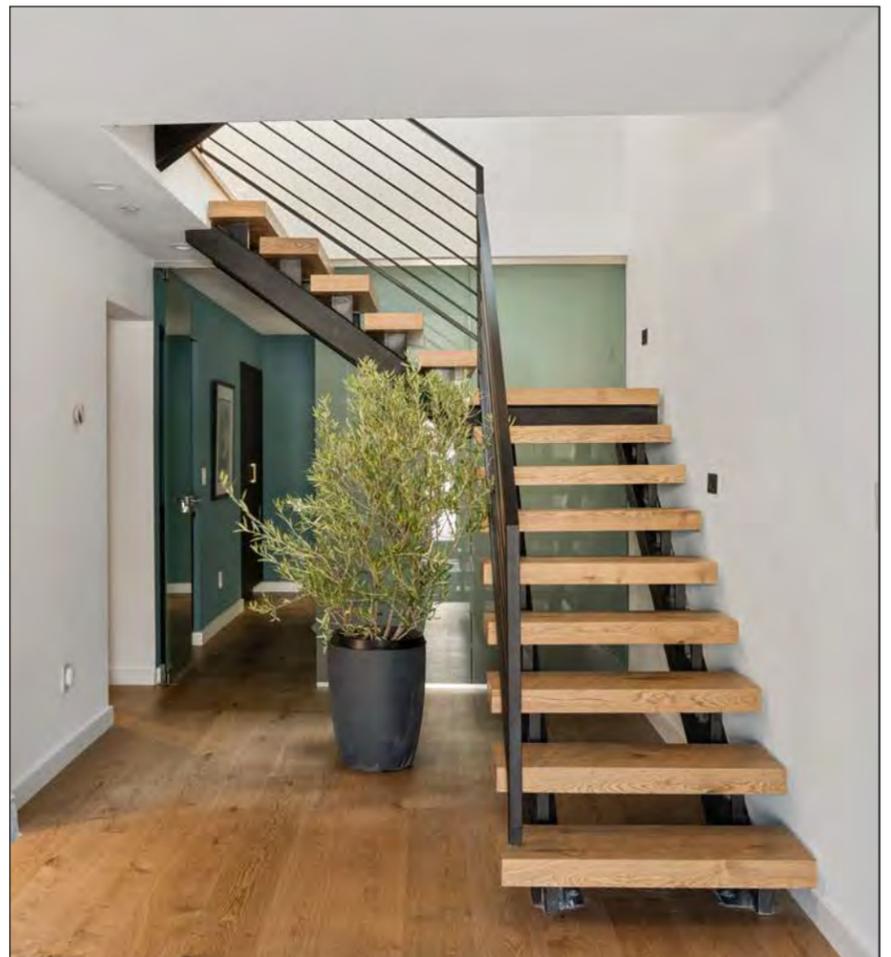
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# STORE TREK

*Store Trek is a regular Noe Valley Voice feature profiling new stores and restaurants in the neighborhood. This month, we are savoring the “fast-casual” cuisine of a Chinese American restaurant that filled the spot occupied for 65 years by Herb’s Fine Foods and more recently (2008–19) by Toast Eatery, on 24th Street near Noe Street.*

## MAMAHUHU

3991 24th St. near Noe Street  
415-374-7012  
<https://eatmamahuhu.com/>

Turns out the flavor profiles of spicy and sweet were too much of two good things wrapped into one chicken sandwich at Mamahuhu. Ever since the restaurant split its premiere sandwich into two sandwiches on its menu in late August, the reaction has been immensely favorable from customers.

Now diners can order the honey hawthorn chicken sandwich or the tingly spicy chicken sandwich. Both sandwiches (\$13) are made with a crispy rice-battered chicken thigh served on a pineapple bun, but one has a sweet and sour sauce and the other a “house-made numbing chili oil” and vinegar mayo dressing.

“What folks wanted was either sweet or spicy, so we went all in on those options,” said Gina Connolly, hired as the general manager of the local chain’s Noe Valley outpost in August. “The sandwiches are extremely popular. The spicy version beats the honey hawthorn by a narrow margin.”

Connolly had been working for the Far West Cider Company and would deliver ciders to the quick-service eatery at 3991 24th St. She spent nine years working as a line cook and sous chef at various restaurants in the Bay Area, including Pearl 6101 in San Francisco’s Richmond District and Albany’s Juanita and Maude.

She came on board to oversee the third location of Mamahuhu—the original opened in 2020 in the city’s Inner Richmond and the second in Mill Valley last year—just as the restaurant began rolling out several new items. It also now sells packages of potstickers (\$11.99), made with pork and purple cabbage or tofu and mushrooms, which can be reheated at home.

Its boba tea sundaes (\$7), made with banana oat-milk soft-serve and tapioca pearls, have been such a hit that Mamahuhu added two additional flavors to its menu. Customers can now order a mango coconut sundae or a malted milk sundae.

“We are planning to also roll out boba beverages, maybe by October,” Connolly told the *Voice* last month.

Mamahuhu is the second restaurant business from Brandon Jew, the award-winning chef behind the high-end



Team member Elizabeth Loya and store manager Gina Connolly (right) stand behind the menu board at Mamahuhu, where they’ve had to post a sign saying “Sold Out” over the restaurant’s popular chicken sandwich, which comes in either sweet and sour or tingly spicy. Photo by Art Bodner

restaurant Mister Jiu’s in the city’s Chinatown neighborhood. He partnered with co-owners Ben Moore and Anmao Sun, a Noe Valley resident, to launch the mini chain of Chinese American fast-casual restaurants.

The menu features a number of house specials, such as broccoli and beef (\$18), sweet and sour chicken (\$18), or sweet and sour cauliflower (\$17), which can be ordered either on their own or as the centerpiece of a rice plate with cooked vegetables and jasmine rice (\$15). Other options include the spicy crispy Lazi Chicken (\$18), the mushroom mapo tofu (\$16), or the broccoli and mushroom special with organic shiitake mushrooms and broccoli, cauliflower, and kale (\$17).

There are two salad options (\$10), with the crunchy cabbage salad made with carrots, daikon, mandarin, candied cashews, wonton chips, and sesame. The chrysanthemum salad also has cauliflower, celery, smoked Hodo tofu, cilantro, and sesame vin.

Also available is a tomato garlic chow mein with fried tofu (\$14) or a jade fried rice made with minced Niman Ranch pork and wild-caught shrimp plus kale and organic eggs (\$10). Side options include egg rolls (\$6), hot and sour soup (\$5), or a spicy cold cucumber with herbs dish (\$5).

The sandwiches can be ordered as a combo deal with hot and sour soup and a house-made tea soda (\$18). Children can order a kids meal (\$10), which comes with chicken nuggets, steamed broccoli, jasmine rice, and sweet and sour sauce or soy sauce for dipping.

There are several beverages on tap, from house sodas and kombucha (\$5) to wine (\$11) and beer (\$8). For customers dining there, both chopsticks and forks are made available.

Since the Noe Valley location first

opened on Feb. 17, it has drawn a strong weekday lunch crowd, especially on warmer days with its two parklets providing outdoor seating for 18 diners. Now weekends are starting to also be busy, said Connolly, with the restaurant seeing a bump in customers in September after its Mill Valley location was featured on an episode of the KQED show *Check Please! Bay Area*.

“We are just happy to be on this cute little strip of Noe Valley,” said Connolly.

Mamahuhu’s mahjong nights, held from 6 to 9 p.m. the fourth Monday of the month, have also become popular events. The restaurant brings in a teacher to explain how to play the tile-based game and provides some sets for people to use.

“It is one of the ways we like to be cultural ambassadors and not just a restaurant selling food,” said Connolly.

Mamahuhu is open seven days a week from 11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.

—Matthew S. Bajko



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UPPER NOE RECREATION CENTER



**Pushing It Back Into Shape:** This little girl sees the importance of regular park maintenance. *Photo courtesy Chris Faust*

**Keeping It From Falling Apart**

**A**s visitors to and stewards of Upper Noe Rec Center on Day Street, we may wonder whether a call to report a maintenance issue at the park will ever bring visible results. Fixes can take a while.

We are nonetheless grateful to the **Rec and Park workers** who do the myriad tasks necessary to stave off a park-closing major renovation. They recently installed silver bars (see above) at mid-height on the fence around the field to repair sections that had been severely bowed by folks resting against them or using them as a soccer net. The fence looks fresh again.

**Gardeners** are always doing their part, too. Currently, they are attempting to repair the garden at the 30th Street entrance that is so popular with small children at play. The park asks that we lend a hand and keep kids out for a bit, so the new plants can get established and make the area beautiful again.

Meanwhile, the Fall Session is in full swing and running through Dec. 7. Be aware that **Teen Volleyball Open Gym**, for girls 13 to 17 on Fridays from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., has plenty of room for more players and is free. See what else is still available and sign up for classes at <https://sfrecpark.org/>. To find out more about drop-in activities and classes, visit [www.uppernoerecreationcenter.com](http://www.uppernoerecreationcenter.com).

Friends of Upper Noe Recreation Center is the park's stewardship group. Get involved. If you see something, say something. The most effective way to improve park conditions is to contact San Francisco Customer Service (**3-1-1**) either by phone, web, or the easy-to-use phone app. Park personnel rely on your 3-1-1 reports to support service requests. Help them keep the park healthy.

For more information, call the office at 415-970-8061. For issues related to Joby's Dog Run, open 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., call 3-1-1 or email [info@fundogsf.org](mailto:info@fundogsf.org).

—Chris Faust, Friends of Upper Noe Recreation Center

**Upper Noe Fall Schedule (Sept. 6 to Dec. 7, 2023)**

Rec Center Hours, 295 Day St.: Tues.–Fri., 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; Sat., 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Sun. and Mon. closed, outside activities only.  
Park Grounds: Daily, 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

**A Place to Play (free play)**

10 to 11:30 a.m. weekdays  
1 to 4 p.m. Saturday  
Hours are subject to change.

**Tuesday**

9 to 10 a.m. Zumba (outside) FREE  
10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Pickleball (all ages) FREE  
Noon to 1 p.m. Pilates (all levels)  
1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Pilates (all levels)  
2 to 5 p.m. Open Gym (youth)  
4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Tennis Begin. (ages 8-10)  
5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Open Gym (adult)  
6 to 7 p.m. Tennis Begin. (ages 18+)  
6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Yoga

**Wednesday**

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Open Gym (adult)  
Noon to 1 p.m. Feldenkrais (18+) FREE  
2 to 5 p.m. Open Gym (youth)  
4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Tennis Begin. (ages 8-10)  
4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Flag Football Junior Div. (ages 8-10)  
5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Flag Football Senior Div. (ages 11-13)  
5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Drop-In Adult Volleyball (advanced players only)  
6 to 7 p.m. Tennis- Begin. (ages 10-12)

**Thursday**

10 to 11 a.m. Petite Bakers (ages 3-5)  
10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Pickleball (all ages) FREE  
Noon to 1 p.m. Pilates (all levels)  
1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Pilates (all levels)  
2 to 5 p.m. Open Gym (youth)  
4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Mommy & Me Yoga  
4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Tennis Begin. (ages 8-10)  
5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Open Gym (adult)  
6 to 7 p.m. Tennis Begin. (ages 18+)

**Friday**

9 to 10 a.m. Zumba (outside) FREE  
10 to 11 a.m. Tot Soccer (ages 3-5)  
10 to 11:30 a.m. A Place to Play (Auditorium Free Play)  
11 a.m. to 12 p.m. Tot Soccer (ages 3-5)  
2 to 3:30 p.m. Open Gym (youth)  
4 to 5 p.m. Karate Kidz- Little Kickers (ages 6-8)  
4 to 5 p.m. Volleyball League Upper Noe Team (ages 8-10)  
4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Tennis Begin. (ages 8-10)  
5 to 6 p.m. Karate Kidz (ages 9-12)  
5 to 6 p.m. Volleyball League Upper Noe Team (ages 11-14)  
6 to 7 p.m. Tennis Beginning (ages 10-12)  
6 to 7:30 p.m. Girls Teen Open Volleyball (ages 12-17) Free

**Saturday**

9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Family Zumba FREE  
10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Open Gym

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**M**y neighbor, Angela, is a hoarder. Her house is stacked to the ceiling with the bargains she has bought or found in the stores and alleys of San Francisco. A chunk of concrete seen at a bus stop brings her car to a halt, and she says, "That cinder block may come in handy someday." She runs from her aged Toyota to retrieve it. Then the concrete lump will sit unused in her basement throughout eternity. She is a worrier too, her mind an odd mix of groundless suspicions and erroneous revelations. Born in Pennsylvania in the mid-1940s, close enough to the Great Depression in both time and effect, she worries about not having enough money or goods.

It's not that she won't spend money. If she sees a sale on flyswatters, three for two dollars, she will buy two dozen rather than pass up the bargain. Those instruments of insect execution are now piled high, unused, on the cardboard boxes that line her hallways.

As a nurse she is suspicious of doctors, as a citizen she is suspicious of lawyers, as a pedestrian she is suspicious of Akitas.

Angela's search for "the best deal" is not limited to goods, but also includes the quest for services sold at rock bottom prices: the 10-dollar tax man, the undocumented plumber, an arthritic carpenter.

That's how she met Mike Mulligan, the Irish house painter, and his small dog, Shamrock. Mike examined Angela's stucco home and allowed that he could paint the front of the house for five hundred dollars, fifteen hundred dollars cheaper than the price offered by a disabled Vietnam vet.

Two thousand dollars versus five hundred, the choice was easy. Mike and Shamrock got the job.

The front of Angela's house is small. Stucco does not absorb much

# OTHER VOICES

fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction • the noe valley voice



A Queen Anne at 23rd and Eureka awaiting renovation.

1974 photo courtesy OpenSFHistory/wnp25.1816

## Summer in October

By Daniel C. Murphy

paint, and \$200 would cover the cost of supplies. Mike asked for an advance of \$200, the final payment of \$300 due upon completion of the job.

With bucket and ladder, and with Angela, Shamrock, and me watching from the sidewalk, Mike finished the job in a day and a half, stucco and trim, garage door and entrance. Angela handed him the final payment of \$300, but I could tell that she was uneasy.

"I don't like the way the wood panels above the windows look," she said. "They don't look dark enough. It looks like my house hasn't been painted at all."

"That's easily fixed," said Mike. "When the paint dries, I'll add some more brown to the mix and redo the

panels for you at no extra charge."

"I'd like that, Mike," she said.

"I'll come back this afternoon," he replied.

"No," said Angela, her suspicion and her odd logic arriving together at a sudden conclusion to defeat Mike's experience. "The first paint won't be dry on the panels. It will just cause more problems if you paint them again too soon."

"What about tomorrow?"

"I'm not sure," said Angela. "Phone me in the morning."

But rather than call, Mike appeared at Angela's house the following morning.

Once again, she said, "It's still too soon to paint."

A week later, at the end of August, I summoned my courage to offer

Angela some advice.

"Mike has already been paid," I said. "If I were you, I'd have him finish the job now. For all you know, he might go back to Ireland."

"Oh, no," said Angela, "you're forgetting about his dog. He can't leave without Shamrock. You can't board an international flight with a dog."

Two weeks later, Angela confided to me her worries. "It's the fog. Mike phones me every day about finishing the job, but he can see our San Francisco fog as well as I can. Painting my panels in the fog? I won't fall for that old trick."

After more calls in September, Mike stopped calling. October then arrived, and our short but warm San Francisco summer began.

"I'm going to telephone Mike tomorrow," Angela told me. "The weather is now just right for finishing the job."

When Mike didn't appear the next day, I asked Angela what was going on.

She looked embarrassed.

"I telephoned his number yesterday afternoon. Whoever answered said that he had gone home to Ireland two weeks ago."

"Did he leave his dog here in San Francisco?" I asked.

"Shamrock flew home on Mike's lap on Aer Lingus."

"I thought dogs couldn't fly on international flights," I said.

"So did I, but the man on the telephone told me that Shamrock is a "disability dog."

"What's Mike's disability?" I asked.

"No one knows," Angela said.

*Dan Murphy and his wife Lloyd live with their daughter Georgia in an old Victorian on Church Street. They recently adopted a dog from Muttsville, a chihuahua named Jupiter. You may see the four of them on occasion at La Boulangerie on 24th Street. Although Jupiter has become part of the family, he is still not allowed to place his own order.*

**M**y neighbor's dog was named Pogo because he can jump high like a pogo stick. Pogo either likes an adventure or he likes to visit my back yard and garden. Every so often, Pogo jumps up on my hedge with its pretty purple flowers. He walks on top of the hedge like a tightrope before taking off and landing in my yard. Though Pogo accomplishes this feat, sometimes he bumps into a garden chair or a fence post. That is because Pogo is blind. But Pogo likes to wander about my yard. Pogo has found several places in the yard to settle, curl up, or sleep. He likes to go under the porch, where he has to walk down a little flight of stairs. Then he snoozes, getting out of the sun. He also lies next to a large green bush.

I usually know when Pogo has jumped and arrived, because my dog Zora runs to the back door and barks. Pogo is a gentle and soft-spoken dog, who looks like a black terrier mixed with something else. Zora, 75 pounds with a Rottweiler face but long fluffy hair, can be rambunctious. So I go out alone to pet Pogo. I will need to look for whatever spot Pogo has chosen for the day. Then I will say, "Hi, Pogo." Pogo is happy to be petted and comes up or follows me.

## Pogo

By Alice Rogoff



Pogo knows where I am by his sense of smell. Pogo sniffs the air and turns his head curiously around. But as adventurous as Pogo is, he can't do everything he might like. If he can't figure out where he is, he makes a little squeak.

Pogo does want to return to my neighbor's, but he has problems getting back over the hedge. One side is easier than the other for his jump. I lift Pogo over the hedge and see him climb my neighbor's tall black staircase because their house is on a hill. Pogo takes his paw and scratches on their back door to be let in. He knows where he is going and how to get in.

Sometimes, the neighbor's teenage son Jessie or middle-school daughter Tabatha will climb over the hedge and find Pogo wherever he is and carry him back into their yard. Pogo recognizes them by their names and happily wags his tail. But Pogo likes to return to my yard with more of the world to explore.

*Alice Elizabeth Rogoff holds a master's degree in creative writing from San Francisco State University. She has had poems and stories published in Caveat Lector, So to Speak, the Noe Valley Voice, and in the anthology Fog and Light: San Francisco Through the Eyes of the Poets Who Live Here.*

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## OCTOBER CALENDAR

**Oct. 1, 15 & 29:** Folk YOGA offers free Vinyasa Flow classes; bring your own mat and water. 11 am-noon. Town Square, 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com

**Oct. 1-31:** GALLERY SANCHEZ at the Noe Valley Ministry exhibits photography by Marshal Cousins, during church hours and by appointment. 1021 Sanchez. 595-7871.

**Oct. 1-Nov. 5:** Lola Art Gallery displays OIL PAINTINGS and sculpture by artists Don Bardole and Jill Finsen. Reception Oct. 6, 5-7 pm. Hours Tues.-Sun., noon-6 pm. 1250 Sanchez; lolasanfrancisco.com

**Oct. 3:** Noe Valley MERCHANTS and Professionals meet at 3927 24th, 9 am. 3861 24th. Operations@noevalleymerchants.com

**Oct. 3:** NITE ON NOE features family activities from 4:30 to 6 pm and a performance by the Marine Corps Brass Band, 6 pm for Fleet Week Oct. 2-10. Noe Valley Town Square, 3861 24th. fleetweeksf.org

**Oct. 4:** Richard May, Michael Alenyikov, Olag Zilberbourg, Anna Mantzaris, and Sasha Vasilyuk read from their work at "EATS: Unpublished Work on Food, Drink, and Italy." 7 pm. Poesia Cafe, 4072 18th St. 252-9325; poesiasf.com

**Oct. 5:** Navy Band Southwest performs in the Castro at Jane Warner Plaza off 17th Street. 5 pm. Fleetweeksf.org

**Oct. 5-21:** LITQUAKE Literary Festival offers more than 90 events, with 200 authors. Mission between 3rd and 4th. 440-4177; litquake.org

**Oct. 5, 12, 19 & 26:** The Noe Valley Library hosts STORYTIMES on Thursdays, at 10:15 am and again at 11 am; space is limited. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

**Oct. 6:** The monthly self-guided Castro ART WALK features exhibits by local artists in various businesses. 5-8 pm. For a map and list of artists: castroartwalk.com.

**Oct. 7:** Join the GLEN PARK Art Walk celebrating art, food, music, and small businesses. Noon to 5 pm on Diamond between Bosworth and Chenery.

**Oct. 7:** K-9 HEROES are accompanied by the 1st Marine Division Band at Duboce Park. 10 am. Fleetweeksf.org

**Oct. 7:** Chef authors Hillary Dixler

Canavan, Reem Assil, and Belinda Leong talk Dixler Canavan's *Eater: 100 Essential Restaurant Recipes*. 3 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885 Cesar Chavez. 282-4712.

**Oct. 7, 14, 21 & 28:** Noe Valley FARMERS MARKET offers fresh produce and music Saturdays from 8 am to 1 pm. 3861 24th. 248-1332; noevalleyfarmersmarket.com

**Oct. 7, 14, 21 & 28:** Take a hike with NOE WALKS on Saturdays. Meet at 24th and Sanchez, 10 am.

**Oct. 8:** The Schimscheimer Family Trio performs MUSIC from their latest album, *Genogram*. 8 to 10 pm. Bird & Beckett, 653 Chenery. 586-3733; birdbeckett.com

**Oct. 8 & 17:** ACOUSTIC SUNDAY in the features Barbara Murphy and Steve Shapiro on Oct. 8, and TJ Hermiston on Oct. 17. 1-3 pm. 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com

**Oct. 8 & 22:** Yoga Flow offers a free YOGA 11 am-noon. Town Square, 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com

**Oct. 9:** ODD MONDAYS hosts a free "Four Cellos Concert," by Multi-Cello (Hans Kolbe, Stephen Gerard, Jurate Raulinaitis, and Nick Carlin). 7-8 pm. Bethany UMC, 1270 Sanchez. facebook.com/OddMondays

**Oct. 9-13:** The BAR on Dolores hosts Mutiny Radio's October COMEDY FESTIVAL. 9 pm. 1600 Dolores. 695-1745.

**Oct. 11-Dec. 16:** CHUNG 24 Gallery shows works by Adrienne Defendi and Anna Rotti. Reception Oct. 14, 2-5 pm. Wed.-Sat., 1:30-6 pm. 4071 24th. chung24gallery.com

**Oct. 11:** Learn the basics of making Native American JEWELRY with Navajo Dream's Katorie Roanhorse. 6-7 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. Reservations required: 355-5707; sfpl.org

**Oct. 12:** The Noe Valley Ministry offers a meditative LABYRINTH WALK, on second Thursdays, at 6:30 pm. 1021 Sanchez. noevalleyministry.org

**Oct. 13:** SFPL's Noe Valley FILM CLUB

screens *Stand and Deliver*. 2 to 3:45 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

**Oct. 14:** The Dolores Heights Improvement Club hosts a BLOCK PARTY, with a history corner, a kids corner, and safety exhibits. 11 am-3 pm. Sanchez between 21st and Hill. Doloresheights.org

**Oct. 14:** NATASHA Kravchuk discusses recipes from *Natasha's Kitchen*. 3 pm. Omnivore, 3885 Cesar Chavez. 282-4712.

**Oct. 14:** Rhythm & Motion leads a free DANCE workout, 4-5 pm. Town Square, 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com

**Oct. 15:** The third annual Sanchez Street BLOCK PARTY hosted by Bethany UMC, Slow Sanchez, and Noe Cafe, promises crafts, zumba dance, a bounce house, and a fire truck. Noon-3 pm. Sanchez between Clipper and 26th.

**Oct. 15:** NOE MUSIC hosts a performance by Danish trio Dreamers' Circus. 4-6 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 648-5236; noemusic.org

**Oct. 15:** Music on the Hill presents a CHAMBER MUSIC concert by the Bridge Music Collective, "Metamorphosis." 7:30 pm. St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 101 Goldmine. musiconthehill.org

**Oct. 16:** Watch a demonstration of FILIPINO WEAVING with the Hinabi Project, 6 to 7 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

**Oct. 17:** CLEVE JONES discusses his book *When We Rise* at the Main Library. 5:30-7:30 pm. 100 Larkin. 557-4400; sfpl.org

**Oct. 18-Nov. 29:** SFFD offers a NERT training, Wed., 5:30 to 9 p.m. 2310 Folsom. Sign up 558-3200; sf-fire.org

**Oct. 19:** JAMES LICK invites the community to a Dia de los Muertos celebration with performances, food, music, and vendors. 5-7:30 pm. 1220 Noe. 695-5675; sfusd.edu

**Oct. 21:** OPEN HOUSE at the Noe Valley Library features history talks, face painting, and play stations. 10 am-2 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

**Oct. 21:** The Randall Museum offers family HALLOWEEN DAY with crafts, games, and trick-or-treating, for kids to age 12, from 10 am to 2 pm. 199 Museum. 554-9600; randallmuseum.org

**Oct. 24:** The SF HISTORY Association hosts a talk by Paul Drexler, "Murder to Movies." 7 pm. Sherith Israel, 2266 California. sanfranciscohistory.org

**Oct. 25:** Legacy Filipino MARTIAL ARTS leads a family self-defense class 6 to 7 p.m. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org; reservations required.

**Oct. 26:** Nonprofit Root Division hosts its 22nd benefit ART AUCTION from 7 to 10 pm; exhibition on display Oct. 4 to 26, Wed.-Sat. 2-6 pm. 1131 Mission. 863-7668; rootdivision.org

**Oct. 28 & 29:** SF OPEN STUDIOS features Noe Valley, Castro, Bernal, West and Outer Mission. 11 am-5 pm. ArtSpan.org

**Oct. 28:** The seventh annual Church Street DOG PARADE and costume contest starts at 2 pm at the Noe Valley Pet Company (1451 Church) and ends up at Noe Cafe (1299 Sanchez). 282-7385.

**Oct. 28:** Chef Nik SHARMA and Soleil Ho discuss his *Veg-Table*. 3 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885 Cesar Chavez. 282-4712.

**Oct. 29:** Rose Wilde describes her grain-forward *BREAD and Roses*. 3 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885 Cesar Chavez. 282-4712.

**Oct. 30:** TEEN SNACKTIVITY at the Noe Valley Library features fun activities, from 4 to 5 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

**Oct. 31:** Trick or TREAT on 24th Street.

**Nov. 1:** Palak Patel talks about *The CHUTNEY Life: 100 Easy-to-Make Indian-Inspired Recipes*. 6:30 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885 Cesar Chavez. 282-4712.

**Nov. 4:** The Main Library screens the 48th American Indian FILM FESTIVAL. 11:30 am-5:15 pm. 100 Larkin. 557-4400; sfpl.org

The next *Noe Valley Voice* will be the **November 2023** issue, distributed the first week of the month. The deadline is **Oct. 15**. Please email [calendar@noevalleyvoice.com](mailto:calendar@noevalleyvoice.com).



The San Francisco Public Library website at [sfpl.org](http://sfpl.org) includes this short history of the Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Branch.

**Noe Valley Library History**

The Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Branch Library was the seventh branch established in the San Francisco Public Library system. The first Noe Valley Branch building was located at 1308 Castro St. Using a grant provided by Andrew Carnegie, the San Francisco Public Library built a two-story building with a Spanish-style façade of brick and terra cotta (at 451 Jersey St.). It was completed Sept. 17, 1916, at a cost of \$45,499, including furnishings. The architect was John Reid Jr.

In 2007–08, the branch was renovated, and was recognized for the renovation with the Governor’s Historic Preservation Award. The renovated Noe Valley Branch has also been hailed for its green features—lighting, low-water plants, and the use of recycled plastic materials.... During the 1970s, Noe Valley residents built a deck and a community garden adjacent to the library. During the 1990s, members of the neighborhood groups renovated the community room. Currently, the Noe Valley Garden Club is working on a project to redesign and refurbish the garden behind the branch.

**CHILDREN’S FICTION**

A puppy finds a strange new food in his bowl, in *Ruffles and the New Green Thing* by David Melling. Ages 2-5.

A little hippo learns to be brave, in *Shy Robin and the First Day of School* written and illustrated by Jaime Kim. Ages 3-7.

In *I Am Somebody* by Nyasha Williams, illustrated by Ashley Evans, a child learns the importance of speaking up. Ages 4-8.

In *Sweet Valley Twins: Teacher’s Pet*, by Francine Pascal and Claudia Aguirre, adapted by Nicole Andelfinger, sisters Jessica and Elizabeth compete for attention. Ages 8-12.

A sixth-grader faces choices and conflicts in school and at home in *The Many Masks of Andy Zhou* by Jack Cheng. Ages 10-13.

**CHILDREN’S NONFICTION**

In *Indigenous Ingenuity: A Celebration of Traditional North American Knowledge*, Deidre Havrelock and Edward Kay write about chocolate, boats, and other contributions of Native Americans. Ages 8-12.

**CROSSWORD SOLUTION**

*At the Clue Store* by Michael Blake

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L	E	N	A	A	D	I	E	U	V	E	R
S	E	C	T	T	A	B	E	R	N	A	C
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**MORE BOOKS TO READ**

**The Library Open House Could Be a Thriller**

Perhaps the most admired landmark in Noe Valley is the Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Library. It has stood at 451 Jersey St., between Castro and Diamond streets, for 107 years.

This month, on **Saturday, Oct. 21**, you will have a chance to see it in all its glory, plus meet the library’s wonderful staff, including Noe Valley Branch Manager Mary Fobbs-Guillory.

The branch is hosting a **Noe Valley Library Open House**, featuring fun and free festivities from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

“Stroll over and join the celebration,” says Fobbs-Guillory. “Kids can play at our five creative play stations in the **Big Play Date** and get their faces painted. Adults can learn the history behind our gorgeous building, one of the original Carnegie buildings from 1916. Everyone can enjoy refreshments, coffee, and tea while enjoying our fragrant garden, our best-kept secret.”

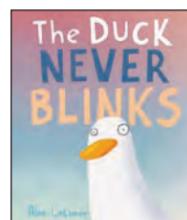
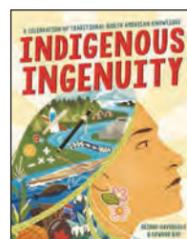
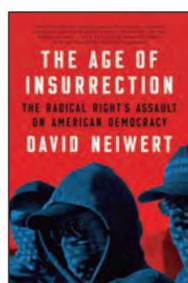
Fobbs-Guillory adds that there will be live music and button-making at the event. “Also, you can enter the raffle and win prizes while learning about all the ways the library can serve you,” not just with books but with films, ebooks, and computer help. “We can’t wait to meet our neighbors,” she says.

**As the Pages Turn**

Till then, Adult Services Librarian Amy Lewis and Children’s Librarian Julieanne Randolph have offered us their list of new arrivals at the branch, so *Voice* bookworm Karol Barske could write this month’s annotations.

After previewing them, Barske said she was going to read *The Duck Never Blinks*. I am eyeing *The Deep Sky* by Yume Kitasei, a sci-fi thriller about escaping to a livable planet. Or I could start with *The Age of Insurrection: The Radical Right’s Assault on American Democracy*. Nah, I’m going with *The Duck Never Blinks*.

—Sally Smith



Douglas W. Tallamy shares tips on protecting plants and animals in *Nature’s Best Hope: How You Can Save the World in Your Own Yard*, adapted for young readers by Sarah L. Thomson. Ages 8-12.

Rachael Davis’ *Over the Rainbow: The Science, Magic, and Meaning of Rainbows* is illustrated by Wenjia Tang. Ages 8-12.

*Nothing Could Stop Her: The Courageous Life of Ruth Gruber*, by Rona Arato, tells the story of a journalist and activist who traveled the world. Ages 8-12.

In *Mexikid: A Graphic Memoir*, Pedro Martin shows how his family journeyed to Mexico to pick up his crime-fighting grandfather, who was part of the Mexican Revolution. Ages 10-14.

**CHILDREN’S EBOOKS**

There’s a staring contest going in *The Duck Never Blinks*, written and illustrated by Alex Latimer. Ages 3-6.

*Stand as Tall as the Trees: How an Amazonian Community Protected the Rain Forest* is a true story by Patricia Gualinga and Laura Resau, with illustrations by Vanessa Jaramillo. Ages 6-9.

Wesley’s plans for the Indigenous Peoples’ Day celebration almost go awry in *We Still Belong* by Christine Day. Ages 8-12.

Middle-schooler Viv takes matters into her own hands on the most stressful day of the year, in *Picture Day* by graphic novelist

Sarah Sax. Ages 8-12.

*Maria Orosa Freedom Fighter: Scientist and Inventor From the Philippines*, by Norma Olizon-Chikiamco and Mark Salvatus, is about a food scientist who championed native products. Ages 9-14.

**ADULT FICTION**

Set during World War I (1914–18), *The Bookbinder* by Pip Williams follows the path of a young woman who finds herself folding pages in a book bindery in Oxford, England.

Three friends look back on the summer that changed their lives in Kinlough, Ireland, in the murder mystery *Kala* by Colin Walsh.

In the historical novel *Loot* by Tania James, a young woodcarver is ordered by the sultan to create a giant mechanical tiger.

A man returns to his village near Aleppo to find it destroyed, in *No One Prayed Over Their Graves* by Khaled Khalifah.

In Sarah Rose Etter’s *Ripe*, a worker at a Silicon Valley startup must decide how much she is willing to give up to achieve success.

**ADULT NONFICTION**

Patti Hartigan’s biography *August Wilson: A Life* traces the career of the African American playwright.

*Dream Town: Shaker Heights and the Quest for Racial Equity* by Laura Meckler describes the late 1950s plan to create an inclusive community in a Cleveland suburb.

In *Owner of a Lonely Heart*, Bich Minh Nguyen tells her coming-of-age story as a Vietnamese refugee in America’s Midwest.

Laura Cumming describes the 1654 explosion that killed *Goldfinch* painter Carel Fabritius and almost killed Johannes Vermeer, in *Thunderclap: A Memoir of Art and Life and Sudden Death*.

*Valiant Women: The Untold Story of the American Servicewomen Who Helped Win World War II*, by Lena S. Andrews, honors the 350,000 women who served.

**ADULT EBOOKS**

David A. Neiwert examines the origins and

**LIBRARY EVENTS**

Bring your favorite banned book to the **Silent Banned Book Club** and write Dear Banned Author Letters, on **Monday, Oct. 2**, from 4 to 5 pm.

The Noe Valley Library hosts a **Family Storytime** on Thursdays, **Oct. 5, 12, 19 & 26**, at 10:15 a.m. and again at 11 a.m.; space is limited.

The **Noe Valley Knitting Circle** meets on **Saturday, Oct. 7**, from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Navajo Dreams’ Kalerie Roanhorse leads a **Native American Jewelry-Making Workshop** on **Wednesday, Oct. 11**, 6 to 7 p.m. Space is limited; reservations are required.

SFPL’s **Film Club** screens the 1988 *Stand and Deliver*, about an inspiring high school math teacher, on **Friday, Oct. 13**, 2 to 3:45 p.m.

The Hinabi Project demonstrates traditional **Filipino Weaving** techniques on **Monday, Oct. 16**, 2 to 3:30 p.m..

The Noe Valley **Book Club** discusses *The Bohemians: Mark Twain and the San Francisco Writers Who Reinvented American Literature* by Ben Tarnoff, on **Wednesday, Oct. 18**, 6:30 to 7:45 p.m.

On **Saturday, Oct. 21**, the Big San Francisco **Play Date**, for ages 6 and younger, is 10 a.m. to noon, and the **Noe Valley Library Open House**, with history, play, and festivities for all, runs from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Experts from Legacy Filipino Martial Arts demonstrate techniques at a **Filipino Self-Defense** class on **Wednesday, Oct. 25**, 6 to 7 p.m. Space is limited, so reservations are required.

Enjoy a **Teen Snacktivity** gathering, with food and relaxing activities, on **Monday, Oct. 30**, from 4 to 5 p.m.

Sip teas from Cafe Ohlone while hearing about the **Ohlones’** rich history, traditions, and culture on **Wednesday, Nov. 1**, from 5 to 6 p.m.

All events take place at the Noe Valley/ Sally Brunn Library, 451 Jersey. For information, call 415-355-5707 or visit [sfpl.org](http://sfpl.org).

actions of extremist groups in *The Age of Insurrection: The Radical Right’s Assault on American Democracy*.

Sci-fi thriller *The Deep Sky* by Yume Kitasei follows the crew of a spaceship bound for a distant planet to save humanity.

A woman returns to the Korean countryside to take care of her father in *I Went to See My Father*, a novel by Kyung-Sook Sin.

In *The Last Ride of the Pony Express: My 2,000-Mile Horseback Journey Into the Old West*, cowboy/journalist Will Grant recalls the frontier mail service.

**ADULT BLU-RAY/DVDS**

*BlackBerry* (2023) follows the meteoric rise and catastrophic fall of the first smartphone.

A closeted gym teacher fears that her secret will be exposed, in the 2022 film *Blue Jean*, set in 1988 England.

In the 2022 documentary *In the Company of Rose*, playwright James Lapine befriends Rose Styron, the widow of novelist William Styron.

After surviving a terrorist attack in a bistro, a woman is unable to remember the disaster, in the 2022 drama *Revoir Paris*.



Annotations by *Voice* bookworm Karol Barske

**BRANCH HOURS**

Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Branch Library						
451 Jersey St., 355-5707						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1-5	12-6	10-8	12-8	10-6	1-6	10-6

**Action SF**

https://m.facebook.com/ActionSFactivism/  
 Website: http://www.action-sf.com/  
 Email: ActionSFTeam@gmail.com  
 Meetings: Usually first Sundays, 12:30-1:30 p.m. Virtual meeting. All welcome.

**Al-Anon Noe Valley**

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

**Castro Community on Patrol**

Website: castropatrol.org  
 Email: info@castropatrol.org

**Castro Merchants**

Contacts: Masood Samereie, President;  
 Dave Karraker, 415-710-0245  
 Email: Dave@mx3fitness.com  
 Address: 584 Castro St. #333, SF, CA 94114  
 Meetings: Email info@CastroMerchants.com

**Diamond Heights Community Association**

Contact: Betsy Eddy, 867-5774  
 Address: P.O. Box 31529, SF, CA 94131  
 Website: www.dhcasf.org. Meetings: Second Thursday, 7 p.m. Call for location.

**Dolores Heights Improvement Club**

Email: info@doloresheights.org  
 Website: www.doloresheights.org  
 Meetings: Third Thursday of every second month. Bank of America, 18th and Castro.

**Duncan Newburg Association (DNA)**

Contacts: Deanna Mooney, 821-4045;  
 Diane McCarney, 824-0303; or Sally Chew, 821-6235. Address: 560 Duncan St., SF, CA 94131. Meetings: Call for details.

**Eureka Valley Neighborhood Association**

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

**Fair Oaks Neighbors**

Email: hello@fairoaksneighbors.org  
 Address: 200 Fair Oaks St., SF, CA 94110  
 The Fair Oaks Street Fair is traditionally held the day before Mother's Day.

**MORE GROUPS TO JOIN**

**Friends of Billy Goat Hill**

Contact: Lisa and Mo Ghotbi, 821-0122  
 Website: www.billygoathill.net

**Friends of Dolores Park Playground**

Contact: Nancy Gonzalez Madynski, 828-5772  
 Email: friendsofdolorespark@gmail.com  
 Website: friendsofdolorespark.org

**Friends of Glen Canyon Park**

Contact: Jean Conner, 584-8576  
 Address: 140 Turquoise Way, SF, CA 94131  
 Plant restoration work parties, Wednesday mornings and third Saturday of the month.

**Friends of Noe Courts Playground**

Contact: Laura Norman  
 Email: lauranor@yahoo.com  
 Address: P.O. Box 460953, SF, CA 94146  
 Meetings: Email for dates and times.

**Friends of Noe Valley (FNV)**

Contact: Todd David, 401-0625  
 Email: info@friendsofnoevalley.com  
 Website: friendsofnoevalley.com  
 Meetings: Two or three annually.

**Friends of Upper Noe Recreation Center**

Contact: Chris Faust  
 Email: info@uppernoerecreationcenter.com  
 Website: uppernoerecreationcenter.com  
 Meetings: Email or check website.

**Friends of Upper Noe Dog Owners Group (FUND OG)**

Contact: David Emanuel  
 Email: info@fundogsf.org  
 Website: www.fundogsf.org

**Glen Park Association**

Contact: info@glenparkassociation.org  
 Website: glenparkassociation.org  
 Address: P.O. Box 31292, SF, CA 94131

**Juri Commoners**

Contact: Dave Schweisguth, M17-6290  
 Email: dave@schweisguth.org  
 Website: meetup.com/Juri-Commoners  
 The group is on hiatus and seeking a new leader. Contact Dave.

**Liberty Hill Neighborhood Association**

Contact: Dr. Lisa Fromer, president  
 Email: efromer3@gmail.com  
 Meetings: Quarterly. Email for details.

**Noe Neighborhood Council**

Contact: Ozzie Rohm or Matt McCabe  
 Email: info@noeneighborhoodcouncil.com  
 Website: noeneighborhoodcouncil.com  
 Meetings: Quarterly at Sally Brunn Library, 451 Jersey St., with date publicized on website and Nextdoor.com.

**Noe Valley Association-24th Street Community Benefit District**

Contact: Debra Niemann, 519-0093  
 Dispatch: To report spills or debris on 24th Street, call Billy Dinnell, 802-4461.  
 Email: info@noevalleyassociation.org  
 Website: noevalleyassociation.org  
 Board meetings: Quarterly. See website.

**Noe Valley Democratic Club**

Contact: Carrie Barnes, President  
 E-mail: noevalleydemocrats@gmail.com  
 Website: www.noevalleydemocrats.org  
 Meetings: Monthly at the Valley Tavern, 4054 24th St., with dates publicized on website.

**Noe Valley Farmers Market**

Open Saturdays, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., and Tuesdays, 3 to 7 p.m.; 3861 24th St. between Vicksburg and Sanchez.  
 Contact: Leslie Crawford, 248-1332  
 Email: info@noevalleyfarmersmarket.com

**Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association (NVMPA)**

Contact: Rachel Swann, 225-7743  
 Meetings: Last Thursdays, Old Republic, 4045A 24th St., 9 a.m. Call to confirm.  
 Website: www.NoEvalleyMerchants.com

**Noe Valley Parent Network**

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

**Noe Walks**

Contact: Chris Nanda  
 Email: christopher.n.nanda@gmail.com

Website: NoeWalks.com  
 Meetings: Saturdays, 10 a.m. Starts 24th and Sanchez. Ends Noe and Duncan for photo.

**Progress Noe Valley**

Facebook: ProgressNoeValley  
 Email: progressnoe@gmail.com  
 Website: progressnoe.com  
 Meetings: Check Facebook page for current meeting and event schedule.

**Resilient Noe Valley**

Contact: Antoinette  
 Email: resilientnoevalley@gmail.com  
 Newsletter: http://eepurl.com/gYuCD5  
 Website: www.resilientnoevalley.com

**San Francisco NERT (Neighborhood Emergency Response Team)**

Contact: Noe Valley NERT Neighborhood Team co-coordinators Maxine Fasulis, mfasulis@yahoo.com; Carole Roberts, carole\_roberts@faludi.com  
 Website: https://SF-fire.org/nert  
 Visit the website to sign up for trainings.

**San Jose/Guerrero Coalition to Save Our Streets**

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

**Friends of Slow Sanchez**

Contacts: Christopher Keene, Andrew Casteel  
 Email: info@SlowSanchez.com  
 Website: SlowSanchez.com

**Upper Noe Merchants**

Contact: Info@UpperNoeNeighbors.com  
 https://uppernoeneighbors.com/merchants/

**Upper Noe Neighbors**

Contact: Chris Faust  
 Email: Hello@UpperNoeNeighbors.com  
 Website: www.uppernoeneighbors.com  
 Meetings: Bi-monthly on third Wednesday. Confirm by email or check website.

**THE NOE VALLEY VOICE**  
 editor@noevalleyvoice.com  
 All phone numbers are in the 415 area code, unless otherwise noted.

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 be playful  
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## and now for the RUMORS behind the news

### Everybody Gets a Pumpkin

By Mazook

**H**ERE COME THE HOLIDAYS: Busy Noe Valleons are decorating windows, making costumes, and planning the parades and trick-or-treats for Halloween. That's because kids from in and around Downtown Noe Valley are expected to march up and down 24th Street to look for sweet handouts from neighborhood residents and merchants.

The five blocks of Fair Oaks Street between 21st and 26th will be a destination for many ghosts and goblins. Neighbors also expect the streets to be filled with the parked cars of many who will join the crowds over the hill on Castro Street in Eureka Valley.



**IN THE PINK:** One-Stop Party Shop at 1600 Church St. reports that the costumes and accessories that are in huge demand this year are all about Barbie and Ken.

Owner Mardie Vandervort says she can't keep up with the demand for "costumes, wigs, masks, cowboy hats, ties, and anything that is pink." She says, "I have had to reorder stock twice now in September, and my third order should be delivered by the first week of October to keep up with demand."

Not surprisingly, Vandervort says 80 percent of her yearly gross receipts come from sales the two months before Halloween. "I have been here now for over 35 years and try to focus on building community in the neighborhood, and I'm grateful to all those who patronize our store," says Vandervort. "If we don't have what they want, we refer them to Just for Fun on 24th Street or Cliff's Variety over the hill on Castro, and they happily reciprocate, sending us customers."

You might also have noticed the abundance of pumpkins on the front stairs and entrances of houses throughout our neighborhood.

At Noe Valley Whole Foods, the stock of pumpkins, which arrived mid-September, "was almost gone by the end of the month, and we have reordered large pallets and smaller bins of a variety of pumpkins, which should be here by the first week in October," said Whole Foods produce team leader Marcel Cortez.

According to Cortez, you can buy "two large pumpkins or three small ones for \$15." In the Whole scheme of things, this translates to \$7.50 per large and \$5 per small pumpkin.

The variety of pumpkins is astonishing. There are the traditional orange ones you make your pies with, the ones you carve such as Fairytale and Cinderella Carriage, and the just-for-decoration Knucklehead or Warded pumpkins. Cortez says the best sellers this year are "the small white and mini tiger-striped pumpkins."

I'm not sure whether dogs eat pumpkins, but they sometimes wear costumes.

For those who do, Noe Valley Pet Company is sponsoring the seventh annual Church Street dog parade and costume contest on Saturday, Oct. 28. Join them for the stroll on Church Street and up to Sanchez Street. The parade starts at 2 p.m. at Noe Valley Pet



Manu and Joshua (right) were among the many young artists whose works were in high demand at the 2023 Noe Valley Art Festival in the Town Square Sept. 24. Abstract art is their specialty. *Photo by Sally Smith*

Company (1451 Church) and ends at Noe Cafe (1299 Sanchez) for the pet costume contest and treats. Note that you must walk in the parade to participate in the contest.



**PICTURE THIS:** The second annual Noe Valley Art Festival, held on Sept. 24 at the Noe Valley Town Square and brought to you by Friends of Noe Valley, was a resounding success.

The event's main organizers, Peggy Cling and Linda Lockyer, say this year's festival was much more crowded than last year and the two dozen participating artists seemed very pleased with the results. This year was the first time the artists could sell their work.

"It was just wonderful, and we had many people coming throughout the morning," says Cling. The show opened at 10 a.m. and closed at 4 p.m. The most popular booth was the kids table, where they could create their own paintings and jewelry, according to Cling.

I was glad to see the Friends of NV set up a table to sell their T-shirts for 10 bucks apiece. I bought two tees to replace the wash-worn ones in my drawer.

Cling forwarded a note of thanks from artist Katie Furukawa: "Hiya! Please extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who had a hand in putting this event together. This was my first time being able to show my work in the neighborhood I live in, so I really appreciated the opportunity. I was pleased with the amount of foot traffic and sales that were made, given the amount of marketing that went on. Would love to participate again next year!"

And I liked the email to Cling from Anna Casalme, who was a volunteer running a kids activity booth with chalk-drawing, face-painting, and crepe-paper-flower-making. "Congratulations on such a successful Noe Valley Art Festival! Our face painting and crafts booth went so well—the kids, parents, and volunteers had so much fun."

Friends of Noe Valley has been in existence since 1971. On their website they write "Whether you've lived here for generations or are a new resident, the Friends of Noe Valley offers several ways to get to know the neighborhood where you live and the people who live here. In addition to networking through social media, why not join us and network with real faces in real time?" Their main events are the garden tour and the art festival, but they support a lot of other causes in Noe Valley.

Cling says, "We need more people in the neighborhood to join our group and more volunteers to help with the art show." See [friendsofnoevalley.com](http://friendsofnoevalley.com) and

join today!

Another group that is looking for new faces is the Friends of Noe Courts Park, our jewel up the hill at 24th and Douglass. Longtime park champion Laura Norman recently emailed the Voice saying she'd like to pass the torch. If other park neighbors are interested, email [lauranor@yahoo.com](mailto:lauranor@yahoo.com).

==

**GO WITH THE FLOW:** Kudos to Noe Valleon John Horner, 73. He was a member of the Dolphin Swimming and Boating Club team that swam the English Channel on Aug. 16, breaking the record for the oldest American relay team to do so.

The self-named "Old Goats," all between ages 70 and 75, accomplished the feat with four men and two women. (Congrats also to Duke Dahlin, Joni Beemsterboer, Thomas Neill, Sunny McKee, and Julian Sapirstein. All except Neill are from San Francisco, and he's from Marin.)

By swimming one-hour legs in rotation, they crossed the 21-mile course from Dover, England, to Calais, France, in 15 hours and 10 minutes.

"We're happy, proud, and a little tired," said team captain Dahlin, 75, right after the event.

The Voice will have the chilling story from Horner in our November issue.

Judy Irving, who used to live in Noe Valley for decades, and made the film *The Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill*, has a new film, *Cold Refuge*, about swimming in SF Bay. It had its theatrical premiere Sept. 30 at the Roxie Theater.



**IN THE DEPT. OF THIS AND THAT:** Ambiance owners Donna and Kieran O'Leary are closing their Marina location in October. They've also sold their last store, in the Inner Sunset, to its manager, Gwen Lee-Rios. From a story in the Sept. 7 *San Francisco Standard*: "Ambiance, a San Francisco legacy business, had multiple locations over its 40 years of serving San Francisco, first opening in Haight-Ashbury at 1458 Haight St. in 1983. A second store opened in Noe Valley on 3985 24th St. in 1999 before moving up the block in 2014. Stores in the Marina and Inner Sunset followed in 2002 and 2011."

The O'Learys took over ownership in 1996 from founder Gloria Garret. They

closed their Noe Valley store at 3979-81 24th St. at the end of 2022, when the lease had expired.

The couple say they are retiring and want to make way for the next generation.

Jack Epstein, owner of Chocolate Covered (4069 24th St.), is doing a sale in October of chocolates made on Maui, to benefit an animal rescue organization there.

"I was contacted by two chocolate companies headquartered on Maui (Hana Gold and Valley Isle), who are my suppliers and who wanted help in getting contributions for their cause," says Epstein. "We have ordered special batches and are selling their chocolates, with all the profits going to help in the animal rescue efforts on Maui," says Epstein.

Hana Gold is one of Hawaii's first cacao plantations. Valley Isle was only recently started, but gets eight stars online for its products.

Meanwhile, the Dubliner (3838 24th) is hosting successful trivia nights run by Sporcle Company, on Tuesdays, 8 p.m. Owner Ken Yeung says trivia fans pour in for the event. He notes the bar is selling more non-alcoholic beers these days. "I've ordered three or four different kinds," he says. He's also considering a comedy showcase.

VIP Dog Grooming, at 4299 24th St. near Douglass, has expanded next door. The salon is now open seven days a week, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Noe Valley's only veterinarian, Noe Pet Hospital, recently opened at 2576 24th St., is already expanding its clinic and planning to make improvements to the existing ground floor.

Old Republic Title Company has closed its Noe Valley office at 4045 24th, and the rather large storefront is now for rent. At the beginning of September, First Republic Bank closed its Noe Valley branch on the corner of Castro and Jersey. That space is also for rent.

And the last tidbit comes from former Voice staffer and current American University student Gabe Castro-Root, who was in San Francisco this summer working at the *Chronicle* but quickly sped off to Denmark to spend the fall semester of his junior year (at American University). Once there, he wrote our editor-in-chief, Sally Smith, and said that when he unfolded the front page (rather, he opened the pdf) of the September *Noe Valley Voice*, he went, "What? Those happy 'visitors' to the Noe Art Fest in a photo on the front page are my parents!" When he notified Smith, she says she replied sheepishly that she had tried but failed to find out who the couple were prior to publication. All anybody knew was that artist Rachel Perls was in the photo. But thanks to Gabe's eagle eye from Denmark, we can say they were Noe Valley residents Sarina Castro and Robert Root.



**QUIZ KIDS:** And finally, here is a Noe Quiz for you to ponder: What do these 15 long-gone stores in Noe Valley from 1997 have in common? Cathexis Handcrafts Gallery, San Francisco Real Food Company, Colorcrane, Herb's Fine Foods, Casey Cleaners, Bell Market, East of the Sun, Books Plus, Noe Valley Glass, Common Scents, Acme Metal Spinning Works Café, Western Onion Singing Telegrams, Ver Brugge Meats, Wave-Rite Beauty Shoppe, and the original Wooden Heel Shoe Repair. Please email your answer to [teditor@noevalleyvoice.com](mailto:teditor@noevalleyvoice.com). The answer will be in the November Rumors.

That's all, y'all. Have a happy Halloween. And from the Department of Redundancy Department: ciao for now.



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**2546 3rd #4 Street | Dogpatch**

3 BED | 2.5 BATH | OFFERED AT \$1,495,000

Welcome home to this stylish tri-level residence with everything you need including deeded 1-car garage parking, multiple balconies, and a private rooftop deck. The primary bedroom has a walk-in closet and an ensuite bathroom. There is an additional full bathroom with laundry on this level. Upon ascending to the second level, you are welcomed by soaring high ceilings, open dining and living space, a fireplace, and 2 balconies. The large kitchen features stainless steel appliances and plenty of storage and countertop space. The third level is a loft bedroom with its own private city-view terrace and access to a private roof deck offering sweeping views of the city and Potrero Hill. Centrally located near wonderful restaurants, bars, shops, 3rd St. Muni line, Caltrain, Esprit Park, Crane Cove Park, Warriors Chase Center, Giants Ballpark, and much more. EV charging is possible, other residences have added it! Well-managed HOA and building.



**655 Goettingen Street | Portola**

4 BED | 2 BATH | OFFERED AT \$1,399,000

10 minutes to downtown San Francisco via express bus! This delightful home offers beautiful downtown and city views and an open floor plan with a remodeled kitchen, an inviting breakfast area, and a spacious living room.



**410 Clayton Street | Haight-Ashbury**

3 BED | 2 BATH | OFFERED AT \$1,250,000

Just moments from the Panhandle and Golden Gate Park, these charming Victorian homes boast a timeless elegance with modern touches that are sure to impress.



**159 4th Avenue #6 | Lake Street**

2 BED | 1 BATH | OFFERED AT \$925,000

Situated in a stylish and substantially renovated boutique, 6-unit building, this home has all of the modern amenities you could dream of. Wide plank oak floors, kitchen with new high end appliances, in-unit laundry, large windows that bring in tons of natural light and air conditioning.



**1169A Alabama Street | Inner Mission**

2 BED | 1 BATH | OFFERED AT \$749,000

Stylish, generously sized rooms, an eat-in kitchen, and an indoor/outdoor living experience are fitting for one of SF's hottest neighborhoods. Enjoy direct access to a landscaped shared backyard that's perfect for al-fresco dining and entertaining.

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