

Vol. 50, No. 2

February 2026



THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

A Quick Job Survey Yields a Host of Openings

Noe Employers Need Waiters, Cooks, and Fitness Trainers

By John Ferrannini

Noe Valley businesses are hiring as the year gets under way. Two restaurants with plans to open soon are among the neighborhood businesses advertising jobs.

Dave Wasem, the owner of Grand Lake Kitchen, is opening a third location of his neighborhood restaurant serving standard American fare, brunch, and cocktails in the former Mr. Digby's space at 1199 Church St. in March.

Wasem says he is "looking for all positions," including managers, servers, bartenders, food runners, kitchen managers, lead line cooks, line cooks, prep cooks, and dishwashers.

Applicants can apply by emailing noe@grandlakitchen.com.

Peruvian restaurant Fresca Noe Valley, whose doors have been closed for three years at 3945 24th St., is remodeling to open "soon," according to a November post by co-owner Ivan Calvo-Perez.

The restaurant is looking for line cooks/cocineros to join its kitchen team. The positions pay \$20 to \$24 an hour, and interested applicants can apply online at Indeed or Glassdoor.com. Bartenders and servers are also needed for 30-hour-a-week



We're Mutts About You: For several years in February, Noe Valley Pet Company at 1451 Church St. has decorated its window with hearts sporting the names of neighborhood dogs and cats as a thank-you and acknowledgment "This Valentine's Day," invites owner Paula Harris, stop by and write a love note to your pet."

Photo by Jack Tipple

jobs, and those pay \$19 to \$21 per hour. YuBalance Fitness Club at 4159 24th St. is looking for a full-time personal trainer, says proprietor Shala Cox. (Call 415-796-3929.)

So too is Roar women's strength training studio, according to founder and CEO Michelle Kunkel, who noted her business is "rapidly growing."

At its Noe Valley location at 1500

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Want to Pick Up a Walking Habit?

It's a Breeze to Find a Group, Start the Trail on Sanchez Loop

By Emily Hayes

Every Saturday morning at 10 a.m. you can see a group of neighborhood walkers making their way down the still slow Sanchez Street.

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Onward to 30th: Accompanied by his 10-week-old son, Noe Walks founder Chris Nanda (left) and group members (l-r) John Hamilton, David Gast, and Carol Leonard stride south on Sanchez Street on a sunny Saturday in January.

Photo by Emily Hayes

Resident Teaches Merchants How to Respond to ICE

Many Businesses Already Show Signs of Solidarity

By Matthew S. Bajko

With tensions rising after a fatal shooting by Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents in Minneapolis in early January, Dan Geiger decided to ramp up his efforts to educate business owners in San Francisco.

He began reaching out to merchants' groups across the city, offering free presentations on what business owners should do if ICE agents showed up at their store or restaurant.

"Everybody is freaking out about ICE," says Geiger, a semi-retired business consultant with an MBA from the Haas School of Business at UC Berkeley, a career in nonprofits such as the U.S. Green Building Council, and six years of experience on the board of the Northern California chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU).

On Jan. 13, Geiger addressed the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association (NVMPA).

Geiger advised the members, "If ICE comes into a place, number one stay calm. Do not confront. Also, do not consent, unless they have a judicial warrant."

A resident of Cesar Chavez Street at Dolores Street since the late 1980s, Geiger started his campaign last fall, speaking with individual merchants in Noe Valley. He walked along Church and 24th streets handing out signs for businesses to put in their windows.

The colorful posters, made by the advocacy group Indivisible, feature a

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"Immigrants Welcome": Local business consultant Dan Geiger displays the poster he has been handing out to shops in Noe Valley, along with advice on the limits of ICE authority.

Photo by Art Bodner

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Winter sunset on the corner of Church and 25th streets.

Photo by Steve Vaccaro

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CRIME SNAPSHOT

A Calmer Year on Noe Valley Streets

Crime Declines 21% in 2025

The streets of Noe Valley appeared to be safer in 2025 than the year before, according to data gleaned from the San Francisco Police Department's digital map of incident reports.

Across the 10 crime categories tracked monthly by the *Noe Valley Voice*, police recorded 887 incidents in 2025, down from 1,122 in 2024—a decline of 20.9 percent.

Some of the sharpest drops came in categories that drive quality-of-life concerns. Burglaries of homes and commercial buildings fell to 157 incidents in 2025, down 35 percent from 243 cases in 2024. Monthly burglary totals rarely climbed above the mid-teens and dipped into single digits twice during the year.

Larceny-theft, the SFPD category that includes shoplifting, auto break-ins, and package thefts, remained the most common crime but also declined, falling nearly 9 percent, from 460 incidents in 2024 to 419 in 2025. While still elevated, larceny-theft showed fewer month-to-month spikes than the year before.

Robberies were cut in half, dropping from 16 incidents in 2024 to eight in 2025, with no reported robberies during the final five months of the year.

Other categories also trended down-

CRIME SNAPSHOT

Noe Valley Incident Reports November 2024 – December 2025

| Crime Category | Nov24 | Dec24 | Y2024 | Jan25 | Feb25 | Mar25 | Apr25 | May25 | Jun25 | Jul25 | Aug25 | Sep25 | Oct25 | Nov25 | Dec25 | Yr2025 |
|--------------------|------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Larceny/Theft | 55 | 44 | 460 | 42 | 26 | 45 | 29 | 44 | 27 | 28 | 31 | 36 | 35 | 33 | 43 | 419 |
| Burglary | 119 | 117 | 243 | 117 | 116 | 113 | 111 | 116 | 6 | 114 | 118 | 116 | 111 | 110 | 9 | 1157 |
| Malicious Mischief | 4 | 3 | 79 | 9 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 9 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 68 |
| Motor Veh. Theft | 8 | 3 | 109 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 4 | 9 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 61 |
| Assault | 5 | 6 | 32 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 6 | 0 | 1 | 26 |
| Robbery | 0 | 3 | 116 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8 |
| Other Misc | 114 | 7 | 117 | 113 | 9 | 8 | 5 | 110 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 7 | 4 | 4 | 72 |
| Fraud | 3 | 4 | 40 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 9 | 7 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 111 | 5 | 2 | 49 |
| Family D. Violence | 5 | 1 | 22 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 25 |
| Vandalism | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Totals | 113 | 88 | 1,122 | 89 | 65 | 88 | 61 | 95 | 60 | 65 | 65 | 82 | 80 | 63 | 74 | 887 |

Source: Dataset titled "Map of Police Department Incident Reports: 2018 to Present" at <https://data.sfgov.org/Public-Safety/Police-Department-Incident-Reports-2018-to-Present/wg3w-h783/>. This data 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* scraped the November 2025 data for "Noe Valley" on Dec. 7, 2025, and the December 2025 data on Jan. 6, 2026. "Noe Valley" on the digital map is bordered by 21st Street, San Jose Avenue/Guerrero, 30th Street, and Grand View Avenue/Diamond Heights Boulevard. *Noe Valley Voice* February 2026

ward. Motor vehicle thefts fell 44 percent, from 109 to 61 cases, and assaults declined from 32 to 26 incidents. Reports of malicious mischief, often tied to nuisance complaints, also dropped modestly.

Not all categories followed the same pattern. Fraud reports increased, rising from 40 incidents in 2024 to 49 in 2025, with noticeable spikes in May and October—a reminder that financial crimes continue to shift online and are less visible at the street level.

Overall, the data showed that crime totals in Noe Valley remained relatively steady month to month in 2025, without the pronounced surges seen the previ-

ous year—a sign of gradual stabilization rather than a single dramatic drop.

The *Voice* retrieved the November 2025 data for "Noe Valley" from the city's open data portal on Dec. 7, 2025, and the December 2025 data on Jan. 6, 2026. The SFPD defines Noe Valley as the area roughly bounded by 21st Street, San Jose Avenue/Guerrero, Street, 30th Street, and Grand View Avenue/Diamond Heights Boulevard.

The neighborhood is covered by two police districts, with Cesar Chavez Street forming the borderline. Mission Station (1240 Valencia St.) covers the northern and central parts of Noe Valley, while Ingleside Station (1 Sgt.

John V. Young Lane) covers Upper Noe and areas near Bernal Heights and Glen Park.

Sean Perdomo is current captain at Mission Station (email sean.perdomo@sfgov.org), and Gerald Newbeck is at the helm of Ingleside (gerald.newbeck@sfgov.org).

You may also reach Mission Station at 415-558-5400 and Ingleside at 415-404-4000. If you have an emergency, call 9-1-1.

For recurring but non-emergency problems, use 3-1-1 or the SFPD non-emergency number: 415-553-0123.

—Corrie M. Anders, Sally Smith

THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

P.O. Box 460249
San Francisco, CA 94146
www.noevalleyvoice.com

The *Noe Valley Voice* is an independent newspaper published in San Francisco. It is distributed free in Noe Valley and vicinity during the first week of the month. Subscriptions are available at \$40 per year (\$35 for seniors) by writing to the above address.

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

The *Noe Valley Voice* is a member of the San Francisco Neighborhood Newspaper Association.

Email: Editor@noevalleyvoice.com or Sally@noevalleyvoice.com

Website: www.noevalleyvoice.com

Distribution: Call Jack, 415-385-4569

Display Advertising: Call Pat, 415-608-7634, or email PatRose@noevalleyvoice.com

Advertising Deadline for the March Issue: Feb. 20, 2026

Editorial Deadline for the March Issue: Feb. 15, 2026

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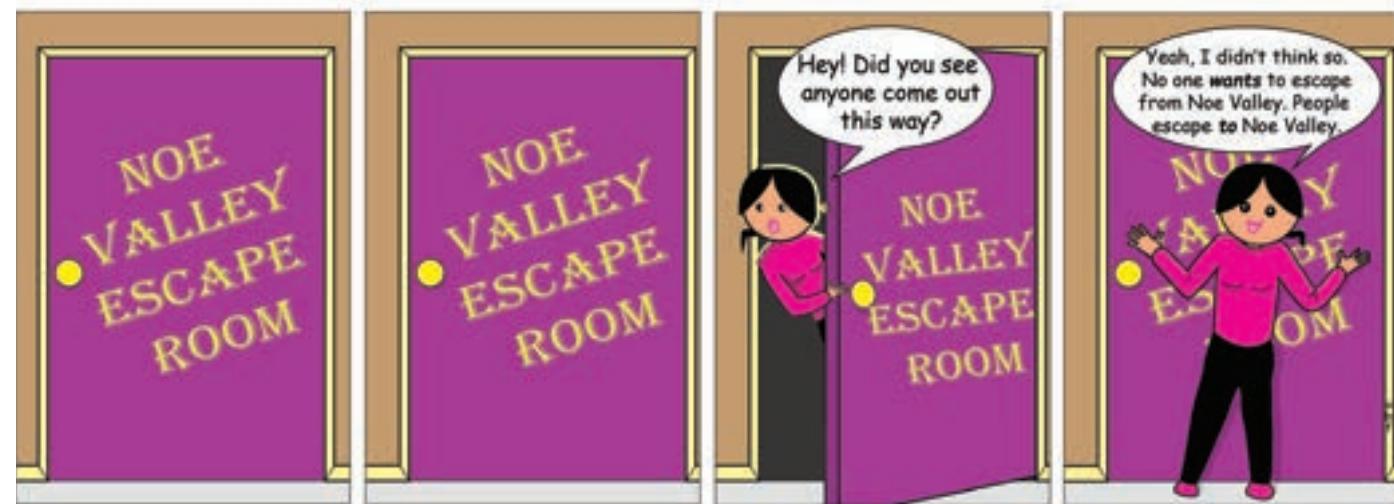
DISTRIBUTION
Jack Tipple

WEB GURU
Jon Elkin

ADVERTISING SALES
Pat Rose, Jack Tipple

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER
Contents ©2026 Noe Valley Voice

THE CARTOON BY OWEN BAKER-FLYNN



LETTERS 78 CENTS

A Pattern of Lawlessness

Editor:

Matthew Bajko's excellent article in the December 2025 *Noe Valley Voice* ("Can the Quake Cottage on Valley Street Be Saved?") and the same issue's letter to the editor by Marc Norton disclosed that a local residential real estate developer flagrantly violated the terms of permits requiring preservation of the earthquake cottage at 369 Valley St. and has received and so far complied with a stop-work order.

Far away in New York City, in 1979, developer Donald Trump agreed to preserve, remove, and donate the Art Deco friezes on the old Bonwit Teller department store building he was demolishing

to build Trump Tower. Instead, he directed his workers to go out at night to jackhammer them to pieces, and later blamed it all as a mistake by his construction crew. And with a slap on the wrist for the violation, and admiration from other developers, he proceeded with Trump Tower.

Trump's early successes breaking the law clearly emboldened his later profound lawlessness and that of the Republican Party.

May San Francisco be more effective in enforcing our laws than both New York City and this Republican Congress.

You can help Noe's own Action-SF.com in our work this year, now an entire decade into Trump's national governance, fighting him and Republicans in swing districts and state elections nationwide to flip the Congress, again. Godspeed.

Charlie Spiegel

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE VOICE welcomes your letters to the editor. You may write the *Noe Valley Voice*, P.O. Box 460249,

San Francisco, CA 94146, or send an email to

editor@noevalleyvoice.com.

Please include your name and contact

information. (Anonymous letters will not be considered for publication.)

Be aware that letters may be edited for brevity or clarity.

We look forward to hearing from you.

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Photo by Jack Tipple



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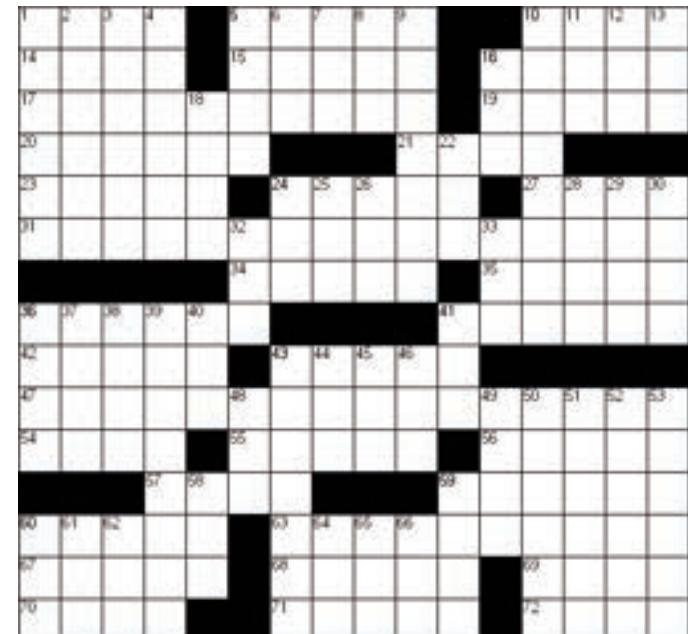
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THE CROSSWORD BY MICHAEL BLAKE

Fairy Tale

ACROSS

1. ___ Plus World Market
 5. Bit of grass
 10. Thrilled
 14. LxW calculation
 15. Cheers episode, today
 16. Pizza serving
 17. Evil relative in a fairy tale
 19. Despises
 20. Closest buddy; in slang
 21. "I haven't seen you in ___!"
 23. Waters, in Oaxaca
 24. Put on (a play)
 27. SFUSD bigwig, for short
 31. Last words in many a fairy tale
 34. Augmented
 35. Ecuador's capital
 36. "Forever" USPS buys
 41. Quashed, as a news story
 42. Bert's Sesame Street buddy
 43. "Nothing ___!": forgot it!
 47. Longtime (since 1953) Russian eatery in the Richmond opening a 2026 satellite on 24th Street
 54. Golden Gate bridge, e.g.
 55. Men Behaving ___ (old TV show)
 56. "We're off ___ the Wizard..."
 57. "Ditto," in footnotes
 59. Former Toyota model
 60. Photograph
 63. Place you may dance and enchant a prince
 67. Get clean in the tub
 68. Mushroom cloud maker



69. ___'s Gold (Peter Fonda flick) 78. "Absolutely, amigo!" 85. Sickly
 70. Encounter 22. Berlin's land: Abbr. 46. Aye's opposite
 71. Malicious 24. Pink Floyd founder Barrett 48. Ballpark fig.
 72. Shore bird 25. ___ talk 49. Suit to ___ (fit just right)
 73. Waters, in Oaxaca 26. One of 48 in western SF: Abbr. 50. Gymnast Olga
 74. Put on (a play) 28. PG&E, for example, briefly 51. Musical run with four sharps
 75. SFUSD bigwig, for short 29. Sampras or Rose 52. One-___ (film short)
 76. Last words in many a fairy tale 30. Tramped (on) 53. Berkeley prof Janet who headed the Fed
 77. Augmented 32. Vegas airport code 58. Apiary denizen
 78. Ecuador's capital 33. EPA measure affected by smog 59. Frozen-dessert chain
 79. Quashed, as a news story 34. "Gimme a few ___": "Be right there" 60. "Big Blue" computer company
 80. Bert's Sesame Street buddy 35. EPA measure affected by smog 61. Goodness Had Nothing to Do With It autobiographer West
 81. "Nothing ___!": forgot it! 36. "Gimme a few ___": "Be right there" 62. Went to Novy
 82. Shore bird 37. Voyage 64. Atty's org.
 83. Waters, in Oaxaca 38. Frozen princess 65. Part of LAPD
 84. Put on (a play) 39. What time your coach may turn back into a pumpkin 66. Quantity: Abbr.
 85. SFUSD bigwig, for short 40. Letter between oh and kew
 86. Last words in many a fairy tale 41. C.I.A.: U.S. ___ : Soviet Union
 87. Augmented 42. Blackjack card 43. Like Steven Wright's delivery
 88. Ecuador's capital 44. Petal plucker's word 45. So five minutes ago

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 Solution on Page 21
 Find more Crosswords at www.noevalleyvoice.com



No matter the season, Philz Coffee is taking applications for baristas, the team at 4298 24th St. says. Check inside or at Philz website. *Photo by John Ferrannini*

Noe Valley Employers Are Hiring in 2026

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Castro St., Roar is hiring a full-time head of team and community development, a full-time San Francisco superintendent, a group fitness instructor, and a part-time studio support person. More information is available on Roar's website, roarsf.com.

The Philz Coffee location at 4298 24th St. is looking for baristas. The position pays \$20.50 to \$21.50 an hour. Team lead Santos Arteaga says, "We're always taking applications" and "there's always an application for all our barista positions" at Philz.

People also can apply on Philz' website, philzcoffee.com. The company, which was sold in August to the Los Angeles-based private equity firm Freeman Spogli & Co., also has an opening for a "Director of Digital Marketing & eCommerce," with a starting salary of \$160,000 to \$170,000.

Meanwhile, Mathnasium of Noe Valley, at 3813 24th St., is offering \$19.50 to \$21 per hour for a qualified

math instructor and mentor willing to work 10 to 20 hours per week.

Whole Foods, at 3950 24th St., is looking for an overnight grocery team member and other types of workers.

The Bar on Dolores, at 1600 Dolores St., is seeking "enthusiastic waitstaff to join our team" (see jobtoday.com). "Previous experience is a plus, but a positive attitude and willingness to learn are most important."

Fitwell Chiropractic Sports Medicine, at 900 Noe St., is looking for part-time chiropractors, working in the pay range of \$40 to \$100 an hour.

An AI search of "Jobs Noe Valley" in late January also turned up a nanny job paying up to \$55 an hour, a position at Noe Valley Bakery on a "fun crew [with] nice customers, free coffee, and free food daily," and an opening for a full-time family physician at One Medical on 24th Street, with a salary range of \$309,000 to \$328,000.

Send those resumes. ■



After a long sabbatical, Fresca is remodeling at 3945 24th St. with plans to open a sparkling new restaurant this spring. As proof, it's hiring cooks and bartenders. *Photo by John Ferrannini*

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What's in Your Quake Kit?

Sally Smith / Illustrations by Karol Barske

Are you ready for the next earthquake, wildfire, or health emergency? Consider the things you might need in order to live for a week without water or electricity.

Below is a list of items for your home preparedness kit or "Go Bag," suggested by the San Francisco Fire Department's Neighborhood Emergency Response Team (NERT).

NERT holds community-based training programs in basic preparedness and disaster response skills. To find out more, go to the SF-Fire.org/NERT website or call 415-970-2024 (the NERT class hotline).

Water: One gallon per person to last 3 to 5 days. (Use bleach to purify it, 2 to 4 drops per quart.)

Food for 3 to 5 days, such as canned or dried soups, beans, juice.

Cooking Supplies: A grill or camp stove, utensils, matches, can opener, foil, plastic wrap, garbage bags.

Clothing: Light and heavy layers for all, stored to stay dry. Include a pair of shoes and gloves.

Safety: Flashlight, radio, batteries, rope, knife, scissors, fire extinguisher, wrench to shut off utilities.

Supplies such as cash, house or car keys, pencil and paper, i.d. cards, insurance info, maps.

Hygiene: Waterless soap, toilet paper, shampoo, toothbrush, sanitary supplies.

Special items for children, the elderly or people with disabilities.

Checklist for the 'Go Bag'

It never hurts to have a "go bag" at home or work or in your car.

- Sturdy shoes
- Flashlight, whistle
- Glasses
- Crank or battery radio
- Food and water
- Cash (\$100 in small bills)
- Basic first-aid, medications
- Change of clothes
- Toilet paper, hand sanitizer
- Big trash bag, mylar blanket
- Copy of driver's license
- Paper, pencil, family or pet photos, important documents



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If you're curious about how today's market may apply to your situation, Lamisse would be happy to share insights and answer any questions.

LAMISSE DROUBI

DRE#01257759

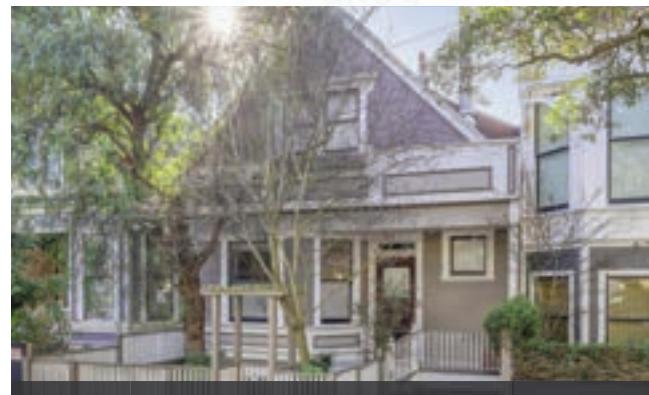
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DIAMOND ST | COMING SOON



24TH ST | COMING SOON



23RD STREET | COMING SOON



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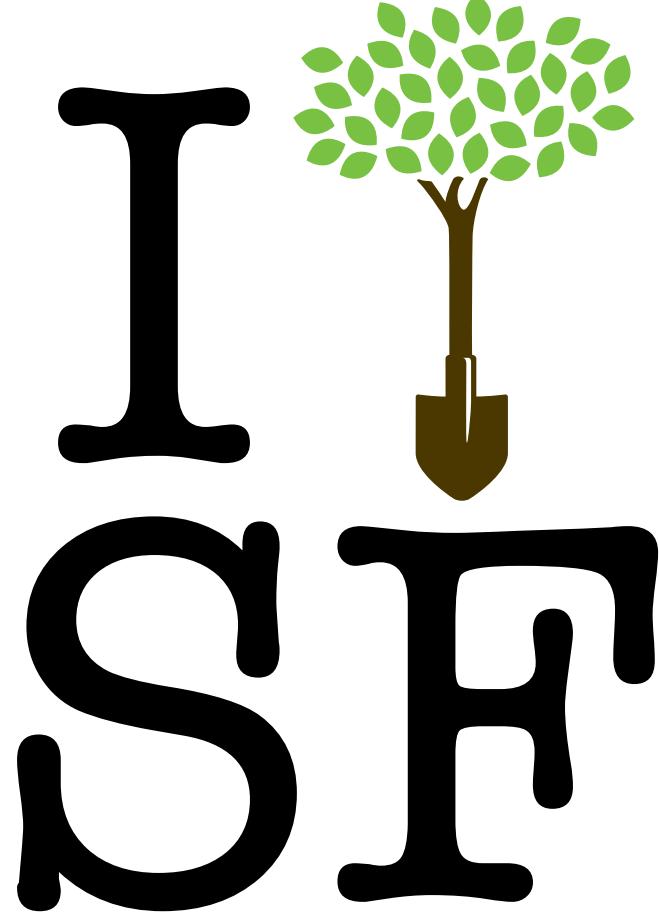
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Concerns About ICE Bring New Signs of Solidarity

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

butterfly and the words: "No Kings. No ICE. No Fear. Immigrants Are Welcome Here."

According to the organization, displaying the placards is a way for merchants to "declare their support for their immigrant neighbors and opposition to ICE, as well as to create a private area for employees that ICE cannot legally enter without a signed judicial warrant. These are simple steps that businesses can take to protect their employees from ICE and make all immigrants feel welcome in your community."

"I talked to a lot of store people. There was a lot of concern," Geiger said, expressed by business owners as he passed out the anti-ICE signs. "It is important to educate people, because people don't know what to do if ICE comes to their door."

Anxiety Spreads Rumors

For months, rumors had been spreading that ICE agents detained employees at two eateries in Noe Valley. However, the managers at both restaurants assured the *Voice* no such raids occurred.

Noe Indian Cuisine manager Oli Bhupendra said the eatery, in the 4100 block of 24th Street, had not been visited by ICE but had heard via the grapevine that federal agents had arrested employees at Barney's Gourmet Hamburgers down the street.

The manager at Barney's said the rumor was false and the restaurant believed it had been started by a customer who mistook a dozen San Francisco sheriff deputies at the restaurant for a party last summer for ICE agents.

Both businesses have spoken to their employees about what their rights are should ICE agents show up one day, said the managers.

"We try to tell the guys in the kitchen

what to do, as they don't speak English," said Noe Indian Cuisine manager Bhupendra.

The restaurant also has cards for the kitchen employees that list their rights and a phone number they can call should ICE pay a visit, Bhupendra said, noting there'd been an increase in anxiety in recent weeks.

"We have seen in the news that a lot of people are having trouble with ICE," said Bhupendra.

Support in Noe

Clothing store Two Birds on Castro Street just off 24th Street put up a sign near its entrance. With one of his coworkers born overseas and now married to an American, store manager Delvon Brown said the shop embraced the message of support for immigrants. As for ICE, "I know they can't come in without a [judicial] warrant," said Brown, who has managed the boutique the past five years.

Brown said he had not encountered any ICE agents in the neighborhood. Still, he and his coworkers felt it was important to post the sign so that immigrants knew the store was a safe space. Reaction from customers has been overwhelmingly positive, said Brown.

"To be honest, it is about showing people visibility and that we are aware of the situation immigrants face," said Brown. "We are insulated being in San Francisco. But just because we are in a bubble doesn't mean we shouldn't support Minnesota or speak up about the crazy things that are happening."

ICE Isn't Talking

Geiger admits he has no direct knowledge of any ICE visits in Noe Valley. But last month he attended an East Bay forum where a San Francisco BAR Association representative declared ICE agents were still going into commercial corridors in the city but were not actively trying to enter businesses. "What tends to be happening in San Francisco now is not that ICE is targeting businesses but they are seeking an individual person. They might wait outside the business for them," said Geiger.



Dan Geiger places a new sign on a door on 24th Street in the same week that protests were growing around the country over ICE violence in Minnesota.

Photo by Art Bodner

Meanwhile, the local activist group RUTA (Rise Up To Action) has added a "Business Know Your Rights" focus to its work defending immigrant rights. Like Geiger, RUTA members have been visiting local businesses to offer information.

A spokesperson for ICE did not respond to the *Voice*'s request for comment. In its year-end report for 2025, the agency claimed its officers "faced a 1,347% increase in assaults and an 8,000% increase in death threats against them, thanks to the lies and smears from sanctuary politicians and radical activists, and hoaxes spread by the media."

Employees Have Rights

While ICE agents can lawfully be in a public space, they are limited in their access to certain spaces inside a business without a judicial warrant, said Geiger. Examples might be a storeroom of a retail store or behind the counter of an eatery or in its kitchen.

"Let's say they are looking for somebody. If they don't have a judicial warrant, they can't go back there," stressed Geiger. "If you are at the counter, you need to know that and to say that. It is important businesses know these things and know what their obligations are under California law."

He advises employees to take the time to read a warrant if one is presented by an ICE agent and to make sure ICE has the correct information, such as a business address, and the warrant is signed by a judge.

"If they do, then they can go in. But if they don't, they can't," Geiger said.

Employees also should know the phone number for the San Francisco Rapid Response Network, he said, so they can report an ICE visit. The 24-

hour hotline is 415-200-1548.

Collective Power

Roughly 20 people attended the 20-minute presentation Geiger gave at the January meeting of the NVMPA, held at Novy Restaurant.

Geiger said he explained at the gathering that California recently passed a new state law that requires employers to inform their employees once a year of their rights, and that includes immigrant rights.

Another new law, notes Geiger, will allow employees to designate an emergency contact person, whom employers are required to call should the employee be arrested or detained while at the worksite.

Geiger points out that while preparing his talk he discovered a good resource: the "Know Your Rights" page at the East Bay Sanctuary Covenant website (eastbaysanctuary.org). It has information tailored for immigrants, allies, schools, and workplaces.

He hopes the merchants associations he's meeting with will use their collective power to speak up for those who may not be able to speak for themselves, for fear of becoming a target of ICE.

"It is important for businesses to speak up on these issues, not only for their own interest but because it is the right thing to do," said Geiger. "People are afraid, and not without reason. If an association speaks up, then individual members are shielded."

Geiger credits not only Mayor Daniel Lurie but local business leaders with convincing President Donald Trump to halt a planned deployment of federal troops to San Francisco last October.

"It was their collective voice that had an impact," said Geiger. ■



Delvon Brown, manager at Two Birds on Castro Street, says he was more than willing to post a sign declaring support for immigrant families.

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Catholic Church Declines Landmark Designation

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Church at 100-117 Diamond St., in the Castro District. He argued that city officials should drop their efforts to landmark any church sites, as they would have little chance to succeed.

"Landmarking church properties in California has been settled for over 30 years, as a matter of case law and statutory law," Christian said.

Church Votes Delayed

The oversight body postponed action on the church landmark proposals until its next meeting, on Feb. 4.

Commissioner Hans Baldauf said he was unfamiliar with the state court's ruling and asked Deputy City Attorney Peter Miljanich to clarify the statute.

Miljanich responded that such a clarification should be deferred "to an offline setting." But he addressed the matter in general terms:

"I will say today there are exemptions in state law for the landmark designation process and other historic resource protections on noncommercial property owned by religious organizations," said Miljanich.

A Preventive Measure

District 8 Supervisor Rafael Mandelman had initiated the landmark process for the sites last fall, citing concerns that recently approved zoning changes allowing for more housing development across the city could put historic structures at risk.

In total, Mandelman had proposed 16 properties for landmark status. (For more detail, see "Landmark Status Eyed for Famous Church," November 2025 *Noe Valley Voice*.)

Fourteen of them received unanimous 7-0 support from the preservation commission at the members' January meeting.

They included residential properties at 102 Guerrero St. and 361 San Jose Ave., and the San Francisco Fire Department's former Engine Company No. 13 at 1458 Valencia St.

Among several LGBTQ-related sites were the former home of the late B.A.R. founder Bob Ross (4200 20th St.) and the first location of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation (514-20 Castro St.).

The preservation body also voted to support landmarking for St. Matthew's Lutheran Church (3281 16th St.), St. Nicholas Cathedral (Russian Orthodox, 2005 15th St.), and the historic former site of LGBTQ synagogue Sha'ar Zahav (220 Danvers St.).

The 14 are headed to the Board of Supervisors for final approval as city landmarks.

28 More Sites

In mid-January, Mandelman submitted requests to landmark an additional 28 properties across his supervisorial district.

Included among the new sites is the Noe Valley Ministry at 1021 Sanchez St., an 1888 Carpenter Gothic building designed by architect Charles Geddes.

Officials with the Noe Valley Ministry did not respond to *Voice* queries about whether the church would support landmark status.

In the new group also is Holy



The Noe Valley Ministry at 1021 Sanchez St. was among the second group of 28 properties Supervisor Rafael Mandelman recommended last month for city landmark status. At press time, the church's response was unclear.

Photo by Jack Tipple

Innocents Episcopal Church, the brown-shingled building at 455 Fair

Oaks St. It was designed by English immigrant Ernest Coxhead and built in 1890.

Mandelman said he planned to ask City Attorney David Chiu about the supervisors' options for preserving religious sites.

"We don't really want to be doing this over the opposition of property owners, so we have to figure this out," Mandelman said.

Among the new houses that Mandelman proposed as landmarks are two Queen Anne-style Victorians: the Charles Katz Home at 1200 Dolores St., built in 1909, and the Shaughnessy House at 394 Fair Oaks St., constructed in 1900.

Also on the list are the P.F. Ferguson House at 2 Vicksburg St., an 1874 example of Stick-Eastlake design; and the former Firehouse No. 44 at 3816 22nd St., built in 1909.

The new landmark requests will be making their way through the city approval process later this spring. ■



There were several residences on Supervisor Rafael Mandelman's latest list of potential landmarks, including (l-r) the P.F. Ferguson House at 2 Vicksburg St., the Shaughnessy House at 394 Fair Oaks St., and the Charles Katz Home at 1200 Dolores St.

Photo by Corrie M. Anders



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Walking w/ Friends

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

restrictions were starting to lift. He and his wife Tess had recently moved to Noe Valley. "I thought it'd be interesting and fun to try and build community in the neighborhood," says Nanda, a senior director of venture investing at Fundrise.

Nanda, now 31, still leads the walking group, and these days he's bringing his 10-week-old son in a baby carriage.

Whereas initially the group walked up the hill on Valley or 28th Street to a lookout point on Noe Street at Duncan, they now keep to the relatively flat stretch of Sanchez.

Walking in a group offers the dual benefits of being physically active and socializing at the same time. Over the years, Noe Walks has attracted an inter-generational crowd, and some members have gone on to meet socially outside the group, says Nanda, adding that he always intended the group to be a steppingstone to meeting people.

A Way to Widen Your Circle

Richard Wei, a Polk Gulch resident, launched a meetup.com group in 2023 that provides a platform for people over age 55 who want to start or join walking groups in their San Francisco neighborhood. Wei, now 35, got the idea after experiencing the social disruption of the pandemic and his grandmother's isolating experience with Alzheimer's disease and her subsequent death around the same time.

Walking is great for easing anxiety, depression, and loneliness, Wei says.

"We grow more and more insular with technology, so it becomes a bigger and bigger burden to try to socialize—to get out there and allow our community to be that medicine," says Wei, who cofounded a robotics engineering startup this year.

It Does the Body Good

The medical establishment is increasingly aware that walking is a great way to get exercise, says Noe Valley resident Robert Nied, MD.

Walking is probably the most common form of exercise and it's certainly the most accessible, says Nied, who is chief of sports medicine at Kaiser Permanente San Francisco. "As little as 10 minutes, in terms of a round of physical activity, is beneficial, so just simply walking to places that you historically might have taken a car to is beneficial to your health," Nied says.

If you walk regularly, you can expect improvements in blood pressure and other markers of cardiovascular health. To boost physical health benefits, Nied advises taking a brisk pace, for example doing a mile in 20 minutes. You want to walk relatively quickly, while still feeling comfortable enough to carry on a conversation, he says.

Nied also points out that if you live in Noe Valley, and if you're able, you can walk to get most everything you need. Nied says he tries to do all of his errands on foot, including grocery shopping with a backpack, which helps him as a busy professional get his daily steps in.

For weight loss, you will want to build some weight training into your fitness regimen. But Nied does not advise wearing weights while walking, pointing out that the American College of Sports Medicine recommends doing strength training and cardio separately.

Glenn Shope, founder and senior trainer at MX3 Fitness, which operates four gyms in San Francisco, including one in Noe Valley (4045 24th St.), also



Lisa Matthews (left) and Pam Gill lead the way for Noe Walks on a Saturday in mid-January. The group sponsors a weekly walk on Sanchez Street from 24th to 30th. Photo by Emily Hayes

recommends against wearing weights while walking. But he does routinely advise new members starting a weight-training program to incorporate regular walking separately.

"Walking lubricates your joints. It increases your bone density. It conditions your tendons. It increases the blood flow to cartilage, tendons, and ligaments," Shope says.

For people who have been sedentary, Shope advises starting with 3,000 to 5,000 steps and building up within a few weeks to 10,000 steps per day—not to mention walking instead of driving. It's 100 percent okay to start small and test your limits, Shope says.

Weight training is critical for maintaining muscle mass and a healthy body weight but you don't have to go to extremes to get benefits.

"We're not training to be athletes," Shope says. "We're training to be healthy human beings."

Mind the Hills

With its many hills and stairs, Noe Valley is a great location for building intensity into your walk.

Nied says it's best to start with shallow hills and walk at a steady pace. Take a moment at the bottom to prepare for ascent. Use a zigzag (aka "paper-boy") pattern when going up, and on the way down, take really short steps to protect your knees.

Unless you have a known cardiovascular condition, like a prior heart attack or Type 2 diabetes, you probably don't need to check with a doctor before starting to walk for fitness.

If you have health concerns, you can also self-screen by taking the global standard test: the Physical Activity Readiness Questionnaire for Everyone (PAR-Q+). Find it at epar.medx.com.

Strength in Numbers

If you're starting your own group, you may find it easier than you think.

Based on his experience with Noe Walks, Nanda recommends putting up

"I work in tech, and so I thought that the tech piece would be the biggest way people would find [Noe Walks], but it turns out the old-school way was by far the biggest driver," Nanda says.

You can chat with the owners of your local café, place posters there, and attract walking buddies by word of mouth. You can also post on Nextdoor or Facebook, or check the meetup.com website for walking events.

Designer Routes

Wei says he would almost approach it like online dating: Put together a post, with your picture, some interests, and hobbies, describe the route you want to take (the elevation), the expected pace (conversational), and mention where bathroom stops are. "Set the physical expectation so that people feel easier about signing up," Wei says.

Nanda says there are opportunities at the end of the Noe Walks route to announce whether you are starting a new group or looking for walking partners. To join Noe Walks, just show up at 24th and Sanchez some Saturday morning at 10 a.m.

Wei says you can contact his meetup.com group for options using the platform to set something up in Noe Valley. He also advises that it's okay to limit participation if you prefer a small-size group.

It may take a bit of time to get a group going. But Nanda and Wei stress the importance of being consistent and developing relationships over time.

If it turns out to be just you on the first walk you organize, don't get discouraged. Carry on yourself—sans earbuds or any other electronic distractions—and if you run into a neighbor, strike up a conversation, Wei says.

"You might run into them at the grocery store later." ■

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| San Francisco Police in a non-emergency | 415-553-0123 |
| Burned-out Streetlights, streetlights@sfgov.org (PUC) | 415-554-0730 |
| District 8 Supervisor Rafael Mandelman, mandelmanstaff@sfgov.org | 415-554-6968 |
| District 8 Community Safety Liaison (SFPD) | Dave.Burke@sfgov.org |
| Graffiti, fallen trees, street cleaning (DPW) | 3-1-1 or zerograffiti@sfdpw.org 415-695-2017 |
| Homeless Services: Street Outreach Services (SOS) | 415-355-2250 |
| Lost or Injured Animals: Animal Care & Control emergency dispatch | 415-554-9400 |
| Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services sfmayor.org | 415-554-7111 |
| NERT Neighborhood Emergency Response Team sfemdert@sfgov.org | 415-970-2022 or 2024 |
| Parking Enforcement (blocked driveway) DPT Dispatch | 3-1-1 or 415-553-1200 |
| PG&E Gas or electrical issues | 9-1-1 or 1-800-743-5000 or 1-877-660-6789 |
| Pothole Repairs potholes@sfdpw.org | 3-1-1 or 415-554-5810 |
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| Rent Board San Francisco phone counseling | 415-252-4600 |
| SFMTA or Muni: Call 3-1-1 or email MTABoard@sfmta.com | 415-701-2311 |
| Tree Planting (Public Works Bureau of Urban Forestry) | 628-652-8733 |
| 24th Street Community Benefit District (Noe Valley Association) | 415-802-4461 or 519-0093 |
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The Cost of Living in Noe

Luxury Sales Lift Market

By Corrie M. Anders

A handful of high-end sales gave Noe Valley's real estate market a late-year boost, as 18 single-family detached homes changed hands during November and December of 2025.

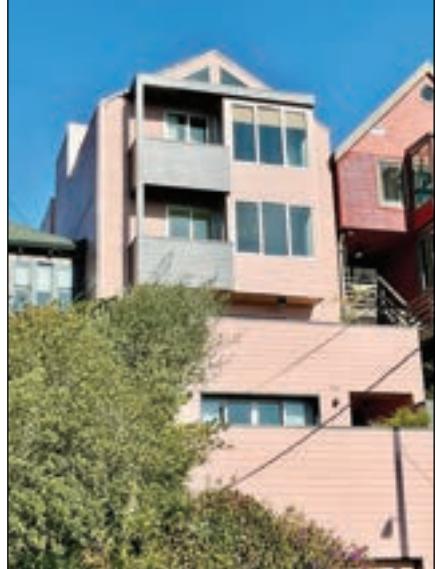
Condominium sales remained steady during the same two-month period, according to data supplied to the *Voice* by Corcoran Icon Real Estate.

For both houses and condos, most of the activity took place before Thanksgiving.

"November was really good," said Christine Lopatowski, manager of Corcoran Icon's 24th Street office. "People were listing their properties at the last minute before the holidays." By the same measure, she added, "buyers were anxious to get into their homes and start the new year in their new property."

How hot was the market?

All 14 detached homes in November sold at or above their asking price, and buyers typically made offers in two weeks' time. Eight of the 14 closed escrow within 20 days and were "likely all cash deals," Lopatowski said, noting that mortgage financing usually



This six-bedroom, six-bath dwelling on 28th Street garnered \$7.5 million, the highest price paid for a detached home in Noe Valley in November. 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 |
| Single-family homes | | | | | | |
| December 2025 | 4 | \$2,400,000 | \$4,850,000 | \$2,955,000 | 17 | 102% |
| November 2025 | 14 | \$1,500,000 | \$7,500,000 | \$3,804,357 | 13 | 111% |
| December 2024 | 3 | \$2,300,000 | \$4,380,000 | \$3,393,333 | 41 | 108% |
| November 2024 | 8 | \$1,920,000 | \$7,000,000 | \$3,471,876 | 30 | 100% |
| Condominiums/TICs | | | | | | |
| December 2025 | 4 | \$730,000 | \$1,850,000 | \$1,394,500 | 37 | 106% |
| November 2025 | 6 | \$800,000 | \$1,725,000 | \$1,131,333 | 18 | 104% |
| December 2024 | 2 | \$888,888 | \$1,625,000 | \$1,306,500 | 47 | 96% |
| November 2024 | 8 | \$900,000 | \$1,995,000 | \$1,578,250 | 32 | 101% |
| 2- to 4-unit buildings | | | | | | |
| December 2025 | 1 | \$2,285,000 | \$2,285,000 | \$2,285,000 | 70 | 99% |
| November 2025 | 3 | \$1,688,888 | \$4,250,000 | \$2,285,000 | 57 | 101% |
| December 2024 | 4 | \$1,350,000 | \$1,998,000 | \$1,665,750 | 49 | 100% |
| November 2024 | 1 | \$1,590,000 | \$1,590,000 | \$1,590,000 | 110 | 98% |
| 5+ unit buildings | | | | | | |
| December 2025 | 1 | \$2,825,000 | \$2,825,000 | \$2,825,000 | 18 | 98% |
| November 2025 | 1 | \$2,505,000 | \$2,505,000 | \$2,505,000 | 46 | 107% |
| December 2024 | 0 | — | — | — | — | — |
| November 2024 | 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.

NV2/2026

required 30 to 45 days.

Several luxury sales helped push home prices higher. Two homes sold for more than \$7 million, while two others topped \$6 million, driving the average sale price to \$3.8 million. (The last time the average hit that level was in May 2024.)

The priciest sale in November was a six-bedroom, six-bath home in the 500 block of 28th Street, between Castro and Diamond streets, which sold for its asking price of \$7.5 million. Built in 1910, the home had been renovated and enlarged to four stories and 4,785 square feet of living space in 2019. Amenities included an elevator, a gourmet kitchen with Sub-Zero and Wolf appliances, a sculptural light-filled staircase, air conditioning, solar panels, two terraces, a roof deck with panoramic views, and two-car parking.

Close behind was the off-market sale of a \$7.2 million home in the 100 block of Jersey Street between Vicksburg and Sanchez streets. Originally built in 1900, the residence was redesigned in 2015 with a modern facade and four bedrooms and five baths in 3,720 square feet of living space. Features included accordion glass walls, multiple skylights, a floating staircase, a chef's kitchen with a waterfall island, radiant heat, smart-home technology, a wine

cellar and wet bar, and spaces for five cars.

December's most expensive detached-home sale was a remodeled Queen Anne Victorian in the 400 block of Clipper Street between Castro and Diamond streets. A buyer paid \$4.85 million for the four-bedroom, 3.5-bath home, with 3,157 square feet of living space. Among its highlights were solar panels, a formal dining room, a chef's kitchen with a marble waterfall island and family room opening to a south-facing yard, two custom wet bars,



A buyer paid \$7.2 million for this four-bedroom, five-bath modern home on Jersey Street, built in 1900 and remodeled in 2015.

media room, and a two-car garage with EV charging.

In the condominium market, November's top sale was a three-bedroom, two-bath unit in the 800 block of Douglass Street between 24th and Jersey streets, which sold for \$1,725,000. The 1,200-square-foot home shared a 1908 Edwardian building that had been remodeled while retaining "lots of its original details," Lopatowski said.

December's highest-priced condo sold for \$1.85 million. The three-bedroom, two-bath unit occupied two levels in a Victorian renovated in 2020 in the 4000 block of Cesar Chavez Street between Sanchez and Noe streets. Its main attractions were wide-plank wood floors, Bosch appliances, floor-to-ceiling glass, and a private roof deck with views of Noe Valley and Twin Peaks. ■

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Noe Valley Rents**

| Unit | No. in Sample | Range Dec 2025–Jan 2026 | Average Dec 2025–Jan 2026 | Average November 2025 | Average Dec 2024–Jan 2025 |
|---------|---------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| Studio | 3 | \$2,050 – \$3,095 | \$2,515 / mo. | \$2,548 / mo. | \$2,323 / mo. |
| 1-bdrm | 5 | \$2,950 – \$4,495 | \$3,678 / mo. | \$3,468 / mo. | \$2,947 / mo. |
| 2-bdrm | 5 | \$3,800 – \$5,495 | \$4,418 / mo. | \$4,802 / mo. | \$4,086 / mo. |
| 3-bdrm | 7 | \$4,995 – \$9,200 | \$6,170 / mo. | \$7,523 / mo. | \$6,671 / mo. |
| 4+-bdrm | 11 | \$15,000 – \$15,000 | \$15,000 / mo. | \$14,475 / mo. | \$7,716 / mo. |

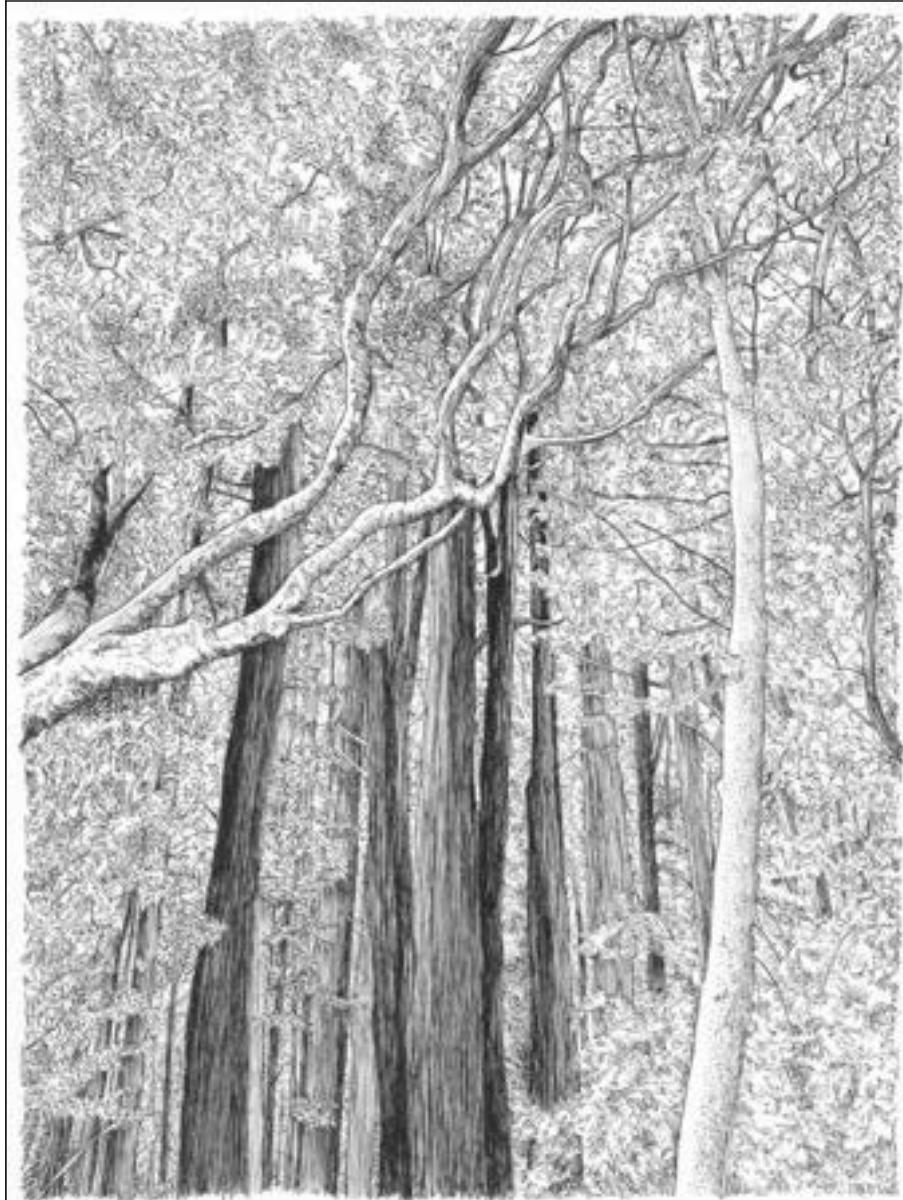
** This survey is based on a sample of 21 Noe Valley rental listings appearing on Craigslist.org from Dec. 18, 2025, to Jan. 10, 2026. Last year in January 2025, there were 65 listings.

NV2/2026

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Photo by Jack Tipple



Stolte Grove Mill Valley Pen & Ink drawing 9x12 inches
by Jack Tipple

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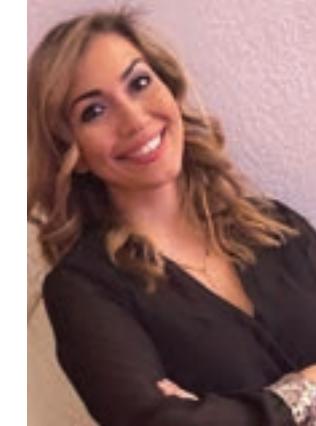
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SHORT TAKES

Growing the Garden Tour

The Noe Valley Garden Tour is turning 20 in 2026—and organizers are celebrating the milestone by digging deep.

For the first time, Friends of Noe Valley will team up with Friends of Slow Sanchez to highlight gardens along Sanchez Street, as well as on nearby blocks between Noe and Church streets. The result promises to be “extra fabulous,” says co-organizer Peggy Cling, and will offer live music, gardener talks, a plant swap, and Friends of the Urban Forest advice.

The event will take place on Saturday, May 16, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Proceeds will support beautification projects along Slow Sanchez.

But this month and next, Cling and co-organizer Linda Lockyer are looking for eight to 10 gardens to feature in the tour. “If you have a cozy back yard, a blooming front stoop, a brand new or a well-established garden, or a kid- or dog-friendly spot, we’d be happy to have you,” says Cling. “Any type of garden is acceptable, and submissions are now open.”

To schedule a garden visit from Cling or Lockyer or to get more information, email Lockyer at lindalockyer3@gmail.com.



A lush garden on 23rd Street was one of the highlights of the 2025 Noe Valley Garden Tour. This image was captured by master gardener Lisa Erdos.

the judiciary, immigrants, and our democracy.”

The February event is the 11th community meeting or political action sponsored by Town Square Democracy since its formation last year. Says co-organizer Lisa Jaicks, “Our most recent gathering, which examined the assault on research and health, was hugely successful with over 100 attendees.”

For more information, contact townsquaredemocracy@gmail.com or visit the group’s website at townsquaredemocracy.com.

Memoirs With Local Magic

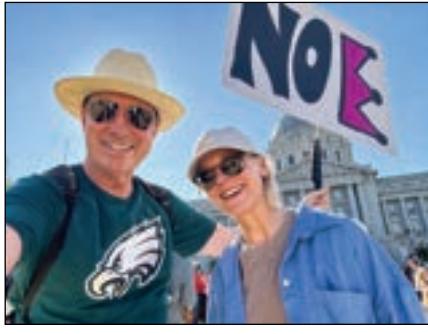
Two Noe Valley authors (and friends)—Jan Sollish and Jackie Davis Martin—are getting together to host a book party at Bird & Beckett Books in Glen Park on Wednesday, March 4, at 7 p.m. Each will read excerpts from their works.

Jan Sollish’s book, *Simply Magical*, is a memoir of the “magical” life she led in San Francisco in the 1970s as a La Bamba dancer for Beach Blanket Babylon by night and a Catholic school kindergarten teacher by day.

Jackie Davis Martin’s book, *A Life, Fictively*, is a collection of short stories, many published separately in literary journals. Though the stories parallel her life in their chronology and settings, and sometimes in their characters, Davis Martin describes them as “fictive,” or fictional.

Both books will be for sale at (and by) the bookstore, located at 653 Chenery St. Everyone is invited.

For more information, see



No Kings marchers last October found a way to represent Noe Valley too..

Forum on Trump’s Record on the Environment

As part of its ongoing speaker series At the Noe Valley Ministry, the group Town Square Democracy, in partnership with Indivisible SF, will hold a free community forum on “Trump vs. the Environment: Climate Science and Health Under Attack,” on Monday, Feb. 23, from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

The evening, in the upstairs hall at 1021 Sanchez St., will include reports “from the front lines” by four environmental experts: John Balmes, physician-scientist and emeritus professor of medicine and environmental health (UCSF and UC Berkeley); Ellie Cohen, CEO of The Climate Center and a leader in climate-smart conservation solutions; ecologist/educator Tania Pollak, a former faculty lecturer at SFSU and current planner at the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy and the Presidio Trust; and environmental lawyer Cliff Rechtschaffen, an adjunct professor at Berkeley Law (UC), a state energy and environmental impact adviser at NYU Law, and a member of the California Air Resources Board.

The experts will assess the President’s impact on the environment and invite audience discussion on ways to respond.

“The Trump Administration is destroying our climate change research in the United States,” warns marine ecologist and forum co-organizer Jim Harvey. “Please join us in alerting the public to the threats to health, science,

birdbeckett.com or call Bird & Beckett Books and Records at 415-586-3733.

The Town Square, Amplified

Noe Valley Town Square events coordinator Leslie Crawford reports she is bounding into spring with some big events at the park on 24th Street between Vicksburg and Sanchez.

“One of our biggest,” Crawford says, “will be Noe Valley’s Big Game Watch Party,” on Sunday, Feb. 8, from 3:30 to 7:30 p.m. (Yes, it’s the one with the Patriots, the Seahawks, and Bad Bunny, but due to trademark restrictions, SF Rec and Park cannot use the word that rhymes with duper.)

The square, at 3861 24th St. near Sanchez, will have a big-screen TV, and there will be pizza and beer, plus contests and games on the sidelines. “This gives Noe Valleyans a chance to come together in our ‘living room’ and watch the game together and, for those with younger kids, have them run around a bit and play,” says Crawford. “Bring lawn chairs!”

The other big news for 2026, Crawford says, is that the Town Square has won permission to amplify music at its Sunday afternoon concerts, “within moderation, to be considerate of neighbors. This will broaden our range of what we can offer.”

The Sunday in the Square concerts, which are 1 to 3 p.m. on two Sundays a month, and run the gamut from solo musicians to rock or jazz bands.

Set to perform on Feb. 1, according to music director Gil Guillermo, were Latin and R&B performer Johnny Escobedo (1 p.m.) and singer-songwriter Alie Halla and violinist Nina Violina (2 p.m.).

The lineup for Sunday, Feb. 15, included folk-jazz singer-songwriter Amy Obenski, whose latest original is “Watch How We Breathe” (1 p.m.) and café jazz duo Jackson Moran and Nathaniel Vincent (2 p.m.).

Crawford also notes that a new activity—actually it’s a 4,000-year-old Chinese practice—is now filling the square on two Thursdays a month from 8 to 9 a.m. (Feb. 5 and 19): qigong. The gentle movement, which involves slow stretching, breath, and meditation, is aimed at balancing life’s energy (“qi”).

Just like the Saturday morning Noe Valley Farmers Market (8 a.m. to 1 p.m.), and Sunday morning yoga (11 a.m. to noon all except Feb. 8), the qigong is free and beginners are welcome.

The last big event in February is the Noe Valley Night Market, on Tuesday, Feb. 24, from 5 to 8 p.m. It’s always been amplified—because people love hearing Lambert Moss sing jazz and pop classics while they graze the retail,



At the Feb. 15 Sunday Music in the Square concert, singer-songwriter Amy Obenski (top) will play her cool, emotionally evocative music from 1 to 2 p.m., then be followed by hot club jazz players Nathaniel Vincent (left) and Jackson Moran from 2 to 3 p.m.

Photos courtesy Gil Guillermo

art, and food concessions.

To confirm details and get news of future events—like the Silent Disco (March 15)—dive deeper into Events at the Town Square’s website: noevalleytownsquare.com.

Roam Rancho San Miguel

The group Shaping San Francisco is leading a Noe Valley History Walk on Saturday, March 7, that will take hikers from Billy Goat Hill to Fairmount Heights to the east side of Twin Peaks.

“We walk along sites of former dairies and quarries, through early and modernist residential developments, along Slow Streets and up and down staircases,” say the guides, who may be one or the other of Shaping San Francisco’s co-directors (Chris Carlsson and LisaRuth Elliott) or one of the many fans of their 28-year-old community history project.

Reservations are required for the walk, which starts at noon at the Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Library at 451 Jersey St. and roams the hills of Rancho San Miguel till 3 p.m. “Be prepared for steep slopes and great views.”

And bring water and a snack. “We don’t stop for food!”

The event is free (donations accepted). RSVP to shaping@foundsf.org or call the library at 415-355-5707.

You can learn about other history walks, including a Presidio to Mission Dolores Walk (Feb. 21), a tour of the Northeast Industrial Mission (May 9), and a Wide Open Town Walk covering the 20th-century San Francisco of gay men and women (May 16), at shapingsf.org or by calling 415-881-7579. Oh, and the group is known for its bicycle and boat tours.

This month’s Short Takes were written by Sally Smith.

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Feb. 1, 15 & 22: Free Sunday morning YOGA FLOW offers all-level classes; bring water and a mat. 11 am-noon. 3861 24th. noealleytownsquare.com

Feb. 1-22: Gallery Sanchez at the Noe Valley Ministry hosts an exhibit of Japanese ARTWORK mounted on scrolls. 1021 Sanchez. 282-2387; noealleyministry.org

Feb. 1-March 28: CREATIVITY Explored hosts a solo exhibition, "Color Field," by artist Hung Kei Shiu. Thursdays and Fridays, 3-6 pm; Saturdays, noon-5 pm. pm. 3245 16th. 863-2108; creativityexplored.org

Feb. 2, 9, 16 & 23: Mamahuho hosts indoor and outdoor MAHJONG Mondays from 6 to 9 pm. 3991 24th. 374-7012; eat-mamahuho.com

Feb. 2, 9 & 23: Toddler STORYTIMES are Mondays, 11:15-11:45 am. Tickets are available starting at 11 am. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

Feb. 3-28: The BAR on Dolores hosts free BINGO for booze and prizes, on Tuesdays, comedy on Thursdays, and mahjong on Saturdays, 8 pm. 1600 Dolores. 695-1745.

Feb. 5 & 9: Thursday morning QIGONG all-level movement and meditation at the Town Square is from 8 to 9 am. 3861 24th. noealleytownsquare.com

Feb. 5, 12, 19 & 26: Family STORYTIMES are Thursdays, 10:15 am and 11 am. Tickets are available at 10 and 10:30 am. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

Feb. 5: Evelyn Rose gives a lecture on 1880s African-American author and entrepreneur ABBY FISHER. 6:30 pm at Omnivore Books on Food, 3885 Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com

Feb. 6: The Bell Appeal Choir plays HANDBELLS at Bethany's "Ring Out Danger: People of Faith Opposed to Gun Violence." 9:30-9:45 am. 1270 Sanchez. 647-8393; bethanysf.org

Feb. 6: The self-guided Castro ART WALK features the works of local artists on the first Friday of the month. 5-8 pm. For a map: castroartwalk.com

Feb. 6: A free Interfaith LABYRINTH Walk is accompanied by meditative music. 7 pm. Bethany United Methodist Church, 1270

CALENDAR

Sanchez. 647-8393.

Feb. 6: The CASTRO THEATRE reopens with a showing of *The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*, a fundraiser for the Castro Community Benefit District. 8 pm. 429 Castro. 621-6120; thecastro.com

Feb. 6-27: The Noe Valley RUN CLUB meets Fridays at Noe Cafe, 1299 Sanchez. 6:45 am for 4 miles, and 7:30 am for 2.5 miles. noealleyrunclub.square.site

Feb. 7-28: The FARMERS MARKET offers fresh produce, food, and music Saturdays, 8 am to 1 pm. Noe Valley Town Square, 3861 24th. noealleytownsquare.com

Feb. 7-28: The NOE WALKS group springs into action on Saturdays. Meet at 24th and Sanchez, 10 am.

Feb. 8: "A Musical Tour of Glen Park" CONCERT by the Lowell Ensemble benefits Glen Park Beautiful. 1-2:30 pm. Bird & Beckett, 653 Chenery. 586-3733; gpbeautiful.org

Feb. 8: The Big Football Game WATCH PARTY at the Noe Valley Town Square begins with the 3:30 pm kickoff, pizza and beer; bring chairs. 3861 24th. noealleytownsquare.com

Feb. 10: A hearing on AT&T's proposed 104-foot cellphone "Monopole" TOWER in Diamond Heights is set for 3 pm at the Board of Supervisors, Room 250, of City Hall. neighbors4safecelltowers@gmail.com

Feb. 10: It's LEGO and board game night at the Noe Valley Library. 6-7:30 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

Feb. 11: Polina Chesnokova describes *Chesnok: Cooking from My Corner of the Diaspora*, with Kate Leahy. 6:30 pm. OMNIVORE BOOKS, 3885 Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com

Feb. 13: The Noe Valley Library screens the 2012 FILM *Middle of Nowhere*. 2-3:45 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

Feb. 13: Running Wylder sponsors a 4-mile Galentines RUN in Noe/Glen Park followed

by a social with That Girl and Mizuno. 6 pm. Make valentines for friends; opposites for the White House. 1354 Castro.

Feb. 13: A VALENTINE'S Day Party at Noe Valley Books features games and activities for all ages. 7 pm. 3957 24th. 590-2961; noealleybooks.com

Feb. 14: Dolores Deluxe hosts a POP-UP for Ovin Loven Pies. 11 am-2 pm. 2500 22nd. doloresdeluxe.com

Feb. 15: Volunteers for the monthly Noe Valley CLEANUP DAY meet at the Town Square. 10 am to noon. 3861 24th. Refuse Refuse, SF Public Works and TogetherSF; mobilize.us

Feb. 15: Sunday MUSIC IN THE SQUARE features singer Amy Obenski from 1 to 2 pm, and jazz from Jackson Moran and Nathaniel Vincent from 2 to 3 pm. Noe Valley Town Square, 3861 24th. noealleytownsquare.com

Feb. 15: City Guides offers a WALKING TOUR of Noe Valley, led by Cathie and Paul Staley, which starts at the Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey, at 2 pm. Registration required: 375-0468; sfcityguides.org

Feb. 15: The chamber chorus Sacred & Profane performs "Fire in My Heart: SONGS of Love" at 4 pm. 1021 Sanchez. Tickets.chorusconnection.com

Feb. 17: Join the ACTION-SF group, strategizing on third Tuesdays, 6 to 7:30 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey; action-sf.com

Feb. 17: Evie Harbury talks about her cookbook *My Bohemian Kitchen* at Omnivore Books, 3885 Cesar Chavez. 6:30 pm. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com

Feb. 21: SF Civic Music Association plays a free afternoon of CHAMBER MUSIC. 3-5 pm. 1021 Sanchez. sfcivicmusic.org

Dolores Deluxe hosts a POP-UP for Gax SF Burger. 10 am-2 pm. 2500 22nd. doloresdeluxe.com

Feb. 22: The Corner Sessions monthly JAZZ concert at Dolores Deluxe runs from

11-3 pm. 2500 22nd. doloresdeluxe.com

Feb. 22: Noe MUSIC features Junction Trio, performing works by John Cage, Beethoven, and Schubert. 4-6 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. noemusic.org

Feb. 23: Townsquare for Democracy hosts a community FORUM, "Trump vs the Environment," with guest speakers Tania Pollak, John Balmes, Cliff Rechtschaffen, and Ellie Cohen. 7-8:30 pm. 1021 Sanchez. Townsquaredemocracy.com

Feb. 24: The Noe Valley Merchants NIGHT MARKET in the Square offers art, food, and live music curated by Lambert Moss, 5 to 8 pm. 3861 24th. noemerchants.com

Feb. 24: Naoko Takei Moore talks with Lauren Saria about Takei Moore's *Simply Donabe: Japanese One-Pot Recipes*, at OMNIVORE BOOKS. 6:30 pm. 3885 Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com

Feb. 24: The SF HISTORY Association hosts a discussion, "The Hidden Treasures of Treasure Island." 7 pm. Sherith Israel, 2266 California. sanfranciscohistory.org

Feb. 26: Tami Parr introduces *Goats in America: A Cultural History*. 6:30 pm at OMNIVORE BOOKS. 3885 Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com

Feb. 27: The Slow Sanchez HAPPY HOUR is scheduled for 4:30 to 6:30 pm at Noe Cafe. 1299 Sanchez. 915-5887; slowsanchez.com

March 4: A BOOK PARTY at Bird & Beckett introduces new memoirs by Noe Valley residents Jan Sollish and Jackie Davis Martin. 7 pm. 653 Chenery. 586-3733.

March 7: Climb the slopes of Rancho San Miguel at a HISTORY WALK led by Shaping San Francisco. Noon-3 pm. Reserve a space at 355-5707 or shaping@foundsf.org

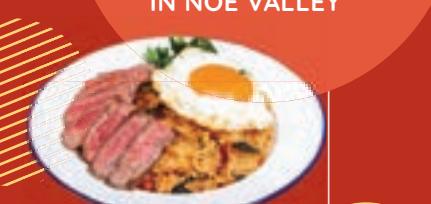
March 7: Make HERSTORY-themed buttons and play a women's history trivia game (ages 8 and up) at the Noe Valley Library. 2:30-3:30 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

Hearts & Flowers: The next Voice Calendar will be for the March 2026 issue. The deadline for calendar items is Feb. 20. Events in Noe Valley receive priority. Email calendar@noealleyvoice.com.

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STORE TREK

Store Trek is a regular feature of the Voice, highlighting new stores and restaurants in Noe Valley. This month, we profile a coffee and sandwich shop on Dolores Street that recently changed its name to be more inviting.

U AND I COFFEE AND SANDWICH SHOP
1300 Dolores Street (at 26th Street)
415-829-3151
uandishop.sf@gmail.com
<https://www.instagram.com/uandicoffeeandsandwichshop/>

Marking its two-year anniversary this month is U and I Coffee and Sandwich Shop, located in a residential building at 1300 Dolores Street, at the corner of Dolores and 26th streets. The neighborhood eatery is popular with police officers, firefighters, and construction workers, many of whom pop in to pick up to-go orders.

Now, co-owner Sameera Madhigi is looking to boost foot traffic from residents in the area. She rebranded the business in mid-December, giving it the longer U and I name to better reflect its mission.

The business first opened on Feb. 6, 2024, as the SF Gourmet Boutique. That moniker confused customers, Madhigi told the *Voice*, and even caused a few to wonder whether the shop was a clothing boutique.

"No one understood we were a coffee shop and sold sandwiches," she said.

To Madhigi, the letters in the new name refer to more than the inclusive "you and I." They are the initials of her nephews Uthman and Idrees, and a reminder of how families and friends can come together to cook and share a meal. Her sister, who is a silent partner in the business, suggested the name last fall.

"It was perfect. I immediately wanted it for the new name," said Madhigi. "It is cute. People can say let's go to U and I, that little shop."

Madhigi is the sole employee at the shop, which is open for breakfast and lunch seven days a week. She uses Illy coffee beans, with a 12 oz. cup of drip coffee offered for \$4 and a 16 oz. for \$4.50.

A hit with customers is her Matcha Latte (12 oz., \$5.50; 16 oz., \$6), which can also be made iced (12 oz., \$6.50;



Customers are welcome to verbally tell U and I co-owner Sameera Madhigi (right) what they'd like to order or they can mark their choices on paper sheets to the left of the deli case.

Photos by Art Bodner

16 oz., \$7.50).

A popular breakfast item is the Avocado Amor, an open-faced sandwich made with avocado, tomatoes, arugula, dill, and feta cheese on toasted sourdough drizzled with a fig balsamic glaze (\$12). There is also the Bonjour Bagel, toasted and served with cream cheese (\$6).

When ordering sandwiches, customers inside the shop use the sheets on the counter to the left of the deli case to check off their choices of meat—such as smoked turkey, pastrami, roast beef, or tuna—and/or cheese, vegetables, or condiments. The sandwiches can be made on rye, French, wheat, Dutch crunch, or sourdough bread. Cold sandwiches cost \$14 and hot ones \$15.

"The hot pastrami sandwich is our number-one seller," said Madhigi, who resides in the East Bay city of Hercules.

The breads—along with an assortment of pastries, from croissants and scones to bear claws and muffins—are delivered fresh daily from City Baking Co.

Atop the deli case at U and I is a menu board with specialty sandwiches; it changes roughly every three months. Currently it features Le Belle Lox (\$12), an open-faced sandwich made with smoked salmon, cream cheese, dill, tomatoes, onions, and capers on toasted sourdough.

Le Café Egg (\$12) is made with egg,

pesto, mozzarella cheese, tomato, and mayo on softer ciabatta bread. The Méditerranéen (\$12) is a veggie pita sandwich stuffed with hummus, tomatoes, cucumber, feta, arugula, and olives.

"The Méditerranéen wrap—people love that," said Madhigi.

The shop also carries various candies, chips, and beverages, including sodas from Dad's, Frostie, and Saranac (\$2.99). It also has Coca-Cola and various bottled water brands.

An assortment of Rock Candy sugar sticks can be found on one wall of shelving, along with boxes of Bit-O-Honey, Whoppers, Sugar Babies, and Charleston Chew. By the register is a box of Moon Pies in vanilla, salted caramel, banana, and chocolate flavors.

"We just like to add things that a lot of businesses in the area don't carry, a lot of nostalgic things," said Madhigi.

She and her sister used to own a grocery store in Vallejo, which they sold to a family member. They decided their next venture would be to open a small cafe in San Francisco. Driving through the city one day, they spotted the vacant Dolores Street storefront for rent.

It once housed the coffeeshop Luv a Java, which closed in 2021. The siblings signed the lease for the 850-square-foot retail space in 2023 and gave it a complete remodel with new tiles and deli equipment.

"We really like Noe Valley. Noe Valley is really beautiful," said Madhigi, adding they also liked the fact that the location was a bit off the beaten path. "We didn't want any competition around us, so we thought it would be the perfect place."

While the business launched in the winter two years ago, selling packaged goods, the deli didn't open until May 22, 2024. Madhigi told the *Voice* she wanted to invite Mayor Daniel Lurie to stop by in hopes he might do a social media post about the business and help attract more customers.

"It is going good, but it could be better," she said.

There is no seating inside or outside, Madhigi noted, because the shop's bathroom is too small to meet current zoning requirements for public use.

"Hopefully, in the future we are going to try to see what we can do [to enlarge the bathroom] when business gets a bit better," said Madhigi.

For now, customers looking for a place to eat their sandwiches can head to Juri Commons Park a short walk away at 26th and Guerrero streets. It has bench seating for enjoying breakfast or lunch outdoors.

U and I Coffee and Sandwich Shop is open daily from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

—Matthew S. Bajko



Sameera Madhigi manages everything at U and I Coffee and Sandwich Shop, including the



U and I sits in a residential building on the corner of Dolores and 26th streets, formerly

MORE FOOD TO EAT

Chicken Wild Rice Soup at Trad Bone Broth

Has there ever been a more perfect pairing than warm chicken soup and a rainy day? A recommendation that I try the **Chicken Wild Rice Soup at Trad Bone Broth** (3903 24th St.) came my way at the *Noe Valley Voice* holiday party, held a day before San Francisco's Dec. 19-20 "atmospheric river."

Local music icon Ben Fong-Torres tipped me off to the dish, and I'm very glad he did. I hadn't realized that Trad offered meal-ready soups, and this one, priced at \$22 for a quart of soup, immediately made an impression.

I sometimes write about indulgent dishes that favor pleasure over prudence. This is not one of those cases. The ingredients here are clean, comforting, and genuinely delicious. I even added a pinch of salt, but don't tell my doctor.

The soup features a savory chicken broth, pasture-raised chicken, wild rice, carrots, onions, and herbs. The shop even includes a bit of parsley on the side, a small thoughtful addition. The chicken is tender and flavorful, and the wild rice is as unprocessed as it gets: pleasantly chewy, hearty, and structured in a

way that adds texture and contrast to the broth. The carrots bring a bit of color that rounds everything out.

Adding to the feel-good factor, the soup is served in a large mason jar—no microplastics, no nonsense (though you can also bring your own container). Note: The mason jar is sold separately at \$2.

If you're looking for something that will keep you warm, satisfied, and feeling virtuous during our cooler months, this is an excellent option. In fact, the soup was so comforting and balanced that I happily went back for three bowls while researching this article.

—Matt Fisher, on the beat for More Food to Eat

Have a suggestion for a dish to try in Noe Valley? Send an email to Matt Fisher at MoreFoodtoEatNoeValley@gmail.com.



UPPER NOE RECREATION CENTER



Pickleballers enjoy an unseasonably warm January day at Upper Noe. Photo by Chris Faust

Join the Upper Noe Gardening Group

Chris Faust of Friends of Upper Noe Recreation Center reports:

Winter Session began Jan. 6 with expanded hours and rainy weather. But clear sunny skies arrived the second week. That's good. The park is now closing later, at 9 p.m., on weekdays.

The new Upper Noe Gardening Group met twice in late January to survey the park's gardens and to plan workdays. The members look forward to preparing the grounds for spring and taking part in the Noe Valley Garden Tour. Meetings are on Saturday mornings. Want to help or learn more about it? Email info@uppernoerecreationcenter.com.

New activities at the gym include Wrestling Camp, Coed Boxing, and Women's Boxing. Advanced Drop-In Volleyball has returned on Wednesday evenings, despite a previous notice that it would not. View the 2026 Winter Catalog and registration information at https://sfrecpark.org/DocumentCenter/View/27791/Winter-Catalog_Web.

Park staff is asking that parents monitor sandbox use and ensure that sand is not carried and dumped in other parts of the playground. The sand is becoming depleted from the box as it is dispersed across the new turf surface. Unlike the previous rubber surface which allowed for the sand to be easily blown back into the box, the turf is more challenging to maintain.

Equipment for pickleball, ping-pong, and other activities is available. Call the Upper Noe Rec Center office, 295 Day St., at **415-970-8061**. For more information, check out the website: www.uppernoerecreationcenter.com.

Friends of Upper Noe Recreation Center is the stewardship group for the rec center and field. Get involved. Contact office personnel and/or San Francisco Customer Service (3-1-1) to improve conditions and keep the park healthy. If you see something out of place, say something.

For issues related to Joby's Dog Run, open 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., call 3-1-1 or email info@fundogs.org.

Upper Noe Winter Session (Jan. 6 to March 14, 2026)

Rec Center Hours, 295 Day St.: Tues.–Fri., 10 a.m.–9 p.m.; Sat., 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Sun. & Mon., rec center closed (outside activities only)

Park Grounds: Daily, 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.



OMNIVORE BOOKS

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UPCOMING EVENTS

TUES
FEB
10

NICKI SIZEMORE IN CONVERSATION WITH GEORGIA FREEDMAN • MIND, BODY, SPIRIT, FOOD • 6:30 P.M.

FREE! Nicki Sizemore turns cooking into mindful self-care with 51 gluten-free recipes, simple rituals, and joyful ways to savor every meal.

WED
FEB
11

POLINA CHESNAKOVA IN CONVERSATION WITH KATE LEAHY • CHESNOK • 6:30 P.M. FREE!

100 recipes from the Soviet diaspora with stories, traditions, and cherished flavors across Eastern Europe & Central Asia.

TUES
FEB
17

EVIE HARBURY IN CONVERSATION WITH NICOLE ACCETTOLA • MY BOHEMIAN KITCHEN • 6:30 P.M.

FREE! Celebrate Czech food with nostalgic stories, regional recipes, and modern twists on beloved Bohemian flavors.

THURS
FEB
19

NATASHA PICKOWICZ IN CONVERSATION WITH ELEANORE PARK • EVERYONE HOT POT • 6:30 P.M.

FREE! Four unique hot pot menus from a four-time James Beard-nominated chef bring this cozy, communal tradition to your home table.

MON
FEB
23

OFF-SITE EVENT! AN EVENING WITH YOTAM OTTOLENGHI AT THE SYDNEY GOLDSTEIN THEATER • 7:30 P.M. FREE!

Visit cityarts.net for details & tickets.

TUES
FEB
24

NAOKO TAKEI MOORE IN CONVERSATION WITH LAUREN SARIA • SIMPLY DONABE • 6:30 P.M. FREE!

Donabe pots turn your ingredients into soulful meals, adding ritual to home cooking.

THURS
FEB
26

TAMI PARR IN CONVERSATION WITH JANET FLETCHER • GOATS IN AMERICA • 6:30 P.M. FREE!

Goats have shaped American life for centuries, from milk to mischief, revealing surprising culture, history & humanity.

OMNIVORE BOOKS ON FOOD

3885A CESAR CHAVEZ STREET (AT CHURCH ST) SAN FRANCISCO, CA

PHONE: 415.282.4712 OMNIVOREBOOKS.COM

Tuesday

9 to 10 a.m. Zumba (outside) **FREE**

10 to 11:30 a.m. A Place to Play **FREE**

10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Pickleball (all ages)

12 to 1 p.m. Pilates (18+)

1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Strength & Flexibility (18+)

2 to 5 p.m. Open Basketball (ages 6-17) **FREE**

6 to 7 p.m. Tennis—Beginning (ages 8-10)

6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Yoga Vinyasa (18+)

6:30 to 8:45 p.m. Open Basketball (18+) **FREE**

7 to 8 p.m. Tennis—Beginning / Intermediate (18+)

Wednesday

10 to 11:30 a.m. A Place to Play **FREE**

12 to 1 p.m. Feldenkrais (18+)

2 to 5 p.m. Open Basketball (ages 6-17) **FREE**

6 to 8:45 p.m. Advanced Drop-in Volleyball (18+)

6:30 to 8 p.m. Coed Boxing (14+) **FREE**

7 to 8 p.m. Tennis—Beginning / Intermediate (18+)

Thursday

10 to 11:30 a.m. A Place to Play **FREE**

10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Pickleball (18+) **FREE**

12 to 1 p.m. Pilates (18+)

1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Strength & Flexibility (18+)

4 to 5 p.m. Petite Bakers (ages 3-5)

4:30 to 6 p.m. A Place to Play **FREE**

6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Yoga Vinyasa (18+)

6:30 to 8:45 p.m. Open Basketball (18+) **FREE**

Friday

9 to 10 a.m. Zumba (outside) **FREE**

10 to 11:30 a.m. A Place to Play **FREE**

2 to 5 p.m. Open Basketball (ages 6-17) **FREE**

2 to 6 p.m. A Place to Play **FREE**

6 to 7 p.m. Tennis—Beginning (ages 8-10)

6:30 to 8 p.m. Women's Boxing (ages 14+)

7 to 8 p.m. Tennis—Beginning / Intermediate (18+)

Saturday

9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Open Basketball (all ages) **FREE**

9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Family Zumba—Play Pass \$5

11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. A Place to Play **FREE**

3 to 4 p.m. Wrestling—Camp Grapple (ages 7-13)

Thursday

10 to 11:30 a.m. A Place to Play **FREE**

10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Pickleball (18+) **FREE**

12 to 1 p.m. Pilates (18+)

CHILDREN'S FICTION

A girl follows a trail of custard tart crumbs to locate her grandfather, in *Yaya and the Dan-tats* by Camellia Koo, illustrated by Phoebe Xiao. Ages 4-7.

Each crayon needs to have a treat to fall asleep in *Goodnight, Crayons*, story by Drew Daywalt, illustrations by Oliver Jeffers. Ages 4-8.

A Filipina-American girl prepares a package to send to relatives in *Bea's Balikbayan Box of Treasures*, written by Christine Aleman, illustrated by Dream Chen. Ages 5-6.

Twins handle the winds in the Oklahoma panhandle during the Dust Bowl in *Where Only Storms Grow* by Alyssa Colman. Ages 8-12.

CHILDREN'S NONFICTION

Fortune Cookies for Everyone! The Surprised Story of the Tasty Treat We Love to Eat is by Mia Wenjen and illustrator Colleen Kong-Savage. Ages 4-7.

In Forests, Nell Cross Beckerman and illustrator Kalen Chock discover adventure in tree-filled ecosystems. Ages 4-8.

The Dog Who Saved the Bees, by Stephanie Gibeault with illustrations by David Hohn, tells the story of Mack, who detects a disease in the hives. Ages 5-8.

The Book of World Records 2026 was compiled by Blythe Bouza, Michael Bright, Chris Hawkes, Abigail Mitchell, Cynthia O'Brien, Mike Robbins, Donald Sommerville, and Antonia van der Meer.

CHILDREN'S EBOOKS

SD Youngwolf's picture book *The Echo People* (illustrated by Shonto Begay), follows the journey of Alyanna and Little Wolf, and their grandfather, a chief, to a sacred place. Ages 3 to 5.

Every Body Move! by Jenna Elyse Johnson with illustrations by Ananya Rao-Middleton, inspires children and parents to sing along as they move. Ages 3-5.

In Watch Out for Falling Iguanas, by Edwidge Danticat and Rachel Moss, Leila learns from her grandmother about Miami's unique creatures. Ages 4-8.

Kids find out what to expect at school in *On the First Day of Kindergarten: A Rhyming Read-Aloud* by Tish Rabe, illustrated by Laura Hughes. Ages 5-6.

TEEN FICTION

A girl has a crush on the bear mascot, in *Angelica and the Bear Prince*, a graphic novel by Trung Le Nguyen. Ages 12-17.

The Same Backward as Forward by Jennifer Lynn Barnes (think *The Inheritance Games*) tells Hannah's story, then flips to tell Toby's. Ages 12-18.

In We Fell Apart, by E. Lockhart, Matilda finally meets her father and is reunited with her long-lost brother. Ages 15-18.

In Jeff Lemire's graphic novel *Minor Arcana*, Theresa returns to her hometown to take care of her psychic mother. Ages 16-18.

TEEN NONFICTION

Do Not Disturb: How to Say No to Your Phone, by Brad Marshall, is a guide to a healthy relationship. Ages 8 and up.

Taylor Cassidy's *Black History Is Your History* (illustrated by Adriana Bellet)

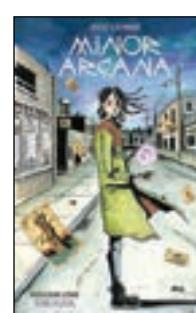
CROSSWORD SOLUTION

Fairy Tale by Michael Blake



MORE BOOKS TO READ

Reading Is a Good Escape



A good book can take you away from the chaos of the real world. May we show you something in a new title from the Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Library, courtesy of Children's Librarian Madeleine Felder, Youth Librarian Cristal Fiel, and Adult Services Librarian Amy Lewis?

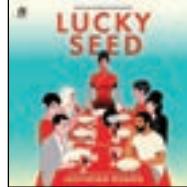
Once again, we thank them for sharing their latest in books and films. To put items on hold, visit SFPL.org or download the app at sfpl.org/services/mobile-resources/library-catalog-mobile-apps.

Want to come back to Earth? Walk to the historic building at 451 Jersey St., and sit on the deck. If you need to speak with Lewis, Felder, or Fiel, ask at the library or call 415-355-5707. We've been told that branch manager Mary Fobbs-Guillory is on leave—we hope for just a short while. We miss her. Please note all city libraries will be closed on Feb. 16, Presidents Day.

Meanwhile, help me thank my Deputy Chief, April Fools Consultant, and Bookworm, of

course (for only about 50 years here at the *Noe Valley Voice*): Karol Barske. She composes the book descriptions and makes us smile with little drawings like this one.

—Sally Smith, ed.



interweaves a memoir and a story collection. Ages 12 and up.

In *Bad Boy: A Graphic Memoir*, Walter Dean Myers depicts the Harlem of the 1940s and '50s. Age 13 and up.

Raymond Santana, one of the Central Park Five, reflects on wrongful conviction in *Pushing Hope*, a memoir illustrated by Keith Henry Brown. Ages 14-17.

TEEN EBOOKS

Tori's bohemian dream of living in Paris becomes a nightmare when vampires attack the city, in *The Uninvited* by Nancy Banks. Ages 12-17.

In *Kirsty McKay's Seven All Alone*, Maggie's trip to the mountains brings back memories of her kidnapping. Ages 12-17.

Cassidy is asked to teach a teen heart-throb how to be a cowboy in a sit-com in *Trail Rides & Starry Eyes* by Katrina Emmel. Ages 12-17.

Ava Reid's *Archive of Romance* holds the maps and diary entries of Effy and Preston's love story. Ages 14 and up.

ADULT FICTION

A mother who ran to freedom explains why in a letter to her daughter, in *The White Hot* by Quiara Alegria Hudes.

Meet the dark humor and "explosive weirdness" of short-story writer Joy Williams in *The Pelican Child*.

A young woman in Lagos is accused of being the reincarnation of her dead cousin, in *Cursed Daughters* by Oyinkan Braithwaite.

Justinian Huang's saga *Lucky Seed* is a humorous tale about a wealthy family

waiting for a male heir.

ADULT NONFICTION

Sean Sherman offers native recipes in *Turtle Island: Foods and Traditions of the Indigenous Peoples of North America*.

The Tree of Life: Solving Science's Greatest Puzzle, by evolutionary biologist Max Telford, examines the relationships of earth's species.

In *Philosopher in the Valley: Alex Karp, Palantir, and the Rise of the Surveillance State*, Michael Steinberger offers an analysis of a technology firm in the 21st century.

Conny Den Hollander describes the work of an influential Dutch gardener, in *The Gardens of Mien Ruys: Strong Design, Lush Planting, and the Origins of the Modernist Garden*.

ADULT EBOOKS

In *Book of Lives: A Memoir of Sorts*, Margaret Atwood starts with her childhood in northern Quebec.

Joseph J. Ellis examines the Revolutionary era in *The Great Contradiction: The Tragic Side of the American Founding*.

Helm by Sarah Hall is a fictional history of a ferocious wind that intermittently blows through Northern England.

Neighbors in an English country village confront their resentments in *The Land in Winter* by Andrew Miller.

ADULT DVD/BLU-RAY

Bugonia (2025) stars Emma Stone and Jesse Plemons in a satire about an alien invasion, directed by Yorgos Lanthimos.

LIBRARY EVENTS

All events take place at the Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Library, 451 Jersey St., and are drop-in unless otherwise noted. Be aware events are first come, first served. For information, visit sfpl.org or call the branch at 415-355-5707.

Storytime for Toddlers, ages 16 months to 2 years, are Mondays 10:15-11:45 a.m., Feb. 2, 9 & 23 (March 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30). Space is limited; tickets available at the door, 10 a.m.

Ages 10 through 18 can work on school projects, with help from librarians, at **Homework Hangout**; snacks available by request, on Tuesday, Feb. 3 (and March 3), from 3:30 to 5 p.m.

Family Storytimes are on Thursdays at 10:15 a.m. and 11 a.m., Feb. 5, 12, 19 & 26. Space is limited; tickets available at the front door beginning at 10 a.m.

The Noe Valley Knitting Circle welcomes those who knit, crochet, tat, and macrame. Meet on Saturday, Feb. 7 (March 7), from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

A concert by a **Guitar Trifecta** (Lloyd Gregory, Carl Lockett and Eddie Pasternak) fuses classical, jazz, and R&B Saturday, Feb. 7, from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Drop in for **Tech Help** on Monday, Feb. 9 (March 9) from 2 to 3 p.m.

Family LEGO and Board Game Night is a mountain of fun on Tuesday, Feb. 10 (March 10), from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

The Noe Library screens the adult-appropriate **Film Middle of Nowhere** on Friday, Feb. 13, from 2 to 3:45 p.m.

Go to **SFCityGuides.org** to reserve a spot in a local history tour: "Noe Valley: Village Within the City," Sunday, Feb. 15 (or Saturday, March 7), from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Space is limited; registration required. Meet at 451 Jersey St.

The **Short Stack Book Club** discusses *The Friend* by Sigrid Nunez on Friday, Feb. 20, from 3 to 4 p.m. Copies are held at the Noe Valley Library circulation desk for checkout.

Children and their caregivers can learn about artist Alma Thomas at a **Read Aloud and Craft** get-together on Saturday, Feb. 21, from 2:30 to 3:45 p.m.

SF public school students in 9th to 12th grades are invited to **Basic Budgeting for Teens**, on Sunday, Feb. 22, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Pajama Storytime includes stories, songs, and movement for children and their caregivers on Tuesday, Feb. 24, from 6:30 to 7 p.m.

Adults can create a **Rubber Stamp** at a workshop on Saturday, Feb. 28, from 2 to 3 p.m.

Walk the steep slopes of Rancho San Miguel with the **Shaping San Francisco Walking Tour** on Saturday, March 7, noon to 3 p.m. Reserve at 355-5707 or email shaping@foundsf.org.

Make **Herstory** themed buttons and play a women's history **Trivia Game**, for ages 8 and up, Saturday, March 7, 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Dear Luke. Love. Me., a 2025 romance made by Guillermo Diaz, features Ashlie Sharpe Chestnut and Nick Eversman.

Roofman, a 2025 dark comedy directed by Derek Cianfrance, stars Channing Tatum and Kirsten Dunst.

Samurai Fury (2025), a Japanese action film starring Yasushi Ami and Akira Emoto, is written and directed by Yû Irie.

Good Fortune (2025) is a comedy starring Seth Rogen and Aziz Ansari, who also directed it.

—Annotations by Voice bookworm Karol Barske

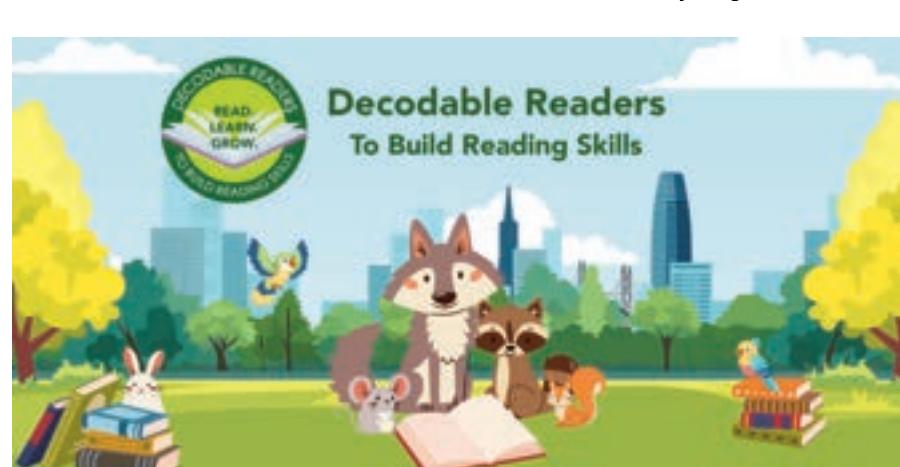
BRANCH HOURS

Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Branch Library

451 Jersey St., 415-355-5707

Sun Mon Tues Wed Thurs Fri Sat

1-5 11-6 10-8 12-8 10-6 1-6 10-6



Action SF, the National Movement in Your Neighborhood

<https://m.facebook.com/ActionSFactivism/>
 Website: <http://www.action-sf.com/>
 Email: ActionSFTeam@gmail.com
 Meetings: Usually third Tues., Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey, 6-7:30 p.m.

Al-Anon Noe Valley

Contact: 834-9940; office@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). Thursdays, 7:15-8:30 p.m. Bethany UMC, 1270 Sanchez St. (enter through Clipper Street side door and go up the stairs)

Castro Merchants

Contacts: Terry Asten Bennett, President; Address: 584 Castro St. #333, SF, CA 94114 Email: info@CastroMerchants.com

Comerford Greenway

Contact: Howard Fallon Email: ComerfordGreenway@gmail.com Website: www.sanfranciscoparksalliance.org/partners/comerford-greenway/ Monthly workdays in Comerford Alley.

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 Lili Wu, 647-0235. Address: 560 Duncan St., SF, CA 94131. Meetings: Call for details.

Eureka Valley Neighborhood Assn.

Contact: Board@evna.org Address: P.O. Box 14137, SF, CA 94114

Meetings: See website Events. Castro Meeting Room, 501 Castro St., 7 p.m.

MORE GROUPS TO JOIN**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.

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 Christopher Park

Contact: Brynna McNulty, 818-744-4230 Email: friendsofchristopherpark@gmail.com Website: FriendsofChristopherPark.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: noecourts@gmail.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@friendsnofnevalley.com Website: friendsnofnevalley.com Meetings: Two or three annually.

Friends of Slow Sanchez

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

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 (FUNDOG)

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, 917-6290 Email: dave@schweisguth.org Website: meetup.com/Juri-Commoners

The group is on hiatus and seeking a new leader. Call Dave. "Tidy up when you can."

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.

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: Sam Maslin, President Email: noevalleydemocrats@gmail.com Website: www.noevalleydemocrats.org Meetings: Monthly at Valley Tavern or Tacolicious, dates publicized on website.

Noe Valley Farmers Market

Open Saturdays, 8 a.m. to 2 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: Kristen McCaffery, President, Kristen@novysf@gmail.com, 829-8383; or Kathryn Gianaras, Vice President, Kathryn@novysf@gmail.com Meetings: 9 a.m. Call to confirm location. Website: www.noemerchants.com www.NoeValleyMerchants.com

Noe Valley Parent Network

An e-mail resource network for parents Contact: Mina Kervin Email: minaken@gmail.com noevalueyparentssubscribe@yahooroups.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](https://www.facebook.com/ProgressNoeValley) Email: progressnoe@gmail.com Website: progressnoe.com Meetings: Check Facebook page for current meeting and event schedule.

San Francisco NERT (Neighborhood Emergency Response Team)

Contact: Noe Valley NERT Neighborhood Team co-coordinators Maxine Fasulis, mfasulis@yahoo.com; Carole Roberts, carole_roberts@faluudi.com Website: [https://SF-fire.org/nert](http://SF-fire.org/nert) Visit the website to sign up for trainings.

Upper Noe Merchants

Contact: Info@UpperNoeNeighbors.com; [https://uppernoeneighbors.com/merchants/](http://uppernoeneighbors.com/merchants/)

Upper Noe Neighbors

Contact: Chris Faust Email: Hello@UpperNoeNeighbors.com Website: www.uppernoeneighbors.com Meetings: Bi-monthly on third Wednesdays. 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 cushy
 be adored
 be home.

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and now for the RUMORS behind the news

Still Turning 2026

By Mazook

HAPPY NEW YEAR: There's a lot to catch up on since we left you in December. National news was centered on the horrifying ICE tactics, making it not a very happy January for the 97 percent of Noe Valley voters who cast ballots for someone other than Trump in the 2024 election. Hopefully, we will have our say in the mid-terms.



BEST-DRESSED WINDOWS: Downtown Noe Valley stores via the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association held a contest in December for the best holiday decorations in their front windows. They were viewed and rated by a group of local judges. Contest organizer Dave Karraker of MX3 Fitness announced the winners like so:

"Drum roll, please! We have the winners for the 2025 Noel Valley Windows & Parklets Holiday Decorating Competition. Competition this year was very tough, with an increase in the number of windows with holiday flair over last year (yay!).

Bringing home the golden trophy and prize package for Most Festive was Noe's Nest Bed and Breakfast with their elaborate display. Most Fun went to Mio Mio Salon, which featured a huge amount of creativity and whimsy. And in our closest contest, Trad Bone Broth beat out Moonshot Studio by a single point to bring home the award for Most San Francisco."

Karraker thanked the many businesses that provided prizes for the winners, including Just for Fun, Easy Breezy, TressWorks, Wink, Novy, MX3 Fitness, Perfectly Seasoned, Small Frys, When Modern Was, Trad Bone Broth, and Mio Mio Salon."

The judges were Karraker, Holly Reeves of RGH Designs, Merchants Association president Kristen McCaffery, Noe Valley Town Square chief Leslie Crawford, and Noe Valley Voice leader (and my esteemed editor) Sally Smith.



NOE WILL BE TELEVISED: Teresa Fitzgerald, owner of the aforementioned Moonshot Studio, tells me that Moonshot was featured on ABC/KRON4's *LIVE! in the Bay* daytime TV show on Jan. 9. During an approximately five-minute custom candle-making demonstration, she mentioned the store's Noe Valley location in her introductory comments. You can watch it online—just Google "Moonshot Jan. 9 KRON4" and the video will pop up.

Says Fitzgerald, "It was my second time on the show (July 2023 was the first), sharing the fun and creativity of scent-blending and custom candle-making with their audience, and another terrific experience with a very professional production staff."



NOTHING BUT FUN can be found these days at the Dolores Deluxe deli/café at the corner of 22nd and Dolores. The place is hosting jazz concerts and food popups, and they're also doing a podcast airing news and interviews with local chefs.

Ovin Loven Pie will pop up with their pastries on Valentine's Day, Feb. 14, from



In December, the judges in the Noel Valley Windows & Parklets Holiday Decorating Competition—including (l-r) Dave Karraker, Holly Reeves, Kristen McCaffery, and Leslie Crawford—set about picking the winners. It wasn't easy to choose in the Most San Francisco category, but Trad Bone Broth showed it wanted the prize. Photos by Sally Smith and Corrie M. Anders

11 a.m. to 2 p.m., and then again on Feb. 19 and Feb. 26 (4 to 7 p.m.). Next, there's Gax SF Burgers' pop-up on Saturday, Feb. 21, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Corner Sessions jazz concert is on Sunday, Feb. 22, from 1 to 3 p.m.

In March, you could try the Okkon Japanese Fusion popup (March 1, noon-4 p.m.) or Tacos El Gran Mac (March 8, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.).

All the events are listed on DoloresDeluxe.com, even the Forever Neighbor Podcast, hosted by the deli's chef/owner Ramzi Buday.



GAMES PEOPLE PLAY: Live old-school Bar Bingo games started in December at The Dubliner (3838 24th). They happen on Wednesdays from 8 to 10 p.m. And the bar's Trivia Night continues on Tuesdays, 8 to 10 p.m. Prizes may range from a pint of beer and tee shirts to key chains, and bottle openers.

Noe Valley organizer Andrew Keeler ("Mister Mahjong") says Mamahuu (3991 24th) is attracting crowds to the mahjong on Mondays, from 6 to 9 p.m. Players play a choice of Chinese and American-style games, both inside and outside the restaurant. Search for "Mahjong Monday Drop-in at Mamahuu Noe Valley."

On the food front, after nearly four years as an elegant indoor restaurant, chef Tracy Goh's Damansara (1781 Church) has switched from dine-in to to-go. It will be all takeout so that its menu of Malaysian, Singaporean, Indonesian, Thai, Chinese, Indian, and Burmese cuisine will be more affordable.

The Slow Sanchez community group tells us what to expect in 2026 in its latest newsletter. They have a \$5,000 grant application to SF Beautiful to add "vegetated planters" in the bulb-out area of Sanchez and Day streets. They are also busy creating sidewalk gardens to help neighbors add permanent greenery along Sanchez.

Don't miss the Slow Sanchez Happy Hour at Noe Cafe (1299 Sanchez) on Friday, Feb. 27, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

And don't forget this: In February, Firefly (4288 24th) holds its annual public school fundraiser, where it donates 20 percent of the cost of your food and beverage to your favorite San Francisco public school. "All you have to do is come in for dinner on any Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday, and mention your school of choice to your server," the restaurant says. Reservations may be made at fireflysf.com.



HEAR'S TO YOU: Born and raised in Noe Valley, Jessica Limer Flores has become famous worldwide as a deaf-awareness rights advocate. Her mom,

Christina Marie Flores (now) Bradley, has been a longtime friend of mine. Our kids played together at Martha's Coffee on Church Street back in the 1990s. I often meet her while she is on her daily walk in Downtown Noe Valley. Christina proudly points out that "Jessica is from a family that is four generations Noe." She was born in 1988.

When I saw Christina recently, she told me some exciting news: Jessica, who is also an artist, improviser, comedian, and YouTuber, is playing a patient in several episodes of season two of *The Pitt*, which premiered on Max (now HBO Max) in January a year ago. The series is described as "a medical procedural drama...that follows an emergency department staff as they attempt to overcome the hardships of a single 15-hour work shift at the fictional Pittsburgh Trauma Medical Center, all while having to navigate staff shortages and underfunding." The show is huge—it just won Best TV Series—Drama at the Golden Globes.

Jessica Flores is also featured in an ABC-7 TV News interview from April 3, 2024 (but it's still streaming online, so you can easily find it by googling). One part includes a Flores home video. "When she was a girl," the narrator says, "Jessica Flores was among a group of children singing holiday songs at a church in San Francisco. In the video her father recorded, you can see as she struggles to keep up with the singing but couldn't understand why...." The message Flores tries to convey in the interview is that society should try to detect and treat hearing problems as early as possible.

Jessica "Limer" Flores, known also as @YoJessicaFlores, chats and signs with others who are deaf via her own live streams on YouTube and other media. She is truly inspiring.

I am now and have always been a proud Noe Valleyon.



A PROUD PROTEST: Running Wylder, Omnivore Books, Bones Bagels, and Firefly restaurant were among the many local businesses that participated in the one-day "no work, no school, and no shopping" nationwide strike Friday, Jan. 30, to protest Trump's immigration policies and express their outrage over the killings in Minnesota.

When the Voice checked with her afterwards, Celia Sack of Omnivore said, "Remember when America was proud to be a melting pot of people from all over the world? We decided to close during the National General Strike in solidarity with the citizens (and non-citizens) of Minneapolis, who are under siege by goons who believe America is better off without immigrants.

"I asked my staff how they felt about

us closing. I told them I would still pay them, but I asked would they want to close even if I didn't? It was a unanimous yes. We are a small shop, and losing a day's sales is not easy, but that is the definition of sacrifice.

"It was well worth it to take a stand, because immigrants are what makes America great."



YOU AUTO KNOW about a big-time local car crash. On my daily walk on Jan. 26, I climbed the 50 stairs on the 22nd Street hill from Church Street. It is the 11th steepest hill in San Francisco, with warnings to vehicle drivers at its crest at Vicksburg.

On the south side of the block, I saw the remains of an auto crash. The car had been towed away but lots of metal and broken glass remained, along with cement chunks and other signs of damage to the sidewalk and nearby residences.

When I reached the top, I met a fellow walking who said he lived close to the crest. "What happened?" I asked.

He told me that at about 1 a.m. he was awakened by his house shaking like an earthquake. "When I went outside to see what was happening, I saw the crest of the hill was blocked by police vehicles, with red lights flashing and police officers with guns drawn pointing down the hill. I went back to my house."

Apparently, the police were chasing a car turning east on Sanchez driven by someone not familiar with the huge drop of the road. They flew halfway down the hill, crashing into the steps and the fronts of several houses on the hill.

The next morning at Martha's, I encountered two police officers from Mission Station. I asked them what happened. They told me they were both off the past two days, but "it was the talk of the station," and they said I should call and ask.

I did and asked to talk to the captain or a lieutenant about the incident. An officer called me back in the afternoon and not surprisingly told me, "We are aware of that matter, and it is currently under investigation."

Hopefully I can talk to some of the property owners and give you an update in next month's Voice.

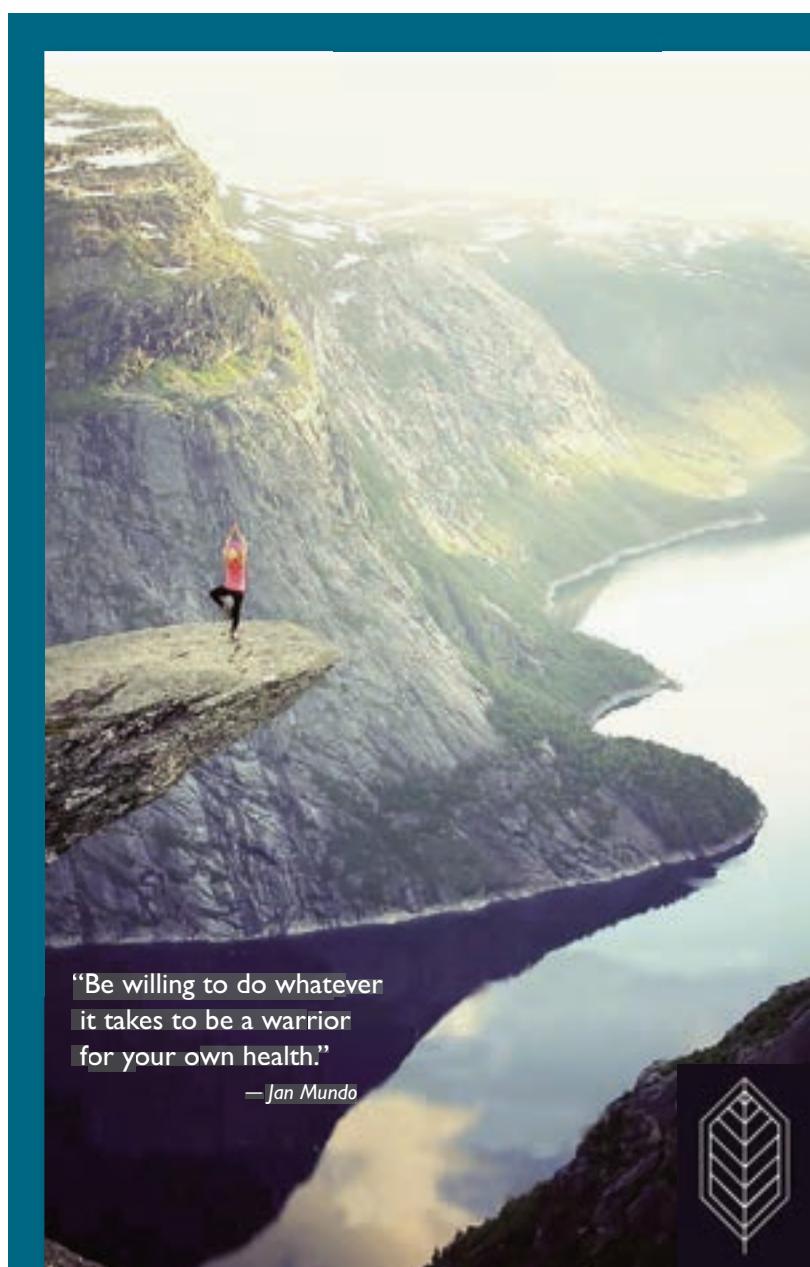


SAD NOTES: Sorry to see that Terrasol, at 1307 Castro, may be closing or has closed. "It's shutting its doors after two decades in San Francisco" was the word from one of its longtime fans. "It's the end of an era for the charming boutique Terrasol. The owners, Stephen and Alberto, filled the shop with the most quirky and fun stuff, celebrating all holidays and special occasions. The shop is closing at the end of January. Let's shop and help them clear out the store!"

Also just heard about the passing of Larry Reed, a theater director with international fame. He died Jan. 30 at his longtime home on Chattanooga Street. Reed was a multi-talented artist best known as the founder of ShadowLight Productions. He created amazing shadow theater with puppets, cutouts, and live actors. Larry's shows, many at the Noe Valley Ministry, delighted adults and children alike. He was 81. We will miss him.



THAT'S ALL, FOLKS. See you as we march toward March. And don't forget to register to vote.



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