



Neighborhood News

We Replanted Merritt Park!

As promised in the November newsletter, a few weeks ago in yet another endeavor led by Leslie, many new flowers, plants, and trees were added to the Merritt/Danvers/Market park. Planting was intentionally postponed to November on the recommendation of our consulting horticulturalist. The selected plants are suited for our climate and are largely drought tolerant. Once they grow a bit more, we think they will be spectacular. Take a look immediately below at the "after" photos. A few "before" photos are at the end of this newsletter. Thanks again to Leslie for leading this effort, and to John for doing some of the mechanical work on the irrigation system that is necessary in the initial weeks after planting -- but given the recent rains, not now. Immense thanks also to Francisco for spreading tons of stone and gravel, creating the beautiful new pathways. Please stop by to take a closer look!



Maria -- and Al's Park

CHN held a successful work party at Al's Park on November 5, attended by several CHN members as well as neighbors, some of whom live directly across the street or on the same block. The Park was spruced up, shrubbery and trees trimmed, and weeds removed. We met some old friends! Thanks to those who attended, and

special thanks to Maria for arranging this - again. Sadly for us, Maria and her family are leaving the City at the end of the year, so we will be deprived of her wisdom and common sense on the Board of Directors as well as her enthusiasm and leadership for maintaining and enhancing Al's Park. Here it should be noted that a couple years ago (was it longer than that?) Maria pushed us to take-on Al's in a more aggressive way. She was right, and the park's condition now is the best evidence of that. Thank you, Maria, we will miss you, but best wishes as you write your next chapter!

Castro Merchants & Street Conditions

As you know from the last newsletter, on October 28 and at the insistence of Castro Merchants there was a meeting at Jane Warner Plaza attended by a number of City officials to speak with the Merchants' group and neighbors about the newly coordinated effort to improve street conditions in the Castro. Almost 2 months in, we leave it to you to decide how much has changed. A representative of Castro Merchants recently put it to us this way: there are good days and bad days but fundamentally not much has changed. We will keep you posted because we were hoping for more.

Castro Theatre Update

The historic preservation report for the theater was due at the December 7 joint meeting of the Planning Commission and the Historic Preservation Commission. But this past Wednesday the Historic Preservation Committee voted to continue the matter until February 1, 2023. And, there is landmark legislation sponsored by Supervisor Mandelman that is pending. Fair to say it's a big hot mess. Many of the details can be found here:

<https://www.sfgate.com/local/article/castro-theatre-landmark-status-delay-17641400.php>

Ord/17th Street

The pedestrian situation at this crossing continues to be less than satisfactory even after the repaving and the painting of bright white lines for pedestrian crossings.

Casey has been in contact with relevant City officials who seem to have concluded that nothing more is warranted. CHN members and neighbors are invited to email us with reports of incidents or to provide us with information as we continue to seek some improvement.

CHN Goals for 2023

At its last Board meeting, the Board of Directors discussed CHN goals for 2023. We agreed to continue as in the past, focusing on the parks and such other matters as directly affect the neighborhood. The bylaws enumerate the goals of the organization. They can be found here, at the top of page 2:

<https://www.corbettneighbors.com/uploads/1/2/7/5/127586326/chn.bylaws.2022.pdf>
CHN members are invited to email us with specific goals, issues, suggestions, or concerns as we jump into 2023.

Traffic Enforcement & the Police Commission

Continuing our report on this matter, in early December three members of the Police Commission released a revised traffic enforcement order dated December 14. In response to community feedback, the new one has been substantially revised. In brief, the purpose has been changed from reducing racial bias in the enforcement of traffic laws to: "curtail the practice of stopping for low-level traffic offenses as a pretext to investigate hunches..." that a crime has occurred. The revised order deleted a number of stops that had been barred in the prior order, such as littering, many otherwise illegal U-turns, driving without headlights, failure to display license plates, and most parking infractions if the vehicle is occupied. The revised order is nuanced and somewhat complicated but in general it would prohibit stops for failure to signal while turning or changing lanes, failure to display registration tags, sleeping in a car, and stopping bicyclists for an infraction unless there is an

immediate danger that they will crash into a vehicle (but not a pedestrian). The Commission held a hearing on the revised order on December 7. From that hearing, one can conclude (a) that there at least 4 of 7 votes for this order or something similar to it, and (b) that yet another draft will be prepared, partly (perhaps) in response to public comment but certainly because Chief Scott's office apparently will have additional suggestions. It's not clear when the next draft will be released, perhaps later this month but if not certainly in January. The December 14 version of the order, along with a cover letter of explanation and a "red line" version of changes, can be found here:

https://sf.gov/sites/default/files/2022-12/PoliceCommission12722-DGO%209.01_DRAFT_12.01.22_FINAL_revisedletterhead_1.pdf

Who Knew This Neighborhood History?

Our Chief Researcher (CR), Treasurer, and Senior Landscape Architect (that would be Leslie) brings to our attention the sign, below, that was photographed at the corner of Corbett and Douglass. We on the newsletter staff did not know the sign was there, or even the restrictions that it describes. According to our CR, installation of the sign was arranged by one Mae Silver in the 1970s because tourist buses used Corbett Avenue en route to Twin peaks. And, who knew also that MTA has a map of the restricted streets in San Francisco. One can see that Corbett is so restricted:

https://www.sfmta.com/sites/default/files/pdf_map/2017/12/streetrestrictions.pdf
Thank you Mae Silver!



Merritt Park Before the Replanting



Thank you for your support and interest in enhancing the character of our neighborhood.

In the meantime, you can contact us at:
info@corbettneighbors.com

Paul Allen, Secretary
December 11, 2022

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