

# PAR Planning Association for the Richmond

## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

### The San Francisco Village: Helping Richmond Residents Stay in Their Homes as They Age *and* Fresh & Easy: A New Food Store for the District



**Wednesday, 15 April 2009, 7:00 p.m.**

**Richmond Recreation Center**

**251 18th Avenue (between Clement & California Streets)**

Paid parking is available one block away in the lot behind the  
Alexandria Theatre between Clement Street and Geary Boulevard.

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#### *PRESIDENT'S LETTER*

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Dear PAR Members,  
Several months ago we watched as the economy began its tumble and wondered just how far down we would find its floor. Today, we still do not know where that floor is or when we will arrive at it. We assume and hope we are getting near it.

In terms of home foreclosures, home price deflation, and lost jobs, it appears that residents of San Francisco and the Richmond District may have, in general, been spared the worst. Of course, any resident who has been individually affected by any of those factors is experiencing the worst, and PAR extends its sympathies and offers whatever assistance it can provide.

But the economic downturn has certainly affected us in other ways. We see scattered and prolonged vacancies in commercial properties within the Richmond District. Many of us look at our grocery bills and wonder how we can economize. And older residents who have planned and saved for a

secure retirement are facing losses in retirement savings that have them wondering about their future. The next quarterly meeting of the general membership on April 15th will focus on these two topics.

You may be wondering about the long-vacant building at the corner of 32nd Avenue and Clement Street that was formerly an Albertsons food store. Some of the mystery will be resolved at our April 15th meeting. Representatives of the new lessee, Tesco, Ltd., a British firm that owns and operates Fresh & Easy food stores throughout the United States as well as stores in the United Kingdom and other parts of the world, will join us to describe and discuss plans for this site.

And addressing concerns of seniors and their families, we will hear from representatives of the San Francisco Village ([www.sfvillage.org](http://www.sfvillage.org)), a new program co-sponsored by St. James Episcopal Church. The San Francisco Village enables seniors to remain

in their homes, continuing to live independently in the Richmond District.

Updates will also be provided on other issues that affect residents of the Richmond District, including:

- the latest accomplishments for the Muni's Transit Effectiveness Project (TEP),
- the latest plans for a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) along Geary Boulevard,
- the Municipal Transportation Authority's latest plans for the "Mid-Richmond District Traffic Calming Project,"
- the latest plans for Golden Gate Park and this summer's mega-concerts and events, and
- the new and revised plans for a contemporary art museum and a new lodge at the Main Post in the Presidio, among others.

We are looking forward to seeing you there, ready for a lively discussion.

Ray

*Raymond R. Holland  
President*

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# What's happening in the Richmond District

## Libraries

The long awaited Re-Opening Party for the Richmond/Senator Milton Marks Library will take place Saturday, May 16.

Speeches by local dignitaries and ceremonial festivities start at 1 p.m., and the library will open for service at 2 p.m. Enjoy music, entertainment, food, and a great "new" library for the neighborhood.

The Richmond District Libraries Campaign will host a Sneak Peek of the library on April 23. Space is very limited, so please RSVP to Marian Chatfield-Taylor at 415-626-7512, ext. 103, or [marian.ctaylor@friendssfpl.org](mailto:marian.ctaylor@friendssfpl.org) and indicate whether you are interested in attending from 4 to 6 p.m. or from 6 to 8 p.m. Reservations will be taken in the order that they are received, and the event will be closed when all available spaces are reserved.

## Golden Gate Park

The PAR Parks Committee authored a letter regarding the leasing contract for Another Planet Entertainment. APE has been selected as the promoter for the Annual Benefit Concert to be held this summer in Speedway Meadow, Lindley Meadows, and the Polo Fields.

PAR recommended that there be more thoughtful and better timed planning, that all costs associated with concerts would be paid by the promoter, that there be increasing protections for the surrounding neighborhoods from the effects of

additional traffic, trash, noise, and other nuisance effects, and that there be a full debriefing about the results following the concerts.

PAR is concerned that the potential for Recreation and Park to receive large payments from promoters for use of the park has, and may continue to, weaken rec and park regulations about such events.

If you would like to be notified of any public meetings regarding the Annual Benefit Concert, please email [par@sfparks.org](mailto:par@sfparks.org).

## Presidio

### Main Post/Museum

The new proposal for the development of the Presidio's Main Post includes a museum complex with a much larger footprint involving four buildings instead of two at the same general site as the original proposal.

Public comment closes on April 20; there are three public meetings on April 1, 7, and 16. See the Presidio's Web site for more details ([www.presidio.gov/trust/projects/mp/meetings.htm](http://www.presidio.gov/trust/projects/mp/meetings.htm)).

### Environmental cleanup and remediation

The Presidio Trust and California Department of Toxic Substances Control signed off on February 27 on a final Remedial Action Plan for covering two contaminated landfills near the former Public Health Services Hospital.

Work on the projects will run from May to November. Landfill 8, north of the

hospital, will be covered with three feet of sand. Landfill 10, on the slope west of the hospital, will be made seismically stable and will have a two-foot soil cover, thicker than originally proposed by the Trust.

In response to requests of neighbors and PAR, the Presidio Trust has stopped using the 25th Avenue gate for its truck-hauling route. The big-wheelers will, instead, roll on and off of Highway 101 near the Golden Gate Bridge toll plaza.

### Doyle Drive

The massive Doyle Drive rebuilding project has been accelerated and may commence as early as September of this year. Yes, 2009, not 2029!

### New Trail

A beautiful new trail has been completed in the Presidio from the Washington Boulevard overlook (Immigrant Point) leading down a series of steps to Lincoln Boulevard and from there to the ocean.

The Presidio Trust is now sponsoring monthly, free guided tours of the Presidio to introduce visitors to the park's historic areas, wild open spaces, and hidden nooks, with special emphasis on projects that are shaping the park today.

For more information about the tours, which include the Main Post, Crissy Field, Fort Winfield Scott, and the western coastal bluffs, call 415-561-5418 or visit [www.presidio.gov/](http://www.presidio.gov/).

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PAR's only income is the tax-deductible dues contribution paid by our membership either to PAR or by naming PAR as a United Way designated recipient. PAR does not accept any government money or any grants, thus maintaining its complete independence.

You have made PAR the largest neighborhood organization in San Francisco and kept it as a viable voice for the Richmond District since its inception in 1970.

In the following list, we gratefully acknowledge those members who have contributed in excess of the basic \$15 membership dues since the Winter 2009 newsletter—their generosity helps us thrive.

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# It takes a Village to support seniors staying in home

Are you a Richmond District resident who wants to stay in your home as you age but who wonders if you will have the resources to do so? Or do you have family members, friends, or neighbors who are thinking about retirement and wondering how and where they will live?

If so, you may want to know more about San Francisco Village—an innovative, multigenerational program that provides many of the benefits of a retirement community—but in each person’s own home or apartment.

According to the American Association of Retired People, nearly 95 percent of adults 55 years and up, if given the choice, would prefer to stay in their own homes as they age. Here’s where San Francisco Village can help. San Francisco Village is a community-based membership organization that empowers adults to remain in their homes as they age. It offers a network of high-quality resources, services, programs, and activities that revolve around members’ daily living needs, their social and

cultural desires, their ongoing health and wellness, and member-to-member volunteer support.

Through its own programs and in collaboration with other San Francisco organizations, San Francisco Village aims to nourish, enrich, and enhance the experience of aging in our community with a membership that reflects the diversity of our city.

Nancy Loucks, the executive director of the San Francisco Village, will explain more about the membership-based, nonprofit San Francisco Village program to PAR members at the April 15 meeting. Nancy, who has been in nonprofit management for more than 20 years, has worked with Special Olympics in Texas, Washington and Arizona as well as with the American Cancer Society in California and Arizona and worked on one of the first AIDS walks to raise a million dollars.

To learn about the Village program and volunteer opportunities, come to PAR’s April 15 meeting or visit [www.sfvillage.org](http://www.sfvillage.org).

## Proposed Fresh & Easy store a welcome addition

After more than two and a half years since Albertsons’ departure from the corner of 32nd Avenue and Clement Street, news comes that Fresh & Easy Neighborhood is, hopefully, coming to town. The opening date is not yet known, but representatives from Fresh & Easy will be speaking to PAR about the store and their plans at the upcoming meeting on April 15.

The new grocery store chain has already opened more than 100 stores in Southern California, Nevada, and Arizona, and many more are planned for Northern California. Two other locations in San Francisco (Silver Avenue and Goettingen Street and Third Street and Carroll Avenue) are also proposed sites for Fresh & Easy stores.

Fresh & Easy prides itself on bringing high-quality, low-cost food to neighborhoods of all types. Smaller than the usual major-name supermarkets, the neighborhood-sized stores are designed to be easily accessible and to offer everything from everyday staples to gourmet items. Lots of fresh and wholesome food choices, including prepared meals and organic foods, are offered

with the goal of making healthy eating easy and affordable.

The company has incorporated a range of environmentally friendly practices—from recycling materials used in the stores to energy-efficient buildings to a 500,000 square foot solar panel on their distribution center. In addition, they have expressed a commitment to recruiting from the local area and to working with the local community on an ongoing basis.

Join us at the next General Membership meeting on April 15 at 7 p.m. to learn more, or visit the Fresh & Easy Web site at [www.freshandeasy.com](http://www.freshandeasy.com).



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*Editor's note: This list was compiled in advance of the newsletter deadline. For that reason, recent contributors' names may not appear here. If your name has been misspelled, please let us know by calling 415-974-9332.*

## What's happening

continued from page 2

### VA Medical Center

The San Francisco VA Medical Center has just received funding as part of the Economic Stimulus Package for design and construction of new projects.

Because of this, providing onsite construction management is necessary and rather than place additional modular buildings on site, the VA plans to reuse the existing modular buildings along Clement Street that were originally scheduled to be removed upon completion of the Seismic Retrofit Project.

The VA promises to landscape the area around these construction trailers to make it more appealing.

### PAR upgrading communications

PAR is implementing changes to improve our efficiency in how we communicate with our membership. When you renew your PAR membership in 2009, check to make sure we have both your street address and your email address.

As always, PAR will respect the privacy of your information. We will never sell or share your information. And we promise to be sparing in the number and frequency of our emails.

### TIME TO RENEW?

The date code above your name on the mailing label indicates when your membership expires. Please renew your membership by that date.

PAR tax-deductible memberships are:

\$100+ Patron	\$25+ Subscriber
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3145 Geary Boulevard, #205  
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