

PINE
LAKE
PARK

NEWS

Celebrating our 82nd Year
1939 - 2021

Richard Lee, Editor

NEWSLETTER OF THE PINE LAKE PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION ■ SPRING 2021

Letter from our President...

The Year of Living Dangerously



It's been a weird year. Hundreds of thousands of people have died from the COVID-19 virus. We have radically changed our lives, people are distancing themselves from others, and wearing masks. Those brave enough to go out waited in long lines to grocery shop, only to find that hoarders had cleared out such sundry items as pasta and toilet paper. I even have heard that we are even running out of the tapioca pearls to make boba tea! Many of our favorite restaurants and shops, dependent on in-person customers, have had to shutter, some will never open again. After years of watching movies and television dramas about an apocalyptic future, it is as if we were actually living in one.

However, we are resilient and now we can see that things are finally beginning to change. According to a recent report, more than 56% of the people in the Sunset / Parkside districts have been vaccinated, restaurants are opening again and allowing people to sit indoors, museums, theaters, churches and other social venues are beginning to open up as well.

Even during the worst of it, we masked up and went walking through the Pine Lake Park neighborhood to escape the loneliness of home confinement, sometimes with entire families, greeting neighbors with a wave or a quick conversation. We know that we are all in this together, and because of that our community has gotten stronger.

Volunteers with the Pine Lake Park Neighborhood Association have done their part to get us through this as well. We have purchased gift certificates from local merchants for the winners of our monthly raffles. We have continued to organize our neighborhood take-out dinners, where dozens of families ordered dinners online, to be picked up at the Wawona Street entrance to the park. And, because we cannot live by Netflix alone, we have maintained the Little Free Library at the corner of 35th Ave. and Sloat Blvd, so there is always a fresh supply of new books to read. No sign up required, you simply take a book that you'd like to read and leave one for someone else to read. These small gestures, not only give us a break from our quarantined lifestyle, but help to support local merchants, so that they can be there when we resume a normal life.

Yes, although we aren't there yet, things are improving, and thanks to all of our Pine Lake Park Neighborhood Association volunteers the quarantine has been just a little more tolerable, a little less lonely. As Dorothy Day said, "We have all known long loneliness and we have learned that the only solution is love and that love comes from the community." As we see the end of the pandemic in our future, take a moment to think of the little activities, people or places that helped our families stay sane and connected. For us it was the visits from our daughter (properly masked, of course) when she came to borrow the car to go grocery shopping while she was quarantined in her Presidio bungalow, surrounded by coyotes and pinecones. It was the Zoom meet-

ings with family and neighbors, where we would commiserate and connect with those we cherish, it was the bits of social contact we all crave. I think that we need to be thankful for having made it through the year and that there is finally a promise better future.

Now, where can I score some boba tea?

Stay mindful, stay connected and above all, stay healthy!

— David Hirtzel, President

plpna.org

Find us on
Facebook

In memoriam

Sadly, Mike Montague, Board Secretary and PLPNA neighbor for 45 years, passed away suddenly this past January. He served on the board dutifully for over 10 years and organized and grilled at the BBQ that was held annually at Pine Lake Park.



Mike was a kind and sharing individual who treated all with dignity and respect.

In his honor,

the next PLPNA BBQ will be held in remembrance of Mike Montague. Details for the event will be announced after COVID safety protocols allow for this gathering.

Message from Supervisor Gordon Mar

Our lives and livelihoods were disrupted by a global pandemic. The murder of George Floyd renewed longstanding calls for racial justice. And the election, both nationally and locally, showed real divisions and also a shared resolve to turn the page and build back better. This year has revealed long standing issues and brought historic challenges, and I'm immensely proud of how our neighborhood has showed up, stayed strong, and looked out for one another.

When the pandemic hit, we immediately got to work to ensure District 4 residents were informed and supported, making over 5,800 wellness calls to Sunset seniors, hosting dozens of virtual town halls, supporting civic actions, and holding weekly virtual office hours to talk one on one with our neighbors.



We wrote and passed groundbreaking laws to help workers impacted by the pandemic, including Public Health Emergency Leave, which has provided two additional weeks of paid leave to over 200,000 San Francisco workers to take care of themselves and their loved ones during the public health emergency, and the Back to Work Ordinance, which requires large employers to rehire their laid off workers with a fair process before replacing them.

We launched the Sunset Strong campaign (www.sunsetstrong.com) to help support and connect our small business community, and with Sunset Mercantile and People of Parkside Sunset we launched



the Outer Sunset Farmers Market and Mercantile, our neighborhood's first farmers market that's already become a Sunset staple and an essential source for fresh local produce, pop up dining, and an opportunity to support local small businesses and makers.

As COVID-19 exacerbated our existing affordability crisis, we launched Sunset Forward (www.sunsetforward.com), our community-based planning process to support the needs of moderate-income



families and seniors in the Sunset; secured the neighborhood's second Small Sites acquisition, converting an apartment building on 30th Avenue to permanently affordable housing, announced the first affordable family housing project in the Sunset to create up to 100 new homes for families priced out of our neighborhood; and launched the Sunset CareVan with Project Homeless Connect and expanded the Pit Stop hours at La Playa, providing critical services and resources to our unhoused neighbors.

When the pandemic shut down transit lines and decreased car traffic across the City, we worked quickly and creatively to fill in the gaps where we could, opening the Great Highway to socially distanced



exercise and recreation, securing comprehensive traffic mitigation and calming for the Outer Sunset, bringing bikeshare service to the district, and pioneering the Slow Streets program. And where these temporary measures

have fallen short, we're already looking forward with the District 4 Mobility Study, planning for transportation solutions for our neighborhood rooted in data and community-led input.

In December, we held a virtual Escolta Way community meeting with the Department of Public Works to update neighbors about DPW's plans for the broken sidewalk on the southern side of Escolta Way between 30th and 31st Avenue. As a result, DPW created a plan that includes short-term and long-term improvements to the sidewalk while also maintaining the street trees. This plan includes sidewalk repair work and the addition of ADA accessible curb ramps at the surrounding intersections. In addition, DPW pruned the trees so that they are no longer in contact with the utility lines across the street. DBI has also followed up with the Salvation Army to replace their house trap, the upper sewer lateral, after a DBI inspection.

And as our Asian American communities are facing an increase in racism and violence, we're leading efforts to create a new Citywide plan to address anti-Asian violence and develop new neighborhood-based public safety initiatives including security cameras, safety ambassadors and a "safe haven" program for seniors on our commercial corridors. We've also led planning with neighborhood leaders to establish a new Sunset Chinese Cultural District to recognize the rich heritage and support the ongoing vitality of the Chinese community in our neighborhood.

It's a privilege to represent such a diverse, compassionate, and caring neighborhood, and while this year has shown us unprecedented tragedies, it's also shown the kindness, courage and generosity that makes us who we are, and makes us stronger in the face of crisis. There's far more work to do to strengthen our neighborhood, and I look forward to continuing the work hand in hand with our community.



Items of Interest

Police Update from Taraval Station

The crime picture in the neighborhood has changed dramatically between 2019 and 2020. Much of that has to do with the changes brought about by the pandemic. This includes drops in tourism, fewer rental cars parked in the city, fewer people out and about on the streets of San Francisco.

Auto thefts are down 39% for the first quarter of 2021 compared to the same period in 2020. Most of the decline is attributed to a reduction in tourism due to the COVID 19 pandemic. However, **home burglaries have skyrocketed, with more than a 118% increase from Q1 2021 compared to 2020.** Captain Nicholas Rainsford, Taraval Station, is working with Captains in adjacent neighborhoods and sharing resources to expand policing activities in targeted areas. Some residents have heard about so many more burglaries in their neighborhood. It is not clear, but this could be due to lack of reporting of these crimes.

Captain encourages you to report crimes* to Taraval station. There are 3 ways to file a police report:

1. Police may come to your home and take a report
2. You can file a report in person at Taraval Station
3. File a report online at the Taraval Station website*

You **cannot report robbery, residential burglary online or by telephone (TELE-SERVE unit was cut due to budget reduction), you must report in person at Taraval station.*

**Emergency Numbers:
911 or 415-553-8090**

Calling 911 from your cell phone will route the call to the CHP then to the SFPD. The delay in 911 routing is not an issue if you are calling from a land line. Or, you can call 415-553-8090 from your cell and avoid routing delays.

Get the latest Taraval Station newsletter, updates on safety and crime statistics, meeting announcements and other useful tips at www.taraval.org.

(Highlights From Captain Nicholas Rainsford presentation to WTPCC 1/25/21 and www.taraval.org).

West of Twin Peaks Community Council – Senate Bill 9 and 10

Both of these state bills are in committee. Senate Bill 9 allows splitting a lot into two, or building two houses on a single lot. Each house can have and an Accessory Development Unit (granny flat, ADU) and a Junior ADU, allowing up to 6 units where one single family home is currently.

Senate Bill 10, authored by Representative Scott Weiner, zones all single parcels located in a transit-rich area, a jobs-rich area, or an urban infill site to allow for up to 10 units without California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) or other oversight.

Both pieces of proposed legislation are ministerial, meaning that the assumption of increased densification is assumed and all plans would be approved automatically.

The WTPCC passed a motion to oppose both senate bills. All member associations, including PLPNA voted to oppose, with abstentions from 2 associations.

If you have comments about either of these bills, PLPNA will share your input with WTPCC. (plpna2016@gmail.com).

Stonestown Development Project “Retail to Town Center”

Stonestown Galleria, originally called the Stonestown Shopping Center, was built in 1952 by the Stoneson brothers. It was built, along with apartments that could house 3,000 to 3,500 people.

The anchor store, The Emporium, opened July 16, 1952. Other early businesses included Walgreens, Butler Brothers, Gallenkamp Shoes, Red Chimney restaurant and Woolworth's. There were

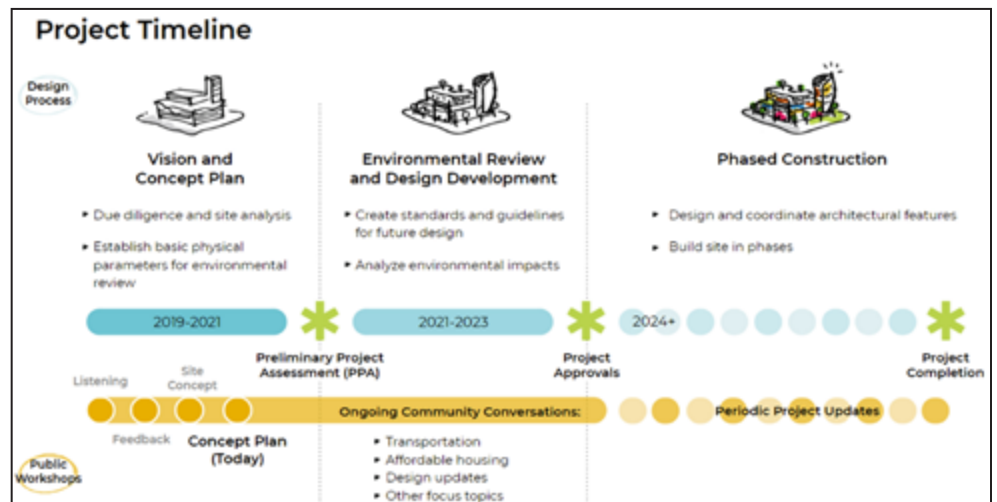
stores for local residents, including a grocery store, a bakery, and movie theaters.

When the Stoneson brothers sold the property in 1987, Stonestown went through a renovation and major redevelopment. An additional level of stores was added, including a food court, a glass ceiling and marble floors, plus 350 new underground parking spaces. These changes led to the Stonestown Shopping Center being re-named Stonestown Galleria.

The times have changed, so have the neighborhood needs for shopping, entertainment, dining and housing, too. Brookfield Properties is the owner and is managing this major development that will address the community needs for shopping, entertainment, dining and housing. The project could span the next 20 years.

Currently, the Regal Cinema, Whole Foods and Sports Basement plan to open in mid 2021. There will also be an Xfinity store and Carbon Health. Conversations are in place for 2-3 more stores. Target, currently under construction, is expanding into the former Nordstrom's space. A search for tenants for the additional spaces is in progress. There are no current plans to accommodate larger retail tenants.

Plans for 2900 housing units to be built as part of the evolution of a “retail to town center” were announced at the Virtual Community Workshop on March 25, 2021. You can view the presentation and provide your comments by taking the survey at <https://neighborland.com/stonestown/events>. You can also comment on the development plans by contacting Reuel Daniels of Brookfield Properties, 415-593-4251 or scheduling a meeting with her via Zoom.



L Taraval Improvement Project

Light at the end of the tunnel?

Construction along the L Taraval route has been disruptive to many neighbors, merchants and MUNI riders for the past two years. The L Taraval Improvement project has been in the construction phase since 2018 and SFMTA is reporting that the first phase of the project is nearing completion.

After the street paving, the project will soon reach substantial completion, which means the major infrastructure work is done. Following that, more work is required to fully complete the project which includes testing of the tracks with trains, landscape and streetscape work. The Segment A (San Francisco Zoo to Sunset Boulevard), of the project will be fully completed in the summer of this year. Segment B (Sunset Boulevard to West Portal), the time for completion is to be determined.

You can find project details/work schedule, the latest news about the L Taraval Improvement Project and notice of informational meetings at <https://www.sfmta.com/projects/l-taraval-improvement-project>.



Pine Lake Park Neighborhood Association

Little Free Library

(located at 35th and Sloat)



The inauguration of Pine Lake Park Neighborhood Association's Little Free Library (LFL) could not have come at a better time. Opening at the end of 2019, who could have foreseen that only a few months away, libraries would shut down for over a year and that life as we knew it would cease. Our LFL has come to serve our neighborhood as a beacon throughout a very dark time.

Though it has taken time for patrons to get used to the, "Take a Book, leave a Book" concept, our LFL sees a lot of turnaround. Of course, this would not be possible without the dedicated stewardship of our neighbors whose participation and passion to spread the love of reading kept everything with the LFL running smoothly. Throughout 2020 our stewards have rotated and

replaced books as needed, reported issues through outstanding communication, thoroughly cleaned and sanitized (due to COVID) and have helped institute changes/additions to our library. Thank you to Diane K., Kathy M., T.O. Kathy E., Mary R., Jerry S., Trish M., Vicky H., Karen W., and to the First United Presbyterian Church for making our LFL possible. In addition, we welcome our new 2021 Stewards Linda R., Grace B., Candy T. and Simmone F. Looking forward to having you on board this year! If you would like to become a Steward, contact us at plpna_lfl@yahoo.com.

You may have seen the Thanksgiving and winter holidays decorations on the LFL, complete with holiday bookmarks. It was also decorated for St. Patrick's Day (see photos). We hope that you enjoyed the decorations and found them uplifting. We will continue to decorate, moving forward, and hope that you will participate in utilizing our LFL Face Book page for posts of weekly library offerings as well as city-wide book store events and other literary articles. We are hoping to expand the Face Book page to also include critiques, reviews and possibly even a book club. To do this we need your help. Please go to our Face Book page and "Follow" and "Like" us under the name "Pine Lake Park Neighborhood Association Little Free Library Charter # 90081". This will enable us to have better communication about the LFL and also help create a Hashtag (shortcut) to the Face Book page.

A problem we have encountered with the LFL is people dropping off boxes and bags of books as a donation. Although we know the intention in donating books is good, every steward has an accumulation of books used to fill in the LFL if it is low. We have ended up having to throw out and/or recycle the books at our own expense and we really don't like to throw out books. If you have books you would like to donate, email us at plpna_lfl@yahoo.com to see if your donation is needed at that time.

Lastly, and with great sorrow, we wish to acknowledge the legacy of Mike Montague. Mike was not only our friend and neighbor but he was also a huge contributor, proponent and Steward for our LFL. Mike played a key role in recognizing the value in establishing an LFL in our neighborhood and he will be greatly missed by us all. In his memory, several Stewards suggested that we dedicate a plaque to him which will be located on the LFL later in the year.

— Natalie Simotas, LFL Chairperson

PLPNA Quarantine Raffle Winners

2020 was a challenging year and I don't think anyone is sad to see it go. Even though we will be facing many of the same challenges this year, with the advent of new vaccines, perhaps we can face them with a little optimism.

While the shelter in place mandate may prevent Pine Lake Park Neighborhood Association from holding all of our usual events, we will still try to bring a little fun into our lives. We will continue with our monthly raffle. Already several households have won gift certificates for local restaurants. We also intend to hold more neighborhood take-out dinners, which were a huge success last year. This is our small way of giving back to the community while supporting local businesses that are trying so hard to stay afloat.

— David Hirtzel, President

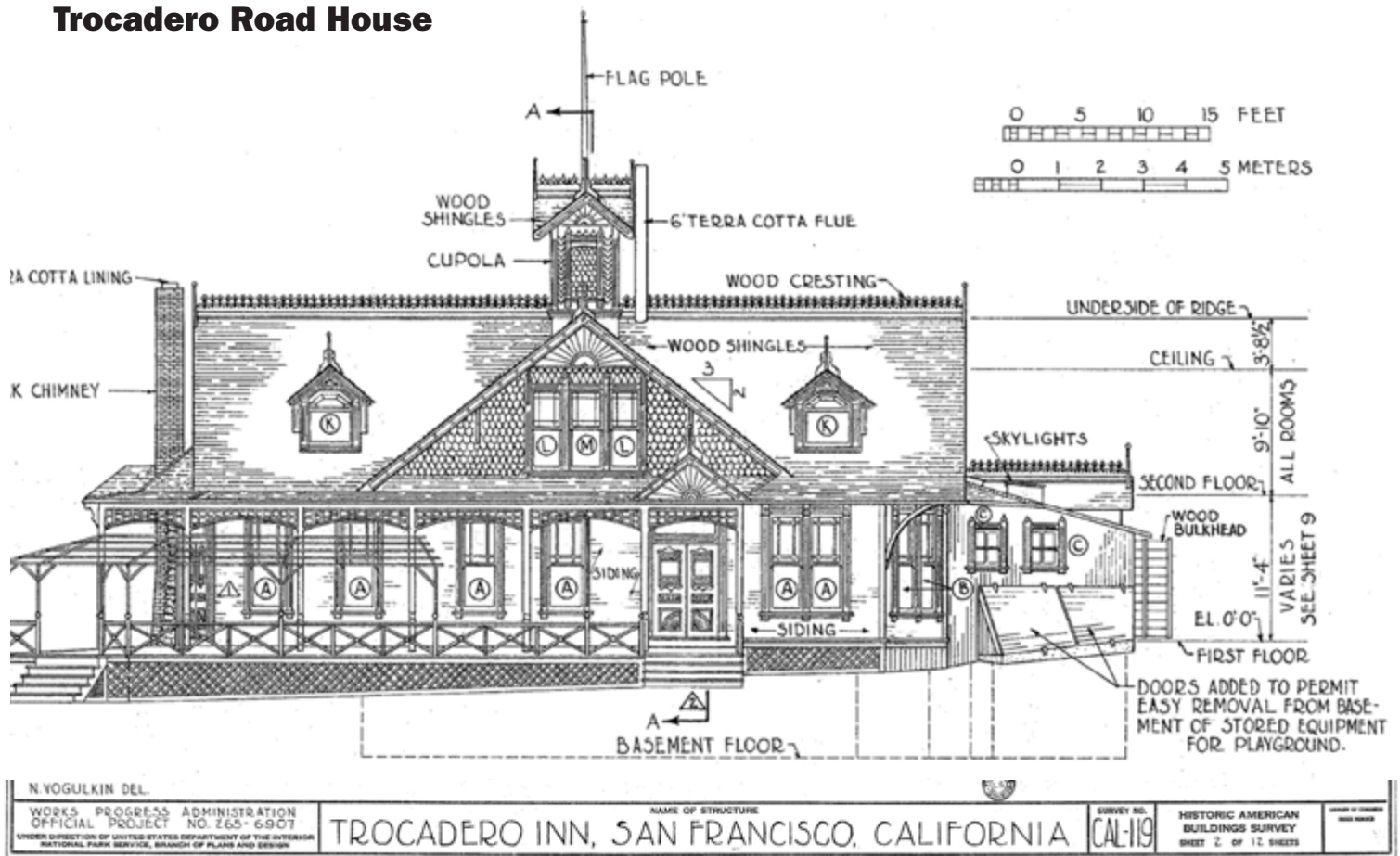
Congratulations to the Winners:

October (2020).....	Leesa P.....	Veronica N.
November	Candy T.	Laurie N.
December	Winnie W.	Gene G. & Tiffany S.
January (2021)	Mary C.	Maggie C.
February	Trish & Bill M.	Ruth J.
March.....	Kathy & Samuel L.	Michael & Rosemary G.
April	Pat & Susie S.	Rebecca & Kitman C.
May.....	Lara & Jonathan M.	Jeannette & Don D.

Winners received gift certificates to one of these local businesses that have supported the PLPNA over the years.

Eagle Pizza, El Burrito Express, Guerra Meats, Java Beach Cafe, Mozzarella di Bufala, Papenhausen Hardware, Spiazio Ristorante, Trattoria Da Vittorio

Trocadero Road House



Some exciting news is happening in the Pine Lake Park neighborhood! San Francisco Heritage (SF Heritage), the non-profit group dedicated to the preservation of San Francisco's cultural and architectural identity, has facilitated the inception of the, "Parkside Heritage" group. Parkside Heritage seeks to accomplish the same mission as SF Heritage except that it is specific to the southern Sunset District neighborhoods that include Parkside and Pine Lake Park. Many of you have had the pleasure of being a member of the audience at the PLPNA Annual Dinners where Woody LaBounty of SF Heritage has been a speaker. Woody's enthusiasm about San Francisco history is contagious and provided an opportunity to learn more about our community and how it has been shaped by history.

In an effort to introduce and bring attention to the often overlooked and marginalized neighborhoods of San Francisco, throughout 2020 SF Heritage highlighted these neighborhoods while specifically speaking to their unique cultural and architectural identities. When our neighborhood, together with Parkside, was highlighted, several houses, businesses and buildings were identified as being historically significant. One such building is the

beautiful Trocadero Road House located in Stern Grove. Though many San Franciscans have attended weddings (or maybe even were wed there), baptisms and graduation parties in the building, few know its history or realize that because it does not hold the designation of a historic landmark, it is susceptible to changes or alterations to its structure as well as its removal. It is because of this, that Parkside Heritage, SF Heritage, Supervisor Gordon Mar, San Francisco Park and Recreation and the San Francisco Planning Department have banded together to preserve this neighborhood treasure for future generations to enjoy.

Though the landmark designation process is slow and tedious, many of the steps necessary to petition for the landmark status of the Trocadero Road House have already been accomplished. Due to this, the proposal to initiate the landmark designation processes was collectively agreed upon by the Land Use and Transportation Committee in late February 2021. The motion by the Committee included an extended review by the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC). At the time of this publication that review has not been completed but Parkside Heritage is hopeful and determined to see the Trocadero

Road House designated as a San Francisco historic landmark. Keep a look out for the results of the review and the recommendations of the HPC.

A special thank you to those Pine Lake Park neighbors who wrote and/or called in to the committee meeting back in February. Thank you to Supervisor Mar and Daisy Quan for advocating for our neighborhood and the landmark designation of the Trocadero Road House. Lastly, thank you for the support of the Pine Lake Park Neighborhood Association, San Francisco Heritage (Woody and Kerri), SPEAK (Sunset-Parkside Education Action Committee) and the Western Neighborhoods Project.

For more information regarding the history and significance of the Trocadero Road House see <https://www.sfheritage.org/news/trocadero-inn-parkside-road-house-remnant/>. To learn about SF Heritage and what they do see <https://www.sfheritage.org/>.

If you are interested in learning more about Parkside Heritage, please contact Natalie Simotas at Bluesgyrl2@yahoo.com.

— Natalie Simotas

Neighborhood Events During the Pandemic

The COVID 19 health and safety protocols changed all of our lifestyles and limited our interactions with our family, friends and neighbors this past year. However, we still found ways to socialize safely and carry on with many social and civic activities this past year.

We Ate! Roost Chicken Dinners to go



We Voted! Neighborhood voting on 35th Avenue/Wawona



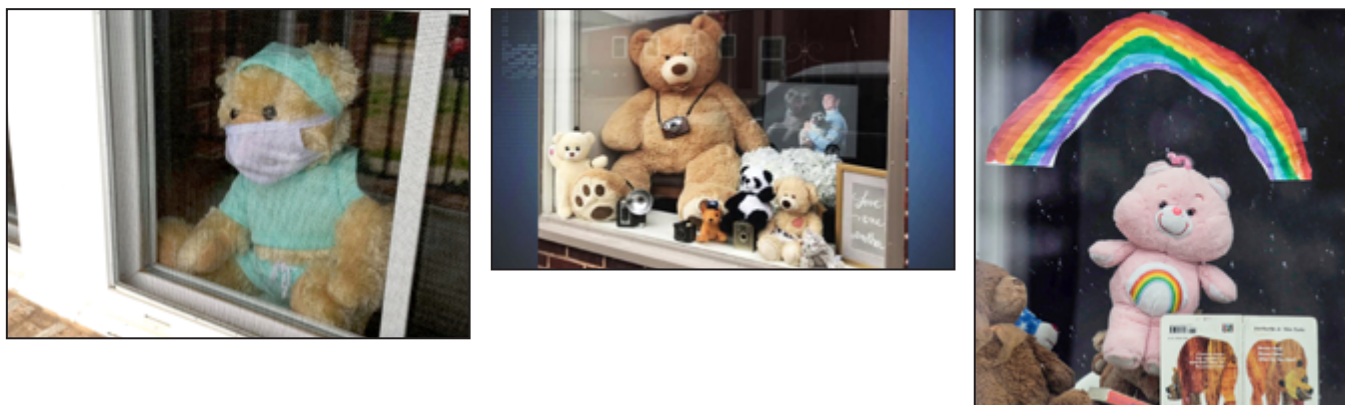
We Shopped!



We Read! Little Free Library (corner of Sloat & 35th Ave) — Seasonal Decoration & Bookmarks



We Went Looking! for bears in the neighborhood



We Zoomed!



SUPPORT OUR LOCAL MERCHANTS

The pandemic has taken a serious toll on the merchants and their employees in and around the Pine Lake Park neighborhood. The COVID 19 protocols have been stressful and financially disastrous to merchants everywhere. You can help revive our local economy and rehiring of staff, by shopping and dining in the neighborhood.

So, the next time you want to take a break from cooking and baking at home, try one of the many merchants that have supported the Pine Lake Park Neighborhood Association over the years. They will greatly appreciate your patronage and you will get some good eats!

**Eagle Pizzeria
El Burrito Express
Harborview Restaurant
Henry's House of Coffee
Java Beach Café
Mazzetti's Bakery**

**Mozzarella di Bufala
Peet's Coffee Lakeshore
Seoul Garden Restaurant
Spiazzo
Starbucks West Portal
Trattoria Da Vittorio Ristorante**

Also, don't forget to shop and use services from our supporting merchants too.

**Best Cuts
BookShop West Portal
Fandango
First Republic Bank
Great Wall Hardware
Guerra Meats
John Gates The Handyman
Lakeshore Cleaners
Lakeshore Nails
Lowe's
Lucky Supermarket
Mr. Shap Balloon Artist**

**Papenhausen Hardware
Petco Lakeshore
San Francisco Zoo
SF Sabre School
Skin Spirit Face + Body, Clinic + Spa
Sloat Garden Center
Sterling Bank
Stonestown YMCA
Trader Joe's
Water Lounge Spa
West Portal Spa**

Thank you to the following individuals and companies that have made donations to the PLPNA.

**Carlos Keeler
Mike Chan & Diane Steinhauser
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Ellen Leanse
Eric W. Tang & U.S. Bank
Tim Halloran
Jerry Simotas**

**Rob & Yvonne Batterton
Marisa Ong & Guarantee Mortgage
Mindy Tsoi & Intero Real Estate
San Francisco Symphony
Silverado Contractors
Supervisor Gordon Mar**



PINE LAKE PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Board of Directors/Officers – 2021

President	David Hirtzel 500 Crestlake Dr
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Secretary	(position open)
Treasurer	Donald Ellison 2715 35th Av

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newsletter design & production: Metro DISC



The 2020–2021 PLPNA Board

BACK ROW: (left to right) Vicky Cevallos, John Gates, John Wong, Jerry Simotas, Rodger Ball, David Hirtzel
FRONT: (left to right) Rob Shapiro, Mary Ryan, Mike Montague, Kathy Montague, Don Ellison, Richard Lee
NEWLY ELECTED AND BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Janet Bonilla, Diane Kennedy, Paula Pioli, and Gail Sorrough

Join the Pine Lake Park Neighborhood Association

Since 1939 the PLPNA has provided social activities as well as an active voice for neighborhood policies.

There is no obligation to participate, but just by becoming a member of the PLPNA you help to make our voice just a little stronger. Our city is changing and we need to ensure that we maintain a safe, community-oriented neighborhood.

But why not participate? Every year we have a barbeque, garage sale, Bay cruise, bowling night, neighborhood dinner, Symphony tickets, concerts in the Grove ... and more!

It's not too late to pay your 2021 PLPNA membership dues!

For those of you who were members in the past, we sincerely miss you and would like to see you back as a member of the Association. If you have not joined the Association for 2021, dues are \$25 per household annually and you can still join — fill out the membership application below and send it along with your check to Kathy Montague.

New Neighbors: Your membership is **FREE** for this calendar year if you moved in to the Pine Lake Park Neighborhood Association territory between 2020 and 2021. Fill out the membership application and indicate that you are new to the neighborhood. Your information will help committee chairs determine eligibility for member only events.



Please support the PLPNA in 2021 by sending your annual dues of \$25 along with the completed form to: **Pine Lake Park Neighborhood Association, attn: Kathy Montague, 290 Crestlake Drive, San Francisco, CA 94116.** Checks may be made payable to PLPNA.

PLPNA 2021 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

☐ check this box if you are a new neighbor to Pine Lake Park in 2020/2021