

EXCELSIOR DISTRICT NEWS

THE REAL VOICE OF THE RESIDENTS

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 6 SEPTEMBER 2005

WE DO NOT NEED BAD NEIGHBORS

Scorpios' Bar, located at the corner of Mission Street and Theresa Avenue is a quasi – residential area and has been a loud, disruptive, non-responsible, problematic neighbor. The long-suffering neighboring community of residents is tired of public urination and sex in public. They're tired of the booming music emanating from open bar doors emphasizing the level of noise pollution causing surrounding residents to suffer even more. The breaking point was the weekend of August 20th, when a large sound system was brought in without permits, nor a courteous notification to the neighboring homes.

The EDIA has tried working, to no avail, with the owners to come to some kind of middle

(Continued on page 3)

BUS CHANGES FOR THE EXCELSIOR—52 LINE

On September 24, Muni is making service adjustments to meet a part of its budget shortfall. These adjustments in the Excelsior include changes in routes and scheduled frequency as summarized below:

26 Valencia: **Route Change**-Outer terminal at Balboa Park BART instead of SF State; **Service Frequency**-Weekdays and weekends, every 20 minutes during the day and 30 minutes in the evening; **Alternate Service**-South of Balboa Park: 54 Felton, M Ocean View.

(Continued on page 3)

With our Newsletter circulation growing every month and being on the web, EDIA will start taking advertising for our Newsletter. Please contact Angelique Mahan 650-784-1973



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **NEXT EDIA MEETING WILL BE SEPTEMBER 27, AT 7:00 PM**
- **VISIT OUR EDIA STORE AT WWW.EXCELSIORDISTRICT.ORG**

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

PARKSCAN	2
IMPORTANT NUMBERS	2
HOME DEPOT	3
MESSAGE TO MEMBERSHIP	4
EVENTS	5
KIDS TO CAMP	5

PARKSCAN IMPROVING PARKS, PLAYGROUNDS

Due to dedicated Excelsior neighbors and new web-based technology called ParkScan, maintenance is improving at our neighborhood parks! ParkScan, a program of the San Francisco parks advocacy group Neighborhood Parks Council, is a reporting system that sends public concerns directly to the Recreation and Park Department. After completing an online form, the sender's observations are routed via email to the responsible units for action. Routine issues are usually handled within 24 hours. Significant repairs take longer but create departmental work orders.

"Our web based tracking system resulted from citizen dissatisfaction with park maintenance levels and inability to find the right contact in the department," according to Alfredo Pedroza, the ParkScan Outreach Coordinator. "ParkScan is the easiest way for park users to report maintenance or repairs as needed."

Through www.parkscan.org, anyone can notify RPD via the Web and even attach photos from their computer. Comments can be tracked by the sender on the website. "However", says Pedroza, "our goal is to organize trained park observer groups in every neighborhood. ParkScan volunteers are active residents who understand acceptable maintenance levels and serve their park by regularly reporting conditions."

(Continued on page 4)

If you are interested in helping improve Our Community and create an even stronger voice for The Excelsior Neighborhood at City Hall. The Excelsior District Improvement Association (EDIA) is looking to expand our membership and bring new talent. As a member you can be involved in these very important community improvement areas – Parks & Recreation, Cleaning the Streets, Graffiti, Neighborhood Schools, Public Safety, Excelsior Library, Planning Issues, Neighborhood Revitalization, Tree Planting and many more. To apply for 2005 membership, please contact the EDIA office by either calling (415) 334-2670 or emailing us at info@ExcelsiorDistrict.org for a membership form. Membership dues for 2005 are \$15.00 per person.

Important Numbers

EDIA	(415) 334-2670
Graffiti	(415) 282-5326
Illegal Dumping	(415) 282-5326
Pot Holes	(415) 252-5326
Ingleside Police Station	(415) 404-4000
Police Dispatch	(415) 553-0123
Crime Stoppers	(415) 553-9755
Parking Enforcement	(415) 553-1200
Abandoned Cars	(415) 553-9817
Non operating Cars on Private Property	Yvonne.mere@sfgov.org (415) 554-3874
Burned Out Street Lights	(415) 554-0730
Leaking Fire Hydrants	(415) 558-3403
Supervisor Gerardo Sandoval	(415) 554-6975
Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services	(415) 554-7111

BAD NEIGHBORS CONT.

(Continued from page 1)

ground. We've had members call from two blocks away from the bar complaining about the racket. How many times do we have to call the police? How many times do the police have to show up? And why don't the police DO something?

Enough is enough. At our August meeting, the EDIA membership voted to go on record opposing the bar's continued operation. We are asking the Police Chief, the ABC, and the DA's office to all work together to either relocate or shut down Scorpios' Bar.

BUS CHANGES CONT.

(Continued from page 1)

52 Excelsior: **Route Change**-From Forest Hill Station to a terminal at Luther Burbank Middle School; **Service Frequency**-Weekdays, every 15-20 minutes during peak hours and 30 minutes mid-day and evenings. **Alternate Service**-Weekends, every 30 minutes Former route between Persia and Geneva/Mission now served by 54 line.

54 Felton: **Route Change**-From Balboa Park BART, runs on Geneva, Naples/Moscow, Russia, Prague, and Persia, to Athens/Moscow, then to Felton and continues on its regular route; **Service Frequency**-Every 20 minutes during the day and 30 minutes in the evening; **Alternate Service**-29 Sunset.

EDIA wrote to Muni commenting on these service changes, and our suggestions for improvements to meet the needs of local riders. Muni has agreed to meet with the community to hear our ideas for planning service changes coming up with the new 3rd Street Light Rail line, scheduled to open in Summer, 2006. We will be working with Muni to set that up soon; STAY TUNED TO THIS NEWSLETTER !!

For the text of EDIA's letter to Muni, and Muni's response, go to www.excelsiordistrict.org, and look under "Newsletters and Correspondence".

Meanwhile, if you have comments for Muni, you can leave an on-line message at:

www.sfmuni.com: Under the "Contact Us" tab, select "Comments, Complaints, Questions".

Or write to: Muni Passenger Service, 949 Presidio Ave, #150B, San Francisco, CA 94115.

SAN FRANCISCO HOME DEPOT UPDATE

On July 28th, the San Francisco Planning Commission approved the Bayshore Boulevard Home Depot by a 4 2 vote! More than a hundred supporters packed the hearing rooms and dozens of local residents spoke in favor of the project. Our own Jackie Wipf and Angeliqne Mahan spoke as residents of the Excelsior, who are in favor of Home Depot and the revitalization of Bayshore Boulevard. EDIA has long supported this project, which has been stalled by the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center for some time now. There is now an appeal before the Board of Supervisors to stop the project. The appeal will probably be heard on Tuesday, October 25th. Again, another stall tactic. Umm, wonder who is filing the appeal and who is paying for all the leg work and attorney's fees?

And finally, we wanted you to know that the Home Depot project has recently received strong endorsements from the *San Francisco Chronicle*, *San Francisco Examiner* and the *San Francisco Business Times*:

San Francisco Chronicle: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/chronicle/archive/2005/08/03/EDG5LE1E2F1.DTL>

(Continued on page 6)

PARKSCAN CONT.

(Continued from page 2)

Since it was launched in 2002, ParkScan has received much positive feedback from the community. Al Harris, an Oceanview neighbor who helped to establish ParkScan at Crocker-Amazon Playground and is now on the steering committee for NPC, said that he had “nothing but good things to say about ParkScan” because of its success in speeding up park maintenance. He says RPD responds quickly to complaints about trash, broken water fountains and planter boxes. Transparency strikes him as the greatest value of ParkScan: “We put [our observations] on line so everyone can see them.”

ParkScan is also being used at Sunnyside Playground, where neighbor Bill Wilson praises the program for its accountability, despite problems at Sunnyside with ongoing maintenance because of a lack of staff. Wilson appreciates ParkScan because it has increased the power of neighbors by keeping a record of all observations: “It’s one thing to say [maintenance] really needs to be done, another thing to show that I’m the twentieth person to say this.”

This accountability, in combination with RPD’s new maintenance standards, he says create an “organized, systematic way” to manage maintenance which Wilson feels will result in more accurate evaluations of neighborhood parks and playgrounds.

For more information about ParkScan call 621-3260 or to make an observation, go to www.ParkScan.org. Check out the NPC e-newsletter at council@sfneighborhoodparks.org for updates on community meetings and workdays.

By Tanya Hodapp

REACHING OUT TO THE MEMBERSHIP

This year’s membership has surpassed the levels of the last several years, so we must be doing something right! We are sorry to see that some of our long time members have not chosen not to rejoin. The new leadership has taken on a more diverse atmosphere. We have opened up leadership to involve the whole Executive Committee, not just one person doing all the work, like it was with Rebecca Silverberg. We have Leo Martinez, who has been a long time resident and homeowner, as a member of the board. Patty DeVlieg has lived in this neighborhood for years. She is a homeowner and now has chosen to get involved by being on the board. And yes, we have some new residents, who are homeowners and on the board. We have renters on our board. The age range of our board varies from 30 years of age to almost 70. This should add strength and determination to our organization not make it weaker; like someone would like you to believe. We are able to take on more problems within our district. We are able to take matters directly to City Hall. We are in the process of planning events for our community and membership.

There are rumors out there that we have left behind some members. If any of our long time members think they have been left out in anyway; please give Lionel Brazil (415-334-2670) or Angelique Mahan (650-784-1973) a call to discuss your concerns. Do not let one particular person ruin your experience, in what so many great people in the past of done to build our organization. In numbers there is strength and we have been going since 1942 and will continue.

For those of you that have not renewed your membership in our organization, we are sorry to say that this will probably be your last newsletter. Our newsletter is now on our website at www.ExcelsiorDistrict.org. We have so many other people wishing and wanting to be on our mailing list.

LIVING IN THE "E" EVENTS

September 27, 2005 - EDIA General Meeting, 7:00 PM at 45 Santa Rosa Avenue

September 30th - October 1st, 2005 - Comedy Night, Las Vegas style comedy comes to SF State....a fund-raiser for SFSU Athletics, will take place at 8 p.m. Friday, Sept. 30, and Saturday, Oct. 1, in McKenna Theatre of the Creative Arts building. Performers include Shecky Greene, Julius La Rosa, Kaye Ballard, the Unknown Comic, Margaret Smith, Brian Copland, George Segal and host Ronnie Schell. Tickets are \$30, \$45 and \$60. For details and tickets, call (415) 338-2218.

October 9th, 2005 - Excelsior Festival, Present by Bern al Heights Neighborhood, Mission Street and Persia Avenue, starting at 11:00 AM

October 15th, 2005 - Frequinox Festival, Presented by Boom Boom Room Productions, McLaren Park, Jerry Garcia Amphitheater, Jam / Jazz / Blues

October 16th, 2005 - Fresh Eire Festival, Presented by Excelsior Events, McLaren Park, Jerry Garcia Amphitheater, Irish / Celtic

October 18, 2005 - Monthly Ingleside Police Meeting , 7:00 PM at the Station, 1 Sgt. John V. Young Lane.

October,29th, 2005 - Dedication of Jerry Garcia Amphitheater, Noon to 4 with an appearance by the Mayor, live concert too. Stay tuned for details

If you wish to have your event posted, please send info to info@ExcelsiorDistrict.org

EXCELSIOR BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB

KIDS TO CAMP CAMPAIGN

EDIA has been advised that through the coordinated efforts of local groups and organizations that the Excelsior Boys and Girls Club were able to raise around \$3000.00 for the Kids to Camp campaign.

Every year the Boys and Girls Club send youth to Camp Mendocino for about 10 days throughout the summer. The Camp is located up by Willits in Mendocino County. The youth have the chance to observe and be a part of nature.

This money raised helps subsidize the camp fees for some of the youth. They would not be able to attend camp ordinarily, for they could not pay the full fee. This year 30 youth from the Excelsior Boys and Girls were able to attend camp. This also means that for a second straight year a bus was able to pick up our youth directly from the Excelsior Club. Our youth usually have to travel somewhere else in the city to catch the bus.

EDIA raised \$425.00 toward the campaign, which accounts for about 5 young people. The Jerry Garcia Committee donated another \$500.00, through their Jerry Day proceeds. As you know, EDIA is a proud sponsor of the Jerry Day. EDIA spoke on behalf of the campaign to the Geneva-Mission Lions Club for a possible donation. It was reported that they also gave \$500.00. All in all, EDIA was responsible for half of what was raised for the Excelsior Campaign. We do deserve a pat on the back, and no one can say we do not support our community.

NOW APPEARING, EDIA AT OCTOBER 9TH FESTIVAL

EDIA will have a booth at this year Excelsior Festival, Saturday October 9th. We will be offering literature about our organization, building awareness about our community and offering "Living in the E" t-shirts. We also have EDIA clothing and merchandise that can be purchased through Angelique Mahan or by going to our online store at www.excelsior.district.org.

If you wish to volunteer for a shift at the booth, please contact us at info@ExcelsiorDistrict.org or call 334-2670. Thanks and see you at the Festival.

EXCELSIOR DISTRICT
IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 12005
San Francisco CA 94112-0005
Publisher - Lionel Brazil
Writers - David Hardaway
Writer - Angelique Mahan
Writer - Jean Feilmoser
Writer - Patty DeVlieg

Phone: 415-334-2670

E-mail: info@ExcelsiorDistrict.org

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
WWW.EXCELSIORDISTRICT.
ORG

FOUNDED IN 1942
INCORPORATED 1962

***SEE YOU AT 45 SANTA ROSA
AVENUE, FOR THE SEPTEMBER 27,
2005, EDIA MEETING***

EDIA ONLINE [WWW.EXCELSIORDISTRICT.ORG](http://www.excelsiordistrict.org)

For those for you who wish to receive electronic copies of the newsletter, EDIA now provides the Option of Viewing the Newsletter Online. Along with the current month's issue, we will be providing previous month's issues so the viewing public can keep track of past issues we have dealt with.

Along with the online Newsletter, we have added a message board; open to anyone wishing to voice an opinion. If you have questions, concerns, complaints and simply want to make an announcement about things happening in the neighborhood, this is a place to express it.

Finally we have a section dedicated to pictures. We are hoping that people in the district will submit photos from around the neighborhood to be posted in our picture section. Recent photos or Pictures from days gone by are more than welcomed.

Also speaking of our website, have you seen the EDIA Store? There are all different types of merchandize available. At the next EDIA Meeting the President will be, depending on the weather, wearing either an EDIA sweatshirt or polo shirt.

HOME DEPOT CONT.

(Continued from page 3)

San Francisco Examiner: http://www.sfoxaminer.com/articles/2005/07/27//opinion//20050727_op01_editorial.txt

San Francisco Business Times: <http://sanfrancisco.bizjournals.com/sanfrancisco/stories/2005/08/08/editorial5.html>

You may call the Home Depot Hotline at (415) 788-1000 ext. 204 for the latest updates and more information about the October 25th hearing