

The Barbary Coast Neighborhood Association



Spring, 2012

Vol. 6 No. 2

## 8 Washington Project—Round One: Snellgrove



**GOING, GOING, GONE?**—The City's only outdoor tennis and swim facility is facing destruction if the current course of events continues. The San Francisco Board of Supervisors gave preliminary approval to the 8 Washington project May 15.

## **Cruise Terminal Update: America's Cup Cutbacks Lead to Fancy Footwork by Port**

#### **By JUNE A. OSTERBERG**

Regarding the staging of the America's Cup in 2012-13, It was *second thoughts time* in late March, with *reality* taking the lead.

This is about the inextricably connected America's Cup/new Cruise Terminal Project on the waterfront and in the Bay.

It had become apparent to all concerned that too much had been promised to bring the 34th America's Cup to San Francisco Bay shores.

The result of this deep rethinking came in the form of a new Lease Disposition Agreement, conditionally approved by the Board of Supervisors March 27.

The far-reaching consequences were laid out in the Port staff's memorandum to the Port Commission:

**1.** Most significantly, the new Lease eliminated the America's Cup Event

Authority's long term development rights along the waterfront.

2. It transferred the work of approximately \$25 million in AC34related infrastructure improvements, mitigation requirements and Cruise Terminal Project scope from the Event Authority to the Port.

**3.** The memo said, "Generally speaking, what was previously intended to be privately performed work repaid through Port property development rights and rent credits has shifted to a pure public works project."

As for the residents of the waterfront community, it is obvious that such long-arriving revisions of the City's bargain with the America's Cup are of great interest and relief.

But for Port staff, the new tack meant a complete refiguring of priorities, obligations and activities.

Enter Elaine Forbes, Deputy Director of Finance and (Continued on Page 2) Although there are many more actions and votes that must be taken before pile drivers go into the ground at 8 Washington, the developer received a significant boost when the Board of Supervisors voted 8-3 on May 15 to support the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and Conditional Use (CU) agreement for the project.

**YET THOSE** fighting to stop the development remain positive.

"If the 8 Washington fight were a baseball game, last week's vote by the Board of Supervisors was the end of the first inning," said Coalition Consultant Brad Paul.

"The Board of Supervisors has two more committee hearings and two more votes at the full Board," he added. "Our Coalition has two or three more lawsuits that will likely be filed as well as a ballot initiative that could stop the project. There is a long way to go before this is over."

IN THE SPRING of last year, a coalition of neighborhood groups sued the Port and the City claiming that environmental law was ignored when the "Northeast Embarcadero Study" was used as a basis for development deals at Seawall Lot 351.

"Our appeal remains pending and very much relevant," said Coalition Attorney Susan Brandt-Hawley.

"If we are successful in the appeal, it will unravel the current approval and all that came before it. Supreme Court precedent makes clear that the Board of Supervisors' approval does not moot our earlier claims," she said.

"The appeal will be ready for hearing in the Court of Appeal in the coming months," Brandt-Hawley added.

**REGARDING** the idea of going to the ballot box, Sue Hestor, Friends of Golden Gateway (FOGG) attorney, said that in order to get a referendum petition to overturn the Supervisor's vote, 19,405 valid

(Continued on Page 4)

## Fancy Footwork by San Francisco Port on Cruise Terminal

#### (Continued from Page 1)

Administration, conferring frequently with Executive Director Monique Moyer to craft a solution to the problems raised by the change in plans.

Miss Forbes made the presentation of what they put together at the April 24 meeting of the Port Commission. Attendees learned a new word, *defunding*, heard again the word *reallocation*, and came to know that a *COP* doesn't necessarily refer to a police officer.

The Port Commission approved:

**A.** The City's issuance of Certificates of Participation (COPs) for the Pier 27 Cruise Terminal Project, the shoreside power project (formerly at Pier 27) to be at Pier 70, and America's Cup events infrastructure requirements.

**B.** A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City and the Port Commission to the terms of Port repayment of the COPs.

**C.** A recommendation to the Board of Supervisors for an appropriation ordinance that allocates \$45 million in COP proceeds and reallocates 2010 Revenue Bonds and Port Capital Funds to the Pier 27 Cruise Terminal Project and to America's Cup infrastructure requirements.

The reappropriation of the 2010 Revenue Bonds is \$9,161,243. From Port Capital Funds comes \$2,353,335, and reallocation of FY Capital Funds is \$2,186,002.

It was explained that the installation of shoreside power is necessary to mitigation of environmental impact of the Cruise Terminal and AC34. The project will provide for a 12 megawatt power system to serve ships--not at Pier 27 in the near future--berthing in the drydock at Pier 70.

The system will reduce emissions by allowing ships berthed in the drydock, a



Voting Members of the BCNA Be Sure To Attend Our 2012 ANNUAL MEETING Sunday, June 10, 2012 4 to 6 pm 5A5 SteakLounge 244 Jackson Street



**PIER 27 PREP**—Dredgers slide in to remove bay mud for the big cruise ships that will be berthing along Pier 27 at the new Cruise Terminal.

major facility of the Port, to use power from the City's electrical grid rather than generating power on board through diesel or other types of generators.

Among other sweeping changes decided upon between the City and the America's Cup Authority was to use Piers 30-32--at present a place where cruise ships can tie up when there are multiple ships in port--for the AC industrial bases instead of Pier 80.

Piers 30-32, not far south of the Ferry Building, have received a great deal of attention for years, and that is set to be the home base for the teams challenging Oracle's boat in AC34.

### **Better Place Electric Car Prototype Operation On The Way**

As we reported in the Winter edition of **The BCNA Record**, a world-wide company whose goal is to get automobiles off fossil fuels is coming to the Barbary Coast at 741 Davis Street. This story from the Associated Press gives a good overview of the company, Better Place.

OSH HAAYIN, Israel (AP) -- Israeli entrepreneur Shai Agassi has begun rolling out the world's first nationwide electric car network. Now, will the drivers come?

After more than \$400 million in outlays and months behind schedule, dozens of electric cars have hit the road in Israel, the test site Agassi chose for his Better Place venture. Four stations where the cars can get a new dose of juice when their batteries run out are operating, and the plan is to ramp that number up within months.

The concept: to wean the world from oil and eliminate the biggest hurdles to environmentally friendly electric cars — high cost and limited range.

To do this, Better Place has jettisoned the fixed battery. Instead, drivers can swap their depleted batteries for fully charged ones at a network of stations, receiving a full, 160-kilometer (100mile) range in five minutes. Better Place owns the batteries, bringing down the purchase price of the cars using the network.

People driving shorter distances, the vast majority of customers, can plug in their batteries each day to chargers installed at their homes, offices and public locations, which will fully recharge in six to eight hours.

#### Spring, 2012

#### The Record



AMERICA'S CUP, THEN CRUISE TERMINAL—This rendering shows Pier 27 in full America's Cup grandeur. It will later become home of our new Cruise Terminal,.

### **Changes Already Underway at Pier 27**

#### **By JUNE A. OSTERBERG**

The Pier 27 scene, Ground Zero for both America's Cup 34 (AC34) and the new cruise terminal in 2012-14, changed virtually overnight, starting in March.

To become first the site of the America's Cup Village during racing activity and then San Francisco's gleaming James R. Herman Cruise Terminal starting in late 2013, required first the disappearance of the Pier's familiar old shed.

Turner Construction Company quickly accomplished that. Fascinated passersby saw the emergence of large open space where cargo shipping and world trade used to happen long ago.

As this was being written, Turner

was engaged in site preparation. Construction of the new building begins with erecting the steel skeleton in early June, according to Ed Byrne, Chief Harbor Engineer, Port Engineering Division.

Later, other demolition will go on at Pier 1/2 near the Ferry Building. It will be another part of the pact between the City and the America's Cup Event Authority.

Some 25,200 square feet of substructure deck and supporting piles and caissons will be removed.

A guard rail will be installed along the edges of the marginal wharf after the Pier 1/2 removal.

# Big Year Ahead For SF Cruise Calls

#### **By JUNE A. OSTERBERG**

Justifying great expectations for the Port's new state-of-the-art cruise terminal opening in 2014, the city is enjoying a fine year for cruising tourism this year, despite its tiring facilities.

Michael Nerney, Maritime Marketing Manager, has a schedule for 2012 listing 66 ship calls, many "in transit" and many "full turn."

Intercruises' Celebrity Millenium, set to call May 29th at Pier 35 South in transit to Victoria, will be the 29th ship calling before June.

In other upbeat news Princess Cruises announced in May that it will have a ship in San Francisco year round.

The extensively renovated Grand Princess is offering a series of Alaska Cruises during the summer months. A schedule of Hawaiian Islands, Mexico and Coast sailings will follow during fall 2013 to the spring 2014 season.

Peter Dailey, Maritime Director, pointed out that when the Grand Princess came out of the Port's excellent drydock in mid-May, there were four Princess ships in port at the same time. A heady time in May.

Before that, May 1st was another instance of multiple ship dockings, including the Sapphire Princess, the Seven Seas Navigator, and the Norwegian Pearl simultaneously.

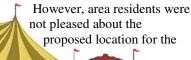
People who love to see ships at our shore should look for another "Tripleheader" September 26, with ships sailing at 4:00 pm, 8:00 pm and 10:00 pm.

### Teatro ZinZanni Presents New Design Plans For Broadway/Embarcadero Location

After concerns from the Historic Preservation Commission and other architectural bodies, Teatro ZinZanni unveiled their revised design plans for their new location at the corner of Broadway at the Embarcadero.

The May 22 meeting was attended by about 50 interested residents of the Barbary Coast. Those who had a special stake were residents of Golden Gateway Commons II which is directly across Broadway from the new site, now a Port-owned surface parking lot.

Susan Outlaw, Managing Director of Teatro ZinZanni, showed revised colors and design elements for the historic main tent structure, improved landscaping areas, and the locations of the various components of the operation.



main kitchen: On Broadway at the corner of Davis Street.

ZinZanni's plan proposed a nondescript square modular box building in a dark color that was meant to blend in and showcase the tent. But area residents complained that the kitchen module was in stark contrast to the historic tent features and colors.

Many in the audience proposed that the kitchen building be moved to the North part of the site, where offices are now planned to be built.

More work is going to be needed before "Love, Chaos & Dinner" plays at the new location.

## 8 Washington Project Gets Preliminary Approval

(Continued from Page 1)

signatures need to be collected. **"THE TIMING** is critical," said Hestor. "The Coalition against 8 Washington has 30 days after the decision is final to collect the needed signatures."

If all approvals go as developer Simon Snellgrove hopes, the earliest the project could be formally approved is June 18, which would mean the referendum signatures would have to be filed as early as July 18.

**AFTER THE** vote on May 15, several of the Supervisors, including Eric Mar and Christina Olague, stated that they were going to be working behind the scenes to "improve" the project before the next votes.

Olague specifically mentioned reducing the parking, while Mar talked about working to address height, bulk, parking and affordable housing issues (getting the developer to commit more money to affordable housing.)

The Port of San Francisco must vote on the entire deal on May 29th. After that it goes to the Board's Land Use Committee on June 4th for a public hearing to discuss the separate legislation necessary to increase heights from 84 feet to 134 feet.

**IN ADDITION**, the financial deal the Port approves on the 29th must go to the Board's Budget and Finance Committee on June 6th for a public hearing. After that, both of these items (height increase and financial deal) must be approved by the Board of Supervisors in subsequent weeks.

"If we lose every vote at the Board from now on and the project is approved, we have a number of options available," said Paul.

"In addition to the one lawsuit that has already been filed regarding the lack of any environmental review for the City's Northeast Embarcadero Study (NES), there are another 2-3 lawsuits that could be filed by our coalition and Equity Office Partners, the operators of the Ferry Building."

**IF THAT FAILS**, there are several ballot initiatives that could be filed that would put the project on hold for quite some time and, if they were successful, stop it entirely.

And one final approval is needed: The Public Trust restrictions must be removed from Seawall Lot 351 and transferred onto another part of the site by the State Lands Commission, whose chairman is Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom. This will be voted upon on July 26.

"In the past few months, the citywide coalition opposing 8 Washington has grown to include the Senior Action Network (SAN), the Housing Rights Committee of SF, the San Francisco Chapter of the Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment (ACCE) and the Senior Housing Action Collaborative (SHAC)," said Paul.

**"THESE GROUPS** sent over a dozen speakers to the May 15 Board of Supervisors hearing," he said.

The marathon Supervisors meeting contained some very compelling testimony.

Pam David, the former Director of the Mayor's Office of Community Development and currently the head of one of the largest family foundations said: "If I've learned anything in my personal and professional life it's about the importance of community."

**"IT IS EASY** for the developers and their well-financed supporters to belittle the users of the Golden Gateway Swim and Tennis Club as a small bunch of rich folks fighting to preserve their club from a smaller bunch of really rich folks. But, the reality is quite different," she said.

"I've been a member for nearly 8 years now. What I've found there is a vibrant and unique community, diverse in age, race, ethnicity, and, yes, income. Everyone at City Hall talks about the flight of working families from San Francisco. Yet, here the City is on the brink of destroying one of the most precious resources available to nonwealthy San Franciscans in order to build ultra-luxury housing. Something is very, very wrong," she concluded.

**ANOTHER MOVING** comment came from Glendon Hyde, the current President of the Harvey Milk Democratic Club. He announced that he will be stepping down as President of the Milk Club because he can no longer afford to live in San Francisco and is moving.

"8 Washington is part of the problem, not the solution." Hyde said.

### **David Chiu to Speak at BCNA Annual Meeting**

The 2012 Annual Meeting of the Barbary Coast Neighborhood Association will be held on Sunday, June 10, 2012 from 4 to 6 pm at 5A5 Steak-Lounge at 244 Jackson Street.

Guest of Honor will be District 3 Supervisor and President of the Board



Supervisor David Chiu

by no means approved," said Chiu, who led the opposition to the development at the marathon seven-hour Supervisors Meeting on May 15. (See Page 1 and above for 8

"This project is

Washington recap.)

"The Annual Meeting is for duespaying members of the BCNA only," said Bill Sauro, association president.

"This is a great time to renew your membership for 2012 if you have not done so already," added Sauro. "Our Annual Meetings are always informative and fun."

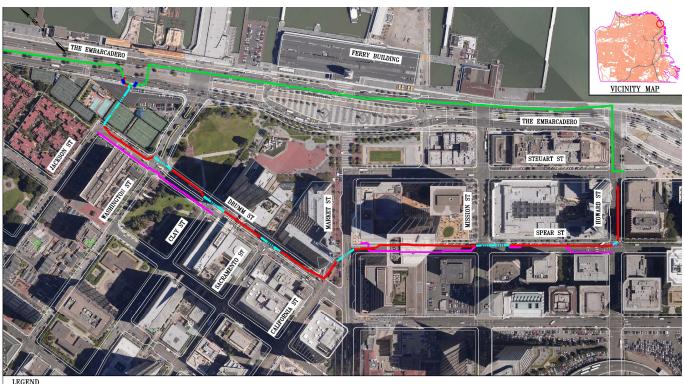
Board member and owner of 5A5 SteakLounge Steve Chen generously has donated the space for the meeting, plus will be providing free drinks and appetizers to all who attend.

Also on the agenda is the annual election of the Board of Directors of the Association. There will be one change on the Board: President Sauro will be resigning as a Board member and therefore also as an officer.

"Sadly, we have moved out of the Barbary Coast neighborhood to Lower Pacific Heights," said Sauro.

"But I will still be involved in San Francisco neighborhood politics," he added.

#### The Record



LEGEND

NEW SEWER BY OPEN-CUT EXCAVATION NEW SEWER BY TRENCHLESS METHOD NEW VALUET

EXISTING SEWER FORCE MAIN WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT/RELOCATION NORTHSHORE TO CHANNEL FORCE MAIN IMPROVEMENT CONTRACT NO. WW-483RR PREPARED BY: INFRASTRUCTURE DIVISION (SFDPW) MARCH 2012

## Area Sewer Work Is On Again

#### **By JUNE A. OSTERBERG**

The PUC's on-off Sewer Improvement Project is on again. Some will recall that the full name is North Shore to Channel Force Main Sewer Improvement Project.

Problems associated with the earlier start have been solved, and as of May 4 construction was tentatively scheduled to begin in June/July 2012.

According to Idil Bereket of San Francisco Water. Power and Sewer Services, the North Shore Force Main is an important pipe that transports sanitary sewage from homes and businesses in the northeastern part of San Francisco to the Southeast Plant for treatment.

It serves approximately 300,000 people, she said.

Miss Bereket stated that two emergency events on the existing force main in 2008 convinced the division that a portion of the pipeline needs rehabilitation because it is "subject to leakage."

The new force main will provide a redundant pipeline so that the existing force main can be be taken off line for repairs, allowing more time to complete the needed repairs without disruption to

service or sewage overflows to the Bay.

A new 3300-foot pipeline will be constructed to divert sanitary sewage away from the portion susceptible to failure, and an underground vault for flow control will be installed.

Miss Bereket also said that the project will replace and relocate some 1600 feet of water mains "that conflict with the proposed pipeline," and that streets affected by the project will be repaved.

She said that the completion of the sewer work is expected by June 2013 "before the America's Cup."

Idil Bereket, public information officer, suggested that for public inquiries, the phone number is 415 554-0741, or www.sfwater.org.

News From GOLDEN GATEWAY TENANTS ASSN

On Wednesday May 9 at 5:00 pm the San Francisco Tenants Union held a lively rally in the plaza in front of Vista West. SFTU leader Ted Gullickson presided with a bullhorn, flanked by marchers carrying the SFTU banner emblazoned with a clenched fist. One end of the banner was held by an attractive young lady with deep-red hair. The SFPD was in attendance equipped with at least one riot baton, which was not needed at any time.

Speakers included Gullickson, former deputy mayor Brad Paul, FOGG head Lee Radner, and Board of Supervisors President David Chiu. The speakers denounced the 8 Washington luxury condominium project and objected to "hotelization" at the Gateway, the landlord's practice of leasing units to commercial tenants such as Bay City Suites and Marriott Execustay that may cause units to be occupied for short-term use. There was also discussion of real estate transfer practices that may result in shortfalls in property tax collections. Large "notices of tax default" were taped to the front of Vista West using removable painter's tape.

The protesters then marched off to demonstrate outside the office of landlord Oak Hill Partners at Montgomery and Clay. The event was a peaceful and vigorous exercise of freedom of assembly and speech in the best traditions of San Francisco.

## Osterberg's On The Waterfront

The truly remarkable Golden Gate Bridge is celebrating the 75th anniversary of its gala opening in 1937. It has never looked better.

A BCNA Board member, the distinguished world photographer Morton Beebe, recently brought out a book of his extraordinary photos of the renowned bridge equal to the beauty of the bridge itself--just in time. It is entitled *The Golden Gate, San Francisco's Celebrated Bridge*.

Peter Beren is the editor, and the text includes such quotes as that of Joseph Strauss, the Chief Engineer, who said, "When you build a bridge, you build something for all time."

The price of the elegant book is a mere \$16.99 and would be a princely gift on Fathers Day or any other occasion.

#### всла

The Port of San Francisco also has a significant anniversary, its 150th.

*On the Waterfront* sincerely salutes the Port and its capable and committed staff.

But this page passionately wishes that the Port's way of staying in business would not include selling off (actually, 66-year leases) its prime property along the waterfront to the highest bidder. Read: developer, no matter his motives.

8 Washington, if built, not only would cost the community its valuable resource for recreation.

It also would open the floodgates to more highrises on our city's waterfront--much higher than the scorned Embarcadero Freeway torn down after the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake, and would lose a great deal more of the charm of this historic gateway to the city.

#### всла

A Mayday rally against the unwanted luxury condo project and against "hotelization" of the Golden Gateway apartments apparently was expected to create a disruption on the streets.

A great complement of uniformed police officers was hired to protect the public from unruly behavior.

As it happened, the rally was well-behaved (as is the wont of the opponents) and not even very noisy or disturbed traffic or the peace.

The charming result was that the friendly policemen tagged along with the protesters, protecting the participants from harm.

At the end the "marchers" thanked the gracious officers, and some adjourned to the Old Ship Saloon to warm up.

#### BCNA

*The BCNA Record* usually does not carry items on projects south of the Ferry Building, but readers might want to know that the Giants' (of which we are flaming fans) project for a large parking lot has morphed into a major "mixed-use" development at

Seawall Lot 337 and Pier 48.

It carries the name Mission Rock.

And Pier 36 and the adjacent Bulkhead Wharf between Piers 30 -32 and 38 recently have been demolished to make way for construction of the new Brannan Street Wharf in the South Beach neighborhood.

#### всла

Regarding our next-door neighborhood, North Beach, this famous old Bohemian community is angrily battling against the unneeded and hotly unwanted subway that is going to have an excruciatingly bad impact on North Beach business and as a place to live.

The City's plan is to lodge the huge boring machine in a large hole on Columbus Avenue right at Washington Square. The destructive project may start as early as June and take two years to complete.

Not incidentally, the money to do this depredation is not available yet..

#### всла

For those who wish to help celebrate the Golden Gate Bridge's 75th anniversary and also observe Memorial Day on the water but don't have a boat, there is the Liberty Ship from World War 11, Jeremiah O'Brien, at Pier 45.

The Golden Gate Bridge Anniversary and Seamen's Memorial Cruise is scheduled for Sunday, May 27, leaving the pier at Taylor Street at 10:00 am and returning at 2:00 pm.

There will be a burial ceremony, with strewing of ashes. Breakfast and lunch will be served. Some 400 people already have booked at \$125.00 per passenger. The ship can accommodate up to 800 people.

More than 700 people were aboard the previous Sunday when the O'Brien was planning to escort the last battleship, the USS IOWA, to its new home in San Pedro to become a museum.

The IOWA is seaworthy but without workable engines and must be towed. Unfortunately, when everyone was on board it was announced that the weather down the coast would not safely permit the trip to go on that day.

Personnel rose to the occasion and took everybody across the Bay to see the plucky old last battleship up close, at Richmond. Much use of cameras and champagne saluting.

Then IOWA veterans asked if the O'Brien also could go out under the Bridge, and the crew complied, a thrill for many on board.

There will be two more sailings this year, the July 21 Ghirardelli Chocolate Cruise with tastings, and then the Fleet Week Cruise with Blue Angels flyover, October 6 and 7.

The Jeremiah O'Brien is open for visitors daily. For more information about the National Liberty Ship Memorial at Pier 45, one may phone 415 441-7447, Executive Director Dennis Koller's office, or go to <u>dkoller@ssjeremiahobrien.org</u>.

#### *Spring*, 2012

The Record

#### RESTAURANT ROUNDUP

For some people, it will always be "Clown Alley." But the venerable yet quirky burger shack at Columbus and Jackson Streets here in The Barbary Coast that was last known as "Pickles," has a whole new life ahead: Two couples, Sabrina and Patrick Thillard, and David and Suzanne Cot, have created a new all-day Basque restaurant centered around tapas. It's phonetically named Bask. After visiting San Francisco, David and Suzanne dreamt of having a Basque restaurant in The City, and bringing the fiesta of San Sebastian to life. From the crowds, it looks like a winner! Open every day for lunch and dinner. 42 Columbus Ave. (415) 392-2275. www.basksf.com

\* \* \*

You could say that Charlie Palmer was a "celebrity chef" before the phrase became ubiquitous. He made his fame in Chicago at his namesake "Charlie Palmer" restaurant (now closed) and went on with successful operations in Washington DC, Las Vegas and New York. Now he has a presence in San Francisco and a Union Square location which is a nice walk from our neighborhood. Palmer purchased the Victorian-era Crescent Hotel on Stockton near the tunnel late last year. Although the property has been rebranded as the Mystic Hotel, Palmer has preserved the classically-adorned Burritt Room bar inside, which leads you to a new 125-seat dining room, Burritt Tavern, with "a speakeasy vibe." The straight-ahead American menu features dishes that utilize the Bay Area's most classic ingredients combined with seasonal elements. Burritt Tavern is open for lunch Monday-Friday and dinner every night. 417 Stockton Street. (415) 400-0561. www.burritttavern.com

\* \* \*

Tablehopper reports that Chef-owner Charlie Kleinman and the rest of his **Wexler's** team are launching **Wexler's Back**, a new barbecue/smoker shack on wheels that they will be parking on Commercial Street alley (behind the restaurant) for lunch Mon-Fri. It begins this Friday May 25th, 11am-2pm. 565 Commercial St. at Montgomery. (415) 983-0102. www.wexlerssf.com

\* \* \*

Loretta Keller of COCO500 is partnering with Bon Appétit Management Company to create the menus and food for the two cafés planned for the upcoming **Exploratorium** location at Pier 15. The new location will open in 2013. Embarcadero at Green Street.

\* \* \*

Some who dined there loved it; others, not so much. So perhaps it was not surprising that the unusual French-themed **Lafitte** restaurant at Pier 5 has closed. After a year of offering nightly specials that changed daily and were rarely repeated, owner and chef Russell Jackson decided to have a more predictable menu. That lasted for less than a year. By then the damage had been done. Add some spotty service and a strange bit of "attitude" on the part of the employees, and no wonder. Pacific Waterfront partners promise a new establishment will occupy the space soon.

\* \* \*

Not to dwell on the negative, but two more long-time restaurants in the Barbary Coast fringe areas have closed. **The Cosmopolitan** on restaurant row on Spear Street was a victim of non-agreement with the landlord over a new lease. Cosmo owners are moving their act north to Petaluma, where they will be opening The Social Club. North Beach stalwart **Fior d'Italia**, which claimed to be the oldest Italian restaurant in the US, will be closing after a 126-year run. Sad.

\* \* \*

The San Francisco Chronicle has released Michael Bauer's list of the Top 100 Restaurants in the Bay Area, and again this year, the area in and around The Barbary Coast was very well represented. If you allow for a 20 minute walk with no major hills to climb, we count 18 of the Top 100 in our "hood." They are <u>Amber India</u>, <u>Bocadillos</u>, <u>Canteen</u>, <u>Coi</u>, <u>Farallon</u>, <u>Gary</u> <u>Danko</u>, <u>Masa's</u>, <u>Michael Mina</u>, <u>Park Tavern</u>, <u>Perbacco</u>, <u>Piperade</u>, <u>Prospect</u>, <u>Quince</u>, <u>Slanted</u> <u>Door</u>, <u>Sons & Daughters</u>, <u>Town Hall</u>, <u>Waterbar</u>, and <u>Yank Sing</u>.

## It's Time For <u>YOU</u> To Join The BARBARY COAST NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

**Yes**, I want to JOIN OR RENEW my membership in the Barbary Coast Neighborhood Association for 2012. I have enclosed my check made payable to the **BCNA** corresponding to my membership type.

Name	
Address	
San Francisco, CA Zipcode	Phone
Email Address	Type of Membership:
@	· · · ·
<i>Please Mail To: BCNA 640 Davis Street #28 San Francisco, CA 94111</i>	<ul> <li>Family Membership\$3</li> <li>Small Company Membership (Fewer than 10 employees)\$5</li> <li>Large Company Membership (10 or more employees)\$15</li> <li>Additional Contribution\$</li> </ul>
(Please Clip and Mail)	Total Enclosed\$

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#### The Record

## President's Perspective By Bill Sauro

It's as if it popped up in a matter of hours ... the new Starbucks at Pier 1 on



our Embarcadero. If you're like me, I was mystified that the Port or whomever made this deal, could not find a more fitting tenant for one of the most visible retail locations in the entire City.

Replacing a unique Mexican restaurant, the Starbucks is a sorry addition to our neighborhood. I can't help but think that almost any other food establishment would have been a better fit. But perhaps the workers at The Port offices in Pier 1 thought it was too far to walk to the Ferry Building for their "Cuppa Joe."

More likely it was *fast money*. Much like the proposed development at 8 Washington, the Port does not seem to heed "neighborhood consensus" when it comes to their real estate leases. If the possible tenant can provide a quick-fix in the way of income now, the Port has a history of going for it.

Never mind that the 8 Washington development financial Term Sheet that the Port has accepted has more holes in it than a Starbucks coffee filter.

Real numbers in the Vision Study

created by Asian Neighborhood Design showed that the Port could make much more money by developing the Seawall Lots in a coordinated, neighborhoodwide process, rather than the one-at-atime development *Monopoly Game* the Port plays.

Sadly, a spot-zoned, overly-bulky, automobile-centric, precedent-setting development at 8 Washington may soon be upon us. And before we know it, it could be like Starbucks. There could be many more like it around the Embarcadero. Welcome to Miami Beach West.

\* \* \*

Sadly, this will be my last "President's Perspective" column. I will be relinquishing the presidential reigns of the Barbary Coast Neighborhood Association effective June 10.

I've enjoyed my stint as chief executive of our neighborhood advocacy group, and I'm very pleased at how our membership and influence have grown during my four years at the helm.

We have an excellent Board of dedicated volunteers and I know the traditions and principals that have been a apart of the BCNA from the beginning will continue.

Ciao!



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www.BarbaryNeighbors.org

WRITTEN BY JUNE A. OSTERBERG

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