



Photo by Tom Murphy

DA Candidates: Bill Fazio listens, Terence Hallinan takes notes and Kamala Harris answers a question during the District 11 Council's Candidate Forum held September 13, 2003 at the Community Assembly of God Auditorium, Ocean and San Jose Avenue. See story, page 6.

Fire Engine Company 33 Again At Risk After Three Month Reprieve

San Francisco Fire Department Engine Company 33's station house, at Capitol and Sagamore Streets, is slated for closure during seismic retrofit. The Fire Department planned to mothball the truck and disperse the crew during the building's renovation, originally set to begin July 1, 2003 and last for a year or more. In June, District 11 residents lobbied for the Company's equipment and crew to be kept together. They asked they be housed at Engine Company 15's site at Ocean and Phelan during 33's retrofit. They won a temporary stay. The Mayor crafted a plan to keep the station open through September, and

bought time to locate funds to keep truck and crew in the district during the station's closure. By late September, funds had not been found. The Fire Department's management had not agreed to keep the truck and crew in the district. So reduced emergency and fire-fighting capacity in the area once again looms.

Supervisor Gerardo Sandoval and staff urge area residents to support Engine Company 33 with public comment at the Board of Supervisors' Finance and Audit Committee Meeting, October 22, 2003, at 12:30 p.m. in the John L. Taylor Committee Room, City Hall, Room 263. Effective support will

include suggestions for ways to fund the crew's continued presence in the area. Supporters unable to attend the October 22 hearing could be heard by sending a fax, letter or email to Aaron Peskin and Jake McGoldrick, who along with Sandoval, comprise the Finance Committee. Contact information:

Supervisor Jake McGoldrick, City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244, San Francisco, CA 94102-4689, (415) 554-7410 - voice, (415) 554-7415 - fax, email Jake.McGoldrick@sfgov.org

Supervisor Aaron Peskin, City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place,

Room 244, San Francisco, CA 94102-4689, (415) 554-7450 - voice, (415) 554-7454 - fax, email Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org

In the earlier round of protest against the crew's dispersal and the engine's storage, residents pointed out that disbanding Company 33 is likely to create life-threatening delays in response time, by increasing service demands on two companies (Engine 15 at Ocean and Phelan, and Engine 43 at Moscow and France) already heavily utilized. Company 33's primary service areas are the Ocean View-Merced Heights and southern Crocker

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DJ Disk Joins the Mix for Excelsior Festival, October 12

by Tom Murphy

The Excelsior Festival has received a major entertainment boost from national and international touring/recording artist and Excelsior native, DJ DISK.

DJ DISK is confirmed to perform at the festival. He will have two booths where he will educate kids and festival-goers on the history of "Turntablism" and will show kids how to "skratch."

He will also give away shirts and CD's, and sponsor a drawing to give away at least two thousand dollars worth of DJ equipment.

He'll also have some "special guests" performing with him at the booth, and possibly on the main stage.

DJ DISK has played in front of crowds as large as 60-80,000. He has recorded and toured with Herbie Hancock, Primus, Buckethead (Praxis, Guns n Roses), Invisibl Skratch Piklz (Qbert, Mix Master Mike), Pablo Beat Science, Bill Laswell, MCM and the Monster.

He is currently scheduled to work on a soundtrack for a major motion picture due to start filming in January.

Of interest: In the early '90's, when DJ DISK was a member of the Invisibl Scratch Piklz, people would fly out on a routine basis from as far away as Switzerland and Norway just to watch him practice in the Excelsior District.

Excelsior Festival
Sunday,
October 12, 2003
Mission-Ocean-Persia
11 AM - 6 PM

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Photo by Tom Murphy

Mayoral Candidates Angela Alioto, Tom Ammiano, Susan Leal, Gavin Newsom and Tony Ribera look thoughtful as District 11 Council President Mary Harris addresses the audience at the September 13th District 11 Candidate Forum. See story, page 6.

Marketplace Milestones

Excelsior Action Group, Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center Formalize Partnership, Hire Project Manager

Excelsior Action Group (EAG) and Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center (BHNC) signed a formal Memorandum of Understanding on October 2, 2003, to partner on projects to revitalize the southernmost reaches of San Francisco's Mission Street commercial corridor. The project covered by the partnership is "ENCoRe," which stands for Excelsior Neighborhood Commercial Revitalization.

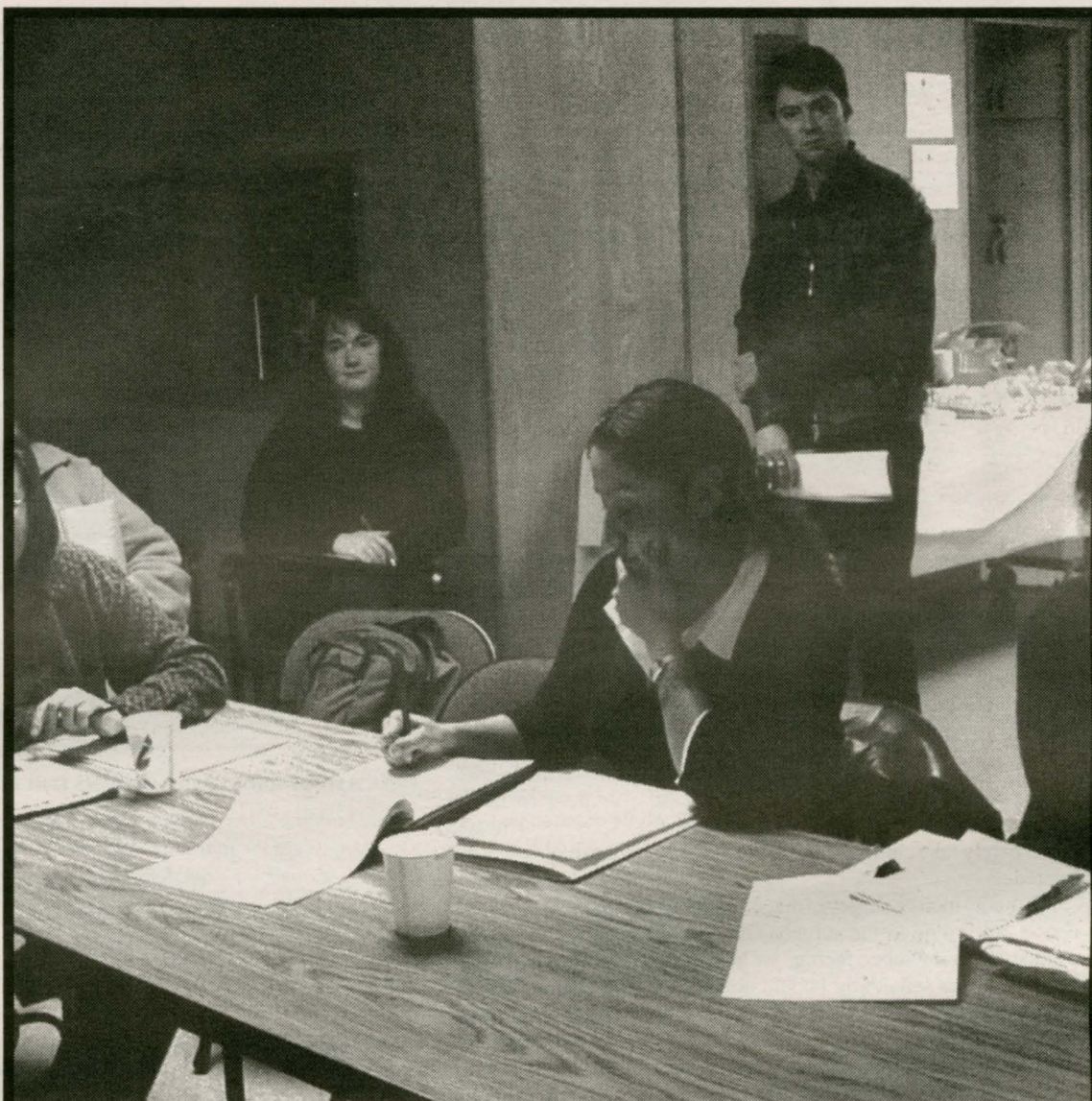
In conjunction with the partnership, the partners announced the hiring of Cristy Johnston as the new ENCoRe manager.

Cristy comes from the office of California Senator Martha Escutia where she worked as a Legislative Aide. She also worked for the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services, as well as other community based organizations in San Francisco and Pleasant Hill. Her introduction to service and leadership came through participation in MYEEP in the Excelsior.

Christy is a graduate of CAL Berkeley, bilingual (Spanish) and previously lived on Ney St. in the Excelsior (near Cala Foods).

Johnston's task list includes providing vision and leadership to shape the ongoing development of ENCoRe, monitoring and updating the annual work plan for ENCoRe, facilitating EAG meetings and coordinating working committees, performing targeted outreach to individuals and merchants that increases the participation and diversity in ENCoRe, supporting volunteers in producing special event that promote the Excelsior and increase community pride, working with public and elected officials on aspects of ENCoRe, maintaining a comprehensive building, vacancy, and business inventory database, and tasks such as fundraising, grant writing, and budget development and management.

She began working out of the ENCoRe (MEDA) office (4651 Mission St.) on Thursday, October 2nd. Mauricio Vela and Viola Morris (Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center), Amy Cohen (LISC), and Rev. Lonna Lee and Alejandrina Martinez (EAG) sat on the hiring committee.



Martha Arnaud and Peter Tennenbaum look on as Cristy Johnston (seated at table), newly hired ENCoRe manager, works at Excelsior Action Group meeting October 2, 2003, just one week into tenure.

By the Book

Excelsior Branch Summer Programs a Hit with Hundreds Closure Plans Indefinite

by Terry Gwiazdowski, Branch Manager

It was a great summer at the Excelsior library, with many wonderful children's programs. The Summer Reading Club had over 600 children reading and winning fun prizes like books, Giants hats, squeeze balls, key chains and more. The Teen Reading Program was also a success with Teens getting a \$5.00 Borders gift card for each three books read and reviewed. Now that school is in session, we are planning to start up our homework assistance again on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays after school. We are planning to host a Basic SAT prep class again this fall. The sessions are all Monday evenings on September 29th, October 6th, 20th, and 27th. We are also continuing the very successful Chess Club on Friday afternoons from 3-5 pm.

Plans are still progressing on the branch renovation. The design drawings are almost complete and soon we will go out to bid for the construction. The exact date for closure is not yet known but the branch will probably close sometime before the end of the

year. Some nearby branches may have their hours extended to accommodate for the loss of Excelsior's seven day operation. A bookmobile will also be purchased for use in our neighborhood during the closure.

Tip of the Month

The "Tip of the Month" is simply to announce our new Library Automation System! The company is Innovative Interfaces and everyone should notice a more responsive catalog and more features such as limiting by branch location, year, language and other limiters. Please ask a staff member to demonstrate its operation if you need a hand. A more comprehensive tip will appear in next issue's column.

Ingleside Branch Announces Two Public Meeting Dates

The Ingleside Branch Library rebuilding plan is moving ahead. The purchase of the Sunset Auto lot at 1298 Ocean Avenue, where the new structure will be built, is expected to close in October.

Tuesday, October 14

A public meeting on Tuesday, October 14 at 7 pm at the current branch location, 1649 Ocean at Faxon, will cover the future plans for the new building.

The new branch will be approximately 6,000 square feet. It will have defined children's and teen areas, a program room, will accommodate a growth in the collection of books, videos, DVDs and books on tape, and will include more public computers and provide a variety of seating choices.

Thursday, October 23

On Thursday, October 23 at 6:30 pm, a second meeting at the current location will cover the demolition plans for the Sunset Auto Shop and what will happen to the lot before the library is ready to build. Construction is scheduled to begin in 2005, with the new branch opening in 2007 or earlier.

The rebuilding of Ingleside Branch is part of a bond measure overwhelmingly passed by voters in November 2000.

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