

PAMPHLET FILE

POTRERO BRANCH
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groups to work together.

"People in communities expect more from local government than they did 20 years ago," said Hayward Mayor Ilene Weinreb, who headed the league's grassroots subcommittee.

But people are finding, she said, "if they really want something they must be willing to do quite a bit of work to get it."

For instance, she said, city officials in the Humboldt County community of Arcata felt it was useless for them to try to push through a park bond issue. Instead, they laid the burden on neighborhood groups and the latter succeeded in pushing the measure

through in that Northern California city of 13,000.

In Los Angeles, she said, the city talked for some time about landscaping the median strips on roadways, but lacked the funds. The solution has been for the city to provide the plants and various neighborhood groups to take on the task of maintaining them.

In her own city, Weinreb said, Little League and soccer parents have taken it upon themselves to maintain the playing field owned by the city.

The concept, she said, has rekindled a feeling of community that dates back

— See Page B7, col. 4

A new housing battle brewing on Potrero Hill

By Corrie M. Anders
Examiner staff writer

The issue of new housing has become such a classic battle in San Francisco that it has become its own caricature.

Almost everyone, from poor people to straight-laced city planners to empathetic socialites, concedes that The City desperately needs thousands of additional homes.

The graciousness and understanding lasts as long as the new housing units, no matter what the price, are not built "in my neighborhood." If the homes are planned for around the corner, especially if the units are government subsidized, the fights can be brutal.

Such a battle is coming to the fore Thursday when the Planning Commission hears a bricks-and-mortar proposal for construction of 120 homes on a panoramic Potrero Hill slope.

On one side are long-time residents, middle-class families who fear that the partially subsidized homes will degenerate into the squalor of public housing projects that dot Potrero Hill's eastern slope.

Included on the other are city officials, Assemblyman Art Agnos, and moderate and middle-income working class families who see the effort as a last chance to buy an affordable home.

As proposed to the Planning Department by the Mayor's Office of Community Development, 120 privately owned homes would be built on an eight-acre site at Wisconsin and 26th streets.

The two-story townhouses would cost \$50,000 to \$90,000, depending on a family's income.

One-third of the homes would be sold to lower-income families earning no more than \$24,000 annually; one third to moderate-income families earning a maximum \$30,500, and one third to middle-class families with a \$40,000 annual ceiling. All of the buyers would have to make a down payment.

Opponents of the Wisconsin Street houses have met at least twice with Mayor Feinstein, several times with Assemblyman Agnos who is a Potrero

City briefing

call for building 110 new units and rehabilitating 10 units already on the site.

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Here are some of the public meetings in San Francisco this week.

TODAY

Cable Cars: San Franciscans gave their approval last November to a ballot measure allowing cable car fares to differ from those on other Municipal Railway transit operations. At 4 p.m., the Board of Supervisors was to hold a public hearing on a proposal to hike the cable car fare from 50 cents to \$1. The proposal would also allow a 30-ride, \$15 pass. Last week's approval by the Public Utilities Commission of other hikes in the Muni system are not on today's agenda. The board meeting was to start at 2 p.m. in the City Hall legislative chambers.

City Hall ramps: The Art Commission was to vote today at 2 p.m. on the latest suggestion to improve handicapped access to City Hall — at the Van Ness Avenue entrance, Commission Room, Public Library, Larkin at McAllister streets.

Mission District: The Thor Hotel, 2084 Mission St., site of police raids and violent incidents, is to be the topic of a community meeting at 7:30 p.m., El Buen Pastor Church, 439 Guerrero St.

TOMORROW

Yerba Buena: The builder who's putting housing atop the Yerba Buena Center garage wants to exceed the allowable density, he'll tell the Redevelopment Agency Commission at its 4 p.m. meeting, 939 Ellis St. And Dr. Carlton Goodlett, the publisher-medic, is asking to delay his Kimball Park housing project. He'll need commission approval.

Housing: A chance to criticize the proposed new master plan for city housing will be at a public meeting

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Nicholas, Glover and Wray, at File's tied with Pamela San Salgado for Our Kabaret,

achievement in entertainment: Ed Guthman, The Sentinel/

contribution to athletics: and Susan Fahey.

community contribution by ban Country.

lesbian/gay film productions from Washington, D.C., Rob Epstein, Francis Reid, and Gretta Schiller.

club recording: Patrick Patron Man.

columnist of the year: Mr. Area Reporter.

achievement in photo Hicks, Blue Boy magazine.

community contribution by list: Meg Christian, Turning It

San Francisco Gay Men's Gay Men's Chorus Tours

onor: California Motor Club, Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day

parade: The Mint, Tricycle; m, theme promotion by a

arking feud killing

outside his home without his mother had given him jacket.

as Newton, widow of the however, said after the announced: "I think it was should have been charged agree murder.

es, himself, said he "just I think I'm a very happy conviction on the reduced as a prison term of from ears. Superior Court Judge durand ordered him to art for sentencing March 8.

estified at his trial that d been a careless and ver who often rammed o the neighborhood.

d like it was something he to do," said the former ter.

the first time he saw r bashing was shortly after 779 Page St., several years he claims his neighbor

Outstanding contribution from the leather/fraternal community: The Caldron/New York Mineshaft.

Outstanding event by a leather/fraternal organization: Date at Minsky's, GDI.

Contribution to advertising: Chuck Thayer Advertising, Adinsandell.

Outstanding graphic design (posters): San Francisco Eagle, Robert Uyvari.

Outstanding competition event: Beaux Arts Ball, San Francisco Tavern Guild.

Outstanding athletic event: Gay Run '81, Front Runners/Advocate and Gay Softball League vs. Sheriff's Department.

Outstanding Christmas decorations by a business: Castro Station.

Outstanding entertainer: Sylvester.

Outstanding theme event: Bivouac on the Russian River, Jim Moss and Folsom magazine.

Outstanding concert: Now Sing Again with Hearts Aglow, San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus and the San Francisco Lesbian and Gay Men's Community Chorus.

Outstanding community event: Castro Street Fair.

Outstanding contribution to entertainment: Sylvester.

Outstanding fund raiser: Char's Four Decadent Decades, Silver Star Cabinet.

roared back and forth in a parking space three times, each time using his truck to ram a compact car.

Jones, who suffered a heart attack in 1973 and is disabled, spent most of his days sitting in his chair looking out the front window and often watched Newton, who at one time lived across the street but later moved next door.

The simmering feud between the two men peaked the morning of Sept. 17 over a parking space vacated by Jones while street sweepers moved up Page. Jones said he pulled his car onto the sidewalk to allow the sweeper to pass and then intended to come back and park in his favorite spot.

But before he could begin to get his car into reverse, Newton pulled into the spot. After some angry words, Jones admitted pulling the trigger on the .38 caliber revolver his mother had given him in Mississippi.

"I felt very bad after the shooting," he told the jury. "I felt everything went to pieces."



or crimes were reported last early today in San Francisco come from initial police and are sketchy:

The victim walked past three ending on the corner of and Stevenson streets at and said hello. The next knew, one man had pulled a demanded his wallet. The suspects then fled with the containing \$55.

ASSAULT — The victim was down Sixth Street, near Stevenson, when two men, for an

unknown reason, set their dog on the man. The victim received serious bites on his arm, leg and body from the pit bull.

ROBBERY — Two suspects entered a restaurant in the 2300 block of Clement Street at 8:40 p.m. One man armed with a shotgun went to the rear while the second, carrying a revolver, took \$950 from the cash register.

FIRE — Police responded to a three-alarm fire at 4:57 a.m. in the 400-block of O'Farrell Street. Fire officials said arson was suspected.

eight-acre site at Wisconsin and 26th streets.

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Opponents of the Wisconsin Street houses have met at least twice with Mayor Feinstein, several times with Assemblyman Agnos who is a Potrero Hill resident, and with city housing officials to protest the project.

Bob Bradford, an unsuccessful supervisory candidate and spokesman for the Potrero Hill Boosters and Merchants Association, said Potrero Hill already has more than its share of subsidized housing.

"We have one of the highest concentrations of subsidized housing in The City. Around 17 to 20 percent of the housing in our neighborhood is subsidized housing and here we are going to have more," Bradford said. "We think it's totally unjustified."

Instead of building additional housing, Bradford said, The City should concentrate on rehabilitating rundown public housing apartments — which he said included approximately "150 to 200 out of 641 (apartments) that are boarded up and not lived in."

Potrero Hill homeowner Babette Drefke said she worries that the neighborhood will deteriorate if the homes are built.

"In my younger days we spent a lot of time planting trees. We built a mini-park and we've done a lot to improve the neighborhood," Drefke said. "We'd like to see it continue and we'd like to see people pay their fair share."

Opponents have suggested that the property — "ideal for nice (single family) homes" — be sold on the private market and The City would benefit from new property taxes.

Complaints and rumors about Wisconsin Street were so prevalent late last year that Agnos, a supporter, circulated a fact sheet about the development.

Agnos said the project provided an excellent opportunity for mixed income home ownership and that the subsidies were a vital part of the promise.

"In this day and age of high interest rates and gigantic sales prices for housing, the only way to reduce the price of housing for working middle class people is for The City and state to chip in," Agnos said.

"With the average price of homes at over \$150,000, developers like Wisconsin Street make a great deal of sense," he said.

The issue before the Planning Commission is whether The City should divest itself of the property by lease or by sale. The property currently is zoned only for public building use.

The development firm is Barratt Northern California. The firm's plans

violent incidents, is to be the topic of a community meeting at 7:30 p.m., El Buen Pastor Church, 439 Guerrero St.

TOMORROW

Verba Buena: The builder who's putting housing atop the Yerba Buena Center garage wants to exceed the allowable density, he'll tell the Redevelopment Agency Commission at its 4 p.m. meeting, 939 Ellis St. And Dr. Carlton Goodlett, the publisher-medic, is asking to delay his Kimball Park housing project. He'll need commission approval.

Housing: A chance to criticize the proposed new master plan for city housing will be offered those who attend a Department of City Planning meeting at 7 p.m. at Lincoln High School Auditorium, 2162 - 24th Ave., Sunset District. Copies of proposed revisions are at the planning office, 100 Larkin St.

WEDNESDAY

Transportation: The role Canon Kip Community House plays in providing van transportation to senior citizens and handicapped services will be discussed by the Finance Committee of the Board of Supervisors. It meets at 2 p.m. in Room 228, City Hall.

Port: The first step in undertaking expansion of The City's maritime facilities, approval of engineering feasibility studies for increasing the San Francisco Container Terminal at Piers 94 and 96, may be taken by the Port Commission at its 10 a.m. meeting, World Trade Center, Ferry Building.

THURSDAY

South of Market: A proposal to create a zone intended to save blue collar jobs remaining in the South of Market area may be adopted by the Planning Commission at its 1 p.m. meeting. Also on the agenda is a controversial scheme to turn a North Beach apartment house into offices at 1000 Montgomery St.; and a 120-unit housing proposal on Wisconsin Street, Potrero Hill. The commission meets in Room 282 City Hall. Check the Department of City Planning, 558-4656, for approximate times of agenda items.

Parking: A public hearing to discuss parking problems in The City will be held when the Fire, Safety and Police Committee of the Board of Supervisors meets at 2 p.m. in City Hall Room 228.

Inside

San Quentin is too big, too dangerous and too crowded but too necessary.

B4

One state senator's office has everything except a state senator.

B5

A man prevented a suicide, but five hours later the woman returned and succeeded.

B8