

Sept. 2, Oct. 7, Nov. 3 (1st Monday), Dec. 2
Meetings are held at West Portal Clubhouse
139 Lenox Way (above the MUNI Tunnel)

PARADISE PIZZA & PASTA

A Man's HOBBY GONE WILD

Paradise Pizza and Pasta, 393 West Portal Avenue, is thriving after 17 years, despite an out-of-the-way location at the end of the Avenue's commercial district. Salvatore (Sal) Alioto, co-owner, chef, and maitre de, attributes the restaurant's success to what he refers to, in all modesty, as "The Best Crust In The City" (possibly the world!) He makes his own pasta and ravioli fresh daily and pairs the pasta with a variety of ingredients. Catherine (Cathy), his wife and business partner, shares all phases of the business with him, but stays out of the kitchen.

Cooking has been Sal's lifelong hobby. He is a happy man because cooking, the job he loves, used to be a hobby, and fishing, the other hobby he loves, used to be a job. His grandfather and father were commercial fishermen, as was Sal at a young age. Because of his cooking talents, Sal did all the cooking on the boat. His grandfather's 28-foot Monterey fishing boat (the *Golden Gate*) was built in 1928 and is still docked at Fisherman's Wharf.

Sal is a local boy who graduated from Sacred Heart High School and still makes San Francisco his home. His roots are deep in the Italian North Beach neighborhood. His grandparents came to San Francisco from Porticello, Sicily.

Sal met his wife, Cathy, when they both worked at ADT Security (between his careers of fisherman and restaurateur). They opened a small Pizza place at 45th and Judah Street 20 years ago, and that is where it all started. Sal was able to offer to the public all the dishes he had been creating and perfecting for years.

After three years, they moved to their present location on West Portal Avenue, quit their day jobs, and devoted all of their time to Paradise Pizza & Pasta. As Sal describes it, "It was my hobby gone wild"

After 17 years at their present location, Sal and Cathy have watched as their customers have gone from single to married to parents and watched their kids grow into young adults. One time, during dinner, a

young man dropped to one knee and proposed to his girlfriend. The young man explained that they had first met at Paradise Pizza & Pasta and figured this was the best place to propose.

Sal has memorialized his dual passion for cooking and fishing through another hobby of making sculptures. He fashioned a 7-foot long fish made of kitchen utensils and pizza places that is displayed on a wall in the restaurant.

Paradise Pizza and Pasta is open seven nights a week, but sorry no lunch.

Sheila Bost & Rae Doyle



NEWS on THE Avenue

Skip the Mall, walk the Avenue

Eco-blitz 1 is coming to West Portal Avenue on September 25 at 9:30 am. **Eco-blitzes** are part of Community Corridors Partnership Program, begun in October 2006, with the aim of joining neighborhood organizations, City and non-City agencies, and merchants to keep business merchant corridors clean

The most common complaint from GWPNA members is the condition of the sidewalks of West Portal Avenue. The Department of Public Works (DPW) recognizes that it will require a partnership of interested entities to accomplish the goal of a clean, attractive, and safe West Portal Avenue

On September 25, DPW staff members will be assigned to manually sweep and steam clean the sidewalks, remove graffiti on the first floor of private property, steam clean garbage receptacles, and clean out tree basins. A Public Information Officer will be provided to educate merchants about City Codes relating to their responsibility regarding public areas in front of their stores and restaurants.

Following up on the first **Eco-blitz**, **Eco-blitz 2** is scheduled for January 8, 2009, and **Eco-blitz 3** will occur on April 2, 2009.

Tuttimelon on 44 West Portal Avenue

If you have wondered why *Tuttimelon* needs permission to open a store on 44 West Portal Avenue (note the sign in the window) it is because in the mid-1980's zoning restrictions were put in place on West Portal Avenue to maintain the neighborhood-serving function of West Portal Avenue.

The zoning restrictions were designed to prevent an overabundance of certain types of businesses in order to achieve a balance of retail outlets and services. It was determined that a cap was necessary on the number of restaurants allowable on West Portal Avenue, due mainly to the problem of cooking odors drifting into houses on adjacent streets.

Tuttimelon proposes to replace the former *Plain Janes*, which was a retail store and an acceptable designation for that site. *Tuttimelon* proposes a full-service restaurant but there will be no cooking.

There are two schools of thought within the GWPNA Steering Committee. One side claims that the 1980's zoning restrictions should be supported or at the least certain restrictions placed on the number of seats within *Tuttimelon*. The other opinion is that the 1980's zoning is out-dated, and *Tuttimelon's* preparation of frozen yogurt, toppings, gelato and sorbet will not cause cooking odors; the main objection to full-service restaurants. The Steering Committee chose to not take a position on this issue.

This will be thrashed out at the San Francisco Planning Commission meeting on Thursday, September 11, 2008 beginning at 1:30 p.m. or later. For information, call Sharon Lai at 575-9087 or e-mail her at Sharon.Lai@sfgov.org Case No. 2008.0685C.

AT&T Withdraws Plan to install 850 Large Cabinets on City Sidewalks

The Planning Department's approval of AT&T's proposal to install 850 4 foot 2 inch wide, 4 foot high, 26 inch wide "lightspeed" cabinets on sidewalks in the City was appealed to the Board of Supervisors by the Cole Valley Improvement Assn.(CVIA) on September 29.

The Planning Department gave AT&T an

exemption from environmental review on the premise that the cabinets, which are about the size of the bed of a pickup truck, would not result in "a significant impact to public views and aesthetics". Over ten neighborhood organization disagreed and attended the BOS hearing to support the CVIA's appeal of the Planning Department's decision.

Supervisor Aaron Peskin said that, from the testimony, the project did not meet the requirements of the environmental review exemption. AT&T's lawyer then withdrew from its proposal to install the cabinets.

Fiona Ma and Leland Yee Co-sponsor Graffiti Legislation

Assemblywoman Fiona Ma and State Senator Leland Yee co-sponsored a California bill, AB 1767, that is designed as a more effective deterrent to graffiti taggers than the current law that permits them to avoid a trial by a "civil compromise" which allows the offender to compensate the property owner by removing the graffiti or paying for the clean up. The criminal charge against the offender is then dismissed, and the person is not required to appear before a judge.

Since there are no permanent consequences of the imprudent act, there is little deterrent to repeat the offense. In San Francisco last year there were 31 vandalism cases that never went to trial because of civil compromises.

AB 1767 requires that, in addition to paying a property owner for damages that were caused by a graffiti crime, the offender will be required to complete at least 24 hours of community service.

In a report from Assemblywoman Fiona Ma's office, the costs of graffiti in California, including costs borne by local governments and private companies and individuals, are estimated to be upwards of \$350,000,000. The report adds, "Graffiti is a highly visible form of vandalism that affects Californian's quality of life and results in costly abatement activities, lowered property values, and visual blight."

AB 1767 is in the Public Safety Committee in Sacramento and a spokesperson at Fiona Ma's office predicted that it won't be moving forward until the current budget problems are solved.

AB 1767 is a step in the right direction, but Mohammad Nehru, Deputy Director of Operations of the DPW has said, "Community involvement is critical if we are to win this war on graffiti." To report graffiti vandalism in progress, call 911 or 553-0123.

The FogCutter can be received online. E-mail info@gwpna.org to get on the e-mail list to receive the FogCutter and current announcements.

Greater West Portal Neighborhood Association
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Families working to improve their neighborhood

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Get the FogCutter online!

The FogCutter is published bi-monthly and distributed to GWPNA members. Please contact the FogCutter editor with your ideas, issues and questions.

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