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San Francisco SAFE wishes you a Clean and Green Spring!

A new season is on it's way and bringing with it new neighborhood growth and potential to clean up blocks, plant new gardens and bring neighbors together. SAFE encourages you to work with other city resources to plan community projects in your area. A clean and green street speaks volumes about the care and pride neighbors feel for their home.



San Bruno Neighborhood Watch Progresses with Benches Garden!

The following is a report from the SAFE group on San Bruno Ave who was able to create a beautiful solution to address something that was adversely affecting their quality of life. We commend all their hard work and perseverance:

We want to share our project to reclaim the derelict Caltrans property near 18th St and San Bruno Ave. In the summer of 2009, at San Bruno Neighborhood watch meetings, one member, Chris Rys, volunteered to interface with Caltrans and was instrumental in getting our "letter of Consent" from Caltrans through the Adopt a Highway Program administered by Arnold Joe. The San Bruno Ave co-captains attended many meetings between state and city groups and various neighborhood groups organized under one roof to offer solutions to run down derelict properties and see what we could do as a neighborhood working with the agencies to improve the quality of life in our neighborhoods. At these meetings we able to personally talk to department heads at DPW, Caltrans, Downtown High School, SFPD, SAFE and the SF city attorneys office. We then received a promise of action. This resulted in Caltrans clearing the land and erecting a fence along Highway 101 and in this way the boundaries to our new Benches Garden were established in January 2010.

To celebrate the success, block co-captains, April Ellis and Joe Treinen, organized an opening ceremony with the help of Cris Rys. We decided to honor the creators of the original park project with a ribbon cutting ceremony featuring Babette Drefke and Virginia Sustrich. Now in their eighties, Babette and Virginia were original members of the group, Potrero Beautiful, which created the Benches in the 70's. They were very pleased with the flowers and thank you cards signed by neighbors in the area. After the ceremony, a wonderful showing of neighborhood families and friends helped move 30 cubic yards of wood chips onto our new garden. Even Carlos Aguilar, the Caltrans area Superintendent helped move wood chips for 2 hours. The garden is designed and the plots assigned to 23 people. We are in the process of getting a water hook up working with SF Park Trust's, Julie Broussard and DPW, Sondra Zuniga. And I am now the garden coordinator for a brand new community garden. We have elected a treasurer, set up a Google group and working on a website and acquiring grant money to improve our new Benches Garden. It's going to be beautiful.

---Joe Treinen, Co-captain San Bruno Ave Neighborhood Watch.
Garden coordinator for Benches Garden

[Visit The Benches Garden Blog](#)

NERT Announces New Upcoming Trainings!

Another opportunity to bring together your neighbors this Spring is through the NERT training. What better way to team up for a great purpose - get prepared for an emergency. As you may know SAFE works very closely with NERT, The Red Cross and the city to support resiliency in the neighborhoods. We encourage each Neighborhood Watch group to do their part to be self-sufficient for at least 72 hours (a week is even better). SAFE can help your neighbors to design a disaster preparedness plan for your block.

For more information on upcoming NERT trainings click the flyer below.

[NERT 2010 Schedule](#)

SAFE Announces Another Session of Kids & Cops



SAFE launched its fourth series of the Kids and Cops program on Tuesday March 2nd, 2010 at the Little Children's Development Center located in the Western Addition, in collaboration with officers from Northern police station. The program will take place every Tuesday morning for the next 8 weeks at 9:30am, concluding on April 20th with a graduation honoring our young participants. SAFE wishes to thank Northern police department for their participation and efforts in reaching out.

Interested in having a Kids & Cops program at your child's school? Click the link below and email SAFE's Child Safety Specialist Elly Mayen, .

[Email Elly](#)



Lunar New Year 2010 - Year of the Tiger

SAFE, in partnership with San Francisco Police Department, sponsored an annual city-wide awareness campaign to educate Asian merchants about extortion, burglary and robbery prevention. 3,500 crime prevention packets were distributed city-wide by our teams, volunteers and police officers from each district.

2010 is the Year of the Tiger. This signals the 13th anniversary of our Lunar New Year campaign. We remain committed to working with Asian businesses to report incidents of extortion, fraud and burglary as well as to educate the Asian communities about MUNI and Pedestrian Safety which is becoming a major concern. We are excited to honor this milestone and our partnership with the SFPD in order to bring public awareness to the unique nature of extortion crimes and promote helping victims.

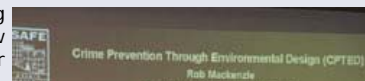
Thank you to all the many volunteers and partners that made this campaign a success!

Click below to download the materials we distributed.

[LNY 2010 Materials](#)

Citywide Block Captains & Leaders Meeting!

Being a Neighborhood Watch Block Captain or Leader is not just about addressing safety concerns. It's also about looking at your neighborhood with a new perspective. Neighbors who know each other and participate in activities together



are more likely to look out for each other... and more likely to observe and report suspicious activities. They are also more prepared for an emergency, and will probably be more resilient if a disaster occurs.

SAFE hosted a quarterly Neighborhood Watch Block Captains & Leaders meeting on February 25th at Dolores Park Church. This meeting focused on Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED). We all learned ways in which neighbors can apply these principles and modify elements of a property to sustain safety and improve quality of life. We also heard from SFPD about new initiatives and the new Community Relation unit.

Thank you to Captain Corrales of Mission Station, Sgt. Paul Yep of the Community Relations unit and our own Rob Mackenzie for a very successful event. Stay tuned for the upcoming meeting in May where we will hear from experts on Graffiti Abatement.

SAFE Gets A New Intern!



SAFE welcomed a new member to our team in February - Just in time for the Lunar New Year Campaign. Andre Russell comes to us from USF where he is finishing up his senior year as an Applied Economic major. Andre also works at USF's Public Safety Department. Thank you Andre for all your help!

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a SAFE intern, please contact Oona.

[Email Oona](#)

The Staff and Board of SAFE encourages you to continue the great community work you do and help us to spread awareness. A SAFE city starts by making a SAFE neighborhood.

Sincerely,
--The SAFE Team

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