



castro community on patrol

www.castropatrol.org

The Patroller

"Creating a Visible Safety Presence"

Oct. 2008

Anniversary Party November 2!

Be sure to help Castro Community on Patrol celebrate our 2nd year of service!



It all starts at 7:00 PM on 2-NOV-08 at Harveys, at 18th and Castro. There will be refreshments, special reconization of volunteers who have put in extra service, and a chance to meet

other volunteers outside of the walking patrols.

Wear your orange Patrol shirt so we can create a "sea of orange." Also invite any friends who you think might be interested in meeting your patrol buddies or who might want to register for the upcoming training.

Successful Castro Street Fair



Patroller Erik Leve and Chair "Greggy" Carey at the booth.

The volunteers who helped with the Castro Street Fair were able to make a large impact with the public. During the day, over 1,500 whistles and safety flyers were placed into the hands of fair goers. It also provided an opportunity to have in-depth conversations with many people who were not aware of the work the Patrol carries out. Several people also had questions about the upcoming Community Safety Forum.

The booth location on 18th Street was adjacent to the Triangle Martial Arts Association, allowing volunteers from both

organizations to work together.

More than 30 people expressed interest for the November training. There is a good chance that this will be one of the largest training sessions held this year.

Community Safety Forum

Voice concerns and share new ideas

By Scott Wiener, Vice-Chair

On Thursday November 6 (7-9 p.m., Eureka Valley Rec Center, 100 Collingwood St.), Castro Community on Patrol is sponsoring a community safety forum. The forum will focus on community safety issues in the Castro and surrounding neighborhoods.

We have a terrific panel in place, including Captain Stephen Tacchini from Mission Station, a Lieutenant from Park Station, our own chair Greg Carey and director of training Ken Craig, Tina D'Elia from Community United Against Violence, Patrol Special officer Jane Warner, Steve Adams of MUMC, and Oona Weil from SF SAFE. Our board vice chair, Scott Wiener, will moderate. The forum will be a great opportunity to learn about and discuss issues of community safety in our neighborhood.

The panel will be fielding a variety of questions and comments from the audience as we look for new ways to keep the neighborhood safer. We encourage merchants and residents to bring their concerns, listen to the ideas of others, and participate in the discussion. We also invite all Castro Patrol volunteers to attend. Please spread the word to others who might be interested in attending. It will be an interesting and productive evening, and we look forward to seeing you there.

For more information, contact Scott Wiener at 415-437-9414.



I've Been Thinking...

Gregory Carey, CCOP Chair



Castro Halloween

I attended the community briefing about the Castro Halloween on the Monday after the Castro Street Fair. It was a bit surprising to see how small the audience was, and to spend the first 15 minutes listening to residents on Hartford Street and 17th Street complain that they could not just pull up in front of their houses and park on the day of the fair. The conversations about the Halloween plans were pretty calm and collected. The City's plan is to encourage residents from various parts of The City to find entertainment in their own neighborhoods rather than coming to the Castro. The main draw will be free entertainment near AT&T Park. Much of the entertainment is retrospective or family focused. That should give those with families a sane place to gather. Now that Energy 92.7 has gotten involved, it might also draw some of the younger crowd.



However, it is yet to be seen as to how calm the Castro will be. The bars will be open for business, and encouraged to have various specials such as costume events. There will be a very large contingent of SFPD, sheriff, and probation officers. There will be facilities in the neighborhood to process those arrested. Open containers will not be allowed, and ABC will be monitoring bars to be sure they are not selling drinks outside their establishments. The plan is to NOT close the streets, but that will depend on the size and unruliness of the crowd. The Patrol board has decided to not be part of the safety patrols that night. We are not equipped to deal with possible violence, and cell phones are often unreliable in large crowds because too many users overload the towers. Hopefully all will remain fun and safe. But keeping it that way is better left to the professionals.

Prop 8 Supporters

The virtual tie in the polls over Proposition 8 could lead to some heated confrontations as we come close to the elections. There have already been protesters who

have attempted to stop the legal weddings being conducted at City Hall. We will put out extra patrols the two Saturdays preceding the elections. An early patrol from 6:30 to 9:30 will meet up with the usual patrol from 9:30 to midnight. We will try to provide extra visibility in the core business area, since it is likely that any protests will be in the block between Market and 18th Street. The patrols on the 25th may also encounter the unofficial "Castro Halloween" which takes place on the Saturday before Halloween. Since this year has nearly a week between these two dates, the Saturday may not be quite as busy as most years, but still has the potential of larger than usual crowds.

The Economy and Crime

As the economy continues to worsen, we can expect an increase in various crimes. Desperation about money may lead to increased robberies, burglaries, and larcenies. Anger over loss of jobs or dwindling 401k's might cause tempers to flare in stranger-on-stranger or friend-on-friend violence. During September, the number of reported Castro crimes was 42% higher than a year ago, including 17 assaults.

George Miley Again

On the afternoon of 27-SEP, I was returning from a wedding at the Gay Center when I spotted George Miley as I came up from the Muni underground. He is the person accused of assaulting a police officer in July. Within 20 minutes he had been taken into custody. The police were pleased that he had been found within the stay-away zone, as the DA had promised to move toward some jail time. But, due to a paperwork mix-up, Mr. Miley was released from jail before the DA could proceed to the next step. SFPD is now on the watch to re-arrest him. However, there is a chance he could again return to the Castro. If you spot him, call SFPD again.

The stay-away zone extends northbound on Castro to approximately States Street, southbound to half-way between 19th and 20th. The limits on 18th Street extend from Diamond to past Noe. (Note: The description last month was too large, as the map on the police notice was 1000 yards, not 1000 feet as explained in the restricted area.) Please review his mug shots at the Castro Country Club gathering point before each patrol.

Punctuality on Patrols

A number of patrols have been delayed or cancelled recently because a patroller has been late or a no-show. If something comes up that either delays you or prevents your patrolling as scheduled, please communicate to the other patrollers and to Damian and/or myself. When time permits, please send an e-mail so we can look for a replacement or cancel the patrol and notify the other patrollers before they get to the assembly point. If that is not possible please phone the other patrollers. We now provide cell numbers on the patrol sheets for this purpose. Please be considerate of your fellow patrollers.

New Board Meeting Schedule

We have moved the monthly board meetings to the 3rd Wednesday of the month because there were continual conflicts with the previous Monday schedule. If this does not work, we will keep looking for a date that suites the majority of the board members

Get your "Hero" Collectables

The Patrol now has special edition t-shirts and buttons for sale featuring the new "Heros Wanted" artwork. We will offer these at upcoming events like the anniversary party and new-member training.



Mark Your Calendar:

- 2-NOV-08 6:00 PM-9:00 PM** CCOP 2nd Anniversary Celebration, @ Harvey's, 18th & Castro
- 6-NOV-08 7:00 PM-9:00 PM** Community Safety Forum EVRC, 100 Collingwood Street
- 15-NOV-08 2:00 PM** Volunteer Training, Bank of America Community Room
- 19-NOV-08 8:00 PM** Board Meeting Bank of America Community Room

Donating to CCOP

You can make tax-deductible donations through our parent organization at: http://www.sfsafe.org/4ych_donate.htm Click the "Donate" link and include "CCOP" in the description field.