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THE NEW FILLMORE

SAN FRANCISCO ■ OCTOBER 2012





It's a Bug's World

A praying mantis plays the cello. Two caterpillars sip lemonade. A pair of irridescent green dung beetles share a bottle of red wine. "Just imagine what a bunch of bugs would be doing if they weren't being watched, and then put that under a glass dome," says local artist Lisa Wood, describing her otherworldly dioramas that feature insects at work and play.

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A Plague of Smash and Grab

Auto burglaries are a perpetual problem, and many go unreported

By Chris Barnett

HE FAMILIAR SIGHT of shattered glass in the gutter is hard evidence of a crime that plagues local residents, visitors and shoppers alike. Anyone with a car is a potential target. Smash-and-grab thieves don't care if it's a Mini Cooper or a Maserati.

You'd never know it from walking the blocks around Fillmore Street, but according to police statistics, auto burglaries are actually down 7 percent from a year ago in the Northern District, which includes much of the neighborhood. Captain Ann Mannix reels off the local numbers: 1,037 vehicle bust-ins for the first eight months of this year, compared to 1,132 during the same period last year.

Citywide, auto break-ins are up 6 percent — including the Park District, which covers most of the neighborhood west of Steiner Street.

While the auto burglary figures from the police department may indicate trends, they are not remotely comprehensive, since many — perhaps most — of those who suffer a loss don't file a police report.

suffer a loss don't file a police report.
High-tech specialist Alvin Johnson, who lives on Sacramento Street, is a typical example. Recently he heard glass sharter nearby around midnight. "I thought to myself, 'Uh-oh, someone's car is being broken into," he says. "But I had no idea until the next moming it was mine."

The thief smashed a side window but got away with only a roll of quarters and a baseball cap. Johnson didnt file a police report or notify his insurance company. "My insurance premiums are high enough and I didnt want a break-in to affect my rates," he says. "I found blood in the car, so whoever did it cut themselves. That was my consolation."

When she lived on Pierce off Pine, writer Karen Horton's car windows were shattered several times.

"Once I had an empty cardboard box in the car and when I came out in the morning, the windshield and two side windows were smashed," recalls Horton, who also didn't file a police report,

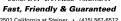
O PAGE 3 >



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THE OLD MAN & THE CAT

CORRESPONDENCE

Just wanted to say how much I enjoyed the story of John Gaul and his new feline friend. ["The Old Man and the Cat." September.] He had told me the story would be running when I last saw him at a San Francisco History Association

John has been a longstanding member of the Victorian Alliance as well, and volunteered as a docent for our annual fall house tours. Sadly, his unfortunate fall will preclude his serving this year. (The alliance will hold its 40th anniversary tour in the Nopa neighborhood on October 21. More information at VictorianAlliance.org.)

Thanks for this touching tribute. Anita Denz

May John and Ari have many happy years together. And I hope Lana Baisel is around when I get to be John's age!

How amazing that some people think this wonderful man should not have a cat. (Or that a cat should not have this man.) Marjorie Leet Ford

As an active volunteer with SF Animal Care and Control, I found your September article "Giving Shelter to Hard to Place Cats" inaccurate in its depiction of the treatment of cats at ACC. Yes, there is a five-day minimum holding period for cats. My experience is that most cats, including those with behavior issues, stay far beyond that holding period. The staff and volunteers at ACC know very well how traumatic the shelter environment is for cats, and do indeed work to help cats over behavioral burdles

This is why ACC has an Orange Team program, where experienced. trained volunteers work with cats that have behavior issues to prepare them for adoption Cats who need extra attention have an orange sheet of paper placed on their cage, where volunteers record interactions with the cat, and share learnings about what the cat best responds to Cats who initially are shut down or behaving aggressively are given the opportunity to show their true selves. The staff at ACC partners with volunteers, and frequently reassesses cats that demonstrate fear initially.

For cases where ACC does not have the resources to care for a cat - for example, a senior cat with diabetes - they reach out to rescue partners for help. (The diabetic cat went to a special rescue in Southern California). Rescue groups

are an important part of the equation in saving animals in San Francisco, but it is possible to celebrate the good work they do without denigrating the efforts of

JENNIFER CLARKI

Editor's note: A number of other anonymous comments were posted on newfillmore.com. We don't publish unsigned letters or comments.

In the Chocolate Chips

Nice survey on chocolate chip cookies in the neighborhood ["In the Chips," September] and beautiful cookie porn photographs. But you missed something really special at Jane: their salted white chocolate chip oatmeal cookies. Maybe those didn't quite fit into your area of inquiry, but they are oh so delicious like everything at Jane.

RICHARD SPRITZER

I don't have a sweet tooth and don't live in the neighborhood or even the city; but even so, I enjoyed this article — excellent idea, and well done (but not dry). Pam Feinsilbei

One thing really jumped out at me: your writer, Donna Gillespie, makes a point of saying that she is a milk chocolate fan, rather than dark chocolate. This should immediately disqualify her from any serious food writing. Who would ever make such an admission in print?

Remembering Sal, Leon

I was in Sal's Unholstery shop vesterday and the owner who worked for Sal for 30 years by accident found your article about him ["Where's Sal?" February 2011]. I went to your website to see if I could find it and discovered many great articles. including the one on Leon's Barbecue ["Leon: King of Barbecue," March 1987].

I sent this to my 40-something sons in England and Australia, You can see their reactions below.

Trudy Zimmerman

I can still taste that sampler plate. That was always a treat for us. It brings back

HARLAN ZIMMERMAN

Amen, loved that place! MIKE ZIMMERMAN

THE NEW FILLMORE

2130 Fillmore Street #202 San Francisco, CA 94115 415.441.6070

Editors | Barbara Kate Repa & Thomas R. Reynolds Production | Ginny Lindsay Marketing Manager | Alison Short Proofreader | Donna Gillespie

Advertising inquiries ads@newfillmore.com or 415.441.6070 Published on the first weekend of each month. Deadline: 20th of prior month Subscriptions by mail are available for \$30 per year. Please send a check.

Connecting the neighborhood

Every month, 20,000 copies of the New Fillmore are delivered to homes and businesses in the Fillmore, Pacific Heights and Japantown. We thank you for your support and encouragement and welcome your ideas and suggestions.

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Most Prized by Auto Burglars: MacBooks and iPhones

figuring it wouldn't merit an investigation. But she did notice that some neighbors actively try to discourage thieves.

"A guy who lived around the corner from me left a sign on his car that read 'It's unlocked. Take anything you want. Just don't break the windows," she recalls.

The crime of auto burglary is mired in myths. For instance, failing to report a break-in to your auto insurer because you feel a small loss will boost your premiums is a mistake. "California state law says your rates can only go up if you cause an accident or have a moving violation," says Jeff Johnson, an agent with the State Farm Insurance Co. office on Divisadero Street.

However, personal possessions stolen in a break-in are not covered by auto insurance, says Johnson. "That's why we tell people to carry renter's insurance or condo insurance." Otherwise, if you lose a laptop or a smartphone or anything not attached to the car and you don't have some kind of personal property protection, you're out of

And burglars don't just ply their trade on quiet side streets late at night. San Francisco jeweler Jay Yadegar recently parked his BMW on Nob Hill outside a friend's house at 2 p.m. and went inside for 20 minutes, leaving his iPhone plugged into the cigarette lighter to charge. "When I came out, the passenger window was smashed and the phone was gone," laments Yadegar. "It's almost as if someone was following and watching me."

They often are. "Opportunists are walking the neighborhoods 24/7 looking for

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cars with stuff inside, period," says Captain

I have a simple message: Don't leave any-

by thieves Says Manniy: "Number one is Mannix of Northern Station. "The crime

thing of value in your parked, locked or unattended car" Mannix says the greatest number of auto burglaries are committed in tourist areas such as Japantown or St. Mary's Cathedral or at the Exploratorium parking lot. "Tourists, especially from smaller cities. aren't as aware of the crime notential as big city people are and they often leave their packages and even their purses in their cars

in plain sight," she says. But not just any products are prized

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the MacBook Pro and number two is the happens very quickly. Five minutes or less. Mannix says the neighborhood's resi-

"I have a simple message:

Don't leave anything of

locked or unattended car

value in your parked,

- CAPTAIN ANN MANNIX

dential side streets off Gough, Geary, Post, Bush and Pine are prime locations for concern because once a car is parked, it's usually there for the evening.

Captain Gregory Corrales of Park Station says auto burglars keep up with the times, especially in San Francisco.

"Twenty years ago, thieves broke into cars to steal the radio," he says. "But you can't get the radio out of these modern cars and if you do, they don't work," However, for experienced car-crackers, a removable

board is irresistible

"Sometimes they work in two-person mobile teams," says Corrales. "One is driving and stays in the car. The other is outside targeting vehicles, popping trunks without breaking a window whenever possible.

"But if a car window needs to be broken, they'll use the auto burglar's standard tool — a spark plug," he says. "Easily hidden in the palm of the hand, the spark plug quickly and quietly shatters a car's side windows."

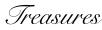
The two police captains agree that sharp-eyed citizens are their best allies in combatting auto burglary crime. "If you see a car break-in occurring call 911 and we'll respond," says Mannix. "Or if you know it just occurred, call 911 because there is a potential for evidence. Or if it's cold - say two hours or longer - call 311 and we'll take the police report over the phone."

Auto insurance agents are divided over whether to contact the cops on a cold case, "Frankly, it's fruitless," said one, But Iria Carrie, owner of R. Carrie Insurance Agency on Sutter Street, disagrees "Victims should file a police report so the department's theft figures are more accurate" she says "It can increase awareness and possibly help spot patterns."

Auto burglars are difficult to catch and tougher to lock up. Corrales says auto burglars arrested for the first time get probation. But if they break in again while on probation, he says, their probation will be revoked and they'll get a year in jail.

"The biggest factor is their record," he says. "The more prior convictions, the more seriously we treat it."





FROM THE CHARLES & GLENNA CAMPBELL COLLECTION

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2 NEW FILLMORE October 2012 October 2012 NEW FILLMORE 3





CRIME WATCH

Aggravated Assault Van Ness Avenue and Ellis Street August 24, 5:30 p.m.

Dispatch received a call concerning a man who had entered an electronics store and was shouting and throwing store products across the aisles. He spit on one employee and threw a phone at him. The altercation started when the man refused to get off of the store's courtesy phone and an employee repeatedly asked him to leave. By the time the officers arrived, the man had left the store and was standing across the street. He was arrested and booked at Northern Station.

Petty Theft Webster and Ellis Streets September 7, 10:20 a.m.

Security guards in a grocery store watched while a man they knew from former theft incidents entered the store and walked toward the refrigerators. He selected numerous beef products and tucked them beneath his jacket, then walked past the opin registers and left. Security called the police, then approached the man outside the store, managing to get one handcuff on him, but failing to cuff the second hand. The man flailed his arms about, swinging the metal cuff toward the guards. As police took the suspect into custody, more packages of beef fell out of his jacket. He was booked at county iall.

Attempted Street Robbery Fillmore and Ellis Streets September 8, 4:45 p.m.

A witness told police he had been walking down the street when he saw a large man struggling to take a backpack from a much smaller man. The larger man would not let go of the backpack, which was securely strapped to the smaller man's back. Finally he pulled the man to the ground and dragged him, still struggling to work the backpack free. The witness decided to intervene. He walked up to the larger man and stuck him so that he fell to the ground, then held him there until the police arrived. The suspect was booked at Northern Station. The man who had been attacked said he was uninjured.

Aggravated Assault O'Farrell and Fillmore Streets September 9, 3:25 a.m.

Officers received a report that shots had been fired. At the scene, they saw a vehicle turn sharply and speed away. The officers took off in pursuit. After a short time the car came to a halt and the men inside jumped out and fled. The officers then broadcast suspect descriptions to assisting officers, who took the individuals in custody.

Dispatch then received a call from a citizen who had witnessed a battery in the same

area. The man who had been assaulted was bleeding from his nose and multiple places on his body. He told the police he had been sitting in the courtyard of an apartmen building, changing a CD in his boom box when a man came up and punched him. causing him to lose his balance and fall to the ground. A group of men then appeared and punched and kicked him. One of the attackers grabbed the boom box and tried to smash him in the head with it. Then suddenly the group of attackers retreated, got into a car and drove off. The man who had been attacked was able to identify the two individuals who had been detained by the police, and they were booked at Northern

Theft From a Person Fillmore and California Streets September 15, 1:39 p.m.

A woman told the police she had been seated at one of the outdoor tables at La Boulange with her purse resting near her foot. She saw a man two tables away been down and reach for her purse. She saatched it up before the suspect could take it. The man then attempted to grab the woman's water bottle from the table. She held onto it and shouted at the man, who fled the area. She told the police the suspect's direction of travel, and gave them a description. Assisting officers detained him and he was booked for attempted purse snatching.

Aggravated Assault with a Gun Terrorist Threats Van Ness Avenue and Geary Boulevard Sentember 22, 3:48 a.m.

Officers knocked on the door of a business, following up on a call that a man was threatening people with a gun. Eventually someone opened the door and the officers saw a man with blood on the front of his shirt, dried blood on his head and a strong odor of alcoholic beverages on his breath He said he had been hit in the head with the butt of a gun. They brought the man outside and he pointed to a man loitering on the sidewalk, saying: "That's him! That's the guy that pointed a gun at us!" He said he and his friends had been inside a private room singing karaoke when four men came in and began swearing at the group. One pulled out a gun and pointed it at them. The other three began to punch the men in the karaoke group. Officers arrested the gun-wielding man, but were not able to locate the weapon. He was booked at Northern Station

Firearm Possession by a Prohibited Person Eddy and Buchanan Streets September 22, 9:49 p.m.

Plainclothes officers saw a man they knew was on parole loitering in an area

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known for narcotics sales and gang-related crime. They knew he had violent tendencies, and had been arrested with weapons in the past. Officers approached him and addressed him by name. The man immediately ran from them. While being pursued, he pulled a gun from his waistband. The man turned around the corner of a building and the officers slowed, removing their handguns from their holsters. They carefully turned the corner to see the man running, far down the block, with no gun in his hand. They caught him by radioing to additional officers for assistance. When they searched him, he was not carrying a gun. But when the officers investigated the path he had taken, they discovered a loaded 9 mm pistol. They arrested him and took him to Northern Station

Aggravated Assault Ellis and Gough Street September 23, 4:08 p.m.

A man told police he was walking down the street when a woman on a bike rode past him on the sidewalk, brushing against him. He said, "Hey, that was almost an assault. You kind of hit me," The woman became enraged, stopped her bike, got off, then grabbed her bike lock, shouting, "I'll show you an assault!" She then swung the bike lock at the man's head. He tried to dodge it, but was struck. He managed to grab the lock, and for a moment they struggled for it. A passerby broke up the fight. But the woman swung the lock at the man again, this time hitting him in the arm. When the police arrived, they spoke with a witness who had been inside his apartment. He'd heard shouting outside and had seen the woman swing the lock at the man on the sidewalk. He also heard the man say, "Drop the lock!" The woman claimed she attacked the man in self-defense. Later a

woman came forward and told the officers that the same woman had attacked her, one block away. The bicyclist was arrested and booked at Northern Station.

Robbery with Force Fillmore and Sacramento Streets September 26, 4:59 p.m.

Officers received a call from a woman who said that someone had just stripped her backpack off of her back, then fled in a silver Mercedes SUV. The woman who had been robbed gave the police a description of the suspect, the vehicle — including its license plate — and its direction of flight.

An officer in a marked police car then reported via radio that the Mercedes had just passed him going southbound. He turned his patrol car around followed the Mercedes.

A plainclothes vehicle in the area also responded and managed to bring the Mercedes to a stop. The plainclothes officers got out of their car and approached the Mercedes, which was trapped in traffic. But the fleeing driver swerved out from behind the vehicle in front of him, hit a parked car, then sped away. A partol car followed closely behind with its emergency lights and siren on. The Mercedes hit several more cars — some parked, some occupied — then struck a Muni kiosk. Finally the vehicle crashed, which disabled it. The occupants jumped out and bolted off, but the plainclothes officers were able to detain all three.

A search of the Mercedes produced numerous stolen iPads and other electronic devices. An assisting officer brought the stolen property to the owner of the backpack, who confirmed that the items belonged to her. She identified all three suspects and they were booked into custody at Northern Station. Vote for a Better Economic Future on November 6!

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Prop C Affordable Rental Housing and Home-Ownership Fund
Prop D Consolidate Local Elections for Better Voter Turnout

Prop E Business Tax Reform to Create Jobs and Grow Economy

State Measures

Prop 30 Schools and Public Safety Temporary Tax Prop 31 Good Government State Budget Reform

Prop 33 Discounted Car Insurance for Responsible Drivers

p 39 End Tax Loophole for Out-of-State Businesses

VOTE NO

Local Measures

Prop A City College Parcel Tax

op F Save Hetch Hetchy! Don't Drain our Drinking Water

State Measures

Prop 37 Food Labeling Mandate – Expensive and Unnecessary

38 State Income Tax Increase

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SF Forward – the Political Action Committee (PAC) of the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce – is the political voice for businesses and residents who support sound economic policy and an exceptional quality of life for all San Franciscans.



RETAIL REPORT

Marco Polo Comes to the Fillmore

New spice shop opening

By Christine Lunde

THEIR honeymoon in Italy, neighborhood residents Olivia Dillan and Ben Balzer floated by Marco Polo's house on a canal in Venice, which inspired Dillan to leave the tech industry behind.

Then serendipity took charge. Three weeks after Dillan and Balzer decided to start a shop of their own, the space at 1821 Steiner Street between Bush and Sutter, former home to a bridal shop, became available. And early this month, Spice Ace, their clean white store with marble countertops and a bejeweled chandelier, will open, offering local shoppers 250 herbs, spices and blends from around the world.

"I'd never want to open a store anywhere else," says Dillan as she floats around the store, eagerly showing off salts and herbs in globe learning about spices and how they white-topped glass jars. "This is my home and my favorite neighborhood."

The triangular Cyprus flake salt looks like a new-fallen snowflake; Dillan recommends a pinch to perk up a slice of fresh tomato. "The fleur de sel was harvested from salt ponds in France," she says. "All you need is a little bit and - pop!



to rosemary lavender and Himalayan pin salt, Spice Ace offers a world of nonprocessed

From truffle to rosemary, lavender and tion, including whole red savina habaneros, Himalayan pink salt, the new shop offers one of the hottest peppers on earth. a world of nonprocessed spices. The herbs

Dillan and Balzer have traveled the obe learning about spices and how they "The beauty of William Bounds is that are used in their native land. Dillan wants blends, and hopes eventually to host blending seminars at the store.

Balzer and Dillan's tastes differ, although

Spice Ace offers white, red, pink, green come from organic or sustainable farming and four types of whole black peppercorns - along with Balzer's favorite brand of

they crush the pepper versus grind it," he to help customers develop their own says. "The wheel doesn't clog. These are my favorite crushers and we're offering a variety to our customers.3

Also on Spice Ace shelves: chervil, comthey both agree on quality. Balzer prefers monly used in herbs de Provence, along makes it better. I want to give people the peppers and chilies — especially the smoked with smoked pasilla de Oaxaca, a someones. They house an extensive chili collec- what fruitier chile, six different Himalayan

salts and a tart, lemony sumac from Turkey Other offerings include infused sugars, but only one ginger candy. And forget chocolate. Balzer suggests adding ground cardamom to ice cream.

If it's paprika you're after, you'll have to ask. It's hidden away in drawers because it loses its flavor and color when touched by

"Not all spices are aromatic, but they come alive in oil or with heat," Dillan says. "I love to cook, and using fantastic spices small joys and happiness I get from using good spices."



Scotch & Soda is now open at 2031 Fillmore, former home of Betsey Johnson.

A Boutique From Amsterdam

Company's first store in the U.S. opens on Fillmore

Scotch & Soda, an Amsterdambased clothing line with more than 30 retail stores worldwide, has opened its first store in the U.S. at 2031 Fillmore Street.

■ NEW NEIGHBORS

The new boutique occupies the space new look, with pint-size dressing rooms in the middle with burlap curtains. The racks and shelves offer men's and womat moderate prices. There are accessories, including bags, gloves and scarves, and plenty of jeans, shirts, pullovers, jackets and the clothing item locals need most days of the year: coats.

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All pieces include Scotch & Soda's attention to detail and some have whimsical touches on classic items. A sweater is adorned with a detachable spray of beads or feathers. Another simple scoopneck is embellished with beaded embroidery. left vacant by Betsey Johnson, but has a A jacket with pleated shoulder pads has fancifully piped lining. Another sports asymmetrical zippers and leather sleeves and trim. A shirt comes with optional en's clothing with a vintage vibe offered velvet bowtie. A tee shirt is jazzed up with sequin inserts.

Additional stores in the United States are slated to open soon in Chicago, Las Vegas and Washington, D.C.



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'Respect the Oasis'

On Sutter Street, Sidney carries on a 60-year tradition

STORY & PHOTOGRAPH BY KATHI O'LEARY

that narrowly missed the wrecking ball of redevelopment 50 years ago, Sidney Hair Care sits among Victorian homes, small shops and the Macedonia Baptist Church.

Sidney, the professional name of Betty Jean Macklin, has cared for clients of all races and walks of life at this shop since 1988. Even before then, she was cutting, perming, relaxing and coloring hair in salons nearby - and gone by - including Jose La Crosby, Patrick's Barber Shop, Darrnell's and Ivory's.

"I am part of a 60-year tradition in this very location as an African American owned and operated hair salon," she says. "And there aren't too many of us left in this town who can say

With its understated facade and dark sheer curtains, the long and narrow shop at 2174 Sut-ter Street seems like a throwback — not only in appearance, but also in the personal interactions of owner and clientele. Sidney's salon is a neighborhood hub for sharing gossip and talking politics; there's a photo of her with Bill Clinton hanging near the door.

It's also a place for sharing personal stories, much in the tradition of beauty shops in the South, where African American women could run their own businesses and turn them into community gathering places.

In that way, Sidney's feels private, intimate and buzzing with life. But the shop is a calming and reassuring place as well. A sign taped her shop can last a few more years

N A charming block of Sutter Street between the oversized round mirrors warns: "Respect the oasis." And an oasis is just how it feels, with the comforting chit-chat backed up by Ella, Frank or — Sidney's favorite — Jimmy Reed. There is no Pandora or Muzak at this

Deftly handling three or more clients at once in vintage salon chairs refurbished by Sal Vales-co, the late upholsterer down the block, Sidney stops to dish out homemade soup and warm blankets to clients under the drivers so that everybody is cozy and fed before the comb-out.

Sidney, with her deep and loving laugh and eternal optimism, is also well known to her customers as a comedienne and singer. In fact, a karaoke machine sits between the hair dryers ready for use. "I'm a frustrated singer without a voice and, you know, I have a captive audience," she says, pointing to the machine.

Deeply devoted to the neighborhood and her diverse clientele, Sidney has loyal customers going back 30 years. As an octogenarian arrives at the shop on a walker, thankful for the street level entrance and extra attention, a young professional man departs on his motorcycle, his long and shining hair blowing in the breeze.

This vestige of a once-thriving African American neighborhood is now threatened with a new redevelopment. Sidney has been warned she may be evicted soon if the owner of the building goes forward with renovation plans that will force her to vacate the space. She's waiting it out, hoping



"Im a frustrated singer and, you know, I have a captive audience.

- SIDNEY, owner of Sidney Hair Care

By Marilyn Damon Diamond

N A recent overcast Friday afternoon, I walked into the doorway to Soaps, the salon at 2480 Sacramento Street, just east of Fillmore, where I get my hair cut - and,

Í stopped dead in my tracks, astonished and confused at the sight that greeted me: The main floor was covered with moving boxes. There were no clients. One of the salon chairs was missing. The products that usually line the shelves under the mirror were all gone. The place was

I ran upstairs to my stylist, Robert Anthony, demanding to know what was going on.

"We're moving," he said. "We were given 30 days to vacate."

Soaps had been in that spot for 32 years. Anthony had been there five years and had spent a good bit of his own money to create a unique area upstairs for his clients.

While the retail turnover on and around Fillmore Street is not new, the suddenness of the move was unusual. According to Soaps owner Barbara McLean, the salon was not in financial trouble. Rather, the owner of the building reclaimed the space to fulfill his dream of opening a jewelry store there.

In 2004 Simon Khurin bought the building, which also houses the Toujours lingerie shop, Khurin said he told McLean when he bought the building that

2482 SACRAMO www.max . /2742

CUT & DIED

A salon makes way for a new jewelry store

eventually he wanted to put a jewelry store storefronts to create a large corner space. in the space.

"I thought it might be one or two years, but it turned out to be eight years," he

Khurin was a jeweler in his native Russia and immigrated with his family to the United States in 1989. For a few years he operated Elite Iewelers at Fillmore and Post, offering mid-priced jewelry watch repair and design services. But he was evicted, along with other tenants, when Goodwill Industries moved across the street a few years ago and took over several

McLean, who employed four hair stylists and an aesthetician at Soaps, was matter-of-fact about closing the salon

after more than three decades "It's his building," she said. "He can do anything he wants with it."

McLean found a new place in Hayes Valley, and the other stylists and employees scattered to other locations Stylist Kate Defoe moved to Cow Hollow. "It's hard to leave all the people," she said. "We were a group who jelled and got along really well."

Khurin said he is sympathetic. "I know how hard it is to be evicted,"

he said, "because that happened to me." Construction is under way now on Khurin's new jewelry store, which will be called Elite Fine Jewelry. He hopes to open in November, offering a full range of jewelry and the services and products he oreviously offered farther down Fillmore

My stylist, Robert Anthony, said he contacted other salons in the neighborhood to see if they had openings, but found nothing available. He really wanted to have his own shop, so he looked at several buildings on Fillmore Street. None had the necessary plumbing.

Then he got lucky.

Anthony found a spot upstairs in the classic Victorian at the corner of Fillmore and Pine, and he was eager to show it off. After punching in a code to enter, we climbed the stairs to the second floor and immediately were hit by the bright sunlight pouring into the offices housing several other businesses.

Down the hall we went to find his new salon - much smaller than Soaps, but bright and cheery in spite of the unpacked cartons and crowded shelves. And there's a small alcove where he has installed a sink and chair

Once again he is creating his own space, but this time it will be the Robert Anthony Salon. Even though the surroundings are temporarily chaotic, I am delighted that my hair stylist was able to stay in the Fillmore.

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New Cookbook Celebrates Italy

OCAL CULINARY STARS Shelley Lindgren and Matthew Accarrino have paired to

pen a cookbook, SPOR: Modern Italian Food and Wine, explaining the history and nuances of the food and wine in eight different regions of Central and Northern Italy. The beautifully illustrated book, due to appear on shelves October 16. includes cultural musings and insights along with the recipes on its



It features dishes served at neighborhoodrestaurant SPQR, which gets its name from the acronym for the Latin translation of the Senate and People of Rome, the Roman motto.

The book's introduction describes the experience of dining at 1911 Fillmore. "The restaurant itself is modest - wooden tables in the dining room surround a marble bar containing the small open kitchen — but the experiences offered nightly are nowhere near plebeian. Our guests may sample spring lamb wrapped in chard leaves on one night and pillows of agnolotti filled with fava beans and black truffle the next, swirling glasses of wine that hail from the coast of Liguria to the Adriatric Sea."

Lindoren, wine director and co-owner of SPQR, tells readers how she came to revere the wines of the region: "Beyond its wine diversity, Italy enchants me for the simple reason that, there, wine is an intrinsic part of a meal." She peppers in



ample education and suggestions for pairings with the dishes discussed.

SPOR's Baked

The book includes step-by-step illustrated explanations of techniques such as removing the pinbones from an anchovy - as required in the **Baked Anchovies**

11/, pounds whole fresh anchovies Extra virgin olive oil Kosher salt Black pepper 2 lemons About ½ cup dry breadcrumbs

Clean each fish under cold running water: Run a small spoon from the tail end toward the head to gently scrape away the scales, Rinse well, Using kitchen shears, make a cut behind the head and gills, stopping just short of cutting all the way through the belly. Let the head fall away and gently pull the innards out. Rinse the anchovy well and place on a bed of ice while you clean the remaining fish. Using kitchen shears, gently cut through the belly from the head toward the tail. With the shears, snip the spine just before the tail (leave the tail intact). With your fingers open the anchovy up like a book. Gently pull out the backbone and pinbones.

Preheat the oven to 375°. Oil a 9 by 13-inch casserole. Slice one of the lemons crosswise into rounds. Cut the other lemon into wedges for serving.

Spread the cleaned fish out on a baking sheet

or platter and season with salt and pepper izzle the fish with enough olive oil to coat, then sprinkle with about 1/4 cup of the breadcrumbs or enough to coat them lightly. Tuck the anchovies crosswise into the casserole and sprinkle with more breadcrumbs to barely cover. Nestle the lemon rounds and bay leaves in among the fish. Drizzle with additional oil and bake for 8 to 12 minutes or until the breadcrumbs are golden brown and crisp and the fish is cooked through Serve with lemon wedges on the side.

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For Locals - and Jocks Named Joe

classics at a fair price in a vintage setting

■ SALOONS

EGEND HAS IT that Liverpool Lil's. the saucy saloon and gastropub just outside the eastern gate of the Presidio, is named after a trollop who prowled the cobblestone streets of Britain's notorious port city entertaining affectionstarved sailors and dockworkers in the dark corners of ale houses.

Maher, founder of the bar and longtime but now semi-retired San Francisco publord. He admits conjuring up the name Liverpool Lil's when he bought the place at 2942 Lyon Street, near Lombard, in 1973. He reasoned that the visage of a strumpet plying her trade gave the place a certain historical public house accuracy.

"Actually, it was a biker bar called the Lyon's Den that served beer and wine room," recalls Maher. "It was also filled

with wounded Vietnam vets who would sneak out of Letterman Army Hospital in the Presidio, often in their hospital wns, and slip in for a drink. The bikers and the vets sort of got along."

Maher scrapped the pool table, added hard liquor, hired bartenders who could make conversation and cocktails at the same time, put in a proper kitchen and an eclectic menu with hearty portions.

Liverpool Lil's turns 40 next year, and little has changed in her lifetime. A front natio filled with marble-topped tables

drinkers — and, in recent years, smokers. eyes adjust to the original scarred wood by the late afternoon light and the wall lanterns, and you could easily mistake it

Lil's turns 40 next year, and little has changed in her lifetime.

overhead and ice packed in a tin tray is still just to the left of the door. The 10 grouned under the weight of thousands

are still standing. Every square inch of the walls is packed with the same aging photos, menus, oversized portraits and

yellowed newspaper clippings.

It's been said that Lil's "art collection" is a historical tour of the city and a rogue's gallery of San Francisco jocks named Joe. Among them: a snapshot of a boyish Joe Montana, arm cocked, ready to heave the perfect spiral, and the wire service photo of Joltin' Joe DiMaggio corkscrewed at home plate after he swung for the fences - and no doubt connected.







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Liverpool Lil's serves up

By Chris Barnett

Not exactly true, confesses Ralph

and had a pool table in the middle of the

and chairs still caters to the al fresco Walk in the half-open front door, let your naneling, the gentle amber glow tossed off

for an earlier era. The vintage L-shaped pub-style wooden bar with racks of glasses hanging red leather upholstered bar stools, having

TO PAGE 12 D

A Gentle Glow. a Generous Pour, a Hearty Meal

► FROM PAGE 11

Of all the customers and characters who have adopted Liverpool Lil's as their favorite hideout, rumpus room and pileit-high-on-the-plate eatery, Joe DiMaggio is the most lionized. Maher even framed DiMaggio's scorecard from the nearby Presidio golf course. A notorious loner and a man of few words who hated people to fuss over him or his fame, the Yankee great would slip in solo and sit by himself at a table, underneath his picture and opposite the bar. "He'd have a cup of coffee or a glass of red wine," recalls Ed Wocher, Liverpool Lil's host for 30 years. He says DiMaggio liked the place because he could come in and nobody bothered him. If Marilyn ever joined him, Wocher never saw her.

Liverpool Lil's is virtually a touristfree zone and most of her lovalists are neighbors — from the Marina, Pacific Heights, Laurel Heights and the Fillmore But during a recent visit, two pals named Michelle, who hold administrative spots at a San Diego high school, were on the next two barstools over, savoring margaritas. "We're here for a conference and a San Francisco friend insisted we had to go to Liverpool Lil's for a drink," said one. "She



raved about the place - and I can see

"Why" is the comfortable, welcoming environs without attitude. "Why" is also the happy hour from 4 to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. With its own menu, the two-hour wind down can make a meal. The barbecue beef sliders, made of ground Angus beef, cheddar cheese and shallots, and the pulled pork slider with Baia slaw and chipotle aioli are hefty and well worth \$4. A trio of tacos — carne asada, carnitas and Santa Fe chicken - are \$3 apiece. A chicken pot pie and a short rib pot pie are also late afternoon offerings for \$5.

15ULATEA

Although Liverpool Lil's may look like a pub, Maher and the other current owners, Eddie Sabino and Gil Hodges, haven't gone the pub grub route. Billed as "classic continental comfort food." the lunch, dinner and brunch menus are filled with appetizers, sandwiches, salads, dinners and desserts that can all be served at the bar. Most of the food prices are double-digit and, considering the hearty portions, they're a deal if not a steal.

Lil's libations are also bargain priced and crafted by bartenders who've earned their chops making and perfecting drinks. As an example, my measure of a bar's - and bartender's - commitment to customer satisfaction is to order a "well" cocktail. As a bourbon guy, my test is a hourbon Manhattan with extra hitters

Jim Beam in the well. Beam's advertising brags that the famed American whiskey hasn't changed in 160 years. Not true. For most of those years, Jim Beam was 86 proof. Today it's 80 proof tastes weak and takes a heavy pour to produce an acceptable Manhattan. Jim Beam Rye is an exception, but it's always a "call." Liverpool Lil's well Manhattans are

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SF Environment

Nearly all San Francisco saloons have





Bartender Casey O'Neill (far left) presides over the plank at Liverpool Lil's, serving up straight-ahead drinks to loyal regulars. Beyond the bar, the dining room (left) offers classic comfort food and a quieter

made from Old Crow, which has also been cut from 86 proof to 80 proof, but tastes smoother. More importantly, the bartenders, including Billy Hackim and Casev O'Neill - who's worked at Lil's off and on for 30 years — pour a Manhattan and other straight-up cocktails to the rim.

And they've not fallen prey to the current cocktail craze of pouring three to five liquors in a shaker, adding two or three juices, then parnishing with fruits and vegetables and proclaiming it some organic aphrodisiac or longevity potion for, say, \$16. Liverpool Lil's sticks with the classics and the prices are way below

market. That Old Crow well Manhattan was just six bucks. Call drinks are \$7

Lil's has a quartet of specialty drinks, but they are not outrageous concoctions of flavors and parnishes designed to win a trophy at a mix-off. They include the truly iconic Moscow Mule, made with Russian Standard vodka: a rich raspberry Cosmopolitan; and a different take on the Dark and Stormy with Myers dark rum, fresh lime juice and Fever-Tree ginger beer imported straight from London. They're priced between \$8 and \$9.

Still, Lil's has its quirks. For example,

Hackim recently rebuffed an order for six whites by the glass and most are in the a classic daiquiri. "Do you know how \$7 to \$8 range. many orders I get for a daiquiri?" he said. "Hardly any. Those people want coconut

frou-frou crap."

Meanwhile, there's no shortage of beers and wines and, again, the tariffs are more than fair. A pint of Guinness is \$5 and the same is true for the other seven beers on draught, including a brew called Speakeasy Prohibition and old standbys such as Anchor Steam and Stella Artois. Lil's has a half dozen or so bottled beers for \$5, but no real standout labels. Lovers of the grape can choose from six reds and

On balance, Liverpool Lil's bar is a relaxing place to hang out or meet and greet. The space itself is compact, and with three big screen TVs blaring sports nonstop, quiet conversation isn't all that easy. But the dining room toward the back is spacious and the dark corners away from the action offer privacy and a little room to cuddle. And with the America's Cup in town in the early part of the month, you might just see some affection-starved sailors here quaffing a tankard of ale.





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1513 Baker St	3	2	2		46	9/12/2012	963,000	963,000
1930 Pine St	4	2	0	1908	28	8/29/2012	969,000	975,000
1527 Sutter St	4	2	0	2600	43	9/5/2012	1,495,000	1,355,000
2617 Sutter St	3	2	1	2100	73	8/31/2012	1,495,000	1,395,000
2120 Lyon St	5	4.5	1	5200	15	8/21/2012	4,500,000	4,621,000
3935 Washington St	5	5.5	2	4700	17	8/29/2012	4,150,000	4,700,000
Condos / Co-ops / TICs / Lofts								
2999 California St #203	1	1	0	613	66	8/31/2012	348,000	345,000
1450 Post St #809	1	1	0	883	66	9/12/2012	399,000	370,000
2415 Van Ness Ave #602	0	1	0		62	8/24/2012	398,000	395,000
1395 Lyon St #8	1	1	1		90	9/13/2012	399,000	432,000
1701 Jackson St #704	0	1	1	476	60	8/31/2012	489,000	482,000
1880 Steiner St #211	1	1	1	669	41	8/24/2012	525,000	576,000
2347 Union St #2	1	1	1		119	8/17/2012	644,900	643,000
3055A California St	2	2	1	966	106	8/27/2012	699,000	675,000
1770 Pacific Ave #101	2	1	0		28	8/22/2012	725,000	725,000
1835 Franklin St #1001	2	2	1	1552	196	8/30/2012	734,200	734,200
2662 Bush St	3	2	2	1025	35	8/17/2012	695,000	750,000
1998 Broadway #601	2	2	1	1040	7	9/7/2012	738,000	755,000
2299 Sacramento St #9	2	1	0	1270	33	8/16/2012	779,000	770,000
1885 Jackson St #301	2	2	1	885	28	8/17/2012	739,000	775,000
2806 Union St #2	1	1	0	992	8	9/14/2012	759,000	783,000
1840 Scott St	3	2	1	1166	41	9/14/2012	775,000	825,000
1701 Jackson St #408	2	2	1	1072	0	8/21/2012	849,000	849,000
2060 Sutter St #506	2	2	1		55	9/14/2012	799,000	880,000
1842 Scott St	3	2	1	1096	33	9/7/2012	750,000	881,000
1501 Greenwich St #404	2	2	1	967	51	8/16/2012	920,000	927,000
2828 Greenwich St #1	3	2	1	1778	13	8/31/2012	995,000	995,000
1774 Jackson St	3	2	1	1590	0	8/29/2012	995,000	1,000,000
1772 Jackson St	3	2.5	1	2122	0	8/29/2012	995,000	1,000,000
2488 Sutter St #2	2	2	1	1700	24	8/21/2012	1,050,000	1,069,000
1998 Broadway #705	3	3	1	1390	42	9/12/2012	1,195,000	1,310,000
1870 Jackson St #303	2	2.5	1		46	9/14/2012	1,445,000	1,385,000
345 Locust St #2	3	2	1		32	9/6/2012	1,350,000	1,450,000
2151 Sacramento St #4	3	4	1	2528	162	8/24/2012	2,195,000	2,150,000
2955 Pacific Ave	3	2	1	2160	68	9/11/2012	2,595,000	2,525,000

An influx of new homes hits the market

From the city assessor's office to the latest headlines, the real estate news is consistently upbeat: "Values Rebounding," "Red-Hot Bay Area Luxury Market" and "Home Sales Surge." The sales numbers support the claims, with properties going into contract almost as quickly as they hit the market. In the recent past, the persistent bottleneck has been low inventory, but during the kickoff of the

fall season there has been an influx of beautiful homes offered citywide — and especially in our

neighborhood.

NEW LISTINGS: 3524 Jackson is a significant architectural showcase capturing everything that defines Presidio Heights: lush formal gardens luxuriating on an oversized lot, expansive views of the Golden Gate Bridge, a custom conservatory and three view terraces. The light cascading down the elliptical staircase filtered through a stained glass skylight in the formal entry brings the interior of this home to life. The classical architecture has been transformed by state-of-the-art technology and systems. It's offered for \$13.5 million.

The penthouse at 2170 Jackson (left) is a phe-nomenal two-level perch with rare 360 degree views

and abundant light. The balance achieved here is rare and exceptional for many reasons. The private terrace, entered through bronze and glass door, has Mexican tile, a fountain and luscious succulents. The woodwork in the contemporary boxbeam ceiling, built-in sculptural table and oversize bench emphasize the natural mth and beauty of wood. But most incredible and unexpected of all is the waterfall that flows down the staircase, visually ending in a beautiful Zen water wall designed by light and space artist Eric Orr. It's offered for \$6.5 million.

- Data and commentary provided by MARIA MARCHETTI at Sotheby's International Realty, Contact her at maria@mariamarchetti.com or call 699-8008.





"BEETLES HAVING WINE"

Dome Sweet Dome

An artist's dioramas imagine insects going about their daily lives



"HORSEFLY AT THE GUMBALL MACHINE"

By Julia Irwin

((TUST IMAGINE what a bunch of bugs would be doing if they weren't being watched, and then put that under a glass dome," says local artist Lisa Wood, describing her otherworldly diora-mas that feature insects at work and play. "It's usually a simple story: a beetle clipping articles out of the newspaper, a caterpillar decorating a wedding cake or two

Wood walks to her part-time job at Nest, the gift shop at 2300 Fillmore Street, from her home near Alamo Square. When she moved here from New York in 2000, she found inspiration in her new surroundings.

"Actually, when I first moved here I wasn't that crazy about the Painted Ladies and Victorian homes," she says. "They just grew on me."

Now Wood not only finds inspiration in the surrounding Victorian architecture, but also in the history

of the Victorian people.
"It's just their sensibilities," Wood says. "They're very crafty people with their photography and odd, morbid fascinations. People were collecting things from nature - and nature is my biggest influence. That all kind of interweaves with what I'm interested in."

Wood was raised in the American Southwest and

attended the University of Texas at El Paso, where she studied jewelry and design.

"Growing up in a rather isolated part of the country

had its advantages, and I tended to live inside my imagination," Wood says. "As a kid I was always making little worlds for insects I had rescued, and I remember always collecting bits of nature and saving them in shoeboxes for a later project. To this day, not much has changed."

Before she began creating the insect dioramas, Wood made shadowboxes juxtaposing old photographs and

"They're larger, and they only have one side." Wood says. "They didn't have a life of their own like the insect dioramas. They're more morbid, more ashes to ashes. The insect dioramas are the opposite of that. They're playful whimsical"

Though Wood had always incorporated nature into her work, she hadn't worked with real insects before she started creating her dioramas.

"It was the first time I had used real insects in my work, and I was hooked," Wood says. "Insects are amazing little creatures. I can't help but be in awe of the way they move, and their vibrant colors."

About twice a year, Wood says she goes to a big warehouse near Los Angeles called Bio-Quip that sells dried insects and other equipment and supplies for "entomology and related sciences

"I go in and pick out just the right ones, make sure they're big enough or sturdy enough or cute enough,"

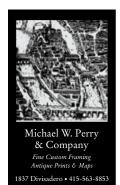
Back at home, she goes through the painstaking process of putting the delicate insects into hot water to rehydrate them, making them pliable enough to pin into positions. Each diorama takes several days.

"Making the base has its challenges. I like the base to look as natural as possible, and using different sand, dirt and rocks takes some time," Wood says. "I like to use a mix of nature and handmade dollhouse miniatures to tell a story. It all has to be glued down securely without any glue visible, and that takes patience."

The dioramas, priced from \$200 to \$800, are available at Nest on Fillmore and at Paxton Gate in the Mission. Wood acknowledges they're not for everyone.

"Some people really don't like bugs," she says. "Some walk by and don't even notice them. But a few stop and pick them up and really look, and giggle and love them. Most do find their way into other people's homes and that makes me happy."

Not all find new homes, however. Wood admits she just can't part with some of her favorites. "Several months ago," she says, "I made a diorama of a snail having a snack of milk and cookies and just couldn't sell



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