

West Portal MONTHLY

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SEPTEMBER 2014



Photo by Scott Wall

Keyboard wizard Rod Argent led The Zombies in performing a string of hits – including *She's Not There*, *Time of the Season* and *Tell Her No* – at the Stern Grove Festival's season finale on Aug. 24.

Environment

In search of an Urban Forest Master Plan

Non-native trees threatened by revised citywide canopy goals

by Dee Seligman

Only 13.7 percent of San Francisco is covered by trees – a canopy smaller than most major cities, including Detroit, Los Angeles and San Jose. In the last two years, tree planting in San Francisco decreased by 21.4 percent while tree removal reportedly increased by 107 percent among city agencies responsible

for the city's trees. Wouldn't it make sense to have a citywide goal to increase our canopy coverage?

The Planning Department's Urban Forest Master Plan – if its current version gets approved by the Planning Commission – could eliminate a last protection for Mt. Davidson and provide another rationale for converting its forest to native shrubs and grasslands. Instead of a citywide canopy goal, the Planning

Department has backed off. It made a strategic change in its Urban Forest Master Plan between its first draft, made public January 2014 and its final draft of May 2014. Phase 1 of the Plan will guide street tree policies, with Phase 2 and Phase 3 following at an undetermined future time to guide park and private tree policies.

This Urban Forest Master Plan will soon come before the Planning Commission, Land Use Committee and the Board of Supervisors for approval – but it's not yet a done deal. Concerned citizens can halt the elaborate dance going on behind the scenes by contacting the Planning Commission right away.

Why did the Planning Department change from its original goal in the January draft of

increasing the city's canopy of *all* trees by 25 percent over twenty years to the goal of doubling only the "street tree" canopy by 50 percent in the next twenty years in the final May version? That sounds innocuous, but it allows for planting more native shrubs to count as "urban forest canopy."

One influential public comment argued that the Planning Department should "replace the citywide canopy goal with a goal for street trees. Citywide canopy goal is not the most effective strategy. Open spaces and parks have more complicated and competing objectives such as biodiversity that should not be compromised for arbitrary citywide canopy targets."

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Coming into Bloom

Dawn Hahn believes 'love is in the hair'

Suddenly, West Portal is more stylish than ever. At first glance, one might mistake the newly-opened Bloom – located at 819 Ulloa St., near West Portal Tunnel – for a florist.

Through the storefront window, a soft pink floral motif can be seen adorning the rear wall. But this isn't a flower shop. Bloom is a place where wallflowers can blossom within an hour.

Like other establishments run by locals looking to offer "downtown elegance" on The Avenue, Bloom is a boutique salon owned by St. Francis Wood resident Dawn Hahn, who wants to help bring "affordable luxury" to the neighborhood.

From the chandeliers overhead to the iPads positioned at every station, Bloom radiates 21st century sophistication. Open 7 days a week, Bloom uses the finest American-made hair care products (vegan and gluten-

free). Leaving "cuts and coloring" to the full service hair salons in the area, Bloom is strictly a "blow dry and style bar." And like other "bars" in the area, Bloom hopes to become a social gathering place where customers can come to sip a beverage or two – in this case, a complimentary Mighty Leaf tea or latte while getting their hair styled.

After picking the site on her birthday and overseeing ten weeks of renovation to create a welcoming space with sleek decor, Dawn is now inviting the community to come celebrate Bloom's grand opening on Saturday, Sept. 13.



Photo by Glenn Gullmes.