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PRESIDIO PROFILES

Presidio Special Olympics Team

Presidio Golf Course recently hosted the first-ever San Francisco Special Olympics Golf team. This spring, twelve athletes trained under the direction of instructors Christopher Gay, Dave Gannon, and Phil Gaggero, along with volunteer coach Colleen Moran.

“This was one of the most energetic groups I have ever worked with,” said Gay. “Being able to give golf to people who otherwise wouldn’t play the game was amazing.”

One such participant was fourteen-year-old Stephanie Taw. With cerebral palsy and hydrocephalus, she had never played golf until she joined the Presidio team.

“This experience has changed my daughter’s life,” said her mother Susan Taw. “Golf has given her a self-confidence that I have never seen in her before.”



Stephanie won a gold medal at the Northern California Summer Games qualifier in Santa Clara. “When I play golf I feel energy and power... I am free and in total control of the club. I love the game,” she said.

The Presidio team won several medals at a qualifying tournament in Santa Clara. Four athletes then advanced to the summer games in

Santa Clara where they received one gold and four silver medals in individual competition.

Gay said that the group learned far more than golf. “It gave them life skills. Many of the athletes had to learn to be self-sufficient, for example, using public transportation to reach the

course for practice sessions.”

Presidio Golf Course manager Anna McGrath says the partnership worked out so well that the course would like to continue to host the Special Olympics program.

Meanwhile, Stephanie continues to take lessons, honing her game for the next competition.

PRESIDIO VOICES

Thank you to everyone who responded to last month’s survey asking which aspects of the Presidio’s future are most important to you. We have heard from hundreds of community members. Your comments are helping to shape plans for the Presidio as the General Management Plan Amendment is updated.

Planning formally began in July, and we are eager to hear your ideas and suggestions in a number of areas including:

- resource preservation
- programs
- visitor amenities
- housing
- transportation
- built environment
- financial sustainability

Even if you missed the kick-off meeting, you can still share your views. A booklet explaining the planning process and seeking your comments, suggestions, and views on a number of proposed study topics is on its way to households on our mailing list this month. If you are not on our mailing list, you can request a copy of this booklet by calling 415.561.5418. If you would like to be informed about upcoming meetings in the planning process, please share the following information with us:

name _____
 address _____
 city/state/zip _____
 phone (day) _____ phone (evening) _____
 fax _____ email _____

Thanks for your help in saving and preserving the Presidio!

Presidio Trust • P.O. Box 29052 • 34 Graham Street
 San Francisco, CA 94129 • ptip@presidiotrust.gov

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

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 Topic: Financial Planning Concepts
 Golden Gate Club

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 Golden Gate Club

Presidio



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*Preserving the Presidio
as a Sustainable
National Park*

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Letterman Update

Thank you to all who have sent us your comments on the schematic design of the proposed digital arts campus at the Presidio's Letterman Complex. This project has been shaped by the ideas and suggestions of hundreds of community members over many months. The Presidio Trust Board of Directors will continue to welcome your input on design until August 15. Please mail written comments to the Presidio Trust, P.O. Box 29052, San Francisco, CA 94129, or email to planning@presidiotrust.gov.

Following the close of the comment period and consultation with state and federal historic preservation agencies, the Trust will publish its comments and responses.

We anticipate that deconstruction of the former Letterman Army Medical Center and the Letterman Army Institute of Research will begin this fall. Please note that beginning on Monday, August 28, parking will be restricted on the 23-acre site as preparations get under way. Please look to the Presidio Post for updates on this project, or call 415.561.5418 with questions.



Two Presidio buildings have been transformed into an educational center serving formerly homeless veterans.

VETS COME HOME TO THE PRESIDIO

Last summer, Douglas Bonham, 52, had just about hit rock bottom. Alcohol and drugs had consumed his life so much that he lost his wife and a number of jobs. By the end of the year, he was evicted from his flat in San Francisco and was forced to go to a shelter.

"It was quite a culture shock for me," the Vietnam veteran said. "I had a wake up call."

VETERANS ACADEMY

However, things are looking up for Bonham. This month, he and 99 other formerly homeless veterans are taking their places as members of a new Presidio Veterans Academy's first class.

The project is the brainchild of Swords to Plowshares, a non-profit organization created by veterans 26 years ago to help their peers readjust to civilian life.

The organization has renovated two Presidio buildings to serve as an education and job training center. In a campus-like setting, program participants will have access to classes, health care and counseling. They will also live on-site in a semi-independent environment, residing in private, subsidized housing units, while also benefiting from a supportive group setting.

"When they hit that door, it's going to have a real healing effect on a lot of the vets," said Carl Skinner, Swords to Plowshares residential programs director. "This gets them away from the hustle and bustle so when they walk out the door, they won't have their guard up and they can relax."

The move to the Presidio is a welcome one for many because they passed through the site as part of their military tour of duty.

POWERFUL PARTNERSHIPS

The Veterans Academy is the result of a unique public-private partnership.

The program is funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the City of San Francisco, as well as other local, state and federal agencies. Private foundations, corporations and individuals have provided additional funds.

In collaboration with City College of San Francisco Urban Institute, Swords to Plowshares will provide vocational and higher education opportunities for program participants. Up to 70 percent of participants are expected to engage in college level coursework. Options include computer programming, software design, landscape gardening, the



Job skills training will give program participants the tools needed to reenter the workforce.



"I'm interested in computer skills, and I have a film making background," said Bonham. "I'd like to get back into the film industry."

construction trades and the culinary arts, among others.

The Presidio Trust will welcome some program participants onto its staff for hands-on job training. "We're giving something back to those who have given us so much," said Trust Executive Director Jim Meadows. "As a veteran, I'm gratified we're part of a program that offers veterans the tools needed for success."

"This gives me an opportunity to have a second chance to get my life back in order," Bonham said smiling.



Sustainability Spotlight

Building It Green

Carpet is carpet, right? Not exactly. At the Presidio, you may be walking on cutting-edge technology.

Here, often everyday items like flooring, paint and lighting that look like that found in any building are actually “green” products chosen for their efficiency, low-toxicity or sensitivity to the environment.

The newly renovated former military police headquarters on the Presidio’s Main Post models sustainable design, materials and practices. Over the past several months, the historic structure was modernized, using environmentally-friendly materials whenever possible. This building now has new life as a home for five organizations (see p. 3 for a “who’s who”).



Buildings are retrofit with highly efficient lighting and energy management systems to maximize energy conservation.

Here are just a few examples of the sustainable materials used:

- carpet has a 100% recycled backing; toxic glue was replaced with a healthier alternative
- “hardwood” flooring is actually made from bamboo, a natural, renewable resource
- low-wattage fluorescent bulbs were used throughout the buildings
- cabinets were made from Wheatboard, a natural, non-toxic, renewable resource
- water-saving, low-flow plumbing fixtures replaced older models

In addition to using efficient and healthy materials, the Trust repaired the building’s damaged floors, decks and windows, saving precious resources and reducing waste. Many items that could not be reused were saved for other purposes, including two tons of metal and 60 sheets of reusable plywood.

Making buildings “green” does not mean sacrificing their historic features. Though 21st century technologies were used during the renovation, this building retained its Civil War-era character. Indeed, historic preservation is in itself a sustainable practice because it avoids new construction by adapting old buildings for new uses.

Board Members

Donald Fisher	Mary Murphy
Jennifer L. Hernandez	William Reilly
Ira Michael Heyman	Toby Rosenblatt
Amy Meyer	

August

Thursday, August 10, 11 a.m. to Noon

Presidio Reuse, Recycling and Education Center – Community Grand Opening

We couldn’t keep our excitement “bottled” up any longer! Join us to celebrate the grand opening of this sustainable facility and to thank the partners who made the project possible. The Center is located at Building 1243 in the Fort Scott area. Call 415.561.5418 for details and directions.



September

Wednesday, September 13, 6 to 9 p.m.

Updating the Presidio Plan – Workshop on Financial Planning Concepts

The Presidio Trust is charged with preserving the Presidio as a national park while achieving financial self-sufficiency by 2013. How can the Trust achieve these goals? Please join us for this second scoping workshop on updating the Presidio’s General Management Plan Amendment. Take the shuttle from the Lombard Gate to the Golden Gate Club. For details, call 415.561.5418.

By Jim Meadows
Presidio Trust Executive Director

Did You Know...?

GET INVOLVED IN PLANNING THE PRESIDIO’S FUTURE



It was standing room only last month as 200 community members kicked-off the process to update the Presidio’s General Management Plan Amendment. In the crowd were dozens of people who were participating in Presidio planning for the first time. We welcome these new faces and the ideas and energy that broad participation from our engaged community brings to the process.

Still more of you responded to our recent questionnaire – sent by mail and published in June’s Presidio Post – seeking your priorities. We’ve now heard from hundreds of people who weighed in on such issues as environmental preservation, recreational opportunities, and the character of our emerging community. Thank you for your support – your comments are critical in defining how we move forward.

As planning gets underway, I’d like to note a change since we

introduced this effort in June’s newsletter.

Rather than produce a detailed “implementation” plan for all sites within the Presidio, we will instead begin a year-long effort – with full community participation – to produce a concept plan. This plan will broadly outline how we will

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move forward – including such elements as where in the Presidio housing will be located to the types of public programming we expect the park to host.

Then, as each of the park’s planning areas is addressed in the coming years, we will carry out more

detailed site-specific planning and environmental review, with additional public input.

While the goal remains the same, this approach will immediately afford the community greater understanding of where we are headed while ensuring steady progress in producing tangible benefits for the park.

If you missed the first meeting, check your mailbox this month for a booklet outlining the planning process. If you are not on our mailing list, please complete and return the panel on p. 4 of this newsletter.

There’s no better time to get involved in the Presidio, and we invite you to join us in September and October for the next planning meetings. If you have questions about this process, please email ptip@presidiotrust.gov or call 415.561.5418.

PRESIDIO TENANT PARTNER SPOTLIGHT



International AIDS Society-USA

Though no longer a military post, a new battle is being waged at the Presidio – the fight against AIDS.

In keeping with the park’s modern mission to address critical social issues – particularly in the areas of health and scientific discovery – the Presidio’s International AIDS Society-USA (IAS-USA) improves the treatment, care and quality of life of people living with HIV/AIDS. It does so by providing balanced, relevant and innovative information to the physicians who care for them.

Education is the most effective weapon in the war against AIDS. IAS-USA helps doctors keep abreast of rapidly emerging research results so they can provide the best possible treatment.

At the core of IAS-USA’s work are annual one-day “continuing medical education” conferences as well as an ongoing series of online courses. These classes present timely, scientifically rigorous information about



An international panel of eminent scientists and physicians met at the Presidio to develop guidelines for antiretroviral therapy in HIV-infected adults. Their guidelines were published in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

management of the disease and new treatment guidelines.

IAS-USA is having a broad international impact by developing recommendations for HIV patient care. Panels of renowned physicians and scientists convene to review available data and prepare clinical guidelines.

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To learn Hill at 415.

KIDS BLOOM AT THE PRESIDIO THIS SUMMER

BAY AREA YOUTH ENJOY AN OUTDOOR SUMMER SCHOOL AT THE NATIVE PLANT NURSERY



IT'S A UNIVERSAL TRUTH: KIDS AND DIRT GO TOGETHER. COMBINING YOUNG PEOPLE'S "LOVE OF THE MUD" WITH FUN AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES IS THE SPECIALTY OF STAFF AT THE PRESIDIO NATIVE PLANT NURSERY.

The National Park Service, the Parks Association and Americorps sponsor a vibrant year-round series of programs serving children from a diverse group of Bay Area schools. This summer, both the weather and the activity have heated up as the Presidio Trust and other Presidio organizations have joined them to offer increased activities for school groups and summer camps. Partners include Friends of the Urban Forest, the Richmond YMCA, and the Biodynamic Farming and Gardening Association, to name a few.

"We want to instill in these kids that they are stewards of the land...that what they do makes a difference in the environment around them," said Mellanye Lackey, Environmental Educator for Americorps.

Kids of all ages – from kindergarten to second grade to high school – participate.

"It's a way for kids to connect with the environment around them, and a great way for adults and youth to work together," said Marney Blair, Green Debris Specialist with the Presidio Trust.

In the Friends of the Urban Forest Youth Tree Care Program, twelve kids are helping with environmental activities three times a week at the Presidio.

"Teaching the youth to think ecologically shows them how events and actions are all interrelated. Many of these youth come from violent neighborhoods where actions may appear to be random. The Presidio is a great location for

learning about these concepts through nature," said John Ricker, Program Instructor for Friends of the Urban Forest.

This summer, the Trust's Regeneration Program will place an increased emphasis on programming for children. Forty-four kids from Town School for Boys recently visited the park to help out with composting chores. In a recently completed program led by the Trust in cooperation with the Presidio's Biodynamic Farming and Gardening Association, fourteen kids from the Waldorf School learned about ecology by collecting weeds, hunting for mushroom spores, turning compost piles and caring for the wiggly inhabitants of the "worm bin."

LIGHT

guidelines have been published in medical journals *JAMA* and *Nature Medicine*, among others, and have been adopted by governments and institutions around the world.

Its publication, *Topics in HIV Medicine*, read by practitioners nationally and internationally. It features summaries of talks given at IAS-USA courses, highlights of scientific meetings, review articles, and treatment recommendations.

Last month, a group from the International AIDS Society-USA joined hundreds of teams of thousands of individuals at California's largest AIDS fundraising event – AIDS Walk San Francisco. The AIDS Walk benefits the San Francisco AIDS Foundation (SFAF) and dozens of other Bay Area AIDS service organizations.

To learn more about IAS-USA, call Misako [redacted] at 415.561.6720 or visit www.iasusa.org.

A BUILDING REBORN

AN HISTORIC BUILDING BEGINS A NEW LIFE

It has had many lives. Military barracks. Administrative Offices. A jail (we're not kidding.) If these walls could talk, the bricks and mortar of Building 36 on the park's Main Post would have quite a tale to tell. However, one of the most interesting chapters in its history is now unfolding as five socially-minded organizations take up residence within the recently renovated edifice (see also the Sustainability Spotlight).

The Presidio Trust rehabilitated this 8,000 square foot building to create new opportunities for small and non-profit organizations to locate at the Presidio. The renovation included a seismic upgrade as well as electrical and plumbing

improvements. Even as the Civil War-era building takes on a new use, its historic character will remain intact, with many elements of its original appearance, such as the interior wainscoting, being restored.



Building 36 is one of three buildings on the Main Post that have recently been renovated. Look to the *Presidio Post* in coming months to learn more about the park's other new neighbors.

NEW NEIGHBORS

The Aspen Group

Organizes the construction, rehabilitation and development of low and moderate-income housing.

Food, Land & People

Dedicated to educating children from pre-school through 12th grade about the sources of food and the importance of protecting the land and water.

The Guardsman

Sponsors educational programs serving at-risk Bay Area youth.

Presidio World College

Provides learning opportunities for sustainable development of people, the economy, the environment, communities and organizations.

Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation

Devoted to eradicating breast cancer as a life-threatening disease through advancing research, screening, treatment and education.

Ongoing

First Saturday of Every Month, 8:30 p.m.

Taizé Prayer Service

The Presidio's Interfaith Center welcomes you to the Main Post Chapel (130 Fisher Loop) for a musical form of prayer consisting of chanting, reading from scripture and quiet meditation. For details, contact Delia Molloy at 415.563.4280.

Friday, September 15, 2000

Building Bridges of Understanding Between Agriculture, Education and the Environment

Join the Presidio's Food, Land & People for their annual symposium. To reserve your place, call 415.561.4445.



Sunday, September 17, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Ridge to Bridge Ride

This 12-mile bicycle tour journeys from the Presidio across the Golden Gate Bridge and through the Marin Headlands on the Bay Area Ridge Trail. Meet at the William Penn Mott, Jr. Visitor Center (102 Montgomery Street). Helmet and reservation are required. Call 415.561.4323.

