



By Phil Faroudja

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS: Developers have set their sights on 2055 Chestnut Street. This is currently a Wells Fargo, a little branch with parking in rear I'm sure you have seen. The building must have an interesting background. Anyway, the idea is to convert it into a single structure with retail on the ground level, and 49 apartments on upper floors. Some GGVNA board members are concerned that architecturally the intended modern, gray building will not blend in with Chestnut, constructed in the 1920s in mostly art deco or moderne styles. In addition, developers want a grocery on the ground and the parking entrance will be via Lombard, which might cause perpetual traffic jams as cars line up. See the proposal at www.2055chestnut.com ... Owners of North Beach restaurant "Original Joe's" plan a smaller version here. Called "Little Joe's," the eatery has a pared down menu and would be at the Chestnut and Scott street intersection ... Congratulations to Chestnut's Lucca Deli on their 93rd year in business. That's right, they have been in the same location since 1929. Their Italian food imports are tops, as is their deli; lines are always long. Proprietor Paul Bosco tells me in the couple of decades he's been there, "...the neighborhood hasn't changed that much." Is he sure?

* * *

PRESIDIO PROJECTS: The Presidio has nearly finished its new Battery Bluff installation. Positioned 100 yards west of the Main Post and overlooking the bay, it features four renovated batteries, walkways, trails and picnic areas. The batteries used to house artillery designed to protect from attack ... Two new restaurants have moved into the Presidio. A Mexican place will be next to the Officer's Club ... The Presidio theater has reopened. It presents live programs,

ranging from musicals to magic shows to one man acts. No movies though; a projector has yet to be purchased.

* * *



“Say Bill, do you think I’ll have to show up at the office again? Regularly?”

THEATER BEAT: There has been some disruption in the city's movie theater business. Last month, the Embarcadero Center Cinema closed after 25 successful years. How come? Landlords removed the escalator to the third floor, where it was situated. Patrons could not find the site ... Meanwhile the Opera Plaza Cinema on Van Ness has reopened after a renovation. It showcases SF films like "Bullitt" and "Dirty Harry" ... And Supervisor Stefani has introduced legislation to preserve the Clay Theater on Fillmore. It has been okayed by several committees and awaits a final vote. The Clay inaugurated in 1910 as a nickelodeon and exhibits a lot of history, much of it in architectural details. It's great to live in a city that cares about its past ... And we hope you will join us for our monthly meeting Wednesday, March 16 at 7 pm. Stay healthy, everybody!

* * *