



It's THAT time of year. The Annual Billing Package accompanies this issue of the Communiqué, including your invoice. As required by law, the package includes considerable detail about many financial, legal and operational matters at the Club. We encourage you to read all of it carefully.

President's Message

Let's Separate the Truth from Some Rumors About the CDOA

Some of you are in the same age bracket as I am and remember the TV game show, "Truth or Consequences." The underlying message of the statement is a timeless one for every aspect of our lives.

Most of us learned this reality lesson early in our lives: tell the truth. If you don't, there will be consequences. Many of us also know that even when you tell the truth and present the facts, not everyone is necessarily going to want to hear them, especially if they may be looking at a certain situation from a different perspective.

There have been some negative and totally unfounded rumors being spread around recently about the Club Donatello and the CDOA. Please let me categorically address them with the **TRUTH.**

In the meantime, I encourage anyone who has heard or may be involved in spreading these negative rumors to stop them or there may need to be consequences.

Rumor #1 - The CDOA is over \$1 million dollars in debt and there's going to be a Special Assessment this year, in addition to a major Dues increase.

TRUTH - The CDOA is not in debt anywhere near that amount. We do have a booked obligation to repay money into our own Reserves account that has been shown on our Balance Sheet for over a year, and that is being paid back each year and is currently at \$521,000.

We owe ourselves that amount of money into the Reserves account and it will be fully repaid under our long-term Financial Plan as approved by the Board of Directors and implemented as of January 1, 2004.

We also have an obligation to the PPCA for five months of operating expenses/capital payments totaling approximately \$165,000. However, a portion of that amount is subsequently reconciled against our reserves/operating expenses account at the end of

the year. We currently have a positive variance with PPCA of approximately \$26,000 through the end of September 2005.

We have a short-term revolving line of credit with California Bank & Trust of approximately \$122,700, of which we paid down \$50,000 last week based on a CDOA investment account that matured on October 2. This action was approved by your Board of Directors on October 19. The remaining balance will be fully paid off on or before December 31 this year.

There will be no Special Assessment this year. There will be a dues increase this year. Please see the Annual Billing Package information enclosed in this envelope for the details on that Board-approved action.

Rumor #2 - The Board of Directors members are being paid for their services to the CDOA.

TRUTH - The CDOA's Bylaws prohibit any such action, and no Board of Directors members are being paid

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Redesign Brings Flair To Club Web Site

The re-designed Club Donatello Web site is in final stages of development, to be followed by some extensive testing with the three most popular Web browsers, Internet Explorer, Mozilla Firefox and Netscape Navigator. The Marketing Committee expects testing to be complete and the new Web pages to be launched in November.

The first thing you will notice is a new look to the Web site. The same general color scheme was maintained, and the Club logo — the winged Lion of St.

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Rumors Are Rumors Because Usually They Are Not Facts

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anything for their hours of service at Club meetings, Club work at home, or any of their work performed for the CDOA. All Board of Directors members are volunteers. The Directors receive a mileage reimbursement below the IRS guidelines for their required trips for meetings at the Club Donatello, and/or any other locations required for CDOA business purposes only.

Rumor #3 - Don Thomas is resigning from being President & CEO and from serving on the Board of Directors.

TRUTH - This was news to me as I am not resigning from either of these elected positions, nor have I been asked to even consider such an action by any Owner or Board member. I will fully carry out my Owner-elected responsibilities through to the completion of my

term. One of my goals is to continue to serve the CDOA, and successfully see the complete achievement of the long-term financial plan that our Board has approved through to 2010 - 2011.

The bottom-line is that negative rumors for any organization or person take time and energy to correct, refute and explain to those individuals who have been exposed to false information. I know that a certain amount of dealing with that activity comes with the responsibility of being a "servant leader," and that is the management style and approach that I take with all of the various business, ministry, and organizations with whom I am blessed to serve in such leadership positions.

If any Owner would like to see any of our detailed financial statements, budget worksheets, reserves analysis re-

ports (independently conducted by an outside expert resource), our independent CPA financial reviews, or any of the documents related to the operations of the Club Donatello and the CDOA, we welcome your requests and visits to the Club to see these documents and confirm the **TRUTH** for yourself.

Be careful, though. We may ask you to serve on one of our Owner-run committees. We have over 50 Owners who serve the CDOA as volunteers.

If you hear any negative rumors about the Club Donatello or the CDOA, please give me a call directly at anytime, and I will be pleased to provide you with the facts and the **TRUTH**. My E-mail address, cell phone and home telephone number are available for any Owner to contact me. It is my distinct pleasure to be of service to all of the 2,295 Owners of our Club Donatello Owners Association.

By the way, if you hear any positive rumors about the Club Donatello or the CDOA, I'd love to hear from you about those as well. To the best of my knowledge, all of those are the **TRUTH**.

HAVE A GREAT STAY AT YOUR CLUB DONATELLO!

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New Club Donatello Fashions Are Available



A new line of men's and women's shirts and warm covers, bearing the Club Donatello logo, is available. They'll look great on you -- or as a gift. See them in color in Club 1500 or on the Club's website, www.clubdonatello.org.

(Black)- Hooded Raglan Fleece- \$18
(Red)- Men fashion Polar Fleece- \$18
(Beige)- Women fashion polar fleece-\$18
(Yellow)- Ladies placket sport shirt- \$20
(Olive)- Men rib Polo shirt-\$24
(Maroon)- Men Polo shirt with trim- \$24
(Purple)- Ladies sleeveless sport shirt- \$17

Wi-fi is In the Air

Wi-fi, or wireless Internet access, is now available throughout The Donatello.

Signal repeaters, which are the property of The Donatello, have been added throughout the building and it is believed that all the "cold spots" have been eliminated.

The service is free, except for a nominal charge in the lobby booth, where there is also a printer.

Calendar of Social Events

To make a reservation for a Club function, go to the CDOA Website, www.clubdonatello.org, fill out the electronic version there, or call 415-885-8803. If you're paying by check, your reservation will be confirmed after the check arrives – within seven days, please – and clears.

The cancellation policy for events varies; in some cases, such as theater tickets, there can be no refunds after tickets are bought, usually 30 days in advance. Guests are welcome to all events. Call 415-885-8803 or fax 415-885-8886.

Would you like to know about the Social Events before the Communiqué reaches you? Go to the Club Donatello web site, click on Club News and click on the Electronic Form. If you fill it out and submit it, we'll alert you when these pages are updated.

White Christmas, November 20 SOLD OUT

What is becoming a San Francisco tradition, Best of Broadway's "White Christmas" with music by Irving Berlin, returns to San Francisco at the Orpheum Theater for the second year. This is the show of the season guaranteed to please young and old. We have reserved 20 orchestra seats for this 2 p.m. performance. The \$71 charge includes a wine and cheese reception following the show.

Christmas Party December 4

In response to Owners' comments, this year's party will be very innovative. We'll start with a champagne reception at 5 p.m. at the Club, where we'll also hold the silent auction. Dinner and dancing, starting at 6:30 p.m., will be one block away at the Marines Memorial Club, where the new chef has earned good reviews. We'll do away with the live auction, but there will still be a raffle for exchange weeks. Marsha Remas and the Jules Broussard Quintet are playing an extra half hour – to 11 p.m. – by demand because they were such a hit last year with the party goers.

Fashion Show and Luncheon December 5

Planning a trip? Ruth Swart is arranging a fashion show of "The Weekenders." These are mix-and-match tops, pants, skirts and jackets with timeless appeal. These wrinkle-free, no-ironing clothes are easy to wash (no dry cleaning), perfect for packing. The fifth floor Terrace Room serves as the runway for the Social Ambassador models. We'll also show unique handbags crafted from cigar boxes by a Carmel artist and fine sterling jewelry. Luncheon will be served, noon-2 p.m. Come and have fun. Cost is \$20.

Lestat January 25

The new musical *Lestat* is based on characters from the novels of Anne Rice ("Interview with the Vampire" and "The Vampire Lestat") with music by Elton John. Our tickets are at the Curran Theatre on Wednesday, January 25, 2006. Curtain is at 8 p. m. following a wine and cheese reception at the Club 1500 at 5 p.m. The cost of \$88 per person includes the reception.

Also Upcoming:

- For Valentine's day, which falls mid-week next year, we're considering organizing a romantic dinner. However, the places we're considering haven't opened their books for 2006, so that announcement will come later.
- Swan Lake – the play, not the ballet – is coming from mid-March to mid-April 2006. We'll look at the dates for Easter and Spring Break and pick a date.
- Save the last Sunday in April for Opening Day on the Bay, usually one of our most popular outings. We'll again leave from Sausalito, but aboard a new boat -- the Seaward. Lexi Allen will be your ambassador.
- A combination of a wine-tasting dinner on a Saturday evening at the wonderful Cafe Kati and a walking tour of Dashiell Hammet's San Francisco on a Sunday is a potential May event. You can elect either activity, or both. After the Dashiell Hammet tour, we suggest John's Grill as an appropriate place for dinner on your own. That's where The Maltese Falcon resides.
- Mission District Mural Walk—On a summer date to be announced we'll have a private tour with an experienced local muralist, to learn about the unique and beautiful murals of Precita Park and Balmy Alley in the historic Mission District. After the mural walk, enjoy a meal at one of the many Latin eateries or just browse through the quaint shops in the Mission.

City Web Site Shows Your Tax Status with a Few Clicks

You can find the exact status of your CDOA property taxes at any time if you have Internet access.

You can see when, or whether, this year's taxes are paid, whether you are in default for previous years and whether the City and County of San Francisco is showing your current mailing address.

Go to www.sfgov.org and find City Agencies in the lower left corner. Then scroll way down to Treasurer/Tax Collector. On that page, you'll find the Property Zone near the bottom (ignore the Property Zone at the right), and under Property Zone you'll find "Look up your tax bill online."

Three-quarters of the way down that screen you'll find "Begin." On the next

screen, it asks you to give either the street address or the block and lot number. You must use the block and lot number. The block is the same for all CDOA Owners, 306T. If your Grant Deed doesn't show the T, you probably have an old number and need to contact Marie Vergara.

If you can't locate your Grant Deed, or don't know your unique Lot Number, you can call or email Marie at the Club Administrative Office, (415) 885-8847 or at her new email address, marievergara@clubdonatello.org.

When that is entered, up comes a screen with search results. It shows

your block number and lot number again, along with the tax bill number and, for some mysterious reason, the address of 441 Mason Street. At the left is a Select button. Press that, and voila! There is the complete record. At the top is your address, and if that is not correct, it offers a change of address form. As

you scroll down, you will first see a detailed explanation of how the tax was calculated. Further down, under Installment Information, you'll see your payment record. At this time of year, it should show your most recent checks and 0.00 under Amount Due.

If those fields are completely blank, it indicates you did not pay this year's taxes by June 30 and are in default.

It also indicates that you may be in default for earlier years. On that page, and on the Treasurer Tax Collector home page, instructions in red tell you how to contact the tax collector to straighten out the problem.

The process sounds long and complicated; it really isn't. It's worth the bit of effort to gain the peace of mind that your records and the City's agree, or to fix the problem if they don't.

Stylish Web Site May Help Boost Sales

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Mark — is still featured prominently throughout the Web pages. A new banner graphic of the Golden Gate Bridge at sunset is on all pages, identifying the Club immediately as a San Francisco institution. The site has more graphics which may affect the download time of some pages for users of older equipment and Internet connections. There is a link on the new Contact Us page to let the Web Editor know if you encounter problems so that they can be fixed.

The next thing you will notice quickly is that the information on the Web site has been reorganized and a more user-friendly navigation scheme implemented that should make it easier to find the information that visitors to the site are looking for. A Site Index and a Search page are also being added to help find information more quickly.

There will be a separate part of the Web site with information specific to Owners. This section identifies the Club Management Team, the Board of Directors and other Club officers, the various volunteer committees, contains the Club news, an electronic copy of the Communiqué, and some helpful

information and links regarding the payment of property taxes to the City and County of San Francisco.

The re-designed Web site will contain separate forms for Owner reservations and Guest reservations. This will not only facilitate making reservations for you and for non-owners, it will make it easier for our Club Reservation Representatives to sort out Owner requests from non-owner requests for reservations. Currently a single form is used for both and causes some confusion for guests filling in the form and subsequently for the Reservation Representative trying to satisfy the request.

There will not be any change in the way reservations are confirmed, however. Filling out the form and submitting it causes the request to be sent to our Club Reservations Representatives.

Before the request can be satisfied, the Representative must verify that Owner use time is available, or, in the case of Bonus time, that there is a vacancy for the dates requested.

Once the new web site is launched, feel free to let the web editors know what you think, any problems you encounter, or any suggestions you may have.

You can find out online if your taxes are delinquent for this or any prior year.

Got Tax Bill?

San Francisco property tax bills for 2006 are now out, with the first installment due and payable in December.

There are several reasons for not receiving a bill, if you didn't get one. The most common is moving without notifying the Tax Collector of the City and County of San Francisco that you have moved. That is something that must be done by individual Owners. The City does not accept changes of address from the CDOA.

Please note, the City is in the process of changing block and lot numbers. If you are not sure what yours is, contact Marie Vergara, 415-885-8847. Completion of the changes will be reflected on your 2006-2007 Property Tax Bill.