



Rincon Hill Resident Guide



Winter 2008 Edition

Edited by Jamie Whitaker

www.RinconHillSF.org

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You are encouraged to submit corrections, contribute content, suggest new sections, and comment about the Rincon Hill Resident Guide by sending an email to RinconHill@gmail.com with *Resident Guide* written in the message's subject line. Updated versions of this guide are tentatively planned for June and December.

www.RinconHillSF.org

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Contribute Content to Future Editions

This is the first edition of the *Rincon Hill Resident Guide*. While this edition contains some very helpful information for people who live in the Rincon Hill neighborhood, it is by no means as complete as it could become with the future contributions of other Rincon Hill residents. You are invited to send corrections, additional content, and new section suggestions for future editions of the *Rincon Hill Resident Guide* by e-mail to RinconHill@gmail.com with the words *Resident Guide* in the subject line of the message.

New editions of the *Rincon Hill Resident Guide* are tentatively planned for release online at www.RinconHillSF.org in June and December.

The www.RinconHillSF.org neighborhood blog and related materials, such as this guide, are created for non-commercial purposes. Your content contributions are greatly appreciated, but they cannot be compensated. However, unless you request that your submission is attributed to *Anonymous*, your name will appear as a contributor to the appropriate section of the future edition of the *Rincon Hill Resident Guide* in which your content appears.

Please note that this guide is not approved or otherwise associated with the Rincon Hill Neighborhood Association. The www.RinconHillSF.org neighborhood blog and related materials are purely the responsibility of and results of time and personal funds invested by Rincon Hill resident and advocate Jamie Whitaker.

Thank you for downloading this first edition of the *Rincon Hill Resident Guide*. I look forward to working with you to improve the neighborhood blog and the *Rincon Hill Resident Guide* to provide additional useful information in the future!

About Rincon Hill

Section contributors: Jamie Whitaker

San Francisco's First Fashionable Neighborhood 1840-1869

Before the Gold Rush of 1849 brought thousands of young men to San Francisco in search of their fortunes, Rincon Hill was just a shrub-covered landmark surrounded by sand dunes. Rincon Hill was used for picnicking and hunting for many years, and the hill was later used as a government military reserve during the American Occupation, with a battery of cannons set up for protection. The Gold Rush increased San Francisco's population from a couple of hundred in the mid-1840s to 25,000 residents in 1850¹.

By 1853, San Francisco had 50,000 residents - 8,000 of whom were women who had left their homes in the eastern or southern United States to join their husbands or sweethearts². Rincon Hill became the preferred homesite in San Francisco for these families' new homes because of the warmer and sunnier weather compared to the blocks north of Market Street, the views of both the bay and the city, and the fact that the location was a safe distance away from the saloons, gambling dens, and brothels³. Mansions, carriage houses, and stables dominated Rincon Hill. According to the Rincon Hill Area Plan⁴, the area became home to the families of sea captains, shipping merchants, and foreign nobility.

At the same time Rincon Hill was becoming the preferred area to live in San Francisco for the middle- and upper-class, the maritime industry was developing along the adjacent waterfront. The maritime industry's development brought the construction of wharves, commercial rows, seafarers services, and industrial development on and around Rincon Hill. The Sailor's Home, built approximately between the present day's Spear and Main streets on Harrison Street, opened in 1852 as one of Rincon Hill's earliest landmarks. The building was originally called the United States Marine Hospital, but it subsequently became a seamen's home, and finally a home for the indigent or sick.

¹ Lockwood, Charles. *A History of Ever-Changing Rincon Hill*. SPUR Newsletter, January 2003, p. 3, www.spur.org/documents/030101_article_02.shtml

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ http://www.sfgov.org/site/uploadedfiles/planning/Citywide/pdf/Rincon_Hill_Area_Plan.PDF

Rincon Hill's Decline as a Desirable Area

1869-1906

The development of the maritime industry started to fill in the treasured views of residents on the eastern and southern sides of Rincon Hill. The Second Street Cut of 1869 accelerated the decline of Rincon Hill as a desirable residential area. In order to decrease the time needed for horse-drawn wagons to travel from the southern waterfront to the rest of the city with their goods, 500 men were hired to dig a 100-foot-deep canyon in Rincon Hill along Second Street between Bryant and Folsom streets⁵. The Second Street Cut split the Rincon Hill neighborhood in half. The wealthy families slowly left Rincon Hill as other new, fashionable neighborhoods opened up.

The remaining single-family homes and the buildings that eventually became boarding houses for working class folks in Rincon Hill survived the earthquake that struck on April 18, 1906⁶. However, the area's structures could not escape the fires unleashed by the earthquake and were blown across the city by unforgiving winds⁷.

Industrial Warehouses and Factories Arise

1906-1989

In October 1906, the Marsden Manson Report recommended that Rincon Hill be entirely cut down in order to provide more flat land for businesses⁸. Nothing ever came of the report, but it created enough uncertainty in 1906, and in 1913 and 1927 when the proposal re-surfaced, so that real estate developers did not attempt to build new residential housing on Rincon Hill. Big corporations began buying and consolidating the smaller lots around the Rincon Hill neighborhood in order to build large warehouses and factories near downtown and adjacent to the Embarcadero⁹.

In 1928, the California Legislature authorized the construction of the Bay Bridge, which would run through the southern side of Rincon Hill. When the Bay Bridge opened in 1936, much of the hill that made up Rincon Hill had disappeared as land was moved and streets were closed off to make way for the new bridge. In 1939, the Transbay Terminal opened and ramps leading from the Bay Bridge to the Terminal altered Rincon Hill even further¹⁰.

⁵ Lockwood, page 5.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ *The 1906 San Francisco Earthquake and Fire*. The Bancroft Library. <http://bancroft.berkeley.edu/collections/earthquakeandfire/index2.html>

⁸ Lockwood, Page 6.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Ibid, page 7.

The Embarcadero Freeway, which opened in 1958, required additional alterations to the land and construction of uninviting roadways around and over the top of the Rincon Hill neighborhood. With a web of freeways and ramps to the Transbay Terminal on the north side and the Bay Bridge on the south side of the area, this area became a section of San Francisco that was more or less ignored until the proverbial reset button was hit on October 17, 1989 at 5:04 p.m.

Loma Preita Earthquake Resuscitates Rincon Hill

1989-2000

City planners began focusing their attention on under-utilized Rincon Hill in the 1980s. However, it wasn't until the Loma Preita earthquake on October 17, 1989, which initiated the removal of the Embarcadero Freeway and its ramps that separated the area from the rest of the city, that Rincon Hill's potential to return as an attractive residential area increased substantially.

While several mid-rise condominium buildings and loft conversions added many residents to the Rincon Hill neighborhood between 1989 and 2000, there is plenty of room for new residents. The 94105 zip code was made up of a population of 2,058 with the 29th highest per-capita income in the country as of the 2000 Census¹¹. The best is yet to come for the Rincon Hill neighborhood in San Francisco, as long as the area's expected additional 20,000 or more residents unite to push the City and County of San Francisco to implement the Rincon Hill Plan and the Transbay Redevelopment Project as expediently as possible. The sooner these plans become reality, the sooner our quality of life as Rincon Hill residents improves significantly. This is the number one reason why every resident of Rincon Hill should tune into www.RinconHillSF.org regularly, subscribe to the neighborhood e-mail listserv at groups.google.com/group/rinconhillsf, and join the Rincon Hill Neighborhood Association (www.RinconHillNeighbors.org). It is very important for residents to get involved in order to help determine their ways of life in Rincon Hill in the future.

Exciting Developments Ahead for Rincon Hill

2000-Present

On August 19, 2005, San Francisco's Mayor Gavin Newsom signed the Rincon Hill Plan into law¹².

¹¹ http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/SAFFFacts?_event=Search&geo_id=&geoContext=&street=&county=94105&cityTown=94105&state=&zip=94105&lang=en&sse=on&pctxt=fph&pgsl=010&show_2003_tab=&redirect=Y

¹² http://www.sfgov.org/site/planning_index.asp?id=25076

Some of the highlights of the Rincon Hill Plan include¹³:

- Widened sidewalks with open space amenities
- Corner and mid-block curb bulbouts
- Traffic-calming modifications to Rincon Hill's streets
- Bicycle facilities
- Landscaped medians
- Retail shops and neighborhood services along a new Folsom Boulevard, stretching from Second Street to The Embarcadero
- Transforming Main, Beale, and Spear Streets into traffic-calmed, landscaped residential streets lined with townhouses and front doors
- A community center within the Sailor's Union of the Pacific building on Harrison at First Street
- New neighborhood parks

The Transbay Redevelopment Project¹⁴ helps to build out the other half of the new Rincon Hill neighborhood on the north side of Folsom Street. Some of the goals for the Transbay Redevelopment Project are:

- Constructing wider sidewalks throughout the area to facilitate easy pedestrian travel
- Create a livable urban community with prime access to downtown and the waterfront
- Establish the area as both a gateway to the central city and a unique transit-oriented neighborhood in San Francisco
- Create a state-of-the-art multi-modal transit facility that is an integral part of the surrounding commercial and residential neighborhood (a.k.a. Rincon Hill neighborhood)

This is truly an exciting time for you to become a part of the Rincon Hill neighborhood. Get involved in our neighborhood association (www.RinconHillNeighbors.org), other local groups, and City Hall happenings to make sure the new developments in Rincon Hill improve the quality of life for you and your neighbors. Watch the www.RinconHillSF.org web log and weekly email to stay informed.

¹³ [Rincon Hill Area Plan](#)

¹⁴ http://www.sfgov.org/site/sfra_page.asp?id=5583

Be a Good Rincon Hill Neighbor

Section contributors: Neighbors Project (www.neighborsproject.org), Jamie Whitaker

The following are a plethora of tips for Rincon Hill residents to consider in order to help improve the quality of life for everyone in the area¹⁵.

1. Smile and say hello to your neighbors on the street and in your building
2. Tune in to the Rincon Hill neighborhood blog at www.RinconHillSF.org and sign up to receive the neighborhood email listserv messages at groups.google.com/group/rinconhillsf
3. Join the Rincon Hill Neighborhood Association - <http://www.RinconHillNeighbors.org>
4. Join the Rincon Hill group on Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=19019554440>)
5. Complete the San Francisco Fire Department's free Neighborhood Emergency Response Team (NERT) training that will help to better prepare you for a disaster (visit www.SFGov.org/SFNERT) - join your local NERT Team
6. Support the work of the Delancey Street Foundation (www.delanceystreetfoundation.org) by dining at Delancey Street Restaurant, relaxing at Crossroads Cafe, utilizing the Delancey Street Movers, and otherwise contributing to this wonderful organization based in South Beach, just on the other side of the Bay Bridge
7. Help keep the streets clean by picking up trash you come across and disposing of it properly
8. Walk, bike, and take public transit (taxi cabs qualify)
9. Recycle your electronics at Green Citizen, at Second and Howard Streets (www.greencitizen.com)
10. Consider getting rid of your car and opting for a car sharing service like City Car Share (www.citycarshare.org) or ZipCar (www.zipcar.com)
11. Shop locally (see Businesses web page at www.RinconHillSF.org)
12. Get to know all of your elected officials in-person
13. Vote - sign up to become a vote-by-mail voter for convenience's sake
14. Speak up at neighborhood meetings and on local blogs (like www.RinconHillSF.org)
15. Volunteer locally
16. Organize a block party
17. Apply to become a member of a Citizens Advisory Committee or run for political office
18. Call out your neighbors for comments or behavior that perpetuates limiting stereotypes

¹⁵ Adapted from the Neighbors Checklist as published by Neighbors Project at <http://www.neighborsproject.org/pages/checklist/4.php>

19. Call the police's non-emergency number whenever you see something suspect; attend monthly meetings hosted by the SFPD's Southern Station Captain
20. If you start your own business, try to employ local residents
21. Stroll and relax along The Embarcadero's pedestrian promenade
22. Read and engage with your local newspapers and blogs (like www.RinconHillSF.org) - consider starting your own
23. Support local artists and musicians whose work you like
24. Be a friend of Rincon Park and The Embarcadero YMCA
25. Use the new Mission Bay Branch Library - *tip: Reserve the books you want online, and pick them up at the Mission Bay Branch when you receive a notification via e-mail that the materials are ready for you*
26. Help make Rincon Hill stroller and ADA accessible
27. Don't automatically fight against the opening of a homeless shelter or drug recovery clinic in our neighborhood
28. Curb your dog
29. Be open to new architecture; more importantly for Rincon Hill residents is to find the tolerance to listen to others' criticisms of our neighborhoods' high-rise buildings. Keep in mind that the only folks who like changes are wet babies
30. Throw your small children birthday parties in the public park or community center
31. Request a street tree or help to maintain an existing tree
32. Shop at the Ferry Building's Farmers Market on Tuesdays, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. and on Saturdays, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. (www.cuesa.org/markets)
33. Hold your wedding in Rincon Hill - maybe on the waterfront beside Cupid's Span in Rincon Park
34. Consider starting a film fest or other fun festival in Rincon Hill
35. Report any sanitary, safety, or building violations you see by dialing 311 (by cell phone, dial 415-701-2311 or by TTY, 415-701-2323)
36. Help overburdened strangers carry their strollers, packages, or other items up and down stairs
37. Open doors for people who need help
38. Get permission from the City to install a bench in front of your home or near the local bus stop
39. Get to know your building's doormen and women on a first-name basis
40. Make sure your neighbors get their mail if it ends up in your box or on the floor
41. If you throw a party, invite your neighbors (or at least warn them ahead of time) - be conscientious of noise and how it might impact neighbors
42. March in our local parades and attend our City's many street fairs
43. Hold a potluck with others living in your building
44. Send more suggestions for consideration to be appended to this list in future editions of the *Rincon Hill Resident Guide* to RinconHill@gmail.com - please include the words *Resident Guide* in the message's subject line

Getting Around Town

Section contributors: Jamie Whitaker

Walking Does Your Body Good

One of the primary appeals of the Rincon Hill neighborhood is the close proximity to downtown offices, shopping, dining, entertainment, and public transit. A walk along the waterfront on the Embarcadero pedestrian promenade, past Rincon Park's bold Cupid's Span sculpture, past the latest art installation north of Pier 14, and by the Ferry Building reminds many folks of the reason why they chose to live in (or to visit) San Francisco - our City is drop dead gorgeous! Enjoying that beauty and the interesting people that live here is best done by foot.

Rincon Hill's close proximity to downtown and the waterfront makes it easy to use your feet as your primary mode of transportation for a lot of activities, but the current streetscape and proximity to the Bay Bridge entrance ramps make the area more challenging for pedestrians than other downtown areas. Rincon Hill's past as a destination for long rail trains that crossed into San Francisco from the Bay Bridge between 1939 and 1958 to terminate at the Transbay Terminal and as a home to many industrial warehouses translated into Rincon Hill containing very wide streets with long, uninterrupted blocks. It is during the non-business hours, especially in the evenings, that crossing the streets in Rincon Hill can be especially dangerous because drivers are given the opportunity to accelerate beyond safe speeds as they race to get to the Bay Bridge's various entrances in Rincon Hill to head to the East Bay.

While Rincon Hill residents await (and gently push the City to implement) the Rincon Hill Streetscape Plan to make the area more appealing and safer for pedestrians, please be very careful when crossing our streets. Not only should you look left and right to make sure traffic is stopped, but you should also check behind you for vehicles driving excessively fast that may be turning into the pedestrian crosswalk. Consider wearing bright colored jackets when walking around Rincon Hill after dusk. Although pedestrians always have the right of way, a 2,000 pound piece of steel careening around a corner towards you while the driver distracts himself or herself with their cell phone or text messaging device will result in serious injuries or even death to the pedestrian every time.

You can help to make the streets of San Francisco safer by joining and engaging yourself in the pedestrian advocacy efforts of Walk San Francisco. You can learn more about Walk San Francisco by visiting the group's web site at www.WalkSF.org.

That said, it is very easy and enjoyable to be a full-time pedestrian when living in Rincon Hill and working nearby. There are many walking tours of the City offered by various groups and businesses. In addition to Walk San Francisco's group walks around the

City, San Francisco City Guides (www.SFCityGuides.org) offer walking tours of different parts of the City practically every day of the year - and they're free!

Bicycling in San Francisco

Thanks to the efforts of the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition (www.SFBike.org) and other bicycling advocates, we have an excellent network of bicycle lanes on our streets. Many workers in San Francisco choose to ride bicycles to work and to get around the City's 7 x 7 miles relatively fast. The Bay Area's buses, trains, BART system, and ferry boats are all fairly welcoming to bicyclists and their bicycles so that you can get to Napa, San Jose, Santa Rosa, and Sacramento without a car by combining bicycle travel and public transit.

If bicycling around our busy downtown is intimidating, the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition can help alleviate some of those fears by arming you with knowledge and tips to stay safe through their free Urban Bike Ed Classes (see www.sfbike.org/?resources for a schedule and to register for an upcoming class). It is also helpful to learn how to secure your bicycle - thefts of bicycles or bicycle parts in San Francisco are unfortunately very common.

You can rent a bicycle for yourself or your guests at The Bike Hut in South Beach (www.thebikehut.com). The Bike Hut is located between Pier 40 and AT&T park on The Embarcadero, and they offer bicycle repair along with parts and accessories in addition to renting bicycles. The Bike Hut is noteworthy in that this solar-powered non-profit offers bicycle repair training for young people from impoverished neighborhoods in San Francisco. Even if you do not use The Bike Hut's services, you should consider sending them a donation to keep up their good work with inner-city youths.

One regularly scheduled bicycle event that you should be aware of is a monthly bicycle ride known as Critical Mass that starts at 5:30 p.m. on the last Friday of each month at Justin Herman Plaza on The Embarcadero near the Ferry Building. The event allows bicyclists to celebrate cycling and assert cyclists' right to the road as they tour around the City on an unannounced route for a few hours before dispersing. Read more about Critical Mass rides at www.critical-mass.info. It is probably best to avoid driving a vehicle or riding bus service downtown on the last Friday evening of the month if your tolerance for sitting in traffic is relatively low.

Public Transit Options Galore

Rincon Hill is blessed with an abundance of public transit options in the neighborhood and nearby at The Ferry Building to the north or the Caltrain Station at 4th and King Street to the south.

The most common public transit option for Rincon Hill residents is the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency's Municipal Railway (also known as Muni). The

Agency's web site can be found at www.SFMTA.org. Muni offers 80 different routes that stop within 2 blocks of 90% of the City's residences. The more you use Muni to get around, the easier it will become to utilize the bus and rail system. To help you get started using Muni, visit <http://transit.511.org/tripplanner/index.asp> to type in your starting point and destination and to learn a suggested public transit route to get you where you want to go. If you intend to ride Muni often (and BART within the City limits), you may want to consider buying a monthly pass. A listing of passes and pricing is available at www.sfmta.com/cms/mfares/passes.htm. A bonus of getting a pass is that rides on the historic cable cars are included (versus a fare of \$5 otherwise).

Waiting for a Muni bus can sometimes test your nerves. To help ease the anxiety, point your computer's or mobile device's web browser to www.nextmuni.com for an estimate of when the next bus or metro train will arrive to pick you up. If and when the City implements citywide wireless Internet access (though Meraki.com is making good strides as a private entity), I predict this will be one of the more popular web sites accessed via the service. You can also dial 311 (or 415-701-2311 from a cell phone or 415-701-2323 from TTY device) for Muni information (among other City resources) 24 hours a day/7 days a week in over 175 different available languages.

Rescue Muni is a transit riders' association for San Franciscans who want to advocate for improved transit service in the City. You can learn more about the group by visiting www.rescuemuni.org.

Other public transit providers with stops in Rincon Hill and nearby include:

- Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) - For service throughout the East Bay and portions of the Peninsula (an inexpensive way to get to and from San Francisco International Airport), www.BART.gov
- Caltrain - For service along the Peninsula from San Francisco to San Jose, www.Caltrain.com
- AC Transit - For service to the East Bay, www.ACTransit.org
- Golden Gate Transit and Ferry - For ferry and bus service to Marin County, www.goldengate.org
- Alameda/Oakland Ferry Service - www.EastBayFerry.com
- samTrans - For service from San Francisco to San Mateo County, www.samTrans.com
- San Francisco Paratransit - For individuals unable to independently use the Muni bus and metro system, www.sfparatransit.com
- Vallejo Transit - For ferry and bus service from San Francisco to Vallejo, www.baylinkferry.com
- Amtrak - All Amtrak service to/from San Francisco is by motor coach across the Bay Bridge. The main stop is just south of the Ferry Building, between Sinbad's restaurant and Pier 14, www.amtrak.com
- Greyhound - Bus service to almost anywhere in the United States, www.greyhound.com

Car Sharing

Downtown San Francisco residents are the beneficiaries of living near the main business district via a large supply, especially on the weekends, of vehicles from the two major car sharing providers in the area, City Car Share (www.CityCarShare.org) and Zip Car (www.ZipCar.com).

There are also several car rental agencies represented at the major hotels in Rincon Hill and the Financial District along with the Union Square shopping area to the west.

Taxi and Shuttle Services

There are several taxi cab companies that service San Francisco. It is a bit of a crap shoot to get a cab during the busy dinner hours or at any time when a big conference, like Oracle OpenWorld, is in session at the Moscone Convention Center.

A few of the larger San Francisco cab companies are:

- DeSoto Cab Company - 415-970-1300
- Luxor Cab Company - 415-282-4141
- Yellow Cab Co-Op - 415-333-3333

A more complete list of taxi cab operators can be found on the City's Taxi Cab Commission web site at www.sfgov.org/site/taxicommission_index.asp?id=8125.

If you need an early morning or late night ride to the airport and BART service is not operational at that time, there are several airport shuttle services that can take you. The only service I have used is Super Shuttle (www.supershuttle.com), but you can probably find other recommended airport shuttles if you do a search on Yelp! (www.yelp.com).

Parking as a Last Resort

Parking spots in Rincon Hill are fairly limited, with handicapped drivers using many of the parking meter spaces during the work week and a short lifespan planned for many of the existing surface parking lots along Folsom and Main Streets.

There are residential area parking permits available for some residents of Rincon Hill to use street parking in designated areas for an annual fee of \$60. Area Y residential parking permits are available to residents of Portside I & II, Baycrest Towers, The Bridgeview, and Avalon Towers. Area U residential parking permits are available to residents around Guy Place and Lansing Street. To learn more about the City's Residential Area parking permits, visit www.sfmta.com/cms/pperm/13442.html. Brace yourself for an experience that is potentially more inefficient than anything you have

ever witnessed if you actually have to visit the Department of Parking and Traffic in person to get your permit.

If you want a more convenient method of feeding most of the parking meters in the City, consider getting a pre-paid parking meter debit card. You can learn more about the program at www.sfmta.com/cms/pmeter/parkingcard.htm. There's a big exception to the value of these cards for those of us who live near the waterfront, and that is the SFMTA's pre-paid cards do not work with parking meters maintained by the Port of San Francisco. Most of the parking meters along The Embarcadero and on the last blocks of streets near the waterfront are Port of San Francisco parking meters. The Port usually identifies their meters somewhere on the meter itself.

If you are going to drive in downtown San Francisco, please be mindful of pedestrians and bicyclists, and do not drive excessively fast on our streets. Thank you!

Things To Do

Section Contributors: Jamie Whitaker

While living in San Francisco, you will probably never, ever run out of things to do for fun and for entertainment. Just take a look at <http://upcoming.yahoo.com> for an idea of what's happening near you. If you would like to help add events that may be of interest to Rincon Hill residents on Upcoming, please request membership to the Rincon Hill group by visiting <http://upcoming.yahoo.com/group/2808/>. If you want to take the lead and start your own group, feel free to share it with other Rincon Hill residents by emailing information about the group and contacts to RinconHill@gmail.com.

If you are interested in receiving an e-mail notifying you of entertainment tickets and some services at discounted prices, visit Goldstar at www.goldstar.com. You can also visit the Theatre Bay Area web site at www.theatrebayarea.org or visit their TIX Bay Area box office in Union Square next door to See's Candy and across Powell Street from the Westin St. Francis.

The closest San Francisco Public Library branch is the Mission Bay Branch located at 960 4th Street (at Berry) in Mission Bay. You can easily get to the library on foot, by bicycle, or on the Muni Metro N-Judah or T-Third rail cars. The library's hours can be found at www.sfpl.org.

In the future, the plans for Rincon Hill include a community center within the Sailor's Union of the Pacific building on the corner of First and Harrison Streets. It is up to residents to make sure this planned community center becomes a reality. We need a public meeting facility to grow as a community.

Professional Sports

- **San Francisco Giants** - www.sfgiants.com (Baseball)
- **Oakland A's** - www.oaklandas.com (Baseball)
- **Golden State Warriors** - www.nba.com/warriors (Basketball)
- **Sacramento Kings** - www.nba.com/kings (Basketball)
- **San Francisco 49ers** - www.sf49ers.com (Football)
- **Oakland Raiders** - www.raiders.com (Football)
- **San Jose Sharks** - sharks.nhl.com (Hockey)

Parks and Recreation

You can take a look at www.Craigslist.org to see what recreational opportunities are already out there or to post a notice for others to contact you about an activity.

Rincon Park, located between Harrison and Howard Streets on The Embarcadero's waterfront, provides a little (tiny) bit of open space for Rincon Hill residents. Other parks of interest include:

- Embarcadero Pedestrian Promenade - Along The Embarcadero from Pier 40 to Pier 39 (Fisherman's Wharf)
- Justin Herman Plaza/Ferry Park - Clay and The Embarcadero, near The Ferry Building
- South Park - Between 2nd and 3rd Streets and Bryant and Brannan Streets
- South Beach Park - Between Pier 40 and AT&T Park
- China Basin Park - Cross over Lefty O'Doul bridge from AT&T Park and turn left to get to China Basin Park
- Dolores Park - Between Church and Dolores and 18th and 20th Streets - Muni Metro J Church
- Golden Gate Park - Muni Metro N Judah or a bunch of possible bus line options will transport you to stops nearby our City's grandest park

There is also a pocket park planned for 4 Guy Place (off of 1st Street between Folsom and Harrison streets). Another spot that may become public open space in the near future is the northwest corner of Beale and Bryant Streets. You may have the opportunity to help with this initiative by joining the Bay Bridge Base Beautification (B4) group. Information about this group can be found at <http://web.mac.com/p.josh.wolf/b4project>.

A good organization with which to get involved to advocate for open space and parks in the City is the San Francisco Neighborhood Parks Council - <http://www.sfnpc.org>.

Open Spaces

There are a few open spaces for the public in Rincon Hill besides The Embarcadero Pedestrian Promenade. One open space with seating and located indoors is the entry area for 101 2nd Street (at Mission Street), and it is available for public use from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily.

If you're more in the mood for outdoor seating for some fresh air, you can try the roof at 100 1st Street (at Mission Street). Another open air spot, although it is currently closed for renovations, is the rooftop garden at One Market Plaza (Spear Tower).

Some nearby rooftop gardens are located at the Crocker Galleria, on Post Street between Montgomery and Kearny, where you'll actually find two distinguishable open spaces; one is just outside the Wells Fargo Banking Hall and the other is in the northwest corner and referred to as the Crocker Galleria Roof Terrace. If you go to the Crocker Galleria on a Thursday between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m., there is a farmers' market on the first floor.

Another rooftop garden is located at 343 Sansome Street. Take the elevator to the 15th floor to get there, and check out the Transamerica Pyramid.

Do you know of other public open spaces in or nearby Rincon Hill that are not mentioned here? Please send those locations to RinconHill@gmail.com.

Maritime Recreation

There are many opportunities to enjoy San Francisco Bay beyond admiring the views while taking walks, bicycle rides, or having a seat along The Embarcadero. Here are a few options you might consider:

- Sailing Cruises - Rendezvous Charters offers brunch, sunset, and private party cruises on the Bay Lady, starting at \$25 per person from Pier 40 in South Beach - www.rendezvous-charters.com
- Learn to sail a boat - Spinnaker Sailing of San Francisco offers sailing classes (among other services) from Pier 40 in South Beach - www.spinnaker-sailing.com
- Kayak - City Kayak offers lessons in partnership with the Embarcadero YMCA and at Pier 40 in South Beach - www.CityKayak.com
- Boat Cruises - Hornblower is the most well-known of cruise boats along the eastern waterfront - www.Hornblower.com
- South Beach Yacht Club - Located near Pier 40 and AT&T Park - www.southbeachyc.org

Gyms and Fitness Clubs

24 Hour Fitness

Multiple locations in the City, but the one located inside the Rincon Hill neighborhood is at Folsom and 2nd Street

www.24hourfitness.com

Tip: If you're certain you want to join for the long-term, many folks have reported that they've been able to get a 3-year pre-paid membership (without any personal training or other add-ons) for about \$600 and \$24.95 per year renewals after the initial 3 years.

Club One

Two nearby locations: 2 Embarcadero Center and 350 Third Street (Yerba Buena)

www.clubone.com

Crunch

Hills Plaza, 345 Spear Street

Open Monday through Thursday, 5:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., Friday from 5:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., and Saturday & Sunday from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

www.crunch.com

Embarcadero YMCA

169 Steuart Street (between Mission and Howard streets)

Open Monday through Friday, 5:30 a.m. to 9:45 p.m., Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 7:45 p.m. and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 5:45 p.m.

www.ymcasf.org/Embarcadero/

Clubs and Associations

- **Rincon Hill Neighborhood Association** - www.RinconHillNeighbors.org
- **Commonwealth Club** - 595 Market Street, 2nd Floor - Founded in 1903, the Commonwealth Club of California is the nation's oldest and largest public affairs forum, with more than 18,000 members and over 400 annual events on topics ranging across politics, culture, society, and the economy - www.CommonWealthClub.org
- **SPUR** - 312 Sutter Street, 5th Floor - The San Francisco Planning and Urban Research Association (SPUR) is San Francisco's preeminent public-policy think tank. Through research, analysis, public education, and advocacy, SPUR promotes good planning and good government - www.spur.org
- **World Affairs Council** - 312 Sutter Street, 2nd Floor - The World Affairs Council was founded by community leaders in 1947 out of the interest generated by the founding of the United Nations in San Francisco in 1945 - www.itsyourworld.org
- **LGBT Community Center** - 1800 Market Street - The Center provides San Francisco with a vast array of programs and services for LGBT people, their friends and families - www.sfcenter.org
- **Embarcadero YMCA** - 169 Steuart Street - www.ymcasf.org/Embarcadero/
- **Jewish Community Federation** - 121 Steuart Street - www.sfjcf.org
- **Walk San Francisco** - Pedestrian advocacy organization for San Franciscans - www.WalkSF.org
- **San Francisco Bicycle Coalition** - Bicyclist advocacy organization - www.sfbike.org
- **Livable City** - Goal is to create a balanced transportation system and promote complementary land use that supports a safer, healthier and more accessible San Francisco for everyone - www.livablecity.org

Educational Organizations

- **University of California Berkeley Extension** (2 Locations), Downtown Center, 425 Market Street, 8th Floor (entrance on Fremont) - South of Market Center, 95 Third Street - www.unex.berkeley.edu

- **Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania**, Wharton West Campus - 101 Howard Street, Suite 500 - www.wharton.upenn.edu/campus/wharton_west/
- **Golden Gate University** - 536 Mission Street - www.ggu.edu
- **Heald College** - 350 Mission Street - www.heald.edu
- **City College of San Francisco** - www.ccsf.edu
- **Academy of Art University** - www.academyart.edu
- **San Francisco State University** - Downtown Campus, 835 Market Street, 6th Floor - www.cel.sfsu.edu
- **UCSF Mission Bay** - pub.ucsf.edu/missionbay

Where to Eat

Section Contributors: Jamie Whitaker

San Franciscans are blessed with a wonderful variety of dining choices. Living near the Ferry Building in Rincon Hill, a walk down to the Farmer's Market is a must-do Saturday morning activity. Restaurants in our neighborhood and nearby are among the [100 best in the Bay Area](#) according to the San Francisco Chronicle.

Among the Top 100 Bay Area Restaurants

The San Francisco Chronicle's 2007 Top 100 Restaurants located in or nearby the Rincon Hill neighborhood include:

Boulevard - American/French
1 Mission
www.BoulevardRestaurant.com

Town Hall - American
342 Howard
www.TownHallSF.com

Yank Sing - Chinese
101 Spear
www.YankSing.com

Ozumo - Contemporary Japanese
161 Steuart
www.Ozumo.com

Maya - Mexican
303 2nd
www.MayaSF.com

Hog Island Oyster Co. - Seafood
1 Ferry Building
www.hogislandoysters.com

Slanted Door - Vietnamese
1 Ferry Building
www.slanteddoor.com

Reasonably Priced and Convenient

Thankfully, there are some spots for meals that are open on the weekends besides Subway sandwich shops that won't necessarily break the bank to enjoy. Some of those eating spots include:

Beale Street Bar & Grill - Burgers, Burritos, Beer, and, on many nights, live music (a.k.a. the financial district's neighborhood bar and grill)

133 Beale Street

Open Monday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., Fridays from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., and Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Breakfast served Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. The live music shows often happen later in the evenings, and can typically be discovered on the bar's MySpace page at www.myspace.com/bealestreetbar.

Theo's Cheesesteak Shop - Cheesesteak and other sandwiches

121 Spear Street (in the courtyard in center of the buildings)

Rumored to be open Monday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Pizzeria Village - Pizza

101 Spear Street (inside the food court area of Rincon Center)

Open until approximately 7 p.m. Monday through Friday and for lunch on Saturdays (close around 2p.m.).

Gabby Cafe - Local market run by some very nice folks who offer deli/grill food

201 Harrison Street (at Main Street)

Open from 6:30 a.m. until 8 p.m. seven days a week (except some holidays)

Delancey Street Restaurant - American, home cooked food

600 Embarcadero Street (at Brannan, a short walk into South Beach past the bridge)

Open Tuesday through Friday from 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. Take out is available! This restaurant is part of a very successful non-profit called Delancey Street Foundation

(www.delanceystreetfoundation.org). Delancey Street is the United States's largest self-help residential organization for folks who have hit bottom to completely rebuild their lives. Please do help support this anchor in our community by dining at the Delancey Street Restaurant with friends - the food is great and your dining helps a good cause every time you eat there!

Crossroads Cafe - Coffee, ice creams, desserts, light fare

699 Delancey Street (at Brannan, a short walk into South Beach past the bridge)

Open from 7:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. on Saturday, and 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. on Sunday. Crossroads Cafe is also part of the Delancey Street Foundation. My only complaint is that they do not offer Wi-Fi Internet access, but it is otherwise a wonderful spot to laze about on a weeknight or weekend.

San Francisco Fish Company - Offering cooked meals for lunch, like prawns & chips
1 Ferry Building
Serving lunch between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. approximately

Pancho Villa Taqueria - Mexican
Pier 1 (Embarcadero at Washington Street)
Open until around 9 p.m. or 10 p.m. seven days a week

New (or Coming Soon) Restaurants

Local Kitchen & Wine Merchant - Italian, wine
330 1st Street (between Folsom Street and Guy Place, on the west side of 1st)
Hours are still being worked out, but I've heard it is a great spot to socialize and to have a drink of wine along with a bite to eat. Phone 415-777-4200

Coming Soon - **Waterbar** (seafood) and **Epic Roasthouse** (steak), located within Rincon Park between Folsom and Harrison streets along the waterfront (The Embarcadero). Opening in early 2008! Keep an eye on www.rinconparkrestaurants.com for more information.

Learn About Other Restaurants Online

A couple of web sites to bookmark that act as excellent references for other restaurants include Yelp! (www.yelp.com) and Eater SF (sf.eater.com). The San Francisco Chronicle also provides restaurant reviews at www.sfgate.com/food/.

Rincon Hill Businesses

This listing includes businesses based in Rincon Hill who contacted Jamie about promoting their business in one fashion or another. If you'd like your business included in a future edition of the *Rincon Hill Resident Guide* and your business is located in Rincon Hill, please send the details to RinconHill@gmail.com. There is no cost as this guide is non-commercial in nature, but Jamie Whitaker does reserve the right to refuse listings. New editions of the *Rincon Hill Resident Guide* are tentatively planned for June and December.

Recycling - Electronics

Green Citizen

591 Howard Street

Phone: 415-287-0000

www.greencitizen.com

Skin Care/Spa

Cocoon Urban Day Spa

330 1st Street, Second Floor

Phone: 415-777-0100

www.cocoonurbandayspa.com

Tax Preparation

Douglas Bowie Enterprises, Inc.

Douglas A. Bowie, EA

400 Beale Street, Suite 101

Phone: 415-777-1923 Fax: 415-777-1435

Yoga

Cocoon Urban Day Spa

330 1st Street, Second Floor

Phone: 415-777-0100

www.cocoonurbandayspa.com

Newspapers & Magazines

Section Contributors: Jamie Whitaker

The City's primary daily newspaper is the **San Francisco Chronicle**, available online at www.SFGate.com. Other newspapers and magazines that are San Francisco-centric include:

The Examiner, typically published Monday through Saturday, FREE
www.examiner.com/san_francisco

The City Star, typically published Monday through Friday, FREE
www.thecitystarsf.com

San Francisco Daily, typically published Monday through Friday, FREE
www.sfdaily.net

Epoch Times, typically published weekly on Thursday, FREE
epoch-archive.com

San Francisco Business Times, typically published weekly, \$2.00 per issue
Tip: Available at Mission Bay Branch Library
sanfrancisco.bizjournals.com

Bay Area Reporter - LGBT newsweekly typically published on Thursday, FREE
www.ebar.com

San Francisco Bay Times - LGBT newsweekly typically published on Thursday, FREE
www.SFBayTimes.com

San Francisco Magazine
Tip: Available at Mission Bay Branch Library
www.sanfranmag.com

7x7 Magazine
www.7x7sf.com

City Resources

Section Contributors: Jamie Whitaker

Emergencies

EMERGENCY: 911

Cell phone 911: 415-553-8090

San Francisco Police Department

San Francisco Police Department

Non-Emergency: 415-553-0123 (use this number to report **any suspicious activities**)

Anonymous Tip Line: 415-575-4444

SFPD Southern Station, 850 Bryant St., San Francisco, CA 94103

Southern Station: 415-553-1373

Southern Station Captain Daniel McDonagh, Daniel.McDonagh@sfgov.org

Web: www.sfgov.org/police

[Southern Station Captain's E-mail Newsletter](#)

Southern Station Events: 553-9191, Sergeant Dominic Panina

Southern Station Permits: 553-9192, Officer Nicole Manning

Quality of Life Liaison: 553-1373, Officer Nick Bettencourt

Code Abatement: 553-1308, Officer Mike Radanovich

Deputy City Attorney: 554-3820, Jill Cannon

Various City Departments

Customer Service Center: 311 (or 415-701-2311 from your cell phone)

Graffiti Abatement: 415-278-9454

Graffiti Fax: 415-278-9456

Dept. Parking & Traffic: 415-553-1943

DPW: 415-695-2020, Dispatch

SF SAFE: 415-553-1984, San_Francisco_SAFE_Inc@mail.vresp.com

Disaster Preparedness

Section Contributors: Jamie Whitaker

None of us want to dwell on the potential of a 8.0 or greater earthquake. However, it is better to be prepared for such an event so that you can be fairly self-sufficient and able to assist others following a major earthquake or other disaster. Everybody who lives in San Francisco should attend the 6-class Neighborhood Emergency Response Team (NERT) training provided for free by the San Francisco Fire Department in order to become better prepared. You can learn more about the NERT program and upcoming training sessions by visiting www.sfgov.org/sfnert.

Disaster Registry Program

If you have special needs in the event of a disaster, such as requiring electricity for medical devices or possessing mobility issues, you should register yourself with the City's Disaster Registry Program. Learn more about the Disaster Registry Program by calling 415-355-2632 or otherwise getting in touch with the EMS Section of the Department of Public Health (68 12th Street, Suite 220). While the emergency responders will be overwhelmed and unable to help everyone immediately, registering yourself as someone with legitimate special needs should put you on the radar as someone who needs to be checked upon as soon as possible.

Get to Know Your Neighbors

One basic preparation everyone can make is to simply get to know their neighbors. This is especially true for people who live alone. If you live alone, you should buddy up with someone else to check on one another on a regular basis and know who to contact if something is wrong.

Saying hello to your neighbors in the hallways, common areas, and out and about Rincon Hill is an easy way to become better acquainted. Joining and attending the meetings held by the Rincon Hill Neighborhood Association (www.rinconhillneighbors.org) is another platform for getting to know your neighbors. Finally, there will likely be many events, like movie or game nights, evenings out at a particular Rincon Hill bar or restaurant, or other events in your building or around the neighborhood that give you a chance to meet and to socialize with your neighbors.

Planning for a Disaster

- Make a disaster plan with your family
- Practice your disaster plan
- Plan your escape routes

- Choose a reunification site
- Establish a telephone contact out of the area
- Do not use an elevator in the event of an earthquake (or a fire for that matter). Never run outside during a quake. If you're already outside in downtown San Francisco, your best bet is to get against a solid wall (not under a window if you can help it) to try to avoid falling (and possibly blowing) debris.
- Consider a sturdy table or desk to position in a corner of your living space away from any windows where you can take cover in the event of an earthquake.
- As part of your disaster kit at home, maintain 5 days of water per person (1 gallon per person per day). At work and in your car (or backpack if you commute by foot or bike), keep enough water in order to get yourself home. Rotate the water every 6 months. While you may be able to survive without food for weeks, you will not survive many days without water.
- Keep a flashlight and a pair of shoes in a plastic bag and tied to the leg of the bed for each person. The plastic bag should keep any broken glass out of the shoes.
- Know where your utility shutoffs are located (gas, electrical, and water).
- Keep plastic to cover your windows overnight if they should shatter (along with duct tape).
- Use museum wax to hold items on shelving.
- Secure bookshelves and other furniture that may fall over.
- Some good items for your disaster kit besides 5 days of water per person include:
 - Canned goods and a can opener (manual)
 - Scissors to cut bed sheets, shirts, etc. to make bandages (medical supply scissors are preferred)
 - Garbage bags and a bucket - line the bucket with one bag and insert a fresh second bag each time you need to defecate.
 - Baby wipes to wash your hands.
 - A self-charging radio that allows you to tune into frequencies 680, 740, or 810 on the AM dial and 88.5 or 91.7 on the FM dial.
 - Fire extinguisher with a hose (3-A:40-B:C size or larger).
- Consider getting an Amateur Radio license to help with communications when telephone lines and cell phone services do not work. See home.comcast.net/~merlinwillis/ares.htm or www.baears.com for more information.

Web Site Resources

- www.72Hours.org
- www.Ready.gov
- www.AlertSF.org
- www.abag.ca.gov

About www.RinconHillSF.org



Jamie Whitaker (photo on left) created the www.RinconHillSF.org neighborhood blog in February 2007 in order to provide an online community bulletin board that would help residents to meet one another (organize) and encourage them to get involved (take action) in shaping our quickly rising waterfront neighborhood in order to maximize the quality of life in the area.

The first posting on the www.RinconHillSF.org neighborhood blog on February 28, 2007 was a quote by anthropologist Margaret Mead that captures Jamie's intentions for the site:

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

One of Jamie's primary goals in setting up the blog was to get enough folks who live in the Rincon Hill neighborhood together in order to form a neighborhood association. That goal is practically fulfilled thanks to the help of businesses and residents associated with the One Rincon Hill condominium project and their efforts to establish the Rincon Hill Neighborhood Association (see www.RinconHillNeighbors.org). Jamie applauds their efforts, and he encourages you to join the association as soon as possible.

Although there is some brand identity confusion between the neighborhood association and Jamie's neighborhood blog, please note that the www.RinconHillSF.org neighborhood blog is not associated with the Rincon Hill Neighborhood Association in any way other than acting as a cheerleader for our upstart neighborhood association's growth and success.

Please sign up for the weekly RinconHillSF.org e-mail by visiting <http://groups.google.com/group/rinconhillsf>. The weekly e-mail contains a brief note, links to blog entries from the past week, and a calendar of upcoming events and public meetings. Also consider joining the Rincon Hill group on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=19019554440>.

Ideally, additional Rincon Hill residents will help to develop the blog and associated materials (like this *Rincon Hill Resident Guide*) over time in order to make the available information better. This is a non-commercial effort paid for out of Jamie Whitaker's humble personal income from his full-time and part-time jobs. Any contributions to the blog and associated materials are greatly appreciated, but they are not compensated.

The www.RinconHillSF.org neighborhood blog is intended to serve us all, and your events, news items, and other Rincon Hill-centric thoughts are very welcome at the e-mail address RinconHill@Gmail.com as well as in the *Comments* section of each post.