STAR



Fire in the Ring Supporters: Mark Cianci and Jimi Sosa

We are all well-aware that businesses were negatively affected by the pandemic; also affected were non-profits due to shelter-in-place orders and cancelled events and annual fundraisers. Fire in the Ring Boxing Inc. is an example of one of those. If you haven't heard, Fire in the Ring (FITR) is a Brisbane-based boxing gym located at 180 Industrial Way, founded by Jimmy Ford. Ford started boxing at the age of 10 at a gym in the Tenderloin to keep himself out of trouble. The mission of his gym is "giving kids a fighting chance, one round at a time." We wanted to learn more about the gym, and the Brisbane residents who are doing what they can to keep it going.



Jimi at 22 during his last fight in 1974

STAR: When did you get involved with Fire in the Ring?

Mark: I've known Jimmy Ford,

the gym's owner, along with Jimi Sosa, Dennis Hearne, and Dale Conway for decades. When I heard that Jimmy's gym, Fire in the Ring, was struggling financially at the beginning of the pandemic, I jumped to see how I could help with that need.

Jimi: I started going to Fire in the Ring when it first opened, but due to my work schedule at the time, it was very hard for me to get off work on time and

go to the gym on a regular basis. In March of 2020, I retired after 20 years of work with San Mateo County Behavioral Health & Recovery Services. I found this would be a good opportunity for me to return to the gym and help with kids wanting to train in boxing. Then Covid hit, and the gym closed with no set date for re-opening. That's when I started training a few kids in our family's garage.



Mark: I stop by whenever I have donations to drop off, or to see the guys and how the kids are coming along. Through my work as a plumber, financial contributions for Fire in the Ring have come in from Local 38 Business Manager Larry Mazzola Jr. of the SF Plumbers' Union, Eric Tassio of San Mateo County Local 467, and Danny Campbell of Sheet Metal Workers Local 104. Contributions have also been made by Melissa's Taqueria, the Eagles, the Brisbane Lions Club, Lyon Medical Construction, and the City of Brisbane.

Jimi: When the gym finally re-opened in 2021, I began taking the kids I'd been training in my garage to FITR. The idea was that they would get better training if I could expose them to the boxing life and being in a boxing gym. This was a positive move for the kids and I, as they have been able to improve their skills. I started going to FITR regularly last September, and find myself there four days a week.



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Mark Cianci and Jimi Sosa at Fire in the Ring

STAR: What inspires you about the gym and what it's doing?

Mark: I have the utmost respect for Jimmy and how he and his staff at FITR, like Dennis, Jimi, and Clyde, work so hard to help these kids out and give them different opportunities. It's so important and you can see it in the kids; some come 4-5x/week and they're learning things like self-confidence and focus. It's a good feeling to help out and hopefully we can get more assistance from the residents and businesses.

Jimi: I began boxing at the Mission Boys Club in San Francisco when I was in 3rd grade. When I wasn't boxing, I was playing soccer – another one of my passions. What inspired me to teach boxing to youth is simply: I remember how much boxing



Sign up for a membership with Clyde! (Kids 6-17 box for free.)

helped me in life when I was their age. As a teen growing up in the city, I wasn't without problems and troubles. But looking back, my life would have been a lot worse if it weren't for the discipline boxing and soccer instilled in my life.

Boxing is an unusual sport where there are no teams; you don't "play boxing," like you do soccer, football, basketball, etc. Boxing, however, has a lot to offer: it improves your cardio, helps improve your confidence, is great at relieving stress and managing anger, and the intense workouts help to increase endorphins in your brain, including concentration. Learning to box is a brain exercise where timing is everything and it all happens in micro-seconds. Knowing when to slip a punch, when to throw a punch, when to back up and go forward combinations of leg and body, all working together like a dancer. Adults can even start boxing; it's a great workout and a definite benefit to one's health.

And there you have it. If you're intrigued, stop by the gym at 180 Industrial! Jimi also wanted to shout out Clyde Sison, who keeps the gym running and likely the first one you'll see when you visit. If you'd like to help contribute financially to the gym so Fire in the Ring can continue supporting at-risk youth, make a tax-deductible donation (see next page) and send it in today! *\pm\$



Visit **SMCMentalHealthMonth.org** for more info on attending events, getting involved & finding support.

Free virtual and in-person events offered in Spanish and English throughout the month of May.



KRISTIE LUI | SHE/HER/她 kflui@smcgov.org SYLVIA TANG | SHE/HER/她 ang@smcgov.org | 650-578-7165

Try Transit, and the New Simme-Seat!

Have you noticed the new "Simme-seat" at the San Bruno & Mendocino shuttle stop? We posted about it last month on the City's social media pages and saw an overwhelming amount of support from residents on the look of it! The Complete Streets Safety Committee chose this stop as one of the 24 stops in Brisbane to have seating, as it received the most usage per Commute.org data



(which operates the shuttles). The other stop which will have seating, but in the form of a bench with a small shelter on-order that will be installed later, is located at 140 Valley Drive.

If you've never taken the commuter shuttles, <u>Commute.org</u> provides several shuttles to and from BART and Caltrain for Brisbane residents and participating Brisbane employers. Residents of Brisbane are eligible for a free shuttle pass by showing proof of residency to the Finance Dept. at City Hall. More information including current shuttle schedules can be found at <u>commute.org/shuttles</u>.



DONATION FORM

Please print this form and complete the information below to ensure proper preparation of your tax receipt (please print clearly). Please make a copy for your records.

Date:		
Donor Name:		
Organization Name (if applicable)		
Address		Suite / Apt No
City	State	ZIP
Email (optional)	Phone (optional)	Mobile phone (optional)
CONTRIBUTION I would like to make a contribution to Fire In the Ring Boxing in the amount of: \$20 \$\$100 \$\$100 \$\$200 Other \$ Select payment option: I have enclosed a check payable to Fire In the Ring Boxing, Inc. I would like Fire In the Ring Boxing to charge my credit card:		
Visa MasterCard American Express Discover Cardholder's name and address (if o	Card number: different from above):	Exp Date:
I have made a contribution in the form of a gift. Thank you for your contribution. Please mail completed form to our main office at 180 Industrial Way,		

Brisbane, CA 94005. If you have any questions, please email us at FireInTheRingBoxingInc@gmail.com.

LET'S Talk about Bruno: He's Helping Brisbane Seniors with Technology

Like many seniors, Sylvia Hernandez became frustrated by technology. When her email was hacked, she felt helpless. Then her iPhone stopped working properly.

"I was beside myself," says Hernandez. "It seemed overwhelming." She put in a request to Brisbane Village Helping Hands, asking if a volunteer might be of assistance, and Bruno Leveque answered the call.

"It was amazing," says Hernandez. "Bruno is a miracle worker. He spent an hour getting my email problems solved. Then he took my iPhone to the Apple Store for a new battery. He is so sweet and I'm so happy to know him."





Hernandez mentioned Leveque to her friend Barbara Vos, a BVHH member and volunteer who was also dealing with technology challenges. A visit was arranged, and Leveque connected Vos's computer to her printer and suggested she invest in a new printer.

He helped me figure out which printer was best to buy, and was a help all the way around," says Vos. "It was so great to have a consultant."

Leveque, 38, is an entrepreneur with an impressive list of accomplishments. The software engineer – and online Harvard Business School grad – is the founder of PrestaShop, an eCommerce platform used by more than 300,000 online retailers worldwide. He's the cofounder and chief technology officer of Meowtel, a nationwide network of cat sitters who have completed more than 25,000 assignments since the company launched in 2020.

While growing up in France, his father taught him computer programming skills at a young age, and at 16 he was hired by a startup. He also began offering technology lessons to senior citizens in his teens, using the money to pay for classes to improve his math skills.

"I helped seniors learn the basics: email, research and installing software. I have a passion for that. Twenty years ago, I taught my grandfather, who's now 93, how to use technology. He is able to FaceTime and send pictures, emails and text messages to family. Technology has decreased his isolation."

Older adults, says Leveque, sometimes are held back by a fear of using technology or that they will somehow damage their device.

"I show them how to do something one step at a time. I have them take notes and practice. I ask them to turn off the computer and start from scratch, to show me they can do it. And it is so rewarding when they can!"

He and his wife, Sabrina, also French, lived in San Francisco before moving to Brisbane a year ago with their three black cats. They enjoy the "village atmosphere" of Brisbane, says Leveque, who became intrigued upon learning there was an actual "village" dedicated to helping seniors.

"The best thing about Brisbane by far is the people. Everybody is friendly and welcoming. The second-best thing is the the calm and quiet. And the third is the mountain, greenery, and nature. I can be 10 minutes from San Francisco and still go on a hike."

Volunteering for BVHH is a way to "give back" to others, develop friendships, and hear interesting stories from the past, says Leveque.

"It's also a way to make a difference. I expect to live in Brisbane for quite some time, so it's important to keep Brisbane Village Helping Hands alive, so that it will be here when I'm older."

**

BVHH offers services to help older adults "age in place" and remain in their homes as long as possible. In addition to technology assistance, volunteers provide transportation, minor home maintenance and repair, and "friendly visits." When the pandemic lifts, social events will resume. BVHH is currently welcoming new members and volunteers and has waived the \$20 membership dues because of the pandemic.

For more information on becoming a member – or volunteer – call (415) 508-2185 and leave a message, visit the website at <u>Brisbanevillage.org</u> (where membership forms and volunteer applications can be downloaded), or email <u>brisbanevillagehelpinghands@gmail.com</u>.





Brisbane Dance Workshop Presents:

OH The Places

Sunday, May 15th 2:30pm Mission Blue 475 Mission Blue Dr.

brisbanedanceworkshop.org

May is Mental Health Month

Join Us for Mental Health First Aid Training on Saturday, May 21st

Over the past two years, the pandemic has been especially challenging for many of us. Your mental health is more important than ever. Learn ways you can take action to improve your communities' mental wellness!

San Mateo County is offering access to free subscriptions of the WYSA app. WYSA is a chatbot, available 24/7 for free, anytime, anywhere. It is anonymous and uses evidence-based cognitive-behavioral techniques (CBT) to respond to the emotions you express. WYSA guides you through meditation, breathing, mindfulness exercises, and includes over 150+ self-care tools. Get your free subscription at brisbaneca.org/WYSA.

The County is also working with cities to offer Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) Trainings throughout the month of May. MHFA is a skills-based training course that teaches you how to identify, understand and respond to signs





of mental health or substance use conditions or crises. MHFA started in Australia and is offered worldwide. Brisbane's training will take place on Saturday, May 21st. This will be an 8-hour in-person training at City Hall for adults to learn how to support other adults. An additional training for youth to learn how to support youth (ages 15-18) will take place later in the year when there are more instructors available to teach MHFA's Youth curriculum. Sign-ups will be required so we can ensure a safe environment with City Hall's Covid protocols in place. Please visit the City's website, brisbaneca.org for more information about Mental Health Month (including why City Hall is lit up in lime green throughout May) and to sign up for the May 21st training.

News on the 2023-2031 Housing Element Update

In April, the Planning Commission wrapped up its series of workshops on the Housing Element update with a review of the City's goals and policies related to maintaining and preserving existing housing, developing new housing to meet our Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA), and ensuring fair and protected access to housing for all households in Brisbane. If you missed any of the workshops, check out the meeting videos and staff reports at brisbaneca.org/housing-element-update.

Planning staff is now preparing the draft Housing Element and anticipates publishing it for public review and comment (minimum 30 days) in **mid-May**, with a workshop followed by a public hearing with the Planning Commission following in late May or early June. To be notified by email when the draft Housing Element is published and public hearings are scheduled, click on the Housing Element 2023-2031 update email list at brisbaneca.org/



<u>subscribe</u>. If you have any questions, comments, or feedback on the Housing Element update process, please email the Community Development Department via <u>brisbaneca.org/email-cdd</u> or reach us by phone at (415) 508-2120.

CA Public Pension Funds: Behind the Emissions Curve?

By: Glenn Fieldman, Open Space and Ecology Committee Member

On April 21st, the Brisbane City Council voted its approval of a resolution supporting SB 1173 (Gonzalez). This bill, currently in committee, would require the State's massive retirement funds CalPERS and CalSTRS – for city/state employees and teachers, respectively – to divest their holdings of fossil fuel assets such as stocks and bonds by 2027, and beginning in 2024, to report annually to the California legislature on their progress. The retirement monies of employees of many California cities and other entities, including Brisbane, are held, invested, and paid out by CalPERS supporing devestment. In 2014, the Council passed a resolution and addressed a letter to CalPERS supporting divestment. Advocates have now taken their campaign to the State legislature.



The global divestment movement has already enlisted thousands of institutions and trillions of dollars and given rise to a plethora of "fossil free" investment funds. It does not seek to bankrupt the fossil fuel industry through divestments - an impossible task in any case - but to stigmatize it; to remove its "social license to operate," making it an unappealing industry in which to work and a risky industry to lend to.

The main driver of the divestment movement is increasing alarm about the failure to reduce emissions at the pace necessary to preserve a stable climate. The IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) report released in early April stated in no uncertain terms that we have only 8 years left, until 2030, to reduce emissions by half. But while the fossil fuel industry is learning to use "sustainability-speak," its business plans center the continued extraction and sale of fossil fuels as well as exploration for more, and are thus completely incompatible with what scientists are telling us.

Advocates also argue that timely divestment from fossil fuels will protect the funds – and California taxpayers – from financial losses. David Carlin, writing for Forbes (2/20/21), calls divestment "a savvy business decision," pointing out that S & P's Fossil Free Total Return Index has outperformed the S & P 500 since 2012. CalPERS and CalSTRS have lost over \$18 billion as a result, according to one estimate. While the post-pandemic recovery and the Russian war on Ukraine have spiked gas and oil prices and profits temporarily, they are also accelerating the move to electric vehicles and heat pumps – and renewables and storage are continuing to get cheaper. Advocates hope that this fortuitous alignment of moral imperative and economic benefit will carry SB 1173 through the legislature this year.

Bike Month and Bike to Wherever Days

May is also Bike Month (there's also Bike to Your Library Weekend: May 21-22), and there are a couple events taking place in town we wanted to make sure you knew about!





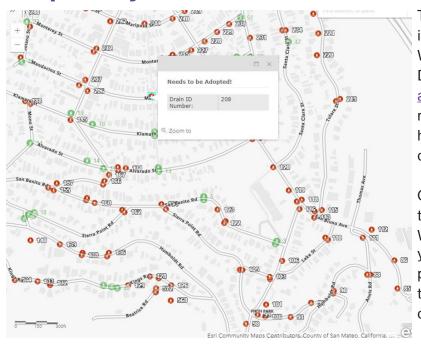


On Thursday, May 19th from 4-7pm, find Brisbane Recreation Coordinator Ricardo Monroy under the Gazebo with Bike to Work bags and other goodies! Note: there will not be any Energizer Stations located in Brisbane this year, nor in SF, due to the first of three scheduled Bike to Wherever Days (May 20, 21, and 22) falling on a Friday. Of course, you can still choose to bike to work that day, but pledge to ride so you can be entered to win prizes. See more at bikesiliconvalley.org/events/btwd.

The Brisbane Library will be holding a Bike Safety Inspection event on Saturday, May 21st from 2-4:30pm. San Mateo County Libraries has partnered with Velofix, a mobile bicycle maintenance team, to offer free bicycle safety inspections. During the bicycle inspection, bicycle technicians will inspect the bicycle, make minor bicycle adjustments, and share their findings with the owners. This event is first-come, first-served, and they anticipate each bicycle inspection lasting about 15 minutes in length. *Happy Biking!*



Adopt a City Storm Drain



The City's Adopt-a-Drain program is back and ready for sign-ups! When you go to the Adopt-a-Drain webpage, <u>brisbaneca.org/adoptadrain</u>, you'll see this nifty map where you can search for your home and find the nearest available drain to adopt.

Once you locate your drain, fill out the registration form and a Public Works staff member will contact



you with next steps, including picking up your free, City-provided rake (if needed). Thanks for taking an active role to improve your neighborhood and keeping the storm drains and Bay clean!

HYDRANT PAINTING RESTORATION







Join us May 14th & 15th as we continue the tradition of painting Brisbane's historic hydrants. All supplies will be provided to participating artists courtesy of the Brisbane Parks & Recreation Department.

Just show up ready to paint, wearing clothes you don't mind getting messy...because it's bound to happen!

Anyone interested in designing or restoring a hydrant must submit an application to participate.

Visit brisbaneca.org/hydrants for more details.

May 2022 City Calendar

The City's **Meals for Seniors Lunch Program** takes place **Mondays** from **12-12:45pm** outside the Senior Sunrise Room (2 Visitacion Avenue) for drive-thru/walk-up pickup.



The **Brisbane Farmers' Market** takes place **Thursdays** from **3-7pm** in the Community Park. Please remember to distance and leave your pups at home.

No-Cost COVID-19 Testing is free, safe, and generally available at the Community Park **Thursdays, 11am – 5pm**. Sign up at <u>cur.tv/Brisbane</u>. To get your results over the phone, please call 1-888-702-9042. See <u>smcgov.org/testing</u> for County-sponsored sites.

See <u>brisbaneca.org/calendar</u> for more information on all the following items.

Meeting Agendas may be viewed online at <u>brisbaneca.org/meetings</u> at least 24 hours prior to a Special Meeting, and at least 72 hours prior to a Regular Meeting.

May is Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month asianpacificheritage.gov

02, Monday, 6:30pm

Complete Streets Safety Committee Meeting, B

05, Thursday, 7:30pm

City Council Meeting, B

06-07, Friday: 12-5 & Saturday: 10-3

MOB Shop at Mission Blue Center

(475 Mission Blue Dr.)

10, Tuesday, 4:30pm (potential date)

Public Art Advisory Committee Meeting

11, Wednesday, 6:30pm

Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting, B

14, Thursday, 7:30pm

Planning Commission Meeting, B

14-15, Saturday & Sunday, 10am

Hydrant Painting & Restoration Weekend | brisbaneca.org/hydrants

18, Wednesday, 6pm

Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accountability (IDEA) Committee Meeting

19, Thursday, 7:30pm

City Council Meeting, B

23, Monday, 4:30pm (potential date)

Public Art Advisory Committee Meeting

May is Mental Health Awareness Month

nami.org (National Alliance on Mental Illness)

25, Wednesday, 6:30pm

Open Space and Ecology Committee Meeting, B

26, Thursday, 7:30pm

Planning Commission Meeting, B

30, Monday, All Day

City Hall Closed for Memorial Day Holiday

City Hall Walk-In Service Hours – 3 days/week: M: 9am – 4pm, W: 9am-7pm, Th: 9am – 4pm. Please see all services that can be conducted remotely at brisbaneca.org/online-services.

Do you have questions about the STAR or have an article to suggest? Articles are due by the 15th of each month for the following month's issue. Contact Caroline Cheung at ccheung@brisbaneca.org or (415) 508-2157.



STAR Volunteer of the Year - Call for Nominations

Now Accepting Nominations for the Volunteer of the Year and Youth Volunteer of the Year! Each year, the City recognizes a Brisbane resident as its "Volunteer of the Year", who is selected by an ad hoc subcommittee comprised of City Councilmembers and Parks and Recreation Commissioners after carefully reviewing letters of recommendation from community members. The Volunteer of the Year award is bestowed upon a dedicated community member that has demonstrated ongoing commitment to the City of Brisbane. They act with the purpose of community in mind and give selflessly to others.

Two years ago, the subcommittee also established a

method for acknowledging youth volunteers of our community. The Youth Volunteer of the Year award is presented to an outstanding young person who has demonstrated a strong commitment to helping others and who serves as an example to their peers.

Do you know someone who has tirelessly given of their time for the betterment of the community? We want to hear about them! Please send your submissions for the 2022 Volunteer of the Year and Youth Volunteer of the Year to Noreen Leek at nleek@brisbaneca.org. These special individuals will be announced at the 2022 Day in the Park event.

Innovative Paving Project Coming This Summer to Sierra Point Parkway

The Public Works Department is thrilled to announce a new project beginning this Summer 2022. Utilizing grant funds provided through CalRecycle's Rubberized Pavement Grant Program, the City will undertake a rubberized cape seal pavement maintenance treatment along Sierra Point Parkway, from Lagoon Rd south to the Hwy 101 overpass.

In a rubberized cape seal project, hot, viscous, asphaltrubber binder is applied to the road's surface. Preheated aggregate chips are then dropped into the binder. The chips are then rolled into the binder, but instead of a



seal of diluted emulsion being used to finish it off, it uses a Type II slurry seal over the rubber chip seal. The Type II slurry seal fills in all the roughness from the rubber chip seal to allow for a smoother finish.

The goal of this project is to improve the current conditions of Sierra Point Parkway, as well as provide preventative maintenance. **Note:** a lane in each direction is expected to be open during paving, however, the contractor will need to close access to Fisherman's Park for a couple of days. Once a schedule has been confirmed, we'll post it onto our website, social media, and signboards.

This is a particularly exciting project because it involves the use of surfacing products derived from ground-up recycled tires mixed with conventional aggregate materials. California alone produces more than 40 million scrap tires a year, of which approximately 75% are diverted from landfill disposal. With 1.05 miles in this project, this creates the opportunity for the City of Brisbane to redirect 1,715 tires, which might otherwise have ended up in a landfill or an illegal scrap tire stockpile. Additionally, using recycled tire rubber with traditional paving materials is a proven, cost-effective method that's been used in the state for over 30 years and shown a reduction in life-cycle maintenance costs compared to using conventional materials. Learn more about the benefits of recycled pavement maintenance materials at <u>calrecycle</u>. <u>ca.gov/tires/rac</u>.



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR



Do you know someone who has tirelessly given of their time for the betterment of the community? We want to hear about them! Please send your submissions for the 2022 Volunteer of the Year and Youth Volunteer of the Year to Noreen Leek at nleek@brisbaneca.org. These special individuals will be announced at the 2022 Day in the Park event.



Take the Parks and Rec Community-wide Survey!

brisbaneca.org/PRSurvey22



Hard copies available at the Sunrise Room and City Hall

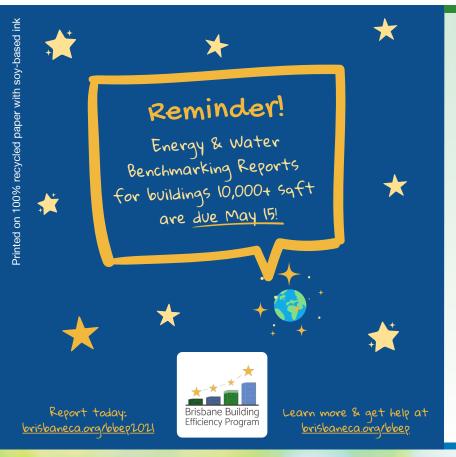
The survey is available in multiple languages online!

Any questions, please call (415) 508-2157





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Earth Day shouldn't be just one day in April. You can make it EVERY day by feeding Ozzy the Organics cart correctly!

He's starving for food scraps, yard trimmings, and food-soiled paper. Other items will spoil the party and can cause delays in service.

If you do not yet have a green bin for organic waste, please call 650.589.4020 to schedule one for delivery.



www.calrecycle.ca.gov/organics/slcp www.brisbaneca.org/waste-recycling www.ssfscavenger.com

An important message from







LEADERS IN TRAINING

SUMMER VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY!



Completed LIT hours may be used as community service hours.

For details & to apply visit: brisbaneca.org/LIT





