

THE N-JUDAH CHRONICLES

A GREG DEWAR PRODUCTION

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A Really Great Documentary You Should See: *New Urban Cowboy: The Labors of Michael E. Arth*

Although not technically "MUNI" related, I wanted to get the word out about a documentary at [the 6th Annual SF Documentary Film Festival](#) that is well worth the time and trouble to go see - [New Urban Cowboy: The Labors of Michael E. Arth](#).

I had the opportunity to meet the filmmaker, [Blake Wiers](#), earlier this year and see a rough cut of the film and even in its unfinished state, it was a remarkable film. The story itself seems simple - Michael Arth, an architect and urban planner, decides to put his theories to the test by selling his home in California, moving to Deland, Florida, and doing what no sane person would do - buy houses in the crappiest part of town ("Cracktown") and try and make it into something better. And guess what? He did!

What's interesting about this film is that it shows the power of doing *something* about a problem, instead of talking and doing *nothing*. When you see the before and after pictures of this neighborhood (which is now called the "Garden District") you're simply amazed. But when you realize that this happened not with endless bureaucracy, or politically connected nonprofits, but instead by the hard work and determination of someone who decided to do something, then you realize that there's more to this story than just that of some guy fixing up a neighborhood.

I am looking forward to the final cut of the film next week, and would urge you to check out the film if you can. Too often, as citizens of Our Fair City, we are resigned to accepting things that don't work : MUNI, housing, job creating, whatever, and look upon city problems as too complex and "unsolvable".

Sadly, we also have a leadership class that's all too willing to reinforce this view. Seeing this film makes you realize that sometimes you don't need endless talk and studies and whatnot to make a difference - sometimes you just need a nail gun and the will to do what's needed.

Posted by Greg Dewar on September 27, 2007 12:36 PM | [Permalink](#)

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« [News From Cole Valley! Possible Changes to the Carl/Cole Stop and Cole Valley Festival 9/23!](#) | [Main](#) | [A Really Great Documentary You Should See: *New Urban Cowboy: The Labors of Michael E. Arth*](#) »

How *You* Can Help Out The MUNI Reform Measure This Fall!

The kind folks at [SPUR](#) sent out an email recently letting people know how they can help out the MUNI charter amendment on the ballot this fall. Since the fall election is easily one of the deadest in recent history, it's likely that turnout will be low, thus making any volunteer effort that much more important to ensure the measure succeeds. Here are the details from Dave:

I'm writing to ask you to join your fellow SPUR transportation committee members and our allies in the Transit not Traffic campaign phone bank to identify absentee voters who support better Muni. We'll feed you. It's fun. It's effective.

SPUR Day at the phone bank is a week from today, Wednesday Sept. 26, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Put it in your calendar now, and call me at 781-8726, ext. 135 to reserve your space. The phone bank is hosted by the SEIU. The address is 350 Rhode Island, Suite 100 South. It's near 16th Street on the north side of Potrero Hill.

You can phone bank any day, Monday through Thursday, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Call Natasha at 415-357-1593 to volunteer on any other date.

This election is going to be close. If we lose, it will be hard to fix Muni in subsequent election cycles. Please, find the time to make a few phone calls.

So if you're interested in helping out, be sure to give Dave or Natasha a call and let 'em know you're ready to go to work! Should be fun!

Posted by Greg Dewar on September 21, 2007 10:20 AM | [Permalink](#)

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« [A Really Great Documentary You Should See: *New Urban Cowboy: The Labors of Michael E. Arth*](#) | [Main](#) | [Wanna Corner Mayor Newsom on MUNI? Come to the Rescue Muni Fun Fest on October 1st!](#) »

Random Event Roundup: Blackthorn Fundraiser, Blues Festival and the 49ers, Among Others

As I am busy working behind the scenes on some pretty interesting changes to the site, I am doing a quick roundup of a few events around the N, including:

- [The NJC's favorite bar, the Blackthorn Tavern](#) will be hosting a benefit concert September 29th for leukemia research. Check it out!
- [The San Francisco Blues Festival](#) returns this weekend at Fort Mason. MUNI didn't publish any specific transit information, but the 22, 47, 49, and the 30 Stockton can help you avoid the parking mashup that'll happen if *everyone* drives there.
- The annual [San Francisco Love Parade](#), with like, a zillion DJs and whatnot, will be on Saturday also. [Many MUNI buses and trains will be delayed](#) - hopefully they won't cut service like they did [back when this blog got started!](#)
- The 49ers will be playing against the (infamous) Seattle Seahawks this weekend at Candlestick/Monster/Whatever Park. [The people at MUNI have provided this guide to using MUNI to go to the game](#)
- like a lot of MUNI provided info, it's rather complex and gives you more options than perhaps you're used to, but wade through it and avoid the parking and driving hassles.

If you have an event you'd like to feature here, [feel free to email me and let me know about it](#) for future posts!

Posted by Greg Dewar on September 28, 2007 4:33 PM | [Permalink](#)

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