

Lower Haight Local

July 2025



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Neighbors

We asked a bunch of neighbors to write a bio & a note to their neighbors. So many wrote in! You'll see these people walking to work, reading in the park, and at your local spots - say hi!

Kym // Haight & Scott

Semi-retired attorney, writer, traveler, board games! // Ask me about my vow of silence!

JL // Waller and Steiner

Had a jazz + poetry radio show in college! // More flowers + pin-wheels in these mean streets

CF // prefer not to say

Looking for a new job in climate data #letsnetwork // i <3 whoever feeds the pigeons on Scott St

BW // Duboce & Fillmore

Solo, I drink 2+ gallons of milk a week // please Safeway parking lot, go away

Sean S // Scott & Page

My favorite line dances are all of them // It's good living on Scott Fast Street

Emily C // Haight & Scott

In Paris I liked sneaking down manholes to paint murals // Bike bike bike!

Dylan H // Fell & Webster

I put cinnamon on my avocado toast // Ask me about my secret bike routes: Waggle, Woggle

Ryan A // Duboce Dog Park

Hey! Wanna go ride bikes some-time? // When is the wiggle going to be a ped mall?

JB // Waller & Steiner

Frequently spotted dog watching at the duboce dog park :)

Joel R // Scott & Page

I teach line dancing every week in my garage // Get involved with the magazine!

Emily L // Scott & Page

Your go-to when you need a crochet hook // ISO drip irrigation ideas for our planter garden

MR // Above the Garage

HG // Oak and Fillmore

Frequently found at yoga at The Center // Watch out for bumblebees on the ground! Don't step!

CW // Page & Steiner

An avid biker

AD // Oak & Scott

Frequently spotted at Sightglass and the Page // I'm single!

KB // Oak & Scott

Very anti-car but owns one; only buys bread from the mill // Let's get some clothing swaps going

OA // Oak & Scott

Currently sidequesting to become sick at pool // What's everyone's fav podcast?

CB // Waller and Pierce

Long-term cat foster turned recent adopter! // What are we gonna do about the Waller/Steiner intersection

AI // Waller & Laguna

Ask me about the dogs of Page Street :) // Keep putting out awesome furniture on the curb <3

JB // Steiner & Duboce

I made two sensory lightboxes - ambient, living sculptures // Be yourself!

JT // Waller & Divis

I'm new to the neighborhood! Say hi!

VD // Page & Webster

Neighborhood pizza chef, vinyl junkie // ^^ more neighborhood parties

EC // Prefer not to say

Lived in 3 SF apts, never >2 blocks from the park

SB // Haight & Divis

Data analyst & pedestrian safety advocate // sell your car, ride your bike, be kind!



MM // Waller & Laguna

Took a gov class and know too much about how SF gov works // Is Mint Hill going to become part of the Castro?

LZ // Scott & Oak

Mom of three, choir junkie, realtor

MS // Duboce & Fillmore

I wish I was skiing; canadian

MJ // Oak and Broderick

Enjoy ritual combat with the ocean, snacks; crab // Ask me how there's no surf anymore :(

SS // Prefer not to say

Will unironically open up Merlin Bird ID in the park // More garage concerts & dance on the street music!

GS // Prefer not to say

I made 99% of my friends in SF playing spikeball in the panhandle // More block parties!

JBM // Waller & Scott

You can always find me at Cafe Réveille :)

RI // Waller & Scott

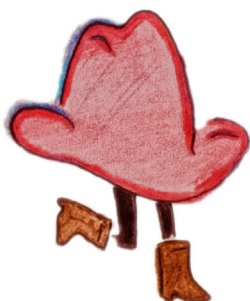
I do trapeize and silks - it's addicting // I love Halloween on Waller!

MB // Fell & Baker

Songwriter, rock collector, rug tufter // I'd looove to play some lil house concerts!!

TC // Oak and Fillmore

Proud cat dad of Winston and Clementine // Board game night, anyone?



Say hi!

Anyone here you want to respond to? I may publish comments in the next issue! :)

<https://lowerhaightlocal.com/respond-to-neighbor>

Hello!

Dear neighbor,

We believe strongly that print is the best medium for connecting with neighbors. When you pick up this paper, you know that all of its content has been specifically crafted by someone just around the block about all the beautiful things Lower Haight has to offer.

This paper is designed to be quickly digestible - less a deep news publication and more of an invitation - to get to know your neighbors, to engage with the people and community around you, and to come closer together. We're aiming to publish monthly :)

How to get involved

Local papers live and die based on community involvement. If you like this format, and you like this idea, please consider lending a small bit of time or money to make it happen.

To get involved, go to <http://lowerhaightlocal.com/help>

To donate, go to <http://lowerhaightlocal.com/donate>

If you want to be featured or have an idea,

go to <http://lowerhaightlocal.com/feature-idea>

How to get on the list

If you'd like to make sure a paper gets delivered to your door, please go to <http://lowerhaightlocal.com/deliver>

How to contact

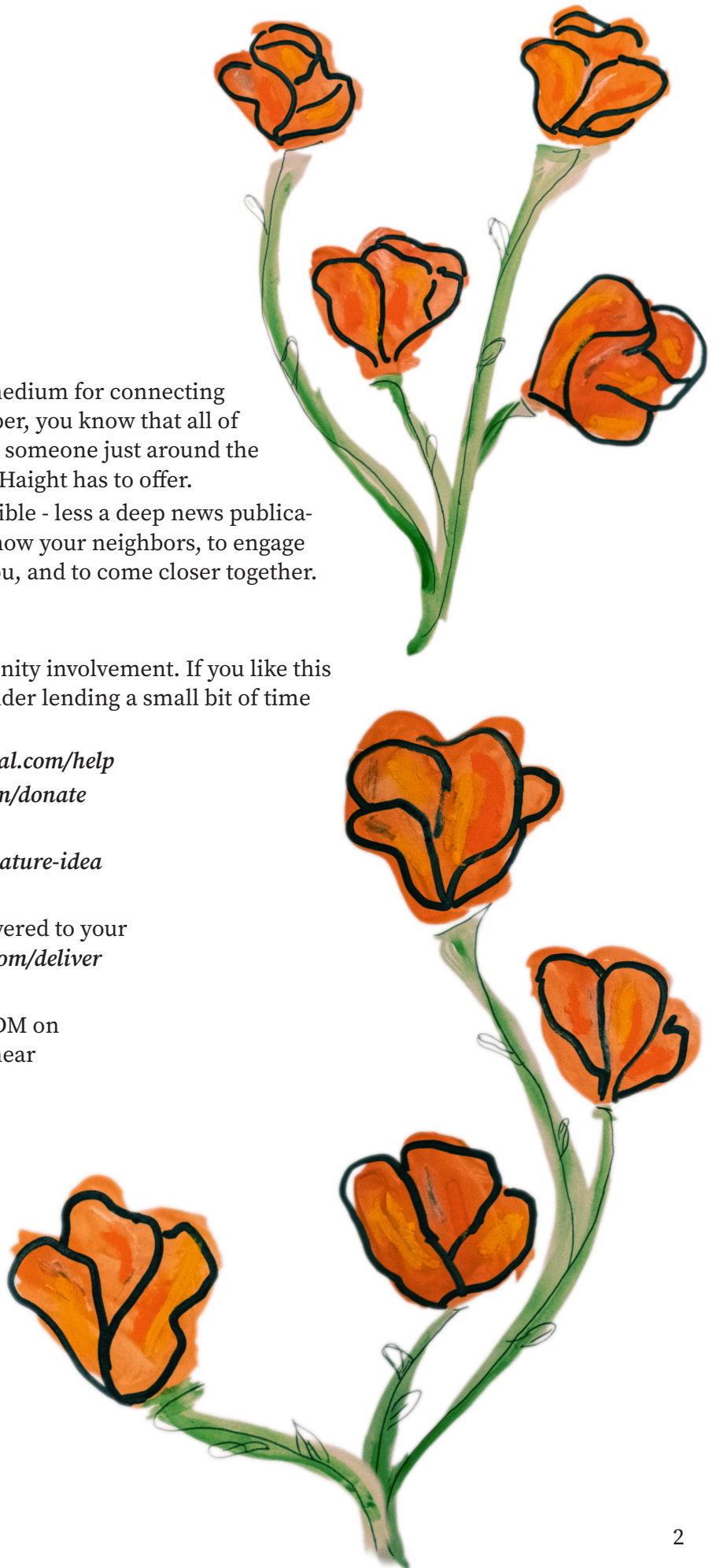
Send a note to hi@lowerhaightlocal.com, DM on Instagram @lowerhaightlocal - I'd love to hear from you!

Sincerely,
Joel

Special thanks to Liz Schilling, for encouraging me and being a fantastic collaborator.

Cover art: Mandy

Illustrations: Siena Applebaum,
Caroline Carter, Roz,
Sonia Beckstrom, Zena, Tom Scherlis



Local Story

Pinwheels on Oak

by Joel Reske

The light turns green to cross Divisadero and three lanes of cars roar down Oak Street toward the highway. As the bike lane disappears, cars turning right look anxiously for bikers. On the far corner lies a large abandoned gas station, ringed with fences. A permanently closed Kelly Moore sits on the other corner.

But as of this Spring, bikers crossing Divisadero have been greeted by another sight: a tunnel of beautiful colored pinwheels lining the poles and trees lining the protected bike lane on the other side. This is the work of **Jason Osborn**, a 15-year resident of the block.

Jason, an avid gardener, had a habit of filling the backyard of his apartment building with plants. Six months ago, he received a notice from his landlord (not a resident) that due to a rodent sighting, he needed to remove most of them. **

“For me, honestly, I just had to figure out something to do with my garden. The area was bland, and I thought, you know what? If I can’t garden my backyard, why can’t I garden the block?”

Jason started thinking of other ways to make the block nicer and ordered a few pinwheels, putting them on one of the utility poles. Right away, the response from neighbors walking by was positive. “Families would stop me and tell me how great this was. And they’d bring their kids down there every morning, telling me how happy it made them.”

So he kept going, ordering pinwheels from Amazon, funding the whole operation from his personal savings. Pinwheels always disappeared, and Jason was never sure why. The wind? A neighbor? The city?

As he spent days (and often quiet evenings) out on the block, Jason met more neighbors than he had in 15 years. “I’ve talked to so many people on the street. I’ve had probably three people give me 20 bucks for my pinwheel fund.”

Someone posted on the San Francisco subreddit online: “Bless Whomever Placed these magical Pinwheels on the Wiggle.” The post drew enthusiastic responses: “I love how they’re lined down the block!!! So fun to add some sparkly whimsy to the world” and “A much needed pop of color at that busy intersection. Thank you pinwheeler!” Randomly, a neighbor delivered him a gift basket with a note about how much the pinwheels had meant to them.

“I want it to be a block of just fun. I want it to be more like a botanical garden or a sparkle when you come through there.”

I interviewed Jason on Friday June 13th. A few days later on June 16th, Jason called to tell me that most of his pinwheels were removed - and that he suspected the city. Working with Molly Hayden (another concerned neighbor) and Jason, we reached out to the office of the District 5 Supervisor, Bilal Mahmood, to see if his office could help figure out what had happened. Mahmood’s office was extremely responsive and helpful. They confirmed: “Public Works [...] con-



firmed that it was their team who removed the pinwheels that were closer to the street. They shared that they received [a] number of requests from nearby residents concerned the installation was distracting to drivers, which led to their removal.”

To my mind, this update is the perfect encapsulation of the complexity of cities. Who are cities for? Do we cater to the drive-by complaint of someone on Oak street, when there are far more neighbors who **love** the pinwheels? Not to mention, the safety concern of ‘distracting drivers’ is far-fetched. How do we as a city and as neighbors make it easy or hard for neighbors to engage with their community and make life better for those around them? I want to support and connect anyone who wants to contribute to our city, the central ethos of this paper.

If you like Jason’s project, you can (1) follow him on Instagram @wigglegwheelssf, (2) be loud about supporting neighbors who take their time and money to make our neighborhood beautiful, or (3) start your own project and get your neighbors involved!

****** Jason disputes that his plants, or any potted plants for that matter, are a reasonable root cause of a single rodent sighting.

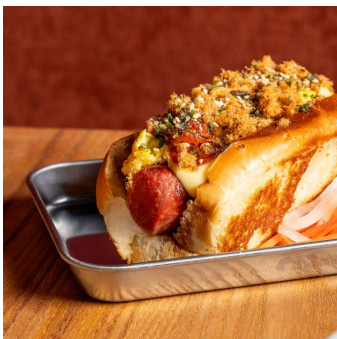
Business Feature

GiGi’s

by Ryan Alcantara

Stepping into GiGi’s Wine Lounge, with its jade green accents and soft lighting, provides an immediate respite from the rush of cars headed up Divis. But something else becomes more apparent as you settle into a cozy booth and notice exotic wines alongside a wagyu hotdog on the menu: This dining experience is telling a story. It starts in Vietnam, and winds its way through Oakland and Michelin Star restaurants on its way to the corner of Page and Divis.

The story revolves around Chef Tu, the founder of GiGi’s, but parts aren’t dissimilar to those of many first generation immigrants. His parents were Vietnamese refugees who worked as a Pier 45 fishmonger and seamstress to make ends meet in Oakland in the ‘80s and Chef Tu’s mother would often bring him back a polish beef hot dog on her way back from work, topping it with whatever accoutrement found in the pantry. Now, after working at a 2-star Michelin restaurant and providing award-winning pop-up dining experiences, his own restaurant serves as a forever home for a tribute to that customized hot dog.



During my time chatting with Chef Tu over a dry rosé, I could feel us talking more about life than food. He has volunteered as an instructor for San Quentin State Prison’s cooking classes, starred in an Emmy-nominated film about his culinary roots, and recently published his own cook book, *The Memory of Taste*. GiGi’s represents a dedication to the craft as much as it represents the challenges that inspired the dishes and the people that make sure every dish, every pour, is perfect. They are bringing elevated Vietnamese-inspired dishes and an impressive collection of wines from the terroir of Croatia, France, and California steps away from your home. Stop by next time you’re on a walk along Page and reflect on the people and places that brought you where you are today over some wine and maybe the best hot dog you’ve ever had.

Poem

Bart

by Michael Arwasha

There are times you smell like a fart
Other times you are as fast as a dart

Shaky and rattley you are
But still I enjoy thee more than my car

When I seek to go across the bay
You never leave me astray

To San Mateo and Marin
I dream of what could have been

And when speeding through the transbay tube you
scream
Reminding me that I am just another transit teen

Events

July

DM @lowerhaightlocal to get your event featured!

Every Sunday

Sunday Trash Pickup

Starts at 10am at Teragon cafe every Sunday.
Meet your neighbors, care for your community, and get some generously provided breakfast at Teragon cafe!

Tuesday, July 8th

Neighborhood Association Meeting

Join your neighbors to talk about local issues! Learn more at:
<https://lowerhaight.org/>



Dogs of Lower Haight

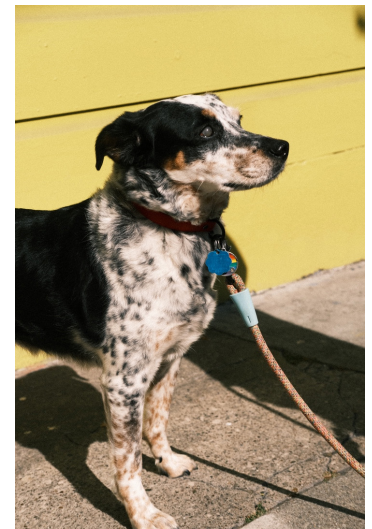
Sophie

by Annie Iverson

The daily post-work parade of dogs in lower haight is a hard place for a pooch to stand out, but one glance at Sophie and I knew she was something special.

This good girl has been living in lower haight near Haight and Pierce for two years, but has been a San Francisco resident for most her life. Starting south of the border in Mexico, she moved up to Los Angeles where she was adopted by her dads, Ivan and Andreas. A year later they all moved up to San Francisco and have been regulars at Duboce Park since. Her friendliness is only rivaled by her excitement for life. She's a dynamic woman, always darting between smelling the nearest tree trunk, munching on sidewalk grass, checking out the dog across the street, and optimally placing herself in front of you for butt scratches. For all these reasons, and more, she is what one of her owners would call an 'outside girl'.

You might notice that one of Sophie's eyes looks a little different than the other. She was born with a condition that has caused her to go blind in that one eye, but that's never stopped her from finding the best stick in the park. If you see her walking on the wiggly make sure you say hello (in English or Spanish, she's bilingual!).



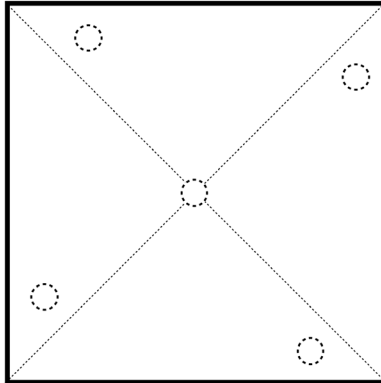
Craft

Make a Pinwheel !

Supplies: oragami paper, hole punch, scissors, pin, straw

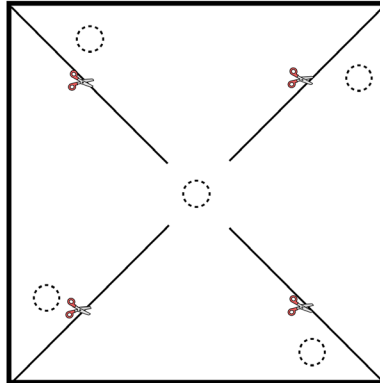
Step 1: Fold + Punch

Folding in this step will make sure everything lines up well!



Step 2: Cut

Most copies of the magazine will come with a pre-cut sheet :)

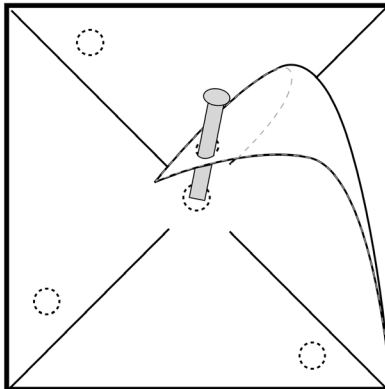


Legend

- Hole punch
- Fold
- Cut

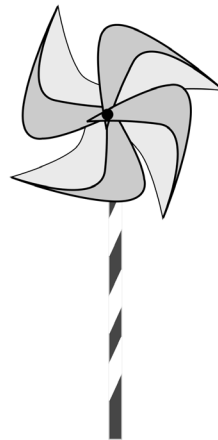
Step 3: Fold + Pin (x4)

If you don't have a pin, tape or glue could work!
It just won't spin :/



Step 4: Pin & Spin!

Post a pic on Instagram, and tag us @LowerHaightLocal
<3

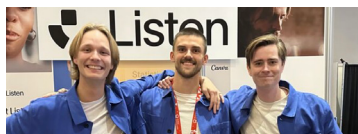


July Sponsors

This paper is only possible because neighbors have given to make it happen. Like the issue? Help the next one get printed with a small donation! Head to <https://lowerhaightlocal/sponsor> to have your organization featured!

Listen

My (Joel's) company! Proud to call SF home, Listen Labs is building technology to transform market research. Just raised \$27m series A. It's an exciting product and an awesome team. Come join!
<https://lowerhaightlocal.com/listen-hiring>



New Owner! Everything has been upgraded, cleaned and fixed. It's a pleasure to step into this laundromat. It now feels like a high end place you'd actually want to visit. Excellent machines, too!
700 Page Street, open 7am - 10pm every day

francisco san

a hundred thousand dollar fund to make the city and county of San Francisco more whimsical through eventures and installations, Run annonymously and funded by a neighbor. :)

COZY CUBS PUZZLE CLUB

is a creative project of Sage Kitamorn.
Join the club and help me spread joy.
www.cozycubs.club

B TEAM

Use the clues to find sidekicks hidden in the grid. Each entry includes exactly one bend in direction.

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Elsa's warmer sister (4) | Green guy with Mario (5) |
| Jefferson's vice (4) | Hall's other half (5) |
| Beavis' bud (8) | Batman's boy wonder (5) |
| Cheech's chum (5) | Penn's silent partner (6) |
| Bonnie's beau (5) | Holmes' helper (6) |
| Simon's "Bridge" partner (9) | Apple's other Steve (7) |
| Maverick's back seater (5) | |

The leftover letters form a further clue.
Hope you saved room for seconds!



GOLDEN GRRRL

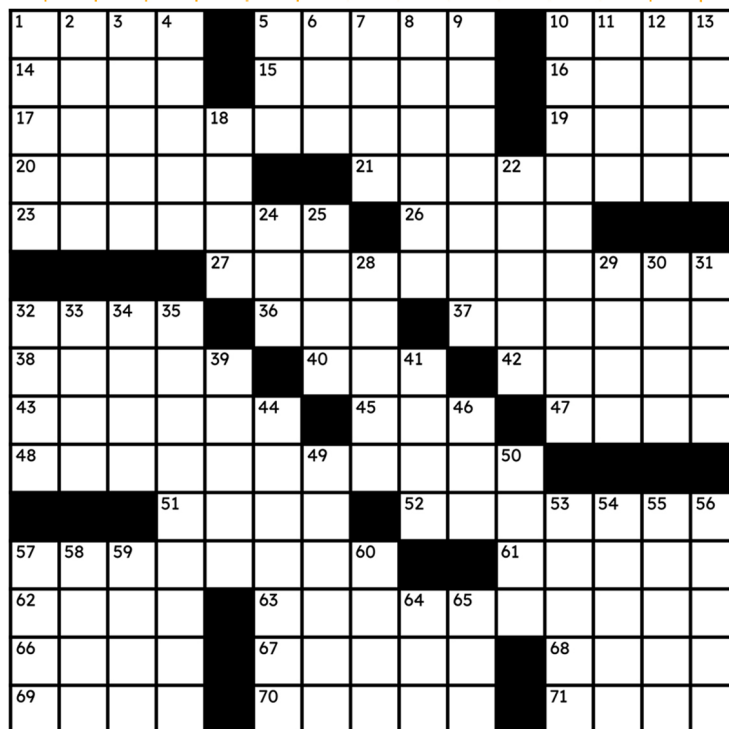
Across

1. Crafts partner
5. "Reading Rainbow" host Burton
10. Some fly traps
14. Arrange from A to Z, say
15. Favored few
16. Solemnly swear
17. * Salon charge for removing certain hairs?
19. Warrior princess of 1990s TV
20. Actress Zellweger
21. Smartphone necessity
23. Eccentric type
26. "Meh"
27. * What customs agents do after inbound flights from France?
32. Q-tip, for example
36. Quaker grain
37. Kitchen whistler
38. Caveman-style, as a diet
40. ___ City (classic computer game)
42. Join a jazz session
43. They followed two calendars that aligned every 52 years
45. Sir Mix-A-___
47. "Mean Girls" main character ___
48. * Request that may lead to foreplay?
51. Green smoothie ingredient
52. Spilled tea in a memoir
57. Partners of nooks
61. First half of a record
62. Learning by repetition
63. * Shout heard before Christ's arrest?
66. Succulent that may help soothe a bee sting
67. Coen Brothers film of 1996
68. "Ye" follower on shoppe signs
69. Their day is in May
70. Put on, as a play
71. Loch ___ Monster

Down

1. "The Jetsons" dog
2. Joined the crew?
3. It's currently in
4. "Trusty" mount
5. Kung fu Bruce
6. Keebler mascot
7. Competed (for)
8. Order to relax
9. Replenish supplies
10. Speak in flowery language
11. Daredevil Knieval
12. ___ fide (genuine)
13. word with song or Lake
18. Brother of Poseidon
22. BBQ leftovers?
24. Top banana, for short
25. Souls from Seoul
28. 10-point piece in Scrabble
29. "At Last" singer James
30. Got dirty on the way home?
31. First word of a kids' rhyme
32. Dust-up
33. Google Maps alternative that is also owned by Google
34. ___ Vista (early search engine)

35. It's a beautiful thing, the rhyme theme of this puzzle's starred answers, or, what you may see if you peek under Bearnard's dress
39. Something you shouldn't try to boil
41. Barrier to entry?
44. Relatives of joints
46. Chicken general
49. Ogle
50. If not, then
53. City known for mustard
54. "Rumour Has It" singer
55. British university city
56. Takes it easy
57. Fill your head just before the final
58. Candy sold in a cylinder
59. Bit that can be split
60. "Buona ___" (Italian greeting)
64. It's baked into Greek Easter bread
65. Actress Saldana of "Avatar" and "Avengers"



SNACK PACK

Change one letter with each step.

H O N E
make edgier?

Cheerio middle

wait, on the phone

thick, as a font

kind of eagle

lip soother

date maker

chicken

picnic place

tree cover

river side

head banger's sound

bing follower

cask hole stopper

hot dog holders

they've got habits

squirrel's stash

answers & more



www.cozycubs.club