



CASTRO COURIER

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSPAPER

SAN FRANCISCO, California – August 3, 2010 – Bucking a trend of dying newspapers, the *Castro Courier* neighborhood newspaper has been sold to another local publisher. Andy Sywak, who put out the first issue of the *Courier* in March of 2007, reached an agreement to sell the paper to Mitch Bull, publisher of the monthly *Westside Observer* newspaper.

“The *Courier* is an excellent community newspaper which has done a great job of capturing the unique personalities and businesses in the Castro,” Bull said. “I look forward to continuing its tradition of seeking stories that reflect the energy of this dynamic neighborhood.”

Sywak (pronounced See-wack) had decided to sell the newspaper after landing a job with the state government in Sacramento. “I am really going to miss being a publisher,” he said, “but I think that Mitch will do a great job with the *Courier* and maybe even expand the page count of the paper to give residents an even fuller paper.” As part of the transition, Bull has retained Ted Andersen as Managing Editor and Bill Sywak, Andy’s father, as Deputy Managing Editor.

Started at a time when print media started to decline, the *Courier* has been profitable since its second issue. The paper features an array of articles on local land issues, crime, real estate and small businesses. “I’m very proud of what we have accomplished and Mitch shares the values of community news which have defined our paper,” Sywak said.

Bull began publishing the *Westside Observer* in 2008. Under his leadership, the paper has grown from 16 to 20 pages a month with a strong emphasis on neighborhood news using local writers and columnists. Readers and advertisers have responded in a very positive way. A dedicated supporter of small businesses and neighborhood-based outreach, he is a graduate of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, where he majored in journalism, prior to starting a business career and relocating to the Bay Area nearly 30 years ago.

Bull is excited about the future of the *Courier* after securing the rights to use seven more news racks in the Upper Market/Castro neighborhood at a recent lottery held by the City’s News Rack Program. This will bring the paper’s total number of news racks to ten.

The next issue of the *Courier* hits the streets Sept. 1.

About the *Castro Courier*

The *Castro Courier* is a free monthly newspaper delivered door-to-door throughout the Castro, Dolores Heights, Corona Heights, Eureka Valley and Duboce Triangle neighborhoods. It prints 15,000 copies every month with approximately 13,000 delivered door-to-door and the remainder dropped at cafes, restaurants and businesses. Door-to-door delivery is provided in between Waller and 21st streets (north-to-south) and between Guerrero Street and Buena Vista Park (east-to-west). The paper is accessible online at www.castrocourier.com. The *Courier* is proud to be a member of the San Francisco Neighborhood Newspaper Association (SFNNA), an organization of independent publishers dedicated to bringing the best neighborhood news and perspectives to your doorstep.

Contact for the *Castro Courier*

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