

Life is beautiful at the SF Flower and Garden Show

Catch the free shuttle from Balboa Park BART to the show



Photos Courtesy of the San Francisco Flower & Garden Show

Take the whole family to the 23rd annual San Francisco Flower and Garden show Wednesday, March 12 through Sunday, March 16 at the historic Cow Palace.

Leave some fresh air for the flowers by taking BART to the show! Free shuttles from Balboa Park Station to the Cow Palace help you avoid traffic, parking, high gas prices and automobile emissions.

Fun activities, inspiring beauty, innovative ideas and products, industry experts and helpful tips for do-it-yourselfers await everyone at one of the world's largest and most celebrated spring garden festivals.

There's plenty for garden lovers at all levels and ages: full-size show gardens, free talks and practical workshops led by gardening experts, educational exhibits, an educational

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May the luck of the Irish be with you!

Take BART to St. Patrick's day events in San Francisco, Dublin

Paint the town green! Not literally, of course, but with the St. Patrick's Day spirit.

Saturday, March 15 San Francisco will celebrate St. Patrick's Day, and everything green, with a parade that includes thousands of dancers, musicians and revelers of all kinds. All who attend will be gifted with the Luck of the Irish, a twinkle and a smile.



Celebrating the 156th anniversary of the oldest and largest Saint Patrick's Day parade west of the Mississippi, more than 250,000 people are expected to attend this joyous parade. Don't fight them in traffic or for a parking spot, take BART to the parade! Exit BART at the Montgomery, Powell, or Civic Center Street Stations.

The parade begins at 11:30 a.m. at the corner of Second and Market, where more than 5,000 entertainers from all over the state will reel about with laughter and revelry all the way to City Hall.

The Family Festival will be held at Civic Center Plaza and will include live music, face painting, delicious food and more. Some of the Bay Area's top Irish performers will grace the festival stage with foot stomping music and plenty of cheer.

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FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

Give your car a "Spring Break!"

It's finally time to put winter behind us and welcome spring, which begins March 20th. The turn of the season means longer days, nicer weather for outdoor activities like festivals and fairs and of course America's favorite pastime - baseball. But there is a downside to spring - higher prices at the pump. In fact, some analysts predict gas will skyrocket to \$4.00/gallon!

That's why I want to remind you that BART remains a cost-effective, environmentally friendly and stress free way to get around the Bay to your favorite events. Not only is BART cheaper than driving (21 cents/mile on BART vs. 52 cents/mile to drive) it's also more environmentally friendly (BART riders get the equivalent of nearly 250 miles per gallon). In fact, traffic is so bad these days that gridlock doesn't seem to loosen its grip on our roads even on weekends! I can't tell you how many Saturdays and Sundays I've seen the Bay Bridge turn into a parking lot - you'd think it was 7 a.m. during the week!

Dorothy W. Dugger, General Manager

Garden Show continued

and activity area for families, live music, as well as shopping for the finest plants, garden art, tools and specialty items.

A one-day adult ticket purchased at the door is \$20. One-day adult tickets are available online (printable at home), by phone or at Bay Area nurseries through March 11 for only \$17. Student tickets, 25 or under with valid student ID, are \$9 at the door. Youth (6-17) are \$4. Children 5 and under are free. Half-day tickets from 3 p.m. to closing Wed. through Sat. (Sun. at 2 p.m.) are \$13 at the door. The All Show Pass allows unlimited access to the show and costs \$65.

The show is open from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday. On Sunday, the show is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

For more information and tickets call 800/569-2832 or 415/771-6909, or visit gardenshow.com

BARTv Guide

Now playing on BARTv

BART Smart

TV Personality Malou Nubla provides some tips on being BART Smart for riders connecting to San Francisco International or Oakland International Airport.

BARTable Destination:

Oakland Museum of California

The only museum devoted to the art, history and natural sciences of California is just a block away from Lake Merritt Station. Watch this video for an inside look at what's in store for you.

BART Expands Wireless Coverage

Go behind the scenes as BART installs new fiber optic cable to provide wider coverage for your wireless PDAs, wireless-card enabled laptops and mobile phones.

Check out the videos online at www.bart.gov.

Earn FREE BART Tickets!

Apply for your BART Rider Rewards MasterCard®, issued by Chase, and start earning points redeemable for BART tickets! Apply today at www.bart.gov or call 1-866-482-8180.

Subject to credit approval, some restrictions apply, see application for details. You must be 18 years of age or older (19 in AL & NE) to apply.



BARToon grimescartoons.com

Molly, the parade should be fun. What can you tell me about St. Patrick's Day?

San Francisco held its first St. Paddy's Day celebration in 1851 at the height of the gold rush. St. Patrick arrived in Ireland in 432 AD, then died on March 17, 460 or 461, depending on the source, so that's the day we celebrate Ireland's patron saint, except for years like this when the 17th falls on the week before Easter, so they moved it to the 15th. What can you tell me, Grandpa?



Green beer. I could use a green beer.

Don't drink & drive—please take BART this St. Patrick's Day!



GOOD TIMES

National Nutrition Month events

Tuesday Berkeley Farmers Market

Derby Street at Martin Luther King Jr. Way
BART: Ashby, 5-block walk

Tuesdays, March 11, 18 and 25, 2-6 p.m.

Saturday Berkeley Farmers Market

Center Street at Martin Luther King Jr. Way
BART: Ashby, 1-block walk

Saturdays, March 8 and 29

Both Farmers Markets will feature cooking demonstrations, free samples and free recipes.

Disney's "Beauty and the Beast"

San Francisco School of the Arts

555 Portola at O'Shaughnessy
www.sfsota-ptsa.org or 415/695-5720

BART: Glen Park; take Muni 44-O'Shaughnessy uphill (across Bosworth) to School of the Arts, just before Portola (8-minute ride).

Through March 22: Top-quality student performers and musicians in a family-friendly production of this musical theater version of a tale as old as time. Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays 7:30 p.m.; Saturdays and Sundays 2 p.m. Children 3 and over are welcome.

Man of La Mancha

Leshner Center for the Arts

1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek
www.lesherartscenter.org or 925/943-SHOW

BART: Walnut Creek

Through March 16: Thrown into a dungeon and threatened by his fellow prisoners, Miguel de Cervantes defends himself by donning costume and makeup to transform into the woeful Knight, Don Quixote, who tilts at windmills and dreams impossible dreams about righting all wrongs. This powerful and timeless tale is brimming with hope, love, humor and humanity. The unforgettable score features such classics as "Dulcinea," "Little

Bird," "I Really Like Him," "Man of La Mancha" and "The Impossible Dream."

Carrie Fisher in "Wishful Drinking"

Berkeley Repertory Theatre
2015 Addison St. at Shattuck, Berkeley
www.berkeleyrep.org or 510/647-2949

BART: Downtown Berkeley

Through March 30: The child of Hollywood who played Princess Leia at age 19 presents the tale of her wild ride through life, alcoholism, manic-depression and icon status. The Los Angeles Times called the show a "Beverly Hills yard sale of juicy anecdotes."



San Francisco celebrates International Women's History Month

San Francisco Main Public Library
Koret Auditorium, 100 Larkin St. at Grove

BART: Civic Center

Thursday, March 27, 6 p.m.: Using music and comedy, PMS Through Art creatively illustrates that all women are connected and can celebrate their true beauty and power. Free admission.

Mrs. Warren's Profession

Shotgun Players

Ashby Stage, 1901 Ashby Ave., Berkeley
www.shotgunplayers.org or 510/841-6500

BART: Ashby

March 21-April 27: George Bernard Shaw's once-banned play depicts a battleground for women's rights, an environment in which there are no easy answers. How far will a mother go to provide for her child? What moral sacrifices do we all make to stay on top?

St. Patrick's Day continued

If you're in the East Bay for St. Patty's day check out Dublin's 25th Annual St. Patrick's Day Festival at the Dublin Civic Center on Saturday and Sunday, March 15 and 16 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. It's two fun-filled days of Irish entertainment, artists booths, commercial vendors, non-profit displays, carnival rides, food and drink! This year, the Main Stage will feature some great, authentic entertainment including: Black Irish, Golden Bough, Leperkhanz and Castlerock. A sepa-

rate stage will be dedicated exclusively to Irish dance.

At the Dublin/Pleasanton BART Station, exit the building and go to your left. Follow signs to the free St. Patrick's Day Festival shuttle. Be sure to get a green ticket, as it is your return shuttle voucher.

For more information visit dublinstpats.com or call the Parks and Community Services Department at 925/556-4500.