



under the dome

A City Hall Building Management newsletter created specifically for City employees

Volume 3, Issue 1 • Jan/Feb 2008

City Hall Building Management
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 008
San Francisco, CA 94102
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Dear Tenants:

The feedback that we have received for publishing “Under the Dome”, the monthly Building Management Newsletter here at City Hall has been tremendous. Many people have written to us about how they anxiously await the new version every month! These comments are so great to hear, so for that we thank you.

Our mission has always been to provide the tenants of City Hall with valuable and interesting information to keep you better informed of your workplace surroundings, supports, and amenities. While providing you with useful information, we would also like to make this newsletter fun and interactive by providing articles that pertain to everyone. Please feel free to continue to offer us feedback on our publications. Our success depends on your satisfaction!

Regards,

Lesley Giovannelli

BUILDING SERVICES MANAGER
CITY HALL BUILDING MANAGEMENT

We Welcome your Feedback!

City employees can send
“under the dome” questions
and suggestions to
lesley.giovannelli@sfgov.org



Happy New Year!

The City Hall Building Management group sends best wishes to you and your families – have a healthy, safe, and happy 2008!

Did you make a list of resolutions for the new year? Will you improve your health? Are you going to volunteer some of your time to a charitable organization? Spend more time with your family? Sometimes the list seems long, but be realistic in your goals, and good luck to all!

LEAP YEAR – A DETAILED STUDY

A leap year is a year that contains one or more extra days in order to keep the calendar year synchronized with the astronomical or seasonal year. For example, February of 2008 has 29 days instead of the usual 28. Seasons and astronomical events do not repeat at an exact number of full days, so a calendar which had the same number of days in each year would over time drift with respect to the event it was supposed to track. By occasionally inserting an additional day or month into the year, the drift can be corrected.

The Gregorian calendar, the current standard calendar in most of the world, adds a 29th day to February in all years evenly divisible by 4, except for centennial years (those ending in -00) which are not evenly divisible by 400. Thus 1600, 2000 and 2400 are leap years but 1700, 1800, 1900, 2100, 2200 and 2300 are not.

The reason for this rule is that the Gregorian calendar is designed to keep the vernal equinox, that moment in time (not a whole day) when the center of the Sun can be observed to be directly above the Earth's equator, on or close to March 21, so that the date of Easter (celebrated on the Sunday after the 14th day of the Moon that falls on or after 21 March) remains correct with respect to the vernal equinox. The vernal equinox year is currently about 365.242375 days long while the Gregorian leap year rule gives an average year length of 365.2425 days.

This marginal difference of 0.000125 days means that in around 8,000 years, the calendar will be about one day behind where it should be. But in 8,000 years, the length of the vernal equinox year will have changed by an amount which can not be accurately predicted. Therefore, the current Gregorian calendar suffices for practical purposes.





Turn Back The Clock – City Hall

Historical photographs are windows to the past. They bridge the gap of time, and offer glimpses of daily life from different eras. The San Francisco Public Library has a wonderful collection of digitized images to browse via their website in the Historical Photograph Collection.

Please visit the Library's Historical Photograph Collection at <http://sfpl.lib.ca.us/librarylocations/sfhistory/sfphoto.htm>

Explore San Francisco's history through photographs. Photos can be searched by keyword, subject, or date.

- Find old photos of your neighborhood
- Browse Golden Gate Bridge construction photos
- Search for what interests you!

We thank the Library for granting permission to include these photos from their collection.



City Hall welcoming Giants after winning the 1962 National League Pennant – 1963



Mayor Roger D. Lapham addressing a group of students from San Francisco State College in the rotunda of City Hall - 1947



Samuel R. Yoho, San Francisco's last surviving Civil War veteran, placing a wreath on a statue of Abraham Lincoln – 1943



Trial air raid warning test in the basement of City Hall – 1942

The San Francisco Arts Commission Gallery

401 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94102
t: 415.554.6080 f: 415.554.6093 www.sfaccgallery.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press Contact: Meg Shiffler, Gallery Director, e: meg.shiffler@sfgov.org, t: 415.252.2568

Press Preview: by appointment, photographs available upon request

Tall in the Saddle: Cowgirls, Ranch Women & Rodeo Gals

A solo exhibition of photography and film by Ann P. Meredith

Dates: December 20, 2007 – March 22, 2008

Location: Art at City Hall, Ground Floor
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, CA 94102

Hours: Monday – Friday, 8am – 8pm

Reception: TBD

San Francisco, CA - The San Francisco Arts Commission Gallery is pleased to present *Tall in the Saddle: Cowgirls, Ranch Women & Rodeo Gals*, a solo exhibition by internationally acclaimed artist Ann P. Meredith as part of our ongoing Art at City Hall program.

This exhibition marks the culmination of over fifteen years of Meredith documenting women making their mark in the traditionally male dominated arenas of ranching and rodeo. Visitors will encounter 75 black and white documentary-style photographs depicting groundbreaking women in a variety of scenarios including wrestling steers, riding the range and going about their daily routines. Presented in tandem with the photographs will be Meredith's documentary film of the same title that riotously reflects the cowgirls of the International Gay Rodeo Association (IGRA) filmed at the Annual Sierra Stampede at the Rio Linda Show Grounds in Sacramento, California in 1999.

While women are traditionally only allowed to compete in the barrel racing category in professional rodeo associations, it is an important distinction that the IGRA allows women to compete along side men in all their events (which include bronc riding, chute dogging, pole

bending and more). Meredith not only captures the thrill of rodeo events and the flamboyant character of these pioneering women, she also documents a subversive slant on what dominant/popular culture would perceive as the cowboy's domain – the West.

Meg Shiffler, SFAC Gallery Director, says, "As part of the curatorial vision for our Art at City Hall exhibition program we are committed to supporting artists involved in bringing to light various communities that deserve greater recognition.

Meredith's *Tall in the Saddle* is an important documentary project that reveals the resilient spirit of incredibly strong Western women who are dedicated to living life on their own terms."

The cowgirl, like their male counterpart, the cowboy, deserves to be called 'uniquely American.' The cowgirl genre is not only a wealth of historical information, but demonstrates a life beyond survival – a life that encompasses revelry and exuberance. Especially identified by their dress, speech, music, work and the artistry of their lives, the cowgirl proves that the frontier was not, and is not, a world reserved solely for men. The women depicted in the exhibition hail from Alameda, Arroyo Grande, Bakersfield, Brentwood, Clayton, Glendale, Hayward, Inverness/Tomales Bay, Milford/Lassen County,

(Continued on page 4.)

AN INVITATION TO JOIN US FOR LUNCH!

Bring your own brown bag lunch to the San Francisco Arts Commission Gallery on Thursday, February 7, 12 - 1pm

The program will start at 12:15 and finish at 12:50 so you can get back to work on time.

401 Van Ness (at McAllister) in the Veterans Building

Meet some of the artists in our next Gallery exhibition:

Reconciling America: Miraculous Encounters with the Mundane

Topics will include public vs. private spaces, shaping personal identity on the web, and archiving transitional life moments.



© Ann P. Meredith



© Ann P. Meredith



© Ann P. Meredith

Moss Landing, Norco, Orange, Pedley, Pacifica, Rio Linda, San Francisco, San Jose, Santa Monica, Standish and Woodacre in California, as well as Arizona, Arkansas, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Texas, Utah and Virginia.

“Tall in the Saddle is a project that has proven to be ageless, and showcases a segment of the lesbian and gay community heretofore unseen” – George Raya, Capital Crossroads Gay Rodeo Association

For *Tall in the Saddle* Meredith has worked with The National Cowgirl Hall of Fame and Western Heritage Center in Hereford, Texas; the Senior Pro Rodeo in Fernley, Nevada; the International Gay & Lesbian Rodeo Association in Sacramento and The Women’s Professional Rodeo Association in Kingston, Arizona. Tall in the Saddle is supported by the San Francisco Arts Commission & the Zellerbach Family Foundation.

About Ann P. Meredith:

Ann P. Meredith, a graduate of the University of California at Berkeley with a degree in Art History, is an internationally acclaimed artist, writer and community arts activist who has lived and worked in the San Francisco Bay Area since 1968. Her work is in the Smithsonian, The Library of Congress, the San Francisco and New York Public Libraries and numerous private collections. Over the years her work has been reviewed and featured in the New York Times, Los Angeles Times, San Francisco Examiner, California Journal, Artweek and more. Photography, video, and film continue to be an integral part

of Ms. Meredith’s work. Her artistic goal has always been to give a personal, national, and international face and voice to those who are unable, or who do not have the opportunity to speak for themselves.

About Art at City Hall:

Art at City Hall promotes San Francisco as an active supporter and champion of the arts and activates City Hall as a site for temporary exhibitions. The exhibitions feature socially-conscious work by contemporary artists working in all media from the Bay Area and beyond. Art at City Hall brings together an extraordinarily diverse group of artists, organizations, styles, and content.

About the San Francisco Arts Commission Gallery:

Located in the heart of San Francisco’s Civic Center, the San Francisco Arts Commission Gallery makes contemporary art accessible to broad audiences through curated exhibitions that both reflect our regional diversity and position Bay Area visual art production within an international contemporary art landscape. By commissioning new works, collaborating with arts and community organizations and supporting artist’s projects, the SFAC Gallery’s programs provide new and challenging opportunities for contemporary art to engage with a civic dialogue.

The SFAC Gallery was founded in 1970 and is the exhibitions program of the San Francisco Arts Commission, the arts agency of the City and County of San Francisco.

Scene and Heard

What are you reading?

“Power, Faith and Fantasy. America in the Middle East, 1776 to present by Michael Orea.”

Tim Kingsbury
Office of the Assessor-Recorder



What are you listening to?

“I’m listening to ‘The Story of Stuff’. It says that only one percent of things are still in use six months after they were purchased. Wow! Consider that the next time you are trying decide if you ‘need ‘ to buy something.”

Carridad Taber
Dept. of Environment



What is the last movie you watched?
“No Country for Old Men”

Summer Graham
Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Services



“YOU ASKED FOR IT”

On several occasions, the City Hall Custodial Services team has been asked, why office trash containers were considerably smaller than the recycling containers. Isn’t there more trash than recyclable materials??? Shouldn’t the trash container be larger than it’s recycling counterpart???



The answer to both of these questions, (which may surprise you) is no – the recycling container should be larger. The reason is, City Hall can put all paper, bottles and cans into the same recycling bin. And since up to 70% of the material generated in administrative offices is paper, very little trash is going into your waste receptacle. According to SF Environment, nearly one-third of the material that San Franciscans throw away could have been recycled. This data supports the decision to provide a larger receptacle for recyclable materials.

For some of us, this involves a change in how we think about waste disposal. As you dispose of your office waste, please take a moment to consider whether the item is recyclable, and make an effort to reduce our reliance on landfills for waste disposal by placing the correct material into the correct container. For a complete list of what is and what is not recyclable, please visit www.sfreycling.com/recycling_information.htm If you have any questions about recycling in City Hall, please feel free to contact Building Management at 554-4933. For further information on San Francisco’s environmental programs, please visit www.sfenvironment.org.

Thank you for doing your part to showcase San Francisco as a model city for recycling and innovative waste reduction concepts.

FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Black History Month was established in 1976 by The Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History. To honor Black History Month, we have featured Frederick Douglass, whose birthday, along with Abraham Lincoln's, was the reason why the month of February was selected to remember the important people and events in African American History.

Born Frederick Augustus Washington Bailey in February of 1818, Frederick Douglass played a pivotal role in the fight for abolition. An American abolitionist, editor, orator, author, statesman and reformer, Douglass was one of the most prominent figures in African American history. He was a firm believer in the equality of all people, whether black, female, American Indian, or recent immigrant. He was fond of saying, "I would unite with anybody to do right and with nobody to do wrong."

The self-educated Douglass first learned to read by white children in the neighborhood in which he lived. By reading newspapers, political materials and books of various subjects, Douglass was exposed to a new realm of thought and experience that led him to question the institution of slavery.

After two unsuccessful attempts to escape from slavery, a young Douglass was finally able to gain freedom by jumping on a train to Maryland posing as a sailor and carrying identification papers provided by a free black seaman. He was only twenty years old at the time.

As a "free" man, Douglass joined several organizations, black churches and attended numerous abolitionist meetings. At a meeting of the Bristol Anti-Slavery Society, Douglass was unexpectedly asked to speak about his life as a slave. His speech was so moving that he was encouraged to become an anti-slavery lecturer. Several days after that faithful meeting, Douglass delivered his first speech at the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society's annual convention in Nantucket. Twenty-three years old at the time, Douglass later said that his legs were shaking. He conquered his nervousness and gave an eloquent speech about his rough life as a slave.

Douglass' best-known work is his first autobiography, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave*, which was published in 1845. At the time, some skeptics attacked the book as inauthentic, questioning whether a black man could have produced such an eloquent piece of literature. Nevertheless, the book received generally positive reviews and it became an immediate bestseller. Within three years of its publication, it had been reprinted nine times with 11,000 copies circulating in the United States; it was also translated into French and Dutch.

After two years of touring and lecturing in Ireland, Douglass eventually returned to the United States and began to publish a series of newspapers. He understood that education was the only way African-Americans could improve their socio-economic status and thus, Douglass became an early advocate for the desegregation of schools.

By the time of the Civil War, Douglass was one of the most famous black men in the country, known for his speeches on the condition of the black race, and other issues such as women's rights. He met with such notable men as President Abraham Lincoln in 1863 on the treatment of black soldiers, and with President Andrew Johnson on the subject of black suffrage.

After the Union won the Civil War and slaves were considered free, Douglass began his fight for equality among all his people. He also served as President of the Reconstruction-era Freedman's Savings Bank; as marshal of the District of Columbia; as minister-resident and consul-general to the Republic of Haiti (1889–1891); and as chargé d'affaires for the Dominican Republic.

In 1872, Douglass became the first African American to receive a nomination for Vice President of the United States, having been nominated to be Victoria Woodhull's running mate on the Equal Rights Party ticket without his knowledge. During the campaign, he neither campaigned for the ticket nor even acknowledged that he had been nominated.

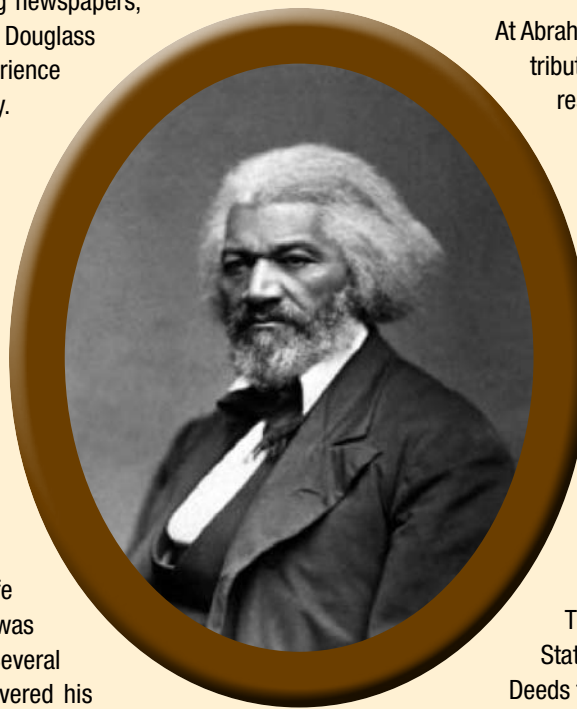
At Abraham Lincoln's memorial, Douglass gave a fantastic tribute to the President for which he received much respect. The crowd, roused by his speech, gave him a standing ovation. A witness later said, "I have heard Clay speak and many fantastic men, but never have I heard a speech as impressive as that."

By 1877, Douglass was married and had five children; two of them, Charles and Rossetta, helped produce his newspapers. He purchased his final home in Washington D.C., on the banks of the Anacostia River and named it Cedar Hill. The home is now the location of the Frederick Douglass National Historic Site.

That same year, Douglass was appointed a United States Marshal. In 1881, he was appointed Recorder of Deeds for the District of Columbia. His wife (Anna Murray Douglas) died in 1882, leaving him in a state of depression. His association with the activist Ida B. Wells brought meaning back into his life. In 1884, Douglass married Helen Pitts, a white feminist from Honeoye, New York. Pitts was the daughter of Gideon Pitts, Jr., an abolitionist colleague and friend of Douglass. A graduate of Mount Holyoke College, Pitts had worked on a radical feminist publication named *Alpha* while living in Washington, D.C.. Frederick and Helen Pitts Douglass faced a storm of controversy as a result of their marriage, since she was a white woman and nearly 20 years younger than he. Both families recoiled; hers stopped speaking to her; his was bruised, as they felt his marriage was a repudiation of their mother.

On February 20, 1895, Frederick Douglass died of a massive heart attack or stroke in his adopted hometown of Washington, D.C. He is buried in Mount Hope Cemetery in Rochester, New York.

In 1921, members of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity designated Frederick Douglass as an honorary member of the fraternity. He holds the distinction of being the only member initiated posthumously.



Frederick Douglass

SAFETY CORNER

EARTHQUAKE SAFETY

City Hall is one of the largest base-isolated buildings in the world and the only isolated national landmark. City Hall has been designed to remain operational after a large-scale earthquake.

If an earthquake occurs while you are inside City Hall:

DO NOT

- Panic.
- Attempt to leave the building.
- Stand near windows or other items that may shift or break and cause injury.
- Attempt to use the elevators, restrooms, plumbing or electrical outlets as usual unless you receive official information from emergency personnel to do otherwise.
- Make or accept telephone or cell phone calls for non-emergency purposes.
- Attempt to move seriously injured people unless they are in an obvious life-threatening situation.

DO

- Remain calm.
- Move away from windows, mirrors, overhead fixtures, filing cabinets, bookcases and electrical equipment.
- Drop to the floor.
- Take cover under a sturdy piece of furniture or next to an interior wall.
- Cover your head and neck with your arms.
- Hold on to a sturdy piece of furniture and be prepared to move with it.
- Stay where you are until all shaking stops.
- Prepare for aftershocks.
- Evacuate if the fire alarm is activated.
- Proceed with caution: open doors carefully, watch for falling objects, use caution when opening doors, cabinets and drawers as items may have shifted.

To report an
EMERGENCY:
call
911
then call **City Hall Security**
at **554-7251**.

- Assist persons including senior citizens and persons with disabilities.
- Report earthquake damage immediately by calling City Hall Security at 554-7251.

HOW TO REPORT EARTHQUAKE DAMAGE AT CITY HALL

- Contact City Hall Security immediately by calling 554-7251.
- Speak calmly and slowly.
- Provide your full name.
- Provide the telephone extension you are calling from.
- Provide the location of the earthquake damage including the floor and room number if possible.
- Provide a brief description of the earthquake damage.
- Stay on the phone with City Hall Security until instructed to do otherwise.



BUILDING MANAGEMENT

Lost and Found Policy

The lost and found is located in the Building Management Office in Room 008. Please submit all items as soon as they are found and identify when and where the item was found. The item will be logged and kept for a maximum of 90 days. Items that go unclaimed after the 90-day period are disposed of as decided by the Director of Administrative Services or his or her designee in accordance with California Civil Code 2080-208036 and Charter Section 4.129. Where City Hall Security determines a lost item could be hazardous, City Hall Security and City Hall Building Management reserve the right to immediately dispose of such item. Contact Building Management at 554-4933 to check on lost items or report a found item.



EVENTS

WHAT'S HAPPENING

In the City?



Birding Walks for Families

Sat 1/5/2008

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

fee/admission: Free

San Francisco Botanical Garden

Ninth Ave. and Lincoln Way

Golden Gate Park

San Francisco, CA 94122

(415) 661-1316

(Sunset)

Designed for kids and their families. The walk focuses on birds and flowers found throughout the garden. Meets at the bookstore near the main gate.

www.sfbotanicalgarden.org

Mochitsuki!

Sat 1/5/2008

12:00 p.m.

fee/admission: \$10 for adults, \$7 for seniors, \$6 for youths 12-17

Asian Art Museum

200 Larkin St.

San Francisco, CA

(415) 581-3500

(415) 581-4700

(Civic Center/Hayes Valley)

The Asian Art Museum's annual Japanese mochi (rice cake) pounding party.

Da Vinci -- An Exhibition of Genius

Event Info: (877) 536-8497

Through 1/6/2008

Daily 10:00 a.m.

fee/admission: \$15.50-\$19.50

Metreon

Mission and Fourth streets

Yerba Buena Gardens

San Francisco, CA 94103

(415) 369-6000

(800) 638-7366

(SOMA/Potrero Hill)

"Da Vinci: An Exhibition of Genius." Highlighting da Vinci's work as inventor, engineer, anatomist, sculptor, and Renaissance artist. Includes "Mona Lisa Secrets Revealed," showcasing 20 secrets of the da Vinci's masterpiece revealed in photographic studies.

www.davincithegenius.com

Past Tents: The Way We Camped

Through 1/12/2008

Daily

fee/admission: \$3 for general public; \$1 for students and seniors.

California Historical Society

678 Mission St.

San Francisco, CA 94105

(415) 357-1848

Fax: (415) 357-1850

(SOMA/Potrero Hill)

"Past Tents: The Way We Camped." A portrait of early camping in the West through tales of family outings, car camping and a presentation of outdoor gear from the 19th and 20th centuries.

Ben Stein

Thu 1/24/2008

6:00 p.m.

fee/admission: \$12-\$18

Commonwealth Club

595 Market St.

San Francisco, CA 94105

(415) 597-6705

(Union Square/Financial District)

A discussion on financial and political issues facing the world today.

Drop-In Art and Science Workshops

Sat 2/2/2008

1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

fee/admission: \$3-\$5

Randall Museum

199 Museum Way

San Francisco, CA 94114

(415) 554-9600x12

(Castro/Noe Valley)

Make a Chinese lion head puppet to celebrate the Lunar New Year.

Video Games Live 2008

Event Info: (415) 421-8497

Fri 2/22/2008

8:00 p.m.

fee/admission: \$38.50-\$65

Nob Hill Masonic Center

1111 California St.

San Francisco, CA

(415) 776-4702

(Russian Hill/Nob Hill)

Performed by a symphony orchestra, these gaming segments appear on multiple video screens and feature guest appearances by classic gaming characters and famous conductors.

SHAPE UP!



As we all consider different ways to live healthier and promote well-being, it is very important that these methods are shared with children. Introducing kids to the importance of a healthy lifestyle at an early age can help them to live longer and happier. One way to share the message is through delicious snacks that are also good for them!

The State of California's Department of Public Health offers these healthy recipes for kids as part of their "Children's Power Play" Campaign:

Out of this Whirled Shake



Ingredients

½ banana, peeled and sliced

1 cup unsweetened frozen berries (strawberries, blueberries, and/or blackberries)

½ cup 1% lowfat or nonfat milk or soft tofu

½ cup frozen orange juice concentrate

1. Place all ingredients in a blender container. Put lid on tightly.
2. Blend until smooth. If mixture is too thick, add ½ cup cold water and blend again.
3. Pour into 2 glasses and serve.

Makes 2 servings. One serving equals 1-1/3 cups.

Breakaway Bannana Split



Ingredients

1 small banana, peeled

1 cup lowfat vanilla yogurt

¼ cup lowfat granola

¼ cup fresh blueberries or other fresh berries

1. Cut the banana in half lengthwise.
2. Spoon yogurt into a cereal bowl.
3. Place the banana halves on both sides of the yogurt.
4. Top yogurt with granola and blueberries. Serve.

Makes 1 serving.

Preparation time: 5 minutes

Apple Oatmeal



Ingredients

1 large apple

1 cup quick oats

1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon

1/8 teaspoon salt

1 ¾ cups 100% apple juice

1. Chop the apple into bite-size chunks.
2. Combine the apple chunks, oats, cinnamon, salt, and apple juice in a microwave-safe bowl. Cover the bowl with a lid or plastic wrap. Be sure to leave a little opening for the steam to get out.
3. Microwave on high for 2 minutes. Use pot holders to remove the bowl from the microwave because it may be hot. Be careful when removing the lid or plastic wrap, too.
4. Stir and let cool for 1 minute before serving.

Makes 4 servings. One serving equals ¾ cup.

Preparation time: 10 minutes

Cooking time: 2 minutes