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Mayor Ed Lee: Kicks the Can Down the Road

By George Wooding

Welcome to San Francisco in the year 2020. Mayor Lee has finally been termed out and is watching the new Mayor sweat the infrastructure problems Lee created building 30,000 housing units in six years. The new Mayor will quickly become the fall guy for the collapse of San Francisco's infrastructure.



San Francisco had built 1,500 housing units annually during the previous two decades, but Lee began adding 5,000 units annually during the six years beginning in 2014 — 30,000 units total.

Once upon a time, San Francisco's entire infrastructure (water, sewage, roads, general maintenance) was funded by the City's general fund. As City employee salaries grew higher and the number of City employees increased, San Francisco started deferring infrastructure payments to pay for its City employees.

Due to inadequate annual funding of capital improvements, and deferred maintenance, City politicians have allowed public works to deteriorate. The City is now forced to pass bond measures to pay for basic, routine infrastructure. The San Francisco PUC (SFPUC) utilizes revenue bonds — meaning the SFPUC pays for bonds by raising customer rates.

City officials have allowed San Francisco's infrastructure crisis to roll forward year after year. It's relatively easy for Mayor Lee to defer maintenance because the consequences are not apparent for many years. His failure to have publicly-available information on the condition and cost of deferred maintenance hides the problem. There is little public clamor and few

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“There is deferred city maintenance everywhere! San Francisco's infrastructure cannot support the 30,000 dwellings that Mayor Lee is trying to build over the next five years. City Government is just kicking the can down the road.

Cont. p. 4

Mount Davidson and the Natural Areas Management Plan – what happens next?

By Jake Sigg and Linda Shaffer

Sometime in the next year or so, Mount Davidson (and Mount Sutro for that matter) will cease to be the laissez-faire woods they have been for 130 years. They will begin to go through a process of change, as problems that have been evolving and clamoring for attention are addressed. The problems of the two mountains are identical, but different land-owners have devised different approaches to address them. Here the focus is Mount Davidson and the document of concern has the lengthy tongue-twister name Significant Natural Resource Areas Management Plan, or SNRAMP (pronounced sin-ramp).

These Mount Davidson trees are dying; the thinning foliage is due to drought and the ivy is increasingly choking off light needed to photosynthesize, as well as competing with tree roots. Even a winter of heavy rain can only delay death, and they should be considered dangerous to hikers and workers. The number of such trees on the mountain is in the hundreds, possibly thousands. Mount Sutro offers identical scenes. Photo by Randy Zebell

Some people are understandably apprehensive about what changes will occur, and about whether concerns they have will be heard. The purpose of this article is to explain processes a bit, and, the authors hope, alleviate some unnecessary stress.

It should help to understand that the process of approving and implementing



Hundreds, perhaps thousands of Mt. Davidson trees have similar problems Photo: Randy Zebell

FSome people are understandably apprehensive about what changes will occur, and about whether concerns they have will be heard. The purpose of this article is to explain processes a bit, and, the authors hope, alleviate some unnecessary stress.

a management plan is lengthy and goes through stages, at each of which the public is able to offer comments. There are two upcoming stages to explain.

First stage: The Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR, which has taken almost 10 years to produce and which takes into account massive amounts of public input) is currently expected to come before the Planning Commission and Recreation and Park Commission (probably in a joint meeting) early next year. The

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Planning Commission decides whether to certify the EIR as being sufficiently accurate and complete, and the RecPark Commission votes whether to approve the management plan. This latter Commission can make changes to the plan, but only changes that conform to options that have already been subjected to the CEQA analysis done in the EIR. There will be ample opportunity for public comment at the joint hearing.

Second stage: If the Commission approves a management plan, that just means a twenty year Plan has been approved. Next the Plan must be implemented, which involves more planning because, with one exception (a project at Sharp Park in Pacifica) the SNRAMP EIR is a programmatic EIR — a sort of complicated road map. Yes, the SNRAMP con-

and that only about one-third of the area planted in trees is even covered by the Plan — those areas designated as Management Area 1 (MA1). There are also MA2 and MA3 areas, which will have to be covered by a separate plan yet to be proposed.

There was initial public concern about the number of trees proposed for thinning. Ironically, due mostly to severely dry weather, there are at least that number of trees which are either dead or dying, meaning in retrospect the Plan may seem overly conservative. Be that as it may, the Plan is what it is and cannot be substantially changed, so other exigencies must be attended to under a different document.

Discussion so far has focused on thinning trees. Perhaps the largest changes likely will be the understory. This has been dominated by ivy and blackberry almost to the point of exclusion of other kinds of plants, leading to large stretches of trail that are dreary and monotonous. This is unfortunate, because there are a huge number of native plants to be planted that are a delight to the eye and provide rich support for wildlife and that thrive under these conditions. Imagine trails graced by red columbine, five different kinds of ferns in profusion, fringe cups, self-heal, scarlet monkey flower, carpets of strawberry, robust native bunchgrasses, rushes, and sedges. The present condition of the plantation is unsatisfactory from all points of view, and the increasing danger from tree failure—aggravated by extended dry periods—is creating an intolerable situation.

It may be as well that nature is forcing the City's hand in coming to terms with a difficult problem. Proposed changes promise to make the tree stands healthier, and to make the experience of walking its trails more diverse and exciting to humans while also being supportive for a wider variety of wildlife.

tains what looks like detailed information about the management plans for each of the city's 31 Natural Areas. But it should be understood that these area plans are based on estimates, and include the maximum amount of possible change envisioned. (This is a necessary part of planning: while RPD is under no obligation to do every single thing mentioned in the area plans, they cannot take actions that were not been subjected to environmental impact analysis. So it's best to over-estimate.)

The bottom line: it is our understanding that before any of the plans for individual natural areas can be implemented, those plans have to be turned into specific projects, with budgets and timetables, etc. There have to be community meetings, similar to those held when bond-financed capital projects are carried out in individual playgrounds or parks. For example: the area plan for Mount Davidson includes the possibility that an estimated number of trees will be removed. An implementation project



The green stuff is ivy choking trees that are dying or already dead Photo: Craig Dawson

would state how many and which trees are to be removed from what location, when, why, and how much it would cost to do so. The public will have an opportunity to weigh in on all this information.

It is also good to be reminded that this is a plan to be carried out over 20 years,

All the green you see in this picture is ivy. Large blocks of dead trees around Aldea Housing are being clearcut, as they are a clear and present danger.

Linda Shaffer is completing her 8th year of service on PROSAC (Park, Recreation and Open Space Advisory Committee).



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West Of Twin Peaks Central Council By Mitch Bull

Coyotes, crime, condos and counted votes were the topics du jour at the West of Twin Peaks Central Council meeting on November 23. President Roger Ritter welcomed a small but hearty group of attendees to the last meeting of 2015. Failing to reach a quorum, the minutes from the October meeting were tabled until the January meeting.

Treasurer Carolyn Squeri reported a balance of \$5485.25 in the account and informed the delegates that they can expect to receive their dues notices in the mail as they have been posted.

Coyotes took the spotlight when George Wooding gave his Public Health Committee report. He reported, following up from his article last month in the *Westside Observer*, that there is an estimated population of between 100-200 coyotes that are traveling throughout the city. Several dog attacks have been reported as well as other pets. In addition, Wooding pointed out that, like dogs, the wild animals can carry diseases like the canine Parvovirus, as well as other diseases. Delegate Don Dutil, living near Stern Grove, has seen five coyotes in his backyard and knows of at least 5 attacks on local pet canines. Several people spoke of the view that these animals (coyotes) are not acceptable to cohabit in residential areas.

Most people in the audience who have contacted the city about the coyote nuisance and threat feel that the response of the city leadership and department heads has been tepid and not nearly strong enough, feeling that no program exists in San Francisco that tackles this problem in a proactive manner.

It was discussed however, that it is against state law to relocate a coyote, however, they are not a protected species and can be trapped (or killed) on "private," but not public property. Matthias Mormino, of Supervisor Norman Yee's office, said that the supervisor is looking at how to assemble a diversity of voices to determine the best way to deal with the coyote



Sunnyside Delegate Lisa Spinali explains the Balboa Reservoir Plan and its many problems problem. WOTPCC President Ritter proposed preparing a resolution for the January WOTPCC meeting that would put forth a proposal through Supervisor Yee's office to the Mayor's office.

After that lengthy discussion, Sally Stephens updated the attendees on the (Supervisor Mark) Farrell proposal to the Board of Supervisors concerning changes to the parks and recreation department in how they raise and distribute Open Space and Park funding. Many open space and parks proponents were against many of the items in the proposal, but note that changes were instituted by the Rules Committee, and that other changes have been made to address many of the public's concerns. Farrell's plan is to have the proposal

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Ruminations From a Former Supervisor By Quentin Kopp



Except for continuing exposure of the inept, greedy, destructive activities of Pacific Gas and Electric Company, and Bay Bridge chicanery by a reporter named Jaxon van Derbeken, the San Francisco "Comical" and other media outlets have ignored the questionable conduct of important public officials. One example is California Attorney General Kamala D. Harris, an ambitious candidate to replace Barbara Boxer in the United States Senate. Not a word has been uttered in the local media about a 63-page complaint filed against Harris personally, and in her official capacity as Attorney General of the State of California by Prime Healthcare Services, Inc. ("Prime") in the United States District Court in Sacramento. The complaint charges Harris with "illegal and corrupt conduct..." The case arises from the financial need of the Daughters of Charity Health System ("DCHS") to sell the six California hospitals it owns and operates, including Seton Hospital in Daly City, once known as Mary's Help Hospital on Guerrero Street, San Francisco. In early 2014, with a financial crisis looming, DCHS, a Catholic nonprofit entity, decided to sell Seton, Seton Coastsde, a skilled nursing facility in Moss Beach, O'Connor Hospital in San Jose, St. Louise Hospital in Gilroy, St. Francis Medical Center in Lynnwood, and St. Vincent Hospital in Los Angeles. After a competitive 13-month bidding process and evaluating over 200 bids, the Daughters of Charity selected Prime as the only bidder whose \$843,000,000 offer for those hospitals best ensured its continued existence.

" It alleges she participated in a corrupt scheme ..., because Harris is beholden to the union for campaign money. It constitutes the most damning lawsuit against a state elected official I've ever personally seen ... Maybe, just maybe, local media, so in love with the "allegedly corrupt" Attorney General, will enlighten readers"

Under California charity law, the California Attorney General must review Prime's offer and decide whether it is in the best interests of the people of California to permit the sale of any nonprofit hospital, exercising reasonable discretion and without other limitation or governing standards, or explaining or justifying her decision. The sale to Prime was opposed by two unions representing California hospital workers. On October 10, 2014 the Daughters of Charity selected Prime as the successful bidder based upon its history of restoring financially distressed hospitals and its commitment to maintaining Seton Hospital in Daly City and the other five Daughters of Charity hospitals.

Unions have for six years or more engaged in labor disputes with Prime because Prime refused to require all its employees to join unions. Harris last February "approved" the transaction, but with conditions so onerous Prime was effectively prevented from consummating the transaction and then managing Daughters of Charity hospitals with its financial problems. Harris' list of over 300 conditions consumes 77 pages and required Prime to operate all but one of the Daughters of Charity hospitals in its current state for 10 years without regard to operating losses, or whether all the hospital services were essential. The conditions would facilitate unionization of all of Prime's 28 hospitals, including its 10 in California.

In suing Harris, Prime minces no words. It alleges she participated in a corrupt scheme with the United Health Workers Union unlawfully to preclude Prime from buying such hospitals, because Harris is beholden to the union for campaign money. It constitutes the most damning lawsuit against a state elected official I've ever personally seen. The case won't be tried until spring 2016. Maybe, just maybe, local media, so in love with the "allegedly corrupt" Attorney General, will enlighten readers.

But that's not all daily media has suppressed about Harris. In the wake of Prime's lawsuit against Harris, a subsequent offer to buy the Daughters of Charity hospitals occurred, this one by a hedge fund, Blue Mountain Capital Management. According to the *San Francisco Business Times*, Harris has strangely delayed decision on a "system restructuring and support agreement" that would confer effective control of the Daughters of Charity hospitals on this \$20,000,000,000 hedge fund, changing the system's name to Verity Health Service, and eliminating its connection to the Daughters of Charity Catholic order, with an option for the hedge fund to buy the hospitals in three years at about \$250,000,000. Daughters of Charity must

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Captain Flaherty explains the importance of the crime maps for determining how officers are deployed at the Taraval Meeting.

Captain Flaherty (Cont. from p. 1)

strategic in their patrol.

Question: When crimes are reported at the desk at the station, why are personnel so unresponsive?

"A lot of times at the front desk we have a Police Service Aide (PSA), that's a civilian. I think our PSAs are very good, also we have a station keeper who's up there. But I think a lot of times when they have someone who comes to the window, the feeling is—this is after the fact. Sometimes it might be an auto break-in and it's very serious to you, but unless there's a lot of loss, unless there's something you can give us to act upon, like a license plate, it's hard for us. So maybe that officer wasn't as engaged as you would like them to be, but that is sometimes the mindset they might be in."

Crime maps. The Captain distributed (crime incident) maps to the audience—"This is the map of October auto break-ins—so we tend to look for clusters, and where officers are going? They are going to those areas."

"When I was growing up in the Mission, I had someone break into my car for some change and a blanket. They will take whatever they can. Don't leave anything of value in your trunk, because they can figure a way to get in your trunk. Don't leave anything visible in your car, not change, not a Fast Track transponder, not a garage door opener. If there's nothing in there, they'll keep walking."

Crime maps will be made available at the monthly Community Safety Meetings, or you can request one personally from the Captain at denise.flaherty@sfgov.org.

The Taraval Neighborhood Team (TNT) studies these maps everyday before they begin their patrol. "Gone are the days when we just drive around; we are strategic in where we will be patrolling."

"In October **auto break-ins** were the one area where we saw the most activity, last month there were 150—that's a lot." But for the months of November, December and January, the Captain expects there to be much higher numbers, especially in December. "It will help if people do not leave anything in their cars and that is the message that needs to get out," she explained.

"There were 31 **vehicle collisions with injuries** in the district in October, which explains why the emphasis is on traffic enforcement, which is always a priority, not just for this district, but it's what we hear from the community as well."

"The **Taraval District** is broken up into six sector cars. With increased staffing, every sector car usually has two officers assigned to it. Sometimes one car may be tied up with an arrest, but for the most part we are fully staffed. The higher the visibility, the more prevention we can provide."

Question: How do they determine how many officers you will have? Is it based on population load?

Deployment of personnel is determined by the command staff based on the crime trends of the district. During the last transfer we got a lot of bodies, a lot of good bodies. As you may know, we had a big retirement surge, and the goal of Chief Suhr is to get Taraval Station personnel numbers back to where we were before the retirements. Due to heightened Homeland Security reasons, no specific numbers are provided. The last thing we want is for them to know exactly how many officers we have. But as far as deployment, it is based on crimes, not on population.

"Because we are geographically the largest district in the City, officers go where the crimes are, based on what we are seeing. As commanding officer, I meet

determining how officers are deployed at the Taraval Meeting with my Lieutenants and my Sergeants, to determine how officers will be deployed. We are always adjusting and doing the best we can. We have to look at the whole picture. But when I get a call or an email from someone with a complaint or a concern, I'm very responsive. So if you have something that's impacting you, just reach out to me, let me know what is going on."

"I had a resident who wrote up a complaint about his street, he sent the email to Chief Suhr and the Board of Supervisors—which is great, he absolutely has every right to do that. All I ask is give us a chance first³. Send it to me, at least cc me on it and let me see if I can address it first."

Question: I did see a behavior change at the preschool at 20th and Quintara, where parents are no longer stopping in the middle of the street to drop their toddlers off after I complained.

"I give credit to Sergeant Mannix, he works so well with the community, and he has all the contacts with the schools. But again, we may not know about problems until you tell us."

Robberies in October were 19 robberies, and as of today (November 18) we have only 3, so we are down significantly. For burglaries we had 38 in October, as of now we have 13, well below that margin.

Garage Burglaries – there has been a spike in this crime. If you have an older garage, and push on the top of the garage door—if there is any movement or a gap appears between the door and the top frame—any way that someone could get in there and pull the latch, we recommend you put a 2X4 on top of the frame to block the gap. If there are any questions you may have about how to do that, call the station, we will be happy to come out and explain to you what you need to do, SAFE will do it too—SAFE will come out and assess the home."

There is a special "Garage Safety Tips" page² on the Taraval.org website that helps people secure against this problem.

Auto boosts – we had 150 last month, that's a lot, they are all over—you can see on the map. So far this month we have 56, so that's a little bit under. We are hoping, with increased staffing and visibility that we won't see that again.

"As far as **Vehicle Collisions** with Injury, we have 31 last month and we are at 17 this month, higher than I want them—I don't want them at all, but that's what we have."

Question: What is the response to the increase in population in the area within the same housing? They often have cars and no parking.

"There is an increase throughout San Francisco, without a doubt. I have heard of a garage, without a kitchen—they used the barbecue for cooking—that was rented out for housing for \$2600 a month. We are going to see that increasingly in the City. But I think that's a complaint, like the Google buses, that falls into the category of zoning and is more in the line of the Board of Supervisors plan. How is that going to change, like when a building that was zoned for two levels is now zoned for seven—with no additional parking. It's going to change but we have no control over that. Planning could deal with that on zoning but PD is concerned with enforcement."

Question:⁴ Is there an increase in crime due to the "early release" program? Even in this district?

"I do feel like Prop 47 is a factor in the increase in crime. I presented a response to that question to the Police Commission, and I think there is a correlation between the increase in victims and the early release from Prop 47."

Cont. p. 10

Kick the Can (Cont. from p. 1)

advocates for increased spending on the City's capital needs.

The 30,000 units that the mayor will build cannot be supported by the City's current infrastructure.

Additionally, capital improvement bonds are a horrible way to finance deferred maintenance. Bond measures allocate 30% to 50% for deferred maintenance projects. In other words, property taxpayers are paying for deferred maintenance with 30 years of interest payments. The interest on these bond projects almost doubles the cost of each project.

Almost all of these capital improvement projects could have been addressed through regular annual appropriations; instead they are neglected and the money goes to City salaries.

Nearly one in three (12,504) of San Francisco's 39,122 City employees earned \$100,000 or more in total pay in the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2015 — a number that has been growing steadily for the past decade — and averaged \$141,703 in total pay. These salary amounts do not include the costs of often-generous City fringe benefits, including health care and pensions.

In November 2014, San Francisco voters passed Proposition K, a non-binding, "declaration of policy" which allowed the City to help construct or rehabilitate at least 30,000 homes or more by 2020. Policy declarations are non-binding because Mayors and City Supervisors are not bound to budget for them. Prop. K was also both redundant and unneeded because Lee had already unilaterally declared it to be official City policy in his January 2014 State-of-the-City speech.

The City's deferred infrastructure cannot handle the massive growth Mayor Lee proposed, and little of the new property taxes generated by the 30,000 units will be used to fund neighborhood infrastructure improvements.

San Franciscans will smell the first whiff of a broken sewer line as they wait for a bus that is averaging five miles per hour. The MUNI bus is new, but cannot go faster than the traffic. When the bus does come 20 minutes late, it is full and trapped behind a Google bus, and you'll have to walk into the street to board.

The SFMTA will need at least \$10 billion by 2030 just to maintain and possibly increase its service by up to 20% (very optimistic and very doubtful). By its own estimates, SFMTA will still have a \$3.3 billion shortfall by 2030. SFMTA bonds, taxes, general fund set-asides, vehicle license fees, increased ridership fares, parking meter rates, and traffic ticket citations have not been able to, and can't, support SFMTA's operations.

Without cars, the SFMTA would lose over 30% of its annual revenue. The SFMTA cannot afford to get rid of cars or it would go broke, rapidly.

According to a City transportation report, "Without investing in transportation infrastructure, San Francisco will

have more than 600,000 vehicles added to its streets every day by 2040, which is more traffic than all the vehicles traveling each day on the Bay Bridge and Golden Gate Bridge combined. Caltrain ridership has grown by 60% in the last decade. Rider-ship on Muni is projected to increase by 300,000 trips per day (or 43%) by 2040. Significant design measures need to be implemented to make it safer for cyclists and pedestrians to navigate San Francis-co's heavily-trafficked streets."

Commercial shuttle "Google buses" will soon have upwards of 1.2 million shuttle buses stopping in Muni red zones, since SFMTA's Board approved making the shuttle program permanent but creatively exempted the program from a full Environment Impact Review (EIR).

There is no more parking throughout the City and the asphalt/slurry on the roads is deteriorating to its lowest usable level ever. City roads used to be excellent and were rated at a pavement and road condition of 75 (good) in 1989. By 2009, due to 20 years of deferred maintenance, San Francisco roads declined to a pavement and road condition of 64 (bad).

Terrible road conditions forced San Franciscans to pass the \$368 million 2009 Safe Streets and Road Repair Bond. The road repair was underfunded by approximately \$230 million and only \$209 million — just 56.8% of the \$368 million bond — went to street resurfacing and reconstruction. Ironically, after the bond money will be spent through 2018, San Francisco road ratings will only reach a pavement and road condition of 67.

Bicyclists are finding it harder and harder to run stoplights or stop signs. The 8% who are cyclists are being hailed as environmental crusaders; however, the fast, young cyclists hate car drivers, pedes-trians, and out-of-shape, old, or pregnant cyclists who block their lanes.

How funny: Once-unique neighbor-hood corridors have been homogenized. The natural character of each neighbor-hood and their individual businesses are disappearing. Every SF transit corridor has begun to look the same: Surrounding buildings are taller, with a much higher population density. Remember, a transit corridor is considered to be 250 feet wide on both sides of the street.

The architectural design of these new buildings ranges from utilitarian to mediocre, at best. Dwelling sizes have been decreased and garages have been removed to cram in more people per square foot.

Drought or no drought, we already have the lowest water consumption in California at 41.6 gallons per resident per day, yet water rates are sky rocketing. More people will lead to lower water-per-person consumption, but higher water rates.

San Francisco's sewer system is over 100 years old, and several component parts of the infrastructure were constructed in the 1800's. The sewer infrastructure is failing and in need of significant repair. Sewer

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Ready for 1.2 Million Shuttle Stops Clogging Streets?

SFMTA Makes Tech Buses Permanent

By Patrick Monette-Shaw

After publishing my November article describing problems with the trial of "tech" shuttle buses all over the City, including on the West Side, and noting that problems may rapidly worsen if the program is made permanent, that's just what SFMTA's Board of Directors did when it approved a permanent program on November 17 ignoring a detailed Secondary Analysis highlighting deep flaws in the October 5 Evaluation Report of the 18-month trial period.

"...the problem with blocked Muni zones is about to worsen come February 2016, since the MTA Board also approved ... smaller shuttle bus operators who provide free intra-city rides to also use Muni red zones..."

After MTA's Board received impassioned testimony from members of the public opposing making the Commuter Shuttle Program permanent, it did so anyway, including allowing the permanent program to expand from 124 shuttle zones to up to 200 shuttle zones.

Not one of MTA's Board of Directors bothered questioning in depth SFMTA's Shuttle Project Manager, Hank Willson, about data in the October 5 MTA Evaluation Report concerning problems with commuter shuttles interfering with red Muni bus zones. Worse, none of MTA's Board of Directors even thought to ask questions about the Planning Department's second EIR Exemption letter.

- Of note, the 41% increase in shuttles the Planning Department anticipates may worsen incidents in Muni red zones, which MTA's Board didn't even discuss, let alone discuss in depth. Extrapolating data from MTA's October 5 Evaluation Report, things may rapidly worsen:

- The report noted an average of 2.7% of shuttle stop-events resulted in blocking Muni bus access to red zones. Of 2,978 daily stop-events, 2.7% represents at least 80 blocked Muni buses daily, which annualizes to 21,629 occurrences per year, and may grow to 30,497 annually if there's a 41% increase in permanent shuttles.

- The report noted shuttle buses "block other drivers' views of pedestrians, or block crosswalks, less than 2% of the time they stop." Of the 2,978 daily stop-events, 2% translates to approximately 60 blocked crosswalks and blocked views of pedestrians daily, which annualizes to 16,022 occurrences per year, and may grow to 22,591 annually if there's a 41% increase in shuttles!

And not one of the SFMTA's Board of Directors bothered asking whether the Evaluation Report may have low-balled data in the Evaluation Report.

That's because a public request to obtain data concerning the 1,200 citations issued against shuttle operators mentioned in the Evaluation Report revealed that 394 of the 1,200 citations issued — fully 25% — were for blocking Muni red bus zones. Had the enforcement efforts been scaled up and not restricted to just the 10-person shuttle enforcement team, many more citations against the shuttle operators may have been issued. How SFMTA calculated

shuttles blocked Muni buses just 2.7% of the 2,978 daily shuttle stop-events, when 25% of 1,200 citations issued were for blocking Muni bus zones, wasn't explained and MTA's Board of Directors didn't ask.

Similarly, of the 1,200 citations issued to shuttle buses, 232 (19%) were issued to shuttles double-parking, and 201 of the citations (17%) were issued to shuttle buses blocking the City's street cleaning equipment, two issues that clearly affect quality of life in San Francisco that weren't even mentioned in the October 5 Evaluation Report.

And none of MTA's Board members bothered asking about an apparently much larger problem with blocked Muni red zones: Fully 6,629 citations were issued to all sorts of vehicle types blocking Muni zones, including limousines, trucks, convertibles, SUV's, two-door and four-door cars, etc. in the 11-month period between August 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015, in addition to the tech shuttle buses.

Compelling Public Testimony During Hearing

One member of the public who testified on November 17 indicated he is a lawyer who uses the shuttle buses. He noted not only that his tech company employer is able to, but would be more than happy to, pay higher fees to help fund public transportation infrastructure. He testified Muni may have set ridiculously low per-stop-event fees because Proposition 216 requires that voters approve increases to property fees. But "usage" fees, he said, are a different issue, and San Francisco City Attorney's may have been overly cautious in interpreting fees — property taxes vs. usage fees — that the City is allowed to assess, and he urged MTA's Board to raise shuttle "usage" fees to help pay their fair share. It's a no-brainer that the per-stop-event fees should be significantly increased to fund additional shuttle detail enforcement staff!

Ironically, although the SFMTA was required to accept the Board of Supervisors March 2015 "Labor Harmony

Resolution" with tech shuttle operators in order to prevent tech bus drivers striking during labor disputes and picketing in, and blocking access to, Muni bus zones, it appears SFMTA sought no input from Muni's own 2,706 Transit Operators represented by Transport Workers Union Local 250-A.

Muni Drivers Locked Out of Process

TWU Local 250-A president Eric Williams testified during the MTA Board's November 17 hearing, that the shuttle program was a "done deal no matter what we say in here, bought and paid for [by the tech companies]." Williams testified that nobody from SFMTA's Shuttle Program had "contacted my office as a stakeholder," and said the tech companies are "subdued because they know everybody is watching," and the tech buses don't go in the zones because they are trying to get the permanent program passed. But once the program is made permanent, Williams warned, "you will see buses lined up," apparently referring to Muni buses lined up waiting behind commuter tech shuttle buses, apparently all over the City.

An MTA Board member subsequently questioned Muni's Commuter Shuttle Project manager, Hank Willson, about whether Williams' statement was correct and whether there is a plan to get feedback from Muni drivers.

Willson claimed that the Shuttle Project team did talk to drivers and that he had himself "went out and talked to [drivers] on the 12 and 27 [bus lines] because they are impacted at Valencia and 25th and 24th ... and we had [staff] talk to [drivers] on the 47 and 49 [bus lines]. Muni's managers on the Shuttle Project say they asked what the drivers' experience with commuter shuttle was and how much commuter shuttles may get in the way of Muni drivers. But Willson provided no actual comments or feedback from Muni drivers, and provided no statistics from driver feedback.

Cont. p. 13



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Commentary

What's a couple of hundred million bucks?

By Steve Lawrence

To you and me it's a fortune. To the City it's not worthy of much notice.

The Water System Improvement Program (WSIP) started off in 2003; it was to cost \$3.4 billion. The program's cost gradually escalated; now it is \$4.8 billion, up about 40%.

"When the city wants something, but lacks ready funds, why not ... put it on your bill?"

What became the largest project, Calaveras Dam, is the one that has added most to the cost overrun. Back in 2003 a new Calaveras Dam was to cost \$150 million, and was to increase water storage capacity. In 2005 the new reservoir was downsized.

When bids came in for the new dam, construction was to cost \$256 million. As work progressed that cost doubled to probably \$540 million. Why?

The technical term for the big bucks changes is differing site conditions. What this means is this. When contractors bid for a project they rely on information given to them by the owner. The owner hires geotechnical engineers to drill test holes to determine what is under the surface. This information is provided both to designers of the dam, and to contractors bidding for the work. The idea is to insure the contractor against surprise. If the actual conditions encountered differ materially (significantly) from those expected per the information the owner provides, then the contractor may be entitled to an increase in contract price. There are limitations. For example, the contractor is supposed to visit the site or work, and is charged with what can be seen and found out.

At the Calaveras Dam site, a slope at what is called the left abutment was designed very steep. Surprisingly steep. On highway projects slopes are rarely steeper than 2:1, which is steeper than you can walk up. But this slope is in an earthquake zone, right near a fault. The rock material is crumbly and loose, no doubt from millenia of quakes.

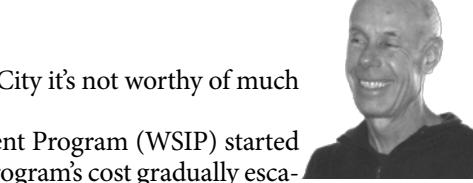
The contractor started constructing (shaping) the slope and encountered safety issues. The slope was too steep, and the rock too loose for safe operation of heavy construction equipment. The contractor picks the means of construction.

Was what the contractor encountered a surprise? It seems quite doubtful.

But SFPUC, the owner, quickly agreed that the contractor was entitled to extra compensation for a differing site condition. Then the change order grew and grew. Much more excavation had to be done to achieve a more gradual slope.

When a contractor is paid like this, by "change order," it is generously compensated. The contractor need not competitively bid the work. Payment is "cost plus." There is no pressure to work at optimal efficiency. The contractor gets paid more for more work, and workers keep their jobs for longer. A win-win. For contractor and workers. Not so much for the owner, or its payers—you.

In addition, the material excavated at the Calaveras Dam site could be valuable. The contractor may get paid first to



remove it from the dam project site, and second, it might sell the removed material. That would make the extra excavation a very good deal indeed.

Why a differing site condition was quickly conceded is a mystery. But it was a very expensive decision that has turned into a couple hundred million bucks.

Yet despite the big cost to the rate payers, no one blinked an eye at the Calaveras change order. The Commission showed no particular interest; nor did the Revenue Bond Oversight Committee, nor the Citizens Advisory Committee. Hey, it'll just increase future water rates; what, we worry?

Oversight groups are largely emasculated here in SF. Relying as they do on the bureaucracy for so much, waves are not made. In other cities, and perhaps at other times even here, such a large project loss would not go uninvestigated.

Are your payments for water used wisely? More than eleven million dollars is to be spent for the protection of the San Francisco garter snake and a thistle. Snake and thistle habitat are said to be threatened by "invasive vegetation." Removal of the invasive vegetation is being done under the "Bioregional Habitat project" of WSIP, a project created under the leadership of General Manager Susan Leal. The project grew from nothing to over \$100 million dollars, one more reason the cost of WSIP has increased.

Under Ms. Leal's leadership, SFPUC eliminated upcountry projects from WSIP. One was fixing the Mountain Tunnel. Now the project to fix that has become much, much bigger. An engineer has just been employed for \$21 million just to plan and design the fix; that does not include the construction work. When in 2002 voters authorized money for the fix, about 2.5 million was the expected cost.

Water rates and charges are rarely questioned. When the city wants something, but lacks ready funds, why not see if SFPUC might do it, and put it on your bill? Like a snake in the grass, maybe it will slide by.

SFPUC's annual budget is a skitch under a billion bucks. A little over half is for water, \$273 million for wastewater, \$130 for power (that will increase when CleanPowerSF launches), and \$105 for other. It's a big agency. No voter permission is required to spend, even when debt is incurred.

Steve Lawrence is a Westside resident and SF Public Utility Commission stalwart. Feedback: lawrence@westsideobserver.com

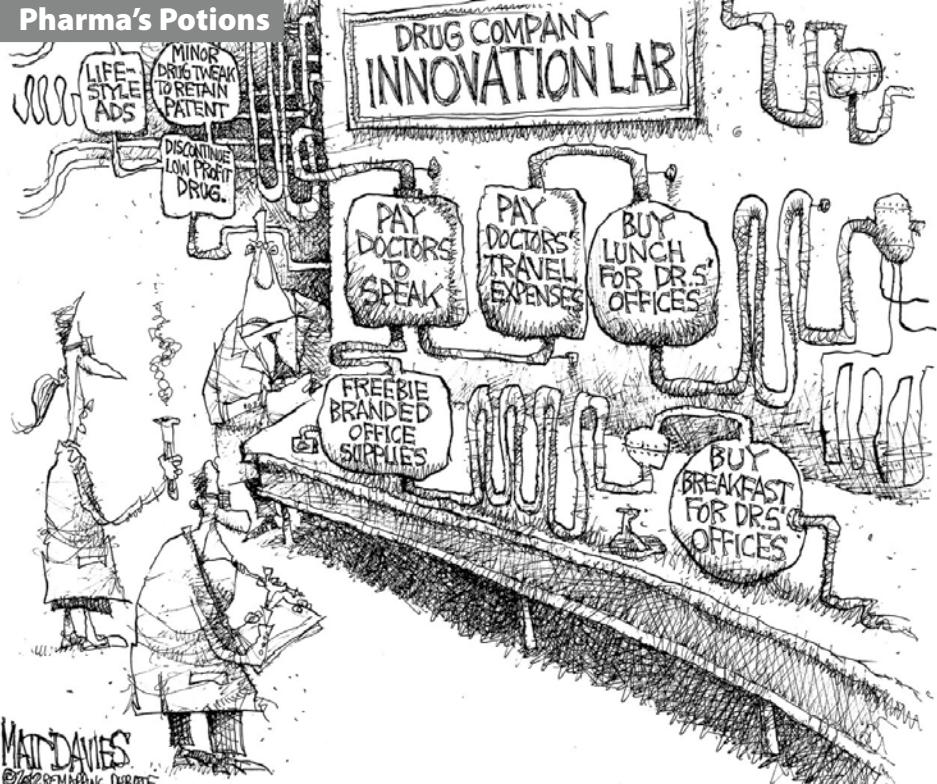
Letters to the Editor

it's not true.

The proposed NAP Management Plan has an Appendix F for forestry (available online at: <http://tinyurl.com/o5omhr2>) that documents NAP's intentions to remove over 18,000 trees in nine parks, and says (p. F-1): "In the short-term, the removal of some trees will allow for re-vegetation with native understory vegetation; the first step in the gradual conversion of some areas *from forest to scrub or grassland*" [emphasis added]. This land conversion is the long term and self-proclaimed goal of NAP.

It should be noted that NAP is not "the City's program." NAP is just a branch of

Cont. p. 7

Pharma's Potions

My 2¢ • Will Durst © 2015

WRECKED RECTITUDE

Get out the big black Sharpie and pull down the official Presidential Campaign Manual because it's time to redact the rules. Reality television star Donald Trump has altered the way politics is played to an extent that is game-changing. Judged on a scale of one to ten, think somewhere in the mid five figures.

First off, candidates no longer have to worry about looking ridiculous. Actual clowns are now allowed to emerge from the clown war. Disrespect women, Muslims, Mexicans, homosexuals, African Americans, other Republicans and everyone who eats vinegar based coleslaw. And when folks take offense: laugh. Why did The Donald cross the road? To insult a minority on the other side.

Doesn't matter how many times Politifact labels one of his statements "Pants on Fire." They're part and parcel of the mainstream media, buddies of Dan Rather, Brian Williams and Lucifer, right?



Got a point you want to make but

lack the facts to support your position, don't worry. Just make stuff up. Doesn't matter if it's true or not, as long as it fits your narrative.

Since time immemorial, politicians have stretched the truth, but credit Trump for finally snapping every scintilla of elastic connection to reality. Bellowing and gesticulating across the country under a canopy of cluelessness, he's single handedly wrecked rectitude. The carnival barking jester who would be King. Undisputed Master of the Cheap Shot.

Got a point you want to make but lack the facts to support your position, don't worry. Just make stuff up. Doesn't matter if it's true or not, as long as it fits your narrative.

Invoke bogeymen. The swarthier, the better. Don't bother answering questions, or responding to issues or events, just keep repeating dubious claims citing improbable sources: "I was told this by people who know. Smart people. Very successful important people. People who farm frogs."

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PO Box 27176, SF 94127 • 415 517-6331

Publisher: Mitch Bull

mitch@westsideobserver.com

Editor: Doug Comstock

editor@westsideobserver.com

Ad Sales • Mitch Bull

Contributors: Lou Barberini, Brian Browne, Mitch Bull, Julie Casson, Doug Comstock, Matt Davies, Will Durst, John Farrell, Jonathan Farrell, Sharone Franzen, Flora Lynn Isaacson, Jack Kaye, Dr. Derek Kerr, Dr. Carol Kocivar, Quentin Kopp, Steve Lawrence, Anise J. Matteson, Barbara Meskunas, Brandon Miller, Don Lee Miller, Patrick Monette-Shaw, Sergio Nibbi, Dr. Maria Rivero, Glenn Rogers, Jake Sigg, Photos: Claire Brees, Doug Comstock, Craig Dawson, Jay Miller, Randy Zebell

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Dangerous Neighborhoods (Cont. from p. 1) public that the police are active, involved, and concerned.

The philosophy of *The Safe Neighborhood and Schools Act* is the inverse of the *Broken Windows theory*. *The Safe Neighborhood and Schools Act* proffered that some crimes were not worth addressing at the traditional level. Included in the proposed decriminalized behaviors, was the crime of ripping an electronic device, with a value of less than \$950, out of a victim's hands. Prior to this proposition, the penal code deemed any taking of property off

virtually at the same level as prior to Prop 47. Much of Gascon's claims about arrests being down are actually attributable to Gascon's renaming felonies to misdemeanors. Per Suhr, the public is slowly realizing that under Prop 47, the bike thief now gets to walk away with a just a piece of paper. This mistakenly creates the perception that SFPD is doing less while this is specifically the desired reduced incarceration outcome that Gascon sought when he sponsored *The Safe Neighborhood and Schools Act* proposition.

George Gascon refutes the failure of

“Per Suhr, the public is slowly realizing that under Prop 47, the bike thief now gets to walk away with a just a piece of paper.”

a person, irrespective of value, was such a serious violation of a victim's space and freedom, that the theft would always be characterized as a felony crime. After all, does a thief really know the specific value of an electronic device before he steals it?

Legally, since stealing an iPhone is now a misdemeanor, a police officer cannot even issue a citation to a thief unless the victim wants to make a citizen's arrest. Thus, many victims prefer to accept the return of their cellphone rather than attending court to testify against the thief.

The Safe Neighborhood and Schools Act, displayed on the California ballot as “Proposition 47,” passed in California by a 60% to 40% margin. Overnight, car break-in's jumped almost 50%.

Why? It's the message!

Per the thieving mindset, if taking a cellphone off a person's cheek is now only a misdemeanor, why not climb the ladder just one more rung? Why not simulate a gun with a pointed finger in your jacket pocket? And, while we are preying for weak victims, what about the tourists who just put all their belongings in their trunk before departing for a museum?

Just as we drive 59-mph in a 55-mph zone and 68-mph in a 65-mph zone, criminals now perceive that breaking into a car is just a venial, small step over the felony line. This is the deflation of repercussions in an *inverse Broken Windows* world.

With the approaching release of the final 2015 crime figures, the blame game has already begun. In the *SF Weekly* (11/12/15), District Attorney George Gascon pointed a finger at SFPD and said,

“We are seeing reduced police activity. A police culture that places a great deal of value on felony arrests. We're asking them to do things differently, and we are seeing a lot of resistance to that.”

This statement implies that the ego rush of felony arrests is what motivates the members of the SFPD. You have to wonder what would happen if the NFL responded to a rash of quarterback injuries by downgrading a *roughing the passer* penalty from 15 yards to a 15-inch wrist slap. Because of the reduced effect of the milder penalty, no one would be surprised if the NFL referees threw less flags. After all, the message from the NFL hierarchy is that protecting a quarterback is less important.

Ironically, per Chief Greg Suhr, the combined SFPD activity on 15-yard felonies and 15-inch misdemeanors is

The Safe Neighborhood and Schools Act by quoting the low recidivism rate cited in the Stanford Justice Advocacy Project. The study boldly claims that only 159 prisoners out of 4,454, who received reduced sentences under Prop 47, returned to “state prison” for new crimes. But Gascon omits an extremely significant point from the same study (page 6):

“County jails do not report recidivism rates at all.”

Thus, there are no statistics on how many arrestees are sent back to county jail. It is kind of like only tallying quarterback injuries if they end up in an ICU, but not if they just break a limb.

Mr. Gascon is a very smart and educated man. But it seems that instead of a vanilla strategy of moving the ball down the field, he is more attracted to the notoriety of developing a revolutionary offense. His search for radical solutions is evidenced by his 180-degree turns: his conversion from a Republican to a Democrat; his departure from LAPD to becoming a Ford dealership manager; his switch from police chief to District Attorney; and his determination to clean up the Tenderloin, to arguing against incarceration:

“There is evidence that indicates incarcerating people for low level offenses actually makes them worse. There is evidence that even 24 hours in jail creates enough, sometimes, to create a problem for rehabilitation for the rest of their lives.” (KTVU 11/15/15)

Mr. Gascon's latest strategy was a \$3,000 grant for the Mosquito, a device that emits a harsh high-pitched buzzing that was supposed to deter loitering in the Tenderloin. It is a reminder of a predecessor's suggestion that “wind baffles” were the solution to the hostile Candlestick Park weather. Fortunately, more pragmatic minds prevailed and we gained a landmark ballpark. Similarly, silver bullets do not exist for reducing crime; a 50% increase in larcenies documents a failed experiment; and Prop 47- *The Safe Neighborhood and Schools Act* didn't just relabel felonies, it redefines the word “safe.”

Lou Barberini is a CPA who lives in Miraloma Park.

Quentin Kopp (Cont. from p. 3)

I conclude with the latest example of City Hall hypocrisy. Amidst hullabaloo, Supervisor Mark Farrell introduced a resolution last fall urging the now-defeated Sheriff Ross Mirkarimi to “Immediately rescind his department-wide memorandum of March 13, 2015,” which ordered Sheriff's Department employees to stop communication with any federal immigration employees except in very limited circumstances. That is the infamous memorandum which led to the death of Kathryn Steinle on July 14, 2015 by an illegal alien. Last October, Farrell's resolution was tabled 6-5 by the Board of Supervisors. What happened then? Another resolution, introduced by Supervisors Campos, Avalos and Mar, confirming Board of

mass deportation program that separates families, undermines community trust in law enforcement... and has been shrouded in similar misinformation and lack of transparency.” False assumption of virtue continues to exemplify the Board of Supervisors, and there was no media comment on Farrell's hypocritical acquiescence in reiteration of the law-defying San Francisco policy which he supposedly had sought to change. It's little wonder people don't trust government or that the

Timing / John Farrell (Cont. from p. 1)

I believe if the mayor put as much energy into affordable housing, homelessness and other crucial City issues as he did in trying to remove then-Sheriff Ross Mirkarimi, then our City would be substantially better off today.

Prior mayors like Joe Alioto, Diane Feinstein, Art Agnos and Frank Jordan made decisions on what they believed was in the best interest of the City, whether you agreed with them or not. You never felt that the City was losing its direction.

Our City is flourishing, and money is coming in hand over fist and is expected to continue over the coming years. Our tax revenue has increased substantially due to transfer taxes, property sales and new construction. And we are not even bringing in hundreds of millions that we can, as I have written in previous articles. I can't get over that the Mayor's FY2015-16 budget of \$8.96 billion is \$1 billion more than it was 2 years ago and City Hall is still asking homeowners for more. Something is really wrong here.

In good times like now, programs and services are not as scrutinized in the budget process as they would be in a recession or depression. The City needs to do a zero-based budget and start being made accountable before the next bubble bursts. Keep in mind everything is cyclical.

Mayor Lee will begin his second term in January. Whether you voted for him or

November, 2015 election turnout in San Francisco was merely 29% of all registered voters.

Happy Hannukah (December 6th), Merry Christmas (December 25th), and Happy New Year (January 1, 2016).

Retired former Supervisor, State Senator and Judge Quentin Kopp lives in District 7

not, we want our mayor to do what is in the best interest of the City, and to lead by example. We are the City that knows how. We need our mayor take the lead.

By the way, now that Aaron Peskin won the District 3 Supervisory race against the Mayor's hand-picked candidate, the progressives will control the Board with 6 votes, which includes the vote of our District 7 Supervisor. But as the Chronicle noted in its' article, “District 3: Regaining seat as supervisor may bring new dynamic at City Hall,” dated November 5th, “Three progressive supervisors – Mar, David Campos and John Avalos – will be termed out. Another, Jane Kim, will be busy running for the state Senate against Supervisor Scott Wiener. The fifth, Norman Yee, is not termed out or eyeing another office, but tends to remain quiet and off-the-radar. That means Peskin is guaranteed only a year with a progressive majority...”

Isn't it nice to know that our District 7 has a quiet and off-the-radar supervisor.

Have a wonderful and safe Holiday Season. All the best to you, your family and all those close to your heart.

John Farrell Broker/Realtor – Farrell Real Estate, MBA, Former City Asst. Assessor-Budget/Special Projects, Westside resident - farrellreinvestments@yahoo.com*

nearly every day and not at the same time of day. There seems to be no recognition by the drivers that they are adversely affecting traffic and driving safety. This translates to entitlement and disregard for others and infuriates me. Your article made me take a broader look at the impact of these shuttles — on Muni riders, the roads, housing costs, etc. I was also unaware of the questionable legality of their use; I took it for granted that they had permission and were not violating any laws in using the bus stops. Thank you Mr. Monet-Shaw for your reporting on this issue and to those working to solve the problem.

Kim Wynkoop, Parkside Resident

West Portal Playground Caution

Thanks for the item about the West Portal playground but a note of caution - the proposed design includes using the tire crumb rubber fill - they call it a safety surface. I appreciate your paper specifically for giving a voice to those who (rightly) opposed the beach chalet soccer fields in the past, and would encourage you to ask a reporter to take this issue on. This would be the time to halt them installing yet another toxic playground.

The state government, and now the US government have funded studies to look closer at the possible health threats of crumb rubber and artificial turf. Now, there are some serious lobby dollars behind that, so watch for some very well placed dis-info to come out soon — but that's simply because they're trying to hide the danger of their product.

I wanted to tip you off to the fact that they are making progress on funding — and that it would be wise if they *not* use the crumb rubber, but they're only going to change their minds if there is some serious public pressure.

Thanks for your great paper - I appreciate it - especially the local coverage and the pictures of SF from way back when.

Ross Braden, West Portal

Money Matters By Brandon Miller



Now is the Time to Think About Your Next Tax Return

Your 2015 tax return isn't due until April of 2016, but now is the time to consider your options for tax planning. Many of the tax-savings moves you can make for your 2015 return need to occur before the end of the year. Here are answers to questions you may have about tax planning strategies in the weeks ahead:

In 2015, you can contribute up to \$5,500 to an IRA (\$6,500 for those age 50 and older). You have until April 15, 2016, to make IRA contributions for 2015.

Are there investment moves I should consider making before the end of the year?

It is important to know what your tax considerations are before making any moves. For example, many investors worry about capital gains. One effective tax-saving strategy is to offset any capital gains you might realize in your portfolio with capital losses. If you have investment holdings that are worth less than what you paid for them, you could consider selling those positions and realizing a capital loss, particularly as a way to offset capital gains. This strategy may be appropriate for taxpayers who may have capital gains that are subject to taxation.

Keep in mind that if you are in the 10 percent or 15 percent tax bracket, you qualify for a zero percent federal tax rate on long-term capital gains and qualified dividends, significant tax savings. In this case, "harvesting" capital losses is not a beneficial strategy. Before selling assets, make sure the move is consistent with your long-term investment strategy. Keep in mind that one of the biggest tax benefits is maintaining unrealized capital gains – growth in an investment that you continue to hold. Gains are only taxable when you sell an investment.

How about the tax implications of investments I own or am considering?

In general, there are many tax implications when it comes to investments. Let's take a deeper look into mutual funds. There are different tax considerations with mutual funds because you are subject to distributions made by the fund that are taxable. It is possible that fund positions you own may pay out a significant distribution before the end of the year, even though the fund itself may have a negative return for the year. Check to see the status of potential distributions of any fund you own. Keep in mind that this tax treatment doesn't apply to funds held in tax-deferred vehicles like a 401(k) or IRA.

Are there steps I can take to reduce taxes on my income?

If you have the ability to manage your income, you may want to pay attention to whether your income level is closing in on a threshold point that moves you into a higher tax bracket. For example, a married couple filing a joint return in 2015 with taxable income above \$74,900 (after deductions and personal exemptions) would be in the 25 percent tax bracket. That doesn't mean all income is subject to a 25 percent tax rate, as income is taxed in steps (everything under \$74,900 would

be taxed at a 15 percent rate or less). But by reaching the 25 percent tax bracket, any net long-term capital gains realized would be subject to a 15 percent tax at the federal level.

By keeping income (including any gains) below \$74,900, a married couple remains in the 15 percent tax bracket, qualifying them for a zero percent long-term capital gains tax rate. Finding ways to keep income under thresholds can be important for different reasons for people with varying income levels.

Are there ways to cut taxes by increasing my savings to retirement plans?

Any pre-tax contributions to workplace savings plans or tax-deductible contributions to IRAs (if you qualify based on your income) can reduce your taxable income in 2015. You should also consider making contributions to a Roth IRA if you qualify, as this has the potential to create a source of tax-free income for retirement. Although Roth contributions cannot be deducted from current taxes, it is important to make them annually as contribution amounts are limited. In 2015, you can contribute up to \$5,500 to an IRA (\$6,500 for those age 50 and older). You have until April 15, 2016, to make IRA contributions for 2015.

When should I make charitable donations?

Your favorite charities would likely prefer any gifts to be made as soon as possible. To claim deductions on your 2015 tax return, donations must be made by December 31, 2015. Keep in mind that to claim a charitable deduction, you need to itemize deductions and have a written record, either a bank statement or a receipt from the charity.

It's important to note that the information provided in this article is a general source of information and is not intended to be the primary basis for investment decisions. It should not be construed as advice designed to meet the needs of an individual investor. Please seek the advice of a financial advisor regarding your financial concerns. Also, before making any decisions that may affect your 2015 tax return, be sure to consult your tax advisor or attorney regarding specific tax issues.

Brandon Miller, CFP is a financial consultant at Brio Financial Group, A Private Wealth Advisory Practice of Ameriprise Financial Inc. in San Francisco, specializing in helping LGBT individuals and families plan and achieve their financial goals.

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Where Friends Meet

Central Council (Cont. from p. 7)

vetted enough to be placed on the ballot in June.

Lt. Richard Goss of the Taraval Station gave a brief crime report, noting that violent crimes continue to fall, but crimes against property, especially auto break-ins, are still trending very high. The captains throughout the city are working to increase the allocation of resources on the streets to try and curb the property crimes, especially in the retail districts.

He also praised the help that the SFPD receives from tips and calls from community members, and gave out a "special 911 type of number" to use from a cell phone to immediately report a crime. This number is: 415-553-8090, and it goes directly to SFPD dispatch. He also reminded the group of the main number at the Taraval Station: 415-759-3100.

Lisa Spinali, of the Sunnyside Neighborhood Association, and a key member of the **Balboa Reservoir CAC** (Citizens Advisory Committee) gave an update on how the committee is drafting principles and guidelines to be used in an RFP (Request for Proposal) that future developers will bid on when the project is further along. The initial project timeline for completing the RFP was to be January 31, but Spinali thinks it will take more time. Although many of the principles have been completed, there are several remaining that will take longer to complete. For more information on the project and the work of the CAC, Google either "Balboa Reservoir Planning" or "Balboa Reservoir Citizens Advisory."

Sally Stephens briefed the crowd on the **"Affordable Housing Bonus Program,"** a scheme from the Mayor's Office of Housing and Planning that "upzones" commercial districts throughout the city that allows developers and landlords a chance to redevelop their commercial properties with

up to two additional floors, as long as 40% of the new units contain 2 bedrooms. RH1 and RH2 zoned units are excluded from the "bonus program." The program could pave the way for the additional construction of up to 1000 new units in the Sunset district over the next 20 years. Current "neighborhood" types of businesses are most "at risk," as two-story ground-floor retail buildings could be razed to build 4 stories of condos and apartments. It is expected that the Planning Commission will vote on approving the program by January 28.

Matthias Mormino (Supervisor Yee's office) made two announcements, with the first highlighting additional monies (\$500,000) for the "Community Budgeting Projects," broken down with \$300,000 earmarked for General Projects and \$200,000 dedicated for Pedestrian Safety projects. The second announcement was that he is leaving the Supervisor's office to move into the private sector, with the November meeting being his last appearance at the WOTPCC representing Supervisor Yee.

The last presentation of the evening was a recap of the San Francisco election results, focusing on the housing related propositions, by Mitch Bull of the *Westside Observer*. Basically, developmental-related propositions fared very well at the ballot box, as did the pro-AirBnB initiative, which won by roughly 11 points. What do we envision: More condo and apartment projects, with a larger percentage dedicated and earmarked for "affordable housing."

The next regular meeting of the WOTPCC will be on Monday, January 25th at 7:30 PM at the historic Forest Hills Clubhouse. For more information see the WOTPCC website (www.westoftwinpeaks.org).

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Health Matters By Sharone Franzen

Deep, Cheap Nutrition

As the weather gets colder, few meals beckon us home like steaming, savory, comforting soup! Whether enjoyed as an appetizer or as a main course, soup comes in enough varieties to keep us all happy. However, the ubiquitous canned or powdered stuff is not nutritious enough to make it a mainstay of a healthy diet. Canned soups and stocks have some of the highest sodium content of all packaged foods, and offer little in the way of protein, calcium, vitamins, and minerals. Making your own soup from scratch is by far more wholesome and not as complicated as it sounds. If you'd like to make a deeply nourishing homemade soup but are at a loss for how to start, here's a fairly easy way to make soup stock that will keep you healthy and satisfied all winter long.

Most broths are made from bones cooked for an hour or two, but cooking stock for days instead of hours helps break down the bones to release the nutritious marrow. This rich, thick stock, when eaten regularly, is an old-fashioned but effective tonic for the immune system. In Chinese Medicine, bone broths are given medicinally for conditions such as infertility, debility due to long illnesses, and post-childbirth recovery – this type of nutrition is considered – literally – bone-deep. Additionally, eating soup made from bone and joint tissue of “free-range” animals may have positive health benefits for your OWN joints as well. As a bonus, keeping a pot going on the stove will help warm up your home on a chilly day!

Good stock starts with any type of meat bones. Our great-grandmothers would be horrified if they saw us throwing away perfectly good chicken bones and the like; in their day almost every cut of meat came attached to a bone, and once the meat was eaten, the bones made the base for continually-cooked soups and stews. If you want to start your own stock with raw meat bones, be sure to roast them first; otherwise you can save up bones from roast chicken, rack of lamb, holiday turkeys, etc. in your freezer until you're ready to start. If you've eaten the meat straight off the bone, a few days' stint in the freezer should kill any leftover bacteria; once you're done cooking the bones, you'll be doubly sure of a germ-free broth. Be sure to use the bones of only organically raised, free-range animals in order to keep heavy metals and other contaminants from leaching into your stock.

Although the idea of cooking something for several days may seem daunting, remember that it only requires checking on every few hours, and adding water to the pot a couple of times a day. The easiest stovetop method for cooking broth is to use a large pot with a spaghetti / steamer insert, but any pot that will accommodate all of your collected bones will do. You can also use a slow cooker or crock-pot, but pressure cookers are not recommended.

Here's the basic how-to:

Fit the steamer insert into your large pot and add your assortment of roasted bones.

Cover the bones with filtered water and about 1 teaspoon of pink or grey salt.

Cover and simmer for 4-5 days or longer, until the bones soften and disintegrate.

You may refrigerate your stock at night so that your pot does not cook unattended. In the morning before putting the pot back on the stove, break the bones apart if possible to release the marrow into the stock. Larger bones may not be breakable.

When you're done, lift the steamer insert up to remove any scraps of bones that may be left. These can be composted or mixed with pet food for your dogs and cats.

Ladle the stock into jars. Refrigerate or freeze as needed.

If you've started with little bits of meat clinging to the bones, you can scoop those pieces off as they float to the top and make your first batch of soup with them. As the broth cooks, you can ladle some off every day to make soups, stews, gravies, etc. You can filter the first day's broth if you want a light, clear



The Naming Game

or How to Rewrite History

By Brian Browne



I was watching Jeopardy and there was a question as to who invented the first gastroscope? “Philo Farnsworth” was the answer. This same man on December 7, 1927 at his lab at 202 Green Street, San Francisco beamed the first successful combined TV transmission (all electronic image) and reception in history. Philo's many inventions (TV, baby incubator, gastroscope, and astronomical telescope) made him a genius in the same league as Thomas Edison. Philo has a most inconspicuous plaque on Sansome Street.

My former neighbor, Alex Haley (“Roots” etc), does not appear to have any major

Naming of major public facilities is a way of retelling history. Misnaming is a way of skewing the retelling of history. There is a continual battle to reinterpret history.

civic recognition in San Francisco, nor does Harry Bridges, one of America's greatest union organizers. There is talk of naming the area in front of the Ferry Building after Harry. It has stalled due to financial constraints. This lack of finance does not seem to have stopped the “naming club” from affixing more obscure names to many beautiful and extremely valuable landmarks.

I wondered how many Jeopardy contestants would be able to match names and fame with the names

given to many of the public parks, facilities, streets, and freeways. Three that come to mind in my immediate area (District 3) are Sue Bierman Park, Justin Herman Park, and James Herman Terminal. These folks, while surely worthy and productive contributors, do not compare to Alex Haley, Harry Bridges, Philo Farnsworth, in historic importance for major contributions to San Francisco, America, and the world.

Beautiful Ferry Park is a major case in point. A band of dedicated District 3 locals, under the leadership of evergreen activists Ernestine Weiss, did the heavy lifting in turning a former freeway underpass area into one of the most beautiful small parks in the U.S. They wanted it named Ferry Park. It was for a short while until the politicians (including Willie Brown, Aaron Peskin, and David Chiu) decided to name



Ferry Park at Front St and continues across Drumm to the Embarcadero

those who lived and worked in this part of the City. Why name it after anyone, when Ernestine's embracing idea, just Ferry Park, is excellent.

Naming of major public facilities is a way of retelling history. Misnaming is a way of skewing the retelling of history.

given to many of the public parks, facilities, streets, and freeways. Three that come to mind in my immediate area (District 3) are Sue Bierman Park, Justin Herman Park, and James Herman Terminal. These folks, while surely worthy and productive contributors, do not compare to Alex Haley, Harry Bridges, Philo Farnsworth, in historic importance for major contributions to San Francisco, America, and the world.

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of history. There is a continual battle to reinterpret history. The time has come to take the renaming of public places out of the hands of the consummate insiders and return it to the public. All proposals for naming or renaming public facilities must be put to a vote by the public, after due notice is given for voter review. There must be a higher criteria for putting names on tax-payer funded projects than just being a friend or political associate of the “naming club.”

Brian Browne was coauthor of 2002 Prop P and former member of the Revenue Bond Oversight Committee it created.

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Que Syrah
a wine bar

"I think it's because there was a time when suspects and people who broke the law were given consequences and sentences, and even if that sentence was only nine months in county jail—what was once nine months is now nine hours in county jail. And if there is no consequence it just keeps going and it keeps going. So until we can see a judicial system within San Francisco that is willing to hold the bad guys accountable with consequences—and it's not just the DA's office, we are often to quick to jump on Gascon, and I will too at times, but also the judges. The judges need to be willing to listen to the DA and hold people accountable. But remember we are in San Francisco, someone who breaks into a car in San Francisco may get a day or two, go down to San Mateo County and commit a crime, and they'll receive a much tougher sentence."

"Across the City property crimes are up. What we do now is track our cases. We've always tracked our cases, but we are doing it more in depth now, because we need to see, once we arrest the bodies, what happens to them? Are they being let out? Remember a week-and-a-half ago, the robbery that occurred on Judah at the mom-n-pop laptop-fix your iPhone place? Three bad guys with guns, they do the robbery, big chase down Market Street, people getting hurt; two of those guys were already on probation. One of them was on a federal narcotics probation. One of the subjects, I looked at the picture because I was a burglary inspector for Taraval years ago—I looked at the picture and I thought—oh I know that guy! One of the subjects, last time he was in state prison was one of my cases so we put him away for four years. But they are the same people who are coming back, doing the same thing. So until we stop that sort of rotation in-and-out, in-and-out, we are going to see a rise in crime.

Question: if they spend more time in jail does that make them straighten up?

"That's the question we always ask,

right? So instead of the Department of Corrections it's the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, it's schooling, it's having jobs for people—there's a bigger sociological question that we could be discussing. Yes, all those things come into play, but for the purposes of law enforcement we stay true to what our mission is and the community that we serve, and we do the best we can every day."

Staffing – the staff at Taraval Station has increased 10%. The Captain is very happy, "not only are they sending us really good officers, they've increased the TNT team to one Sergeant and six bodies. We hope to increase TNT to eight officers and one Sergeant. We have four officers who are ready to get into that unit. They are making great arrests—the marijuana grow house on 46th Avenue, a big narcotics arrest in Oceanview with cocaine, they are picking up people with guns, they got a child pornography guy who was a sex registrant—they are doing great work, I couldn't be happier for them, and they are really good because Sergeant Ryan Crosby looks at the whole district. He doesn't just look out in the Oceanview, but he looks wherever there are crimes occurring."

Question: if you observe a suspicious business where there seems to be something illegal going on, who would you talk to?

"You can mention it to me, to the website or the Taraval email on the website. We go through that thoroughly. Recently we had this gentleman who said 'there's this house at this address, and I think there is prostitution going on and human trafficking. And he was absolutely right. I contacted our Special Victims Unit and they got on it. We are only as good as the information we have. So if you have something like that where you have this building or house and it smells really bad—that's how we got the last grow house. One of the neighbors reported that it 'smelled really bad, and Supervisor Tang's office brought it to our attention. We had PG&E go out and look at the meter to check the residential

usage for power. With the complaint from the citizen, information from PG&E and the investigation conducted by our officers, a search warrant was obtained. All because you guys are our eyes and ears. Some of the things we look into are very successful, and some of them may not be what you thought they were, but at least give us the opportunity to look into it."

Toy Drive in cooperation with Walgreens and the SF Housing Authority – be sure to take an unwrapped toy to the collection points at all the Walgreens. These toys are shared with children who would not otherwise have any presents.

Sergeant Kevin Mannix, who has been a longtime presence at the Community Safety Meetings will only be attending one more meeting because he has family obligations that make it too difficult. "A lot of time," said Captain Flaherty, "we really give our all, our heart and soul to the community, and sometimes we forget we don't get that time back and it's our families that suffer. Our thanks to Sergeant Mannix for his years of extraordinary service."

"I take my role very seriously as **Captain of the station**, I'm willing to give my heart and soul to the role, but the only thing I ask is, when we come here to this meeting, that we do so in a positive and respectful manner. If you come with contention, if you are upset, please let me know before the meeting. I believe our officers work really hard, and if you are in that place that you can't be happy with what I'm doing as commanding officer, and you have that conversation with me and you still can't be happy with me, I hope that if you can't come to this place and be positive and respectful, that this may not be the community meeting for you.

"I've worked really hard my whole career, it's really difficult for me to hear that people say they can't respect me in the position because I'm a female. It's very hard. When I went home, I shared this story with my daughter, who is thirteen, to

let her know that no matter what people may think about you, you have to keep pushing on. I just want you guys to know that I stand here with an open heart, and I want you to know where I'm coming from. We are here for you and we serve you whole-heartedly. I want you to know that before you walk out the door."

Remark: ...when I saw your name and that you were Captain here, and then when I see you here speaking and you seem like you are doing such a good job, I want you to know how proud of you I am.

Remark: Captain Flaherty, I want to personally thank you. You are respectful, you are responsive, you respect people, and there were some issues that you inherited when you came on this job that you have quickly taken care of. You have been really easy to work with and we're glad you are here.

"I want us to feel like we are doing something for the community collectively. We have a job as far as law enforcement and you guys also have a commitment to your community and I just want to make sure we are always moving in the right direction to find resolutions to make our community better."

Question: I know that these officers are really busy, but could we get a chance to meet them, maybe one at each meeting, so we kind of know who they are.

"Yes, I encourage officers to come in but I also encourage officers to go out to the small neighborhood meetings, the neighborhood watches. I do that because, it's one thing for the officers to always hear it from the bosses, but when they sit with you and look you in the eye and they know what your complaint is, it sticks with them. It is a valuable use of the officer's time and I will absolutely start adding that to the agenda.

1. www.taraval.org/?p=5732
2. www.taraval.org/?p=5647
3. denise.flaherty@sfgov.org
4. Question from Westside Observer

We would like to thank the following people for their support and aid in helping us renew our lease:

Supervisor Norman Yee and his office: Matthias Mormino
Midtown Terrace Neighborhood Association, Rick Johnson
Joe Humphreys
West Of Twin Peaks Neighborhood Association
John Ritter
Miraloma Park Improvement Club

All of our customers, neighbors and friends who wrote letters and called officials at City Hall to show support.

And a special thanks to George Woodring who was instrumental in publicizing our plight and guiding us through this process.

Best regards,
Mike Gharib

Twin Peaks Auto Repair

Auto Repair Shop

598 Portola Drive

San Francisco, CA 94131

Phone:(415) 286-2812



Thanksgiving Turkeys and Holiday lights...it is hard to believe that we are in the midst of the holiday season and the end of the year is again staring us down. Weren't the Giants just playing baseball? It seems that some people had their holiday lights up even before the candy corn had become stale. Plus Thanksgiving was late this year and now it's December and there's so much to do.....

Let's keep it local...with the ease of online retailing and the crushing number of catalogs that we receive during this time of year, it's important to not forget the amazing "brick and mortar" stores that line our shopping districts and make us a neighborhood. From BookShop West Portal and The Music Store, to Ambassador Toys; S.Marco leather goods, and the Art of Style, to Harmony A/V and Music we have a terrific number of places to fulfill our holiday gift lists. And how about a pampering at Dimitra's, or a yoga class at Relativity, topped with a great dinner at one of our amazing local restaurants! From Paradise Pizza and Pasta at one end of West Portal to the Bullshead at the other end there is no end to the number of different restaurants and cuisines that can excite our taste buds. And that's just West Portal – add in Stonestown Galleria, the Marketplace on Sloat and Westlake across the "border" in Daly City and you can find something for everyone on your holiday list, without using much fuel to get there. While online shopping is quick... it really doesn't do much to put me in the holiday spirit. Getting out in the cool breeze, seeing children looking in the windows, hearing the Salvation Army "bell ringers" and (even) scurrying for parking helps to bring out the holiday spirit.....

Speaking of "Paradise Pizza and Pasta" – a big Mea Culpa ... last month "yours truly" reported on the impending retirement of Sal Alioto at Paradise. Well, simply I was "wra, wra, wra, ..wrong; I mean misinformed"... I am thrilled to report that Paradise Pizza and Pasta (and Sal) are not leaving us and will still be there to serve the "best crust in the city...and maybe the world." Go for the ravioli and stay for the pizza – it's that good.....

Coming back...sort of...the extensive remodel and upgrade of the old school favorite Joe's of Westlake is nearing completion, and the new "Original Joe's" in



Westlake will be opening in January. We expect the line may be as long that first month as the one to get Warrior's tickets. Wow, 20 -0 this year and a 24 consecutive regular-season game-winning streak (at the time of this writing-hopefully it will be going when you read this...) easily the most fun seat in town.....

Congratulations to Mike and his team at the **Twin Peaks Auto Care** station. He put up a good fight, and with help from many people, including Supervisor Yee's office, he was able to convince the city to grant him a lease extension for his business. Sometimes the good guys do win.....

"Year End" is the best time to say "Thank You" to all of our staff, our writers, our columnists, our advertisers and especially our readers! It is so rewarding to hear from everyone, and to be a part of the San Francisco (and especially West Portal area) media. Here's wishing each of you a very Happy and Healthy Holiday season and a wish for a happy, healthy and prosperous 2016 ...and an end to the constant construction on West Portal Avenue!

Do you have an event, a neighborhood fact or just an observation to share? Drop us a line at mitch@westsideobserver.com and share your ideas or just let us know what you think.

Publisher at Westside Observer Celebrates 8 Years

That's Mitch Bull on the left, bragging, just a bit, about the success of the *Westside Observer* since he took the reigns as Publisher in 2008, when it was still known as the *West of Twin Peaks Observer*.

"Small neighborhood newspapers are not experiencing the financial problems that the large newspapers are," he said, to the twenty-some contributors and friends who filled West Portal's Que Syrah wine bar on a quiet Sunday in November.



Mitch Bull describes the bright prospects for the future at WSO



Alice Bull keeps a tab on her grandson Luke's sugar supply



Never at a loss for words—Quentin Kopp or Steve Lawrence



West of Twin Peaks Central Council President Roger Ritter and his wife talk—what else?—travel with Sergio and Karen Nibbi



The *Observer's* annual party is an opportunity for all our contributors to share ideas and plan future issues. And a glass of wine always helps.

The Best of All Wishes to all our readers and advisors as well!

Old Friends Quentin and Brugmann share a joke



Brugmann congratulates John Farrell for holding the powers accountable



Jack Kaye, Kathryn Howard, Howard Strassner and Glenn Rogers cheered us on

Come Celebrate the Opening of Our New NEIGHBORHOOD PLAYGROUND



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Supervisor
Mark Farrell

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SFUSD Superintendent
Richard Carranza



The Shared Schoolyard Project is a fiscally sponsored program of the San Francisco Parks Alliance



TARAVAL STATION Crime Report

SFPD Toy Collection Drive

The San Francisco Police Department is asking for the public's help to bring holiday cheer to children in need this season.

In partnership with Walgreens, San Francisco Police will be accepting donations of new unwrapped toys at local San Francisco Walgreens drugstores from November 1, 2015 to December 15, 2015.

Individuals can purchase or drop off a new unwrapped toy at any San Francisco Walgreens which will be collected by the police department and donated to a child in need this holiday season.

On November 12, Police Chief Suhr and the Director of Pharmacy and Retail, Gorman Moy, officially kick started the toy drive at the Walgreens on 3001 Taraval St.

NOTE: Not all crimes are reported in the weekly reports—this is a truncated version.

Sunday 11/1

DUI Violation – Arrested

11:13 pm | Sunset Blvd & Ulloa St
A vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed and ran a red light. The driver exhibited watery eyes, an odor of alcoholic beverages on her breath and other signs of being intoxicated. After a field sobriety test the driver was later arrested.

Warrant Arrest – Arrested

10:28 am | 4000 Judah St
After a report of a suspicious person, officers located the person and a check on the person revealed that he had warrants for his arrest. He was arrested.

Arrest in Taraval Homicide

On October 11, at about 8:07 am, San Francisco Police responded to the 100 block of Broad Street on the report of a possible shooting victim at a commercial establishment. Upon arriving at the scene, officers located a male victim suffering from a gunshot wound to his torso. San Francisco Fire Department Medics transported the victim to the hospital where ultimately he succumbed to his injuries. From evidence gathered at the crime scene, officers were able to identify suspects and determined the victim was shot and killed during the commission of a commercial burglary.

On October 30, investigators from the SFPD Homicide Unit along with members of the Oakland Police Department conducted a joint surveillance operation in Oakland. A search warrant was served and two suspects were taken into custody without incident.

Justin Irvin, a 36 year-old male, and Angel Grayson, a 27 year-old female, both Oakland residents, were arrested on charges of murder, attempted murder, conspiracy and burglary.

Armed Robbery Suspect Arrested

On October 27 at 6:45pm, SF Police Officers from Taraval Station responded to an attempted armed robbery that occurred at a market on the 500 block of Kirkham Street. In this incident, the suspect brandished a firearm and demanded money. The victim was fearful and walked away from the cash register. The suspect fled the scene without taking anything.

Within 30 minutes, the robber struck again. This time at a gasoline service station on the 400 block of Divisadero in the



Northern Police District, where the suspect fled a gas station after taking cash from the cash register. Video retrieval officers from Taraval Station produced suspect images from video surveillance cameras and sent it via e-mail crime alerts to the officer's smart phones.

On October 28th, members of the Gang Task Force (GTF) reviewing the crime alerts recognized the suspect in both of the armed robbery cases. The suspect was identified as Sekou Carson, male, 45 of San Francisco.

On October 28th, GTF apprehended Carson without incident, at a hotel on the 100 block of Sixth Street and found evidence related to the robberies. Carson was booked into SF County Jail on felony charges of robbery and aggravated assault. A probation hold was also placed on Carson, who is on Post Release Community Supervision (PRCS) for a prior narcotics and firearm conviction.

Tuesday 11/3

Check forgery – Arrested

2:10 pm | 1500 Sloat Blvd
A teller at a Bank of America told officers the suspect attempted to cash a check on an account that was inactive. A co-worker contacted the owner of the check who stated that they did not know who the suspect was. The officer arrested the suspect.

Wednesday 11/4

Carrying Concealed Weapon – Probation Violation – Under the Influence

8:59 pm | 25th Ave & Kirkham St
Officers responded to a report of a person yelling at passersby. A search of the suspect revealed a concealed bread knife tucked into his pant's waistband. A computer check revealed that the suspect was on probation. He was arrested

Shoplifting – Cited

6:18 pm | 3200 20th Ave
Store employees observed two suspects select numerous items and enter the fitting room with them—then exit the store. They did not find any of the items in the fitting room. They were detained and cited.

Assault

5:30 am | 1400 19th Ave
A gas attendant told officers that a homeless man attempted to use the bathroom to do drugs. When he told the suspect to leave suspect punched the victim in the face and ran away

Thursday 11/5

Threats

4:26 pm | 200 Ralston St
The victim said that the suspect's parked car had blocked his driveway so the victim had the vehicle cited. The suspect threatened to hit the victim with a bat when he came back to his vehicle. .

Friday 11/6

Assault – Arrested

11:55 pm | 1200 41st Ave
The victim of a vehicle collision said that a suspect he had known since high school called and asked to meet outside. When he complied, the suspect drove at the victim to hit him with his car. The victim jumped away and the vehicle hit a parked car. The victim stated he thought the suspect may be mentally ill. The suspect was arrested.

Assault – Arrested

10:04 pm | Castenada Ave
The victim said that he and the suspect were having an argument over his driving. She threw his laptop against the wall, it ricocheted and hit the victim. Her account did not match up. After further investigation, the she was arrested.

Marijuana for Sale – Cited

Next Taraval Community Meeting: Wednesday, Nov 18, 2015 7 pm – 8 pm
at Taraval Station Community Room / 2345 24th Ave SF

11:00 am | 1100 Eucalyptus Dr

A school security officer observed the suspect showing a plastic baggie to another male and she smelled marijuana. When suspect grabbed his back pack and attempted to run away he was detained. He was cited and released to his parents.

Search Warrant – Marijuana for sale – Probation Violation – Arrested

9:20 am

Sergeants and officers conducting a search warrant at an undisclosed location located numerous marijuana plants as well as weapons which were in violation of the suspect's probation. The suspect was arrested.

Saturday 11/7

Robbery

6:04 am | 2000 Ocean Ave

An employee said that the suspect walked into the store and pushed the victim aside, opened the register, stole the money from it and fled the scene.

DUI – Traffic Violation – Cited

6:45 am | 1500 Funston Ave

A vehicle collided with a pole. The driver was slumped over the steering wheel with evidence of narcotic paraphernalia visible. The driver failed a field sobriety test. He was cited and released at the hospital.

Sunday 11/8

Battery – Arrested

3:48 am | San Anselmo Ave

The witness saw the suspect chase after the victim and the victim fell on to the floor. While talking to the victim to make sure she was OK, the suspect pushed the witness on to the ground and both victim and suspect fled. Officers located them hiding in the bushes. The victim said they were drinking at a bar and got into an argument. They both refused to answer any further questions. The suspect was arrested.

Battery

1:50 pm | Kirkham St & 38th Ave

The victim, reporting at Taraval Station, saw the suspect urinating across the street. He confronted the suspect and called him a derogatory name. This led to an injury. The suspect was joined by a second suspect and both kicked the victim while he was on the ground. Both suspects fled

Monday 11/9

Battery – Arrested

11:33 pm | West Portal Ave & Ulloa St

The victim told the officers that he and the suspect were drinking at a bar. The suspect made comments about the victim's mother. The suspect wanted to drive home, but the victim was afraid that she was too

intoxicated to drive. The victim tried to hold her back but the suspect kicked the victim in the face. Other officers responded to the suspect's home and arrested her.

Burglary – Possession of Stolen Property

2:06 pm | 1200 17th Ave

The victim someone broke into his car that morning when it was parked on Bush St, and a set of keys to this address was stolen. His security camera revealed the suspect that broke into his car was the same that broke into his house later. The suspect was detained and a search revealed the victim's property. The suspect was arrested.

Monday 11/10

Trespassing – Battery – Arrested

9:05 am | 1100 Ocean Ave

A victim, reporting a person trying to break in, told the officers that he was inside at work, when the suspect walked in, apparently intoxicated, refusing to leave, attempting to open the doors to other business and apartments. The suspect shoved the victim, the suspect was arrested.

Robbery

8:23 pm | 24th Ave & Eucalyptus Dr

The victim said he was skateboarding down the street when the suspect ran up to him demanding his property. He told the suspect that he did not have anything and emptied his pockets. The suspect then rummaged through victim's backpack, but did not take anything, then ran off.

Assault

12:33 pm | Ocean Ave & Brighton Ave

The victim told the officers that four of her friends (suspects) told her to meet up on Ocean Ave at Brighton. When the she arrived, the four suspect began to punch and kick her. The victim had no idea why she was assaulted by the suspects.

Tuesday 11/11

Shoplifting – Cited

2:45 pm | 3200 20th Ave

A Loss Prevention employee observed a known suspect who had previously caused problems take items and conceal them in a bag before leaving the store. Loss Prevention detained him. Officers cited him.

Robbery

6:17 pm | 9th Ave & Irving St

The victim said that she eating a slice of pizza while walking back to work when a suspect came up to her and struck her on her face. The suspect picked up the pizza, eating it while walking away.

Threats – Arrested

11:20 | 2300 41st Ave

The victim flagging down officers said that

Cont. p. 16

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Tech Buses (Cont. from p. 5)

Willson admitted that while Shuttle Program managers had apparently talked to a handful of drivers — without stating the precise number of drivers who had been informally contacted — the Shuttle Project didn't go through the Union structure but would be "happy to go through that." But rather than wait for formal feedback from drivers represented by TWU 250-A, MTA's Board of Directors didn't wait, and approved making the shuttle program permanent.

In hindsight, it's sad that as of June 30, 2015, Muni had 132 senior managers and deputy directors in the job classification code series 9172 to 9186 who were paid \$17.2 million annually in FY 2014–2015, and apparently it didn't occur to any of the 132 managers or to SFMTA Director Ed Reiskin to formally survey the Muni bus drivers during evaluation processes of the Commuter Shuttle Program's October 5 premature Evaluation Report.

SFMTA Director Ed Reiskin: "Open Mouth, Insert Foot"

Comically, two days after the SFMTA Board approved making the shuttle program permanent, the *San Francisco Chronicle* carried an article on January 19 reporting on the MTA's Central Subway project, in which MTA's director, Ed Reiskin, noted:

"As the second-most-densely populated city in the country (New York City is first), I think our roadways are nearly at capacity, and our streets are not going to get any wider."

How can it be that Reiskin knows our surface-street roadways are at capacity, but is OK with allowing the commuter shuttle buses — who appear not to obey sharing the roadway with Muni buses, pedestrians, and people with disabilities — to gobble roadway capacity and flood the streets of San Francisco with "Google buses"?

Perhaps Reiskin hasn't read the billing data for commercial shuttle operators for October 2015, and hasn't understood the scope of the problem. In response to a records request placed by this author, SFMTA produced an Excel file on November 24 reporting shuttle operators made 70,356 stops during October 2015, apparently in Muni red zones and perhaps white zones. Extrapolating to an annual volume of "capacity," that portends 844,272 shuttle stop events annually, simply by multiplying by 12 months.

When pressed for more robust billing data, SFMTA finally coughed up additional data on Thanksgiving Eve, November 25 that shows between September 2014 and October 2015, shuttle stop-events appear to have

increased by 21,134 monthly — from 49,322 to 70,356 — an increase of 42.65% since the program was implemented in August 2014, including an 11.23% increase between September 2015 and October 2015 alone. Neither Reiskin nor the SFMTA Board members discussed this on November 17 before making the program permanent.

While the October 5 Evaluation Report claimed a 30% increase in daily shuttle stop-events since August 2014, this new data suggests it increased nearly 43% during the 18-month trial period, contradicting the Report!

If the program actually expands by 41% when it is made permanent in February 2016, does this suggest we'll get another 346,152 additional stop-events annually, pushing the total commuter shuttle bus stops to 1.19 million stops each year — without a full EIR? Does Ed Reiskin and our full Board of Supervisors not understand this impact, or how to mitigate it?

Second EIR Appeal Is Right Around the Corner

The Wild West of San Francisco's misuse of Muni red zones is about to worsen, and we'll see more Muni passengers and people with disabilities disembarking in traffic lanes!

That's because the problem with blocked Muni zones is about to worsen come February 2016, since the MTA Board also approved on November 17 allowing smaller shuttle bus operators who provide free intra-city rides to also use Muni red zones, apparently without having to pay any usage fee and without risking fines from citations.

How will Muni buses possibly be able to compete for access to Muni red zones with a glut of commuter and free shuttle buses hogging space? In effect, we're just trading the Wild, Wild West of unregulated commercial shuttle buses prior to the pilot program stopping wherever they want, for a just-as-ugly Wild, Wild West of upwards of 1.2 million shuttle buses blocking Muni red zones!

The permanent commuter shuttle program claims it will curtail shuttles to only arterial streets, but other observers already worry that restricting them to large arterial streets will just concentrate the problem, especially as

Goats: New Plan for Fire Safety at UCSF/Mt. Sutro

The 61-acre Mt. Sutro Open Space Reserve where fire is considered a serious risk with dead trees and a profusion of dry ground cover from the ongoing drought. UCSF Parnassus announced it has contracted with City Grazing, to remove flammable undergrowth and ivy and to trim branches.

And Mt. Sutro's dead trees, a product of the drought, are at risk of falling, arborists predict — exacerbated by the expected El Niño winter. UCSF will begin extensive tree removal on Johnstone Drive. SF Fire Department will team up with UCSF to clear a 100-foot defensible space zones around the reserve, an estimated 16 acres.

Native plants such as madrone and elderberry are slated to be replanted to promote soil stability and to restore habitat. Photo: City Grazing

more and more shuttles get added to City streets.

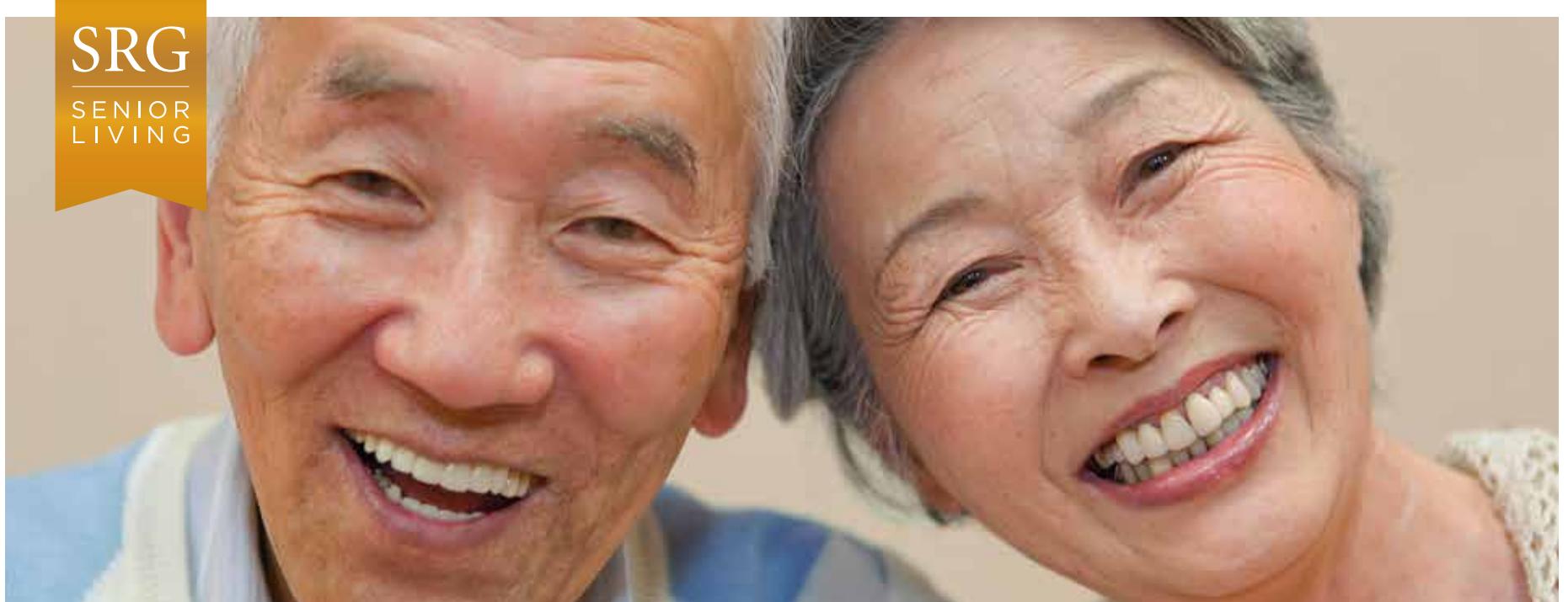
And while on the one hand it's good to restrict where the shuttles can go, on the other hand it's still illegal for them to pull into Muni bus stops, given that the State's vehicle code preempts the City from allowing shuttles in red zones.

It is widely expected that the Coalition for Fair, Legal, and Environmental Transit will appeal the absence of a second EIR for making the commuter shuttle program permanent to the full Board of Supervisors, since the potential for unlimited expansion is the heart of the issue.

An increase to 1.19 million commercial commuter shuttle buses stopping in Muni red zones, plus an additional as yet unknown number of smaller "free" shuttles" the SFMTA Board approved using Muni red zones, must surely have quality of life, housing displacement, roadway wear-and-tear, and other environmental impacts that must be mitigated through an EIR.

Contact members of the Board of Supervisors and urge them to require a full EIR! Concerned citizens may want to make a point of reading the full Secondary Analysis on-line: stoplhhdownsize.com/Secondary_Analysis_of_SFMTA_Shuttle_Project_Evaluation_Report_15-11-27.pdf

Monette-Shaw is an open-government advocate, a patient advocate, and a member of California's First Amendment Coalition. He received a James Madison Freedom of Information Award from the Society of Professional Journalists-Northern California Chapter: monette-shaw@westsideobserver.



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Please note there will only be a limited number of tickets available for purchase on New Year's Eve.

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REINDEER RENDEZVOUS • NOV 25 - JAN 3 • 9:30 AM - 5 PM

Learn about reindeer and how snowflakes are formed. The Academy's annual holiday exhibit showcasing the science behind the festive season. Learn how reindeer find food buried beneath the snow, how their antlers grow faster than just about any other type of bone, and how their unique adaptations help them travel up to 3,000 miles per year—farther than any other land mammal. Explore how they stay warm—and afloat—when crossing icy rivers. Step inside the Snowman Theater to learn how snowflakes form, and then settle in and enjoy a variety of holiday-themed programs, including quiz shows and live musical performances. Free with admission. Academy of Sciences, 55 Concourse Dr., GG Park. (Photo: Kathryn Whitney) Garden Railway Exhibit at the Conservatory of Flowers

1915 PAN-PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL EXPO • NOVEMBER 12-APRIL 10, 2016

The Conservatory of Flowers' garden railway display celebrating the 1915 Panama-Pacific Expo.

In an enchanting display landscaped with hundreds of dwarf plants and several water features, model trains wend their way through the festive fairgrounds, zipping past whimsical recreations of the fair's most dazzling monuments and amusements, including the Tower of Jewels, Palace of Fine Arts, and more. Interpretive signs, memorabilia and interactive activities throughout help visitors to understand the colorful history of the grand fair that signaled San Francisco's recovery from the 1906 earthquake.



100 JFK Dr., Golden Gate Park



POSTCARDS FROM THE PANAMA PACIFIC EXPOSITION

Daily thru Dec 31 at the SF History Collection, Main Library, 6th Floor, 200 Larkin Street

Imagine if San Francisco were to host today's equivalent of the Panama-Pacific International Exposition (PPIE). It's safe to bet that many of us would be there, live-Tweeting, Instagramming, and Facebooking about it. But how did the PPIE's visitors share their experiences in 1915? Postcards and photographs could be thought of as early 20th century "social media" at the Fair. The PPIE, with its introduction of technology such as the first transcontinental telephone call, heralded the ways in which we communicate with each other today.



Without cellphones, visitors to the PPIE did not call, text, email or tweet. Instead, they relied on an easy and affordable form of communication: the postcard.

Though postcard images were mass-produced, they were an individual, personal format for Fairgoers to quickly record and share what they saw and did at the Exposition 100 years ago.

& up. A global movement reaching tens of millions of students. West Portal Branch, 190 Lenox Wy.

WED • COMMUNITY SAFETY MEETING

Wed Dec 16 | 7 pm | Meet with Captain Denise Flaherty. 3rd Wed of the month. Taraval Station Community Room / 2345 24th Ave. 759-3100.

SAT • S.H.A.R.P / SOLSTICE LUNCHEON

Sat Dec 19 | Noon - 2 pm | SHARP hosts a winter solstice luncheon plus potluck contributions—a feast bordering on food festival. Free to SHARP members; \$10 others. RSVP: sharpsf.com/contact by Dec 10. 1736 9th Ave (Moraga / Noriega).

THU • HOLIDAY 3D LIGHT SHOW

Thu Dec 31 | 5 pm - every 30 min | The old Emporium's iconic dome comes to life each night with an animated 3D light spectacular showing incorporating Nutcracker Under the Dome, inspired by the SF Ballet production. Westfield Mall, Market at Powell.

SUN • ASIAN ART MUSEUM FREE DAY

Sun Jan 4 | 10 am-5 pm | First Sunday is free at the Asian Art Museum (save \$12) -17,000 artworks spanning 6000 years. 200 Larkin St.

TUE • CONSERVATORY FREE DAY

Tue Jan 5 | 10 am-4:30 pm | An intimate, up-close experience with over 1,700 species of rare, exotic and endangered plants from more than 50 different countries. Opened in 1879, the wood and glass greenhouse is the oldest existing conservatory of its kind in the Western Hemisphere. 100 John F Kennedy Dr.

WED • GWPNA MEETING

Wed Jan 6 | 6:30 pm | Greater West Portal

Neighborhood Assn meetings are open to all members and to the public, first Wed each Month. Playground Clubhouse, 131 Lenox Way. GWPNA.org.

MON • CHORAL SOUND INSTALLATION

Last day Mon Jan 18 | All Day | Experience Janet Cardiff's moving sound installation in its California debut from Nov 14-Jan 18. The Forty Part Motet is Thomas Tallis's 16th-century 40-part choral composition, sung by the Salisbury Cathedral Choir. Free. Gallery 308, Ft. Mason. 1 Marina Blvd.

TUE • FACING ALZHEIMER'S TOGETHER

Tue Jan 19 | 6:30-8 pm | Barbara Klutinis will present her documentary film *The Sum Total of Our Memory: Facing Alzheimer's Together*. Followed by a Q and A with the filmmaker. West Portal Library, 190 Lenox Way. 415-355-2886.

MON • CENTRAL COUNCIL

Mon Jan 25 | 7:30 pm | West of Twin Peaks Central Council meets to discuss topics of interest to Westside residents. No meeting in December. Meets the last Mon each month. Forest Hills Clubhouse, 381 Magellan Ave. westoftwinpeaks.org

MON • AUTHOR JOHN KING AT SHARP

Mon Jan 25 | 7 pm | Prolific, award-winning *Chronicle* urban design critic, John King brings an illustrated tour highlighting 10 buildings that illuminate the city of today — several of those buildings from his new book, *Citiescapes 2: Reading the Architecture of San Francisco*. 1736 9th Ave (Moraga / Noriega).

Local event? editor@westsideobserver.com
Priority: Westside Events

December/January CALENDAR

EVERY SUNDAY • FARMERS MARKET

Farmers Market | Every Sun | 9 am-1 pm | Stonestown rear parking lot: at Stonestown Galleria (19th Ave @ Winston).

EVERY TUE/THU/SAT • GET IN SHAPE!

TUE/THU | 8:30am-9:30am-SAT: 8 am-9 am | Get into shape, improve your health. FREE exercise classes. Kinesiology students from SF State in partnership with SF Rec and Park. Turf field at Minnie and Lovie Ward Park, 650 Capitol Ave. 100citizens.sfsu@gmail.com, www.100citizens.org

EVERY TUE • COMPUTER SKILLS

Tue | 1:15-2:45 pm | Get help setting up email accounts, word processing & basic computer related tasks. Most Tuesdays at this time. Learn the basics of using a computer! Main Library, 100 Larkin St.

EVERY TUES • QUE SYRAH HAPPY HOUR

Every Tue Happy Hour | 4-8 pm | Que Syrah Wine Bar. Take \$1 off each glass, 10% off each bottle (consumed on site). 230 West Portal Ave 731-7000

EVERY THURS - NIGHTLIFE

Every Thu | 6-10 pm | The Academy of Sciences brings live music, science, mingling and cocktails. GG Park \$12 (\$10 Members). calacademy.org/nightlife.

JAZZ FRIDAYS @ THE CLIFF HOUSE

Every Fri | 7-11 pm | The Balcony Lounge at the Cliff House hosts jazz every Fri night. 1 Seal Rock. cliff-house.com/home/jazz.html.

FRIDAY NIGHTS @ THE DEYOUNG

Every Fri | 5-8:45 pm | Music, poetry, films, dance, tours and lectures. Cafe: special dinner, no-host bar. Art-making children/adults. deYoung Museum, GG Park. deyoung.famsf.org/deyoung/fridays

FRIDAYS @ OFF THE GRID/FT. MASON

Every Fri | DJs 5-7:30/Bands 7:30-10:30 pm | Off the Grid: Over 32 food trucks and street food carts in a huge circle with a full bar and bands in the middle? That's a party! Ft. Mason Ctr. Two Marina Blvd.

TUE • DE YOUNG FREE DAY

Tue Dec 1 & Jan 5 | 9:30 am - 5:15 pm | Art from 17th-20th centuries, native Americas, Africa, & Pacific. 50 Hagiwara Tea Garden Drive. Free first Tuesdays.

TUE • LEGION OF HONOR FREE DAY

Tue Dec 1 & Jan 5 | 9:30 am - 5:15 pm | 4000 years of ancient and European art in the exquisite Beaux-Arts building in an unforgettable setting overlooking Golden Gate Bridge. 100 34th Ave. Free first Tues.

DAILY • HOLIDAY ICE RINK

Until Jan 3 | 10 am - 9:30 pm | The Holiday Ice Rink at Embarcadero Center opens each winter for nine weeks. Skate under the sun and stars along the

waterfront at the largest outdoor rink in SF. Justin Herman Plaza, 4 Embarcadero Center/Ferry Bldg., \$11, Skate rental \$5. embarcaderocenter.com.

FESTIVE DAYS • ACAD. OF SCIENCES

Dec 6-Jan 3 (not Dec 25) | Noon & 2pm | Holiday performances - musical concerts, song and dance, magic shows, and the famous Tap Dancing Christmas Trees! Free with admission, on the Piazza. Schedule: calacademy.org/daily-calendar.

DAILY • BOOK-A-LIBRARIAN

Learn Basic Computer Skills. Choose a topic—searching databases, setting up email, or surfing the web. Basic mouse and typing skills required. Sign up in person or call 355-2825 to make a one hour appointment. Merced Branch Library, 155 Winston Dr.

DAILY • CLELAND AND GERHARTER

Daily Thru Jan 3 | 10 am-5:30- pm | Daily and Transcendent 25 Years of Queer Photojournalist Portraits by Jane Philomen Cleland and Rick Gerharter. SF Main Library, Lower Level, 100 Larkin. Free.

SUN • EXPLORATORIUM FREE DAY

Dec 6 | 10 am – 5 pm | The 21st-century learning laboratory, an eye-opening, always-changing, playful place to explore and tinker featuring hundreds of science, art, and human perception exhibits. Free days are rare. Pier 15 (Embarcadero / Green).

THU • PANAMA-PACIFIC EXPO

Thu Dec 10 | 7 pm | In its centennial year, Nancy DeStefanis discusses the "last great world's fair," of 1915, and displays artifacts, a slideshow and a film, "The Phantom City," with footage of the Exposition. The Fair demonstrated the recovery from the 1906 earthquake. Merced Branch Library, 155 Winston Dr.

SAT • CHRISTMAS 1901

Sat Dec 12 | 6-9 pm | Annual lamplit guided tours every 20 minutes until 7:40 pm from Hyde Street Pier entrance. Maritime National Historical Park's costumed Living History players will bring maritime history to life. Free, RSVP only: 415-447-5000.

SAT • BEACH CHALET

Sat Dec 12 | 1-4 pm | The highly anticipated opening of the Beach Chalet Athletic Fields in Golden Gate Park at 1500 John F Kennedy Dr.

SAT • FILIPINO LANTERN FESTIVAL

Sat Dec 12 | 5 pm | Traditional star-shaped Filipino Christmas lanterns called parols march along Yerba Buena Gardens and Jessie Square, along with live music, art games and performances. Jessie Sq., 736 Mission St. Unveiling of SoMa Pilipinas.

SAT • HOUR OF CODE

Sat Dec 12 | 10 am | Join us for a one-hour introduction to computer science, designed to demystify code and show that anybody can learn the basics. Ages 7

*Now At the Movies • By Don Lee Miller***BROOKLYN**

In the early 1950's, inhibited but spunky Ellis Lacey: Saoirse Ronan has grown up in a small Irish town with her cherished mother: Jane Brennan and older sister. Employment possibilities after becoming a temp bookkeeper are nil so she embarks to Brooklyn, USA. As a ladies' wear counter girl by day, Ellis studies bookkeeping at night. Fr. Flood: Jim Broadbent, who is her sponsor, and her new landlady, Mrs. Kehoe: Julie Walters, help her get started in her new situation. She meets plumber Italian Tony: Emory Cohen and, after a proper courtship, they marry. Their honeymoon is barely over before she is cabled that her sister is gravely ill. She rushes back to Ireland and finds her mother distraught over the sister's death. Keeping her marriage secret, she is wooed by shy Jim: Domhnall Gleeson. Having stacked up Tony's letters, when she reads them she decides to leave the next day for Brooklyn. Unapologetically old-fashioned, luminous Ellis becomes a modern heroine of her time. Director John Crowley, adapting Colm Toibin's novel, and screenwriter Nick Hornby's affection for their characters shines through the burnished hues of their appealing well-paced romance to the golden glow of awards season in their future. Definitely one of the top pictures this year. Scene of sexuality. Brief strong profanity.

THE PEANUTS MOVIE 3-D

Schultz's characters, Charlie Brown, Lucy, Snoopy, Linus and the others get to the schoolroom for Charlie's pursuit of the Red-headed Girl. The first half-hour is filled with (recognizable) clips from the various TV shows. Kids of all ages will enjoy this amusing cartoon.

SECRET IN THEIR EYES

A police investigating team broke up shortly after Jess: Julia Roberts' teen daughter was raped and murdered. Later, in 2013, she is still working with Ray: Chiwetel Ejiofor, but Claire: Nicole Kidman has moved up to the DA's office. He has been putting in overtime for years trying to find the killer. Ray gets a new lead and Claire convinces him they should share it with Jess who has been moping about, depressed and with little makeup. Director Billy Ray and filmmakers of the original Spanish language movie: Juan José Campanella and Eduardo Sachen rework their thriller here. Thematic material involving disturbing violent content. Profanity with some sexual references.

SPOTLIGHT

The Boston Globe's investigative Spotlight team: Robby: Michael Keaton, Mike: Mark Ruffalo, Sacha: Rachel McAdams, and Matt: Brian d'Arcy James are assigned to dig into the case records of a recently defrocked priest accused of habitually molesting young boys. They discover an iceberg: nearly 90 priests in the Boston diocese alone are guilty. All Catholics, the reporters learn with fascination and horror that their findings could shake up the world. The new editor, Martin: Liev Schreiber, from the Miami Herald, has bitten into a behemoth. Director Tom McCarthy, who co-wrote with Josh Singer, delivers an engrossing style, keeping the pace taut and fast as the crew stays calm and clear-headed as they dig through old newspaper clippings, in 2001 before computers. Lots of Oscar buzz! Some profanity including sexual references.

SUFFRAGETTE

In an era beautifully recreated, London laundry worker in the 1920's, Maud Watts: Carey Mulligan plods through 11-hour days, six days a week. Maud is recruited into the Suffragette movement by co-worker/neighbor Violet Miller: Anne-Marie MacDuff and moves out. Husband Sonny Watts: Ben Whishaw, feeling deserted, eventually gives away their son. Dr. Edith Elynn: Helena Bonham Carter, as a leader of the movement finds they are not supported by Parliament, so they start planting bombs strategically to gain attention. Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU) founder Emmeline Pankhurst: Meryl Streep proves an inspirational leader (in less than two minutes screen time). Inspector Arthur Steed: Brenden Gleeson tries to track down the ringleaders. Director Sarah Gavron (Brick Lane) and screen-writer Abi Morgan (Iron Lady) devoted years to their research, finding their characters and story in historical records. Watch for awards nominations! Some intense violence. Thematic elements. Brief strong profanity. Partial nudity.

THE 33

The harrowing ordeal of the saga of the trapped Chilean miners from 2010 which garnered international news coverage for weeks is relived for Hollywood's cameras. The warnings beforehand that the mines were unstable went unheeded. The film spends equal time with the 33 miners below ground and their families living in a tent city to be on-hand when news breaks 17 days later that they are alive. Their five cans of tuna have been portioned out over the days and they need food and water rushed in. Not only were the food chests not stocked, the ladder up ends half-way to nowhere. French star Juliette Binoche portrays an outspoken sister of a miner. The miners' chief morale booster, "Super Mario" Sepulveda: Antonio Banderas gets hammy. Chief engineer André Sougarret: Gabriel Byrne, very Irish, takes charge of the mining to save lives. Lou Diamond Phillips portrays miner Don Lucho; Jeff Hart: James Brolin controls from the surface office. Jessica: Cote de Pablo (ex-NCIS) sings one song. Unfortunately, very few actors are Chilean nor even Hispanic. The whole cast speaks English. Director Patricia Rigen (Girl in Progress) and her team of screenwriters Mikko Alanne and Craig Boitent + 3 devote almost equal time to the families as to the trapped miners. Rigen and writers supply a hokey Hollywood cliché aura to events which should be more compelling. She succeeds when a rock estimated at twice the weight of the Empire State Building tumults with the suffocating proximity of the small dark room in which the miners are trapped for 69 days. Some profanity. A disaster sequence.

TRUMBO

Perhaps the most attention-getting Best Actor performance of the year has put Bryan Cranston into the lead for recognition. He is probably helped by the fact that so few living today remember the man Dalton Trumbo (Kitty Foyle, Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo) more than his accomplishment of receiving (under pseudonyms) two writing Oscars while black-listed (for The Brave One and Roman Holiday). His first step in getting back the use of his own name comes when director Otto Preminger: Christian Berkemers Trumbo for fixing one script while working for Kirk Douglas: Dean O'Gorman, [great casting] shaping Spartacus. 10th. His wife Cleo Trumbo: Diane Lane and two teens (Niki: Elle Fanning, Chris: Mattie Liptak) are delivering scripts written by his black-listed crew. His most vocal opposition comes from columnist Hedda Hopper: Helen Mirren, brilliant! (Woman in Gold). David James Elliott (JAG) has a spot-on impersonation of John Wayne; Michael Stuhlbarg subs for Edgar G. Robinson. Trumbo is directed with panache by Jay Roach (Game Change, Meet the Parents) from a script by John McNamara (Aquarius, Prime Suspect).

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VICTOR FRANKENSTEIN

Caged like an animal in a circus, Igor: Daniel Radcliffe draws the attention of a young doctor Victor Frankenstein: James McAvoy who recognizes Igor's back contortion as too much pus on the spine and drains it (on camera) after a daring rescue. Despite Victor's bravura, Max Landis's script leaves much to be credible. Director Paul McGuigan can take some of the blame for the 77th tale in the franchise, usually about monsters, but here almost a buddy movie. The costumes and sets are true to the period. Macabre images. Vivisection and other violence. A sequence of destruction.

*At the Theater • Flora Lynn Isaacson***The Ladies of the Camellias****A Meeting of Two Famous Actresses**

Ross Valley Players is delighted to present *The Ladies of the Camellias*, written by Lillian Groag and under the direction of Bay Area theater veteran Director Julian López-Morillas. López-Morillas is a professional theater actor, teacher, and director, and has either directed or performed in all the Shakespeare plays at California Shakespeare Theatre, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, and the Marin Shakespeare Company. RVP is very fortunate to have such a talented director.



Set in 19th Century Paris, the play describes a mythical meeting between two real-life-dramatic divas, Sarah Bernhardt and Eleonora Duse, and asks whether or not they can share the same spotlight. From the start, the ingénue "A Girl" (Laine Flores), who plays a key role in Groag's drama, first threatening the play-within-a-play by quitting because she has fallen in love, then helping save everyone's skin by attracting the interest of a mad Russian revolutionary and director who has hijacked Sarah and Eleonora. Later, we discover that the young actress is "Rejane," who succeeded Bernhardt on the stage.

In 1897 Paris, the two biggest (and most-temperamental) stars of their day, Sarah Bernhardt (glamorous and commanding Michele Wolpe) and Eleonora Duse (Adrianna Dinianian, in all black with a stern look about her), are each scheduled to perform back-to-back productions of the play *The Ladies of the Camellias* as written by Alexandre Dumas (Geoffrey Colton), the exasperated playwright. Both productions are to be performed in Bernhardt's own Théâtre de la Renaissance, overseen by Benoit (Wood Lockhart, a fine character actor), the ancient Chief Prompter and caretaker of the theater. The two actresses' leading men Gustave Hippolite-Worms (Frederick Lein) and Flavio Andó (Francisco Arcila) expect huge fireworks between the two competitive Grande Dames, and do what they can to stay out of the way. Into

this comically-tense situation comes Ivan (Mohammad Shehata), a young Russian anarchist who, despite his ranting, turns out to be a new breed of theater person – someone whom the actors and playwrights ridicule as "a useless and passing fad": a director. Hoping to save the day is Benoit Constant Coquelin (Liam Robertson), playing Cyrano de Bergerac in the theater next door, who sneaks in (in full costume) to challenge Ivan to a dual. A sword is no match for a gun and a bomb, so it is theatrical dialogue they must use to convince Ivan to not hold them hostage.

The set design is cleverly realized by Set Designer Michael R. Cook, with set construction by Ian Swift and Eugene De Christopher, painted by Dhyanis, and Lighting Design by Frank Sarrubi. The beautiful costume designs were by Michael A. Berg, and the Sound Design of Billie Cox was very appropriate. Unless you're a theater insider, you might miss all the references to names of people and playwrights of the day; however, the clever wit of *The Ladies of the Camellias* will charm everyone.

The Ladies of the Camellias will continue through December 20. Regular performances: Thu 7:30 pm, Fri & Sat 8 pm, and Sun Matinees are at 2 pm. Tickets: www.rossvalleyplayers.com or 415/456-9555 X. 3. 30 Sir Francis Drake Blvd., Ross.

Coming up: *Diary of Anne Frank* by Wendy Kesselman and directed by James Dunn Jan 15 – Feb 7. *Flora Lynn Isaacson*

her ex had been following and making threats to harm her. She was driving when the suspect cut her off, exited his vehicle and made threats. At the station to make a supplemental report, the suspect sent a text to the victim saying that he was in front of her house. Officers responded to the house and arrested him.

Wednesday 11/18

Possession of Marijuana for Sale

6:07 pm | 200 Shields St

Smelling marijuana, officers located a parked vehicle with the suspect standing by the passenger door. They noticed a large amount marijuana on the floorboard of the vehicle along with a scale. The suspect's vehicle revealed additional drug paraphernalia. The suspect was arrested.

Robbery - Arrested

12:30 am | 100 Cambon Dr

Officers responded to a report of a robbery. The victim, an employee, said that he observed the suspect stealing a can of beer and cookies. When he confronted the suspect, the suspect punched the victim in the chest. A struggle ensued and they began wrestling on the ground. The suspect also punched another victim who tried to assist. Officers arrived on scene and arrested the suspect.

Friday 11/20

Robbery

2:11 pm | 34th Ave & Lincoln Way

The victim was riding his bicycle when the suspect approached him and demanded his bicycle. When the victim refused suspect punched him, grabbed the bicycle and fled the scene.

Search Warrant - Cited

7:08 am | Undisclosed

While conducting a search warrant regarding a burglary, the suspect initially refused to give officers entry to his location. The search warrant was executed; the officers located methamphetamine and suspect was arrested for delaying officer's duty and for possession of methamphetamine.

Saturday 11/21

Traffic Collision - DUI - Arrested

2:16 am | Skyline Blvd & John Muir Dr

A vehicle collided with another vehicle which traveling the wrong way. SFFD was already on scene and assisted in extricating the occupants of the vehicles. Medic observed symptoms of being intoxication. The officers obtained a search warrant for the driver's blood. The driver was arrested.

Battery

9:47 pm | Ocean Ave & Capitol Ave

The victim sporadically hired the suspect to help him with painting jobs. When he met with the suspect to pay him, the suspect insisted that he was entitled to more money. The suspect punched the victim and fled the scene.

Sunday 11/22

Driving Under the Influence - Carry Concealed Weapon - Battery on Officer

10:07 pm | Lawton St & 19th Ave

Officers observed a vehicle making an illegal left turn. There was a strong alcoholic smell and the driver seemed intoxicated. Failing a field sobriety test, she became belligerent, using her knee to strike at an officer. A search revealed a long knife hidden by the driver's seat. She was arrested

Drunk - Prohibited weapons

12:19 am | Cambon Dr

An employee told the officers that the suspect was being verbally argumentative and aggressive towards the bar's patrons. The suspect appeared intoxicated. He was initially to be detained at the Drunk Tank for 4 hours but a search revealed brass knuckles and the suspect was arrested.

Robbery

2:07 pm | 200 Sagamore St

The victim said that the suspect purchased an item from him but was not satisfied with the purchase, so he grabbed other items from the garage and fled, after striking the victim.

Theft - Possession of Stolen Property

3:00pm | Irving St & 9th Ave

Captain Cherniss was on patrol of Irving St and 9th Ave when a witness told Captain Cherniss that she saw a suspect in

possession of mail that did not belong to him. When he discarded the mail the witness picked it up and provided it to Captain Cherniss and pointed him out. After a consensual search found a small Amazon box that had a name and address that was not the suspect's, nor was the mail that was discarded. When officers contacted the rightful owner of the Amazon box, the victim she said she presumed the delivery person would secure the package inside the front gate. The suspect was arrested.

Transportation of Marijuana - Arrested

5:28 am | 19th Ave & Lawton St

Officers observed a vehicle making an illegal left turn and conducted a traffic stop. Officers noticed a strong odor of marijuana emanating from inside. A check on the driver revealed that he did not have a driver's license and there was a warrant for his arrest. A search found a large amount of marijuana in individually packaged plastic bags. The suspect was arrested.

Wednesday 11/25

Burglary Tools - Narcotic Paraphernalia

2:10 am | Junipero Serra Blvd & Sloat Blvd

A sergeant was searching for a burglary suspect when he observed a person trying to hide being a parked car. A computer check revealed an arrest warrant. An arrest search on the suspect and his property revealed multiple tools that could be used for burglary and narcotic paraphernalia. The suspect was arrested.

Shoplifting - Cited

9:33 pm | 200 West Portal Ave

A store manager followed a suspect before the officer arrived on scene and stopped the suspect from fleeing. She observed the suspect enter the store, take several items and leave the store without paying. After further investigation, the suspect was cited.

Friday 11/27

Robbery

7:04 pm | Gonzalez Dr & Josepha Ave

The victim said that he was walking on the sidewalk when he felt a tap on his shoulder. When the victim turned around, the suspect was holding a firearm aimed at him and demanding his items. The victim complied and the suspect fled the scene.

Dog Bite - Cited

4:00 pm | 100 Crespi Dr

The victim said that she was in the lawn area of her apartment when she was bitten by a dog that was not on a leash. The victim pointed out where the dog and its owner lived. The officers made contact with the owner and cited her.

Possession of Stolen Property - Cited

11:43 pm | 1700 14th Ave

Officers responded to a report of people sleeping inside a vehicle. One of the occupants told the officers that she was on probation—a computer check confirmed. A search of the vehicle also revealed a stolen license plate. The vehicle owner was cited.

Saturday 11/28

Stolen Vehicle - Traffic Collision

9:47 pm | 00 Berkshire Way

A witness told officers that after a collision, four suspects exited the vehicle. A computer check on the vehicle revealed that it had been stolen the previous day. Officers canvassed the area for the suspect and a witness said they saw a suspect going into a backyard. A search located the driver but not the other three suspects. He was arrested for multiple offenses.

Battery

9:16 pm | Summit St

The victim said he heard someone ringing the door bell and pounding on the door. The victim decided to ignore it, but the pounding got louder. The victim looked out and saw the suspect trying to throw his garbage can around. The victim opened the door and told the suspect, his ex, to leave. The suspect refused and attempted to hit him with her purse. Then, the suspect punched the victim and fled the scene.

Editors Note: This is an abbreviated version of the Police Report that can be found at taraval.org

Department of Elections Certifies Election Results

Mayor Without Mandate

By Patrick Monette-Shaw

When the Department of Elections (DOE) certified results of San Francisco's municipal election on November 19, I wanted to sympathize with our so-called "consensus Mayor," Ed Lee. I dredged the barrel, but couldn't find a drop of sympathy.

Lee's 70,715 votes dropped by 3.23%, to just 53.47% of the 132,262 total ballots cast on election day."

Lee managed re-election gaining just over a simple majority of votes, in the end capturing under his own sails just 51.85% (105,298) of the 203,069 total ballots cast on November 3.

That's not much of a vote of confidence, or a mandate, following on the heels of having barely won a 30.72% plurality (just 59,663 votes) out of 194,029 votes cast when he was first elected mayor in November 2011.

When DOE posted preliminary election results November 3 at 10:36 p.m., Lee reportedly won 56.70% (70,715) of the 124,726 of ballots cast for Mayor, while the "1-2-3 to Replace Ed Lee" coalition — Amy Farah Weiss, Francisco Herrera, and Stuart "Broke-Ass" Schuffman — snagged fully 35.75% (44,594) of initial votes. Election night, 7,536 ballots cast no vote for mayor at all.

By adding in 8,964 votes cast for two other official candidates, 453 ballots cast for "unqualified" (defined as not official) write-in candidates, and 7,536 ballots not cast for mayor at all, Lee's 70,715 votes dropped by 3.23%, to just 53.47% of the 132,262 total ballots cast on election day.

Fast forward to September 19, when DOE released certified election results. Mayor Lee drooped lower, garnering just 51.85% of the 203,069 total ballots cast, a 4.85% slide downward from 56.7%. The "1-2-3 to Replace Ed Lee" coalition surged to 69,948 votes of the 85,099 (41.91%) ballots cast for mayor other than Ed Lee, including 13,387 votes cast for two other official candidates (Kent Graham and Reed Martin), 59 votes for the six official "certified" write-in candidates, and a staggering 1,705 votes cast for the so-called unqualified write-in candidates who didn't register as "official" write-in candidates with DOE prior to the election.

By the time DOE certified election results, ballots cast with no vote for any mayoral candidate at all had nearly doubled to 13,362, representing 6.24% of the 203,069 ballots cast, apparently unwilling to vote for any official candidate.

Beyond the final election results summary report, the Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) report revealed more information about the lack of confidence in Mayor Lee. Of the 203,069 ballots cast, just 168,232 advanced to being counted as "continuing" ballots in the final RCV results. Fully 34,837 votes — a whopping 17.16% — were tossed out and not counted by the RCV algorithm for the mayor's race.

A total of 771 ballots were eliminated as "exhausted by over votes," on which voters marked more than one candidate in the same ranked-choice column. Another 12,741 ballots were eliminated as "under votes," which includes both blank ballots (in which voters cast no vote for mayor at all) and writing in the name of someone other than pre-qualified "certified" official write-in candidates.

Another 21,325 ballots were eliminated as "exhausted ballots," which no longer included a "continuing" candidate because no additional ranked choice candidate names were indicated. For instance, if someone cast a single vote only for, say, Amy Farah Weiss, but didn't include a second or third ranked-choice name, or a candidate is eliminated from advancing, the ballot is summarily deemed exhausted and not counted in RCV results.

An unintended consequence of having had albatross Julie Christensen hanging on for dear life to Mayor Lee's tailcoats is that in District 3, Christensen may have



Cont. p. 23

Senior Smarts

Aging: Glaucoma and its Effects on the Eyes



vision loss.

REASON FOR TREATMENT

The goal of glaucoma treatment is to lower the intraocular pressure. To treat, doctors may: 1) lower your eye pressure, 2) improve drainage of fluid in your eye, or 3) lower the amount of fluid produced in your eye. [1]

ADVERSE EFFECTS[2]

Medications placed in the eye are absorbed into the conjunctival blood vessels on the eye surface. A certain percentage of the active ingredient of the medication, though small, will enter the bloodstream and may adversely effect functions such as heart rate and breathing.

Likewise, some types of eye drops may worsen certain existing medical conditions such as asthma. Some glaucoma drugs also interact with other common medications such as digitalis, prescribed for heart conditions.

EYE MEDICATIONS

Eye drops are classified by the active ingredients that help make the drug work. [3]

If eye drops alone don't bring your eye pressure down to the desired level, your doctor may also prescribe an oral medication, usually in the form of a carbonic anhydrase inhibitor to reduce your eye pressure. [4]

Prostaglandins

Latanoprost (Xalatan). Indication: Ocular hypertension and open-angle glaucoma. Action: Lowers pressure in the eye. Increases fluid drainage.

Bimatoprost (Lumigan). Indication: Open-angle glaucoma. Action: Increases outflow of fluid. Reduces IOP.

Beta Blockers

Timoptic. Indication: Chronic open-angle, secondary, and aphakic glaucoma, ocular hypertension. Action: Decreases fluid production and pressure.

Betaxolol (Betoptic). Indication: Chronic open-angle glaucoma and ocular hypertension. Action: Decreases fluid production and pressure.

Alpha-Adrenergic Agents

Apraclonidine (Iopidine). Indication: Prevention or control of IOP elevation. Used in combination with other medications. Decreases fluid formation. Lowers IOP.

Brimonidine (Alphagan P). Indication: Open-angle glaucoma. Action: Decreases fluid production and IOP.

Carbonic Anhydrase Inhibitors

Acetazolamide (Diamox)** Indication: Secondary glaucoma and preoperative treatment of acute-angle closure glaucoma. Action: Decreases secretion of aqueous humor. Lowers IOP.

Methazolamide (Neptazene).* Indication: Chronic open-angle or preoperatively in obstructive or acute-angle closure glaucoma. Action: Decreases secretion of aqueous humor. Lowers IOP.

Dichlorphenamide (Daranide).* Indication: Adjunct in glaucoma. Action: Decreases secretion of aqueous humor. Lowers IOP.

NOTE: These are rarely used. These medications may reduce production of fluid. [5]

Miotic or Cholinergic Agents

[parasympathomimetics]

Pilocarpine (Isopto Carpine). Indication: Primary open-angle glaucoma. Emergency treatment of acute-angle closure glaucoma. Action: Cholinergic. Reduces IOP.

Carbachol (Isopto Carbachol). Indication: Open-angle glaucoma. Action: Cholinergic. Causes contraction of the

By Anise Matteson

Part 3 – Nonoperative Treatment

At this time, there is no cure for glaucoma. Optic nerve damage cannot be reversed. If glaucoma has been diagnosed and there has been vision loss, treatment can slow or prevent further sphincter muscles of the iris, resulting in miosis.

Epinephrine

Dipivalyl epinephrine (Propine).

Indication: IOP reduction in chronic open-angle glaucoma. **Action:** Decreases aqueous production. Increases aqueous outflow.

Hyperosmotic Agents

Isosorbide (Ismotic). **Indication:** Short-term reduction of IOP caused by glaucoma. **Action:** Promotes redistribution of water producing diuresis.

Mannitol (Osmotrol).*** **Indication:** Reduction of IOP. **Action:** Osmotic diuretic.

NOTE: One-time emergency. **Indication:** Severely high intraocular pressure that must be reduced immediately before permanent, irreversible damage occurs to the optic nerve. **Action:** Reduces IOP by lowering fluid volume. [6]

Combined Medications

Timolol maleate (Timoptic Solution). **Indication:** Chronic open-angle glaucoma, secondary and aphakic glaucomas, ocular hypertension. **Action:** Beta blocker. Decreases fluid production and pressure.

EXAMPLES: Beta blocker and alpha adrenergic agonist, or beta blocker and carbonic anhydrase inhibitor. [7]

MARIJUANA[11]

The American Academy of Ophthalmology, among other authoritative sources, say the risky side effects of marijuana (such as lowered blood pressure, increased heart rate, poor pregnancy outcomes, poor motor coordination, impaired memory and increased risk of cancer and emphysema) far outweigh any benefit.

Popular opinion persistently exaggerates the benefit of marijuana for glaucoma. This is unfortunate, because people who use marijuana instead of their prescribed glaucoma medication run a high risk of having irreversible vision loss.—L.S.

*tablet **tablet, capsule *** I.V.

Source: Multiple including Nursing Drug Handbook.

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS[8]

Prostaglandins: Mild reddening and stinging of the eyes and darkening of the iris, changes in the pigment of the eyelid skin and blurred vision.

Beta blockers: May worsen breathing problems, slowed heart rate, lower blood pressure, and fatigue.

Alpha-adrenergic agonists: Irregular heart rate, high blood pressure, fatigue, red itchy or swollen eyes, and dry mouth.

Carbonic anhydrase inhibitors: Frequent urination and a tingling sensation in the fingers and toes.

Miotic or cholinergic agents: Smaller pupils, blurred or dim vision, or nearsightedness.

Epinephrine: Pigmented eye surface membrane (conjunctival deposits), blocked tear ducts and heart palpitations with an increased heart rate. [9]

MANAGING EYE MEDICATIONS[10]

Smartphone application that reminds patients when and how to take their eye drops:

EyeDROPS

Free app from HarPas International; also allows patients to take a photo of each bottle to avoid confusion.

Can track multiple medications.

Demonstrates the correct way to administer eye drops.

Basic EyeDROPS app: Free. Available for Android and iPhone.

Available for: Android phones through Google Play. Apple iPhone through the App Store.

NOTE: For Premium EyeDROPS app,

Cont. p. 21



Locally-based author Martha Conway at the Woman's National Book Association panel which presented three other authors that evening at Bookshop West Portal: Carole Bumpus, Lisa Alpine and moderator for the evening, Elise Frances Miller. Photo: Jay Miller

Interview

Local Author Martha Conway

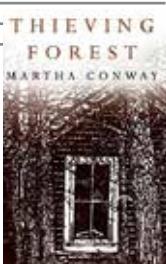
By Jonathan Farrell

Fall has been an exciting time for local author Martha Conway.

This past Oct. 29, she appeared at BookShop West Portal in a panel sponsored by the Women's National Book Association.

She read an excerpt from her novel *Thieving Forest* which now has gone to audio format. "It was pretty nice," she said. "After the audiobook company contacted me; the whole process was very easy, from negotiation to production. They move fast!"

Thieving Forest is her second novel, and so far it has sold 13,000 copies and counting. "That's including ebook, paperback, and hardcover combined; and I am happy about that," she said. Her first novel *12 Bliss Street* was a contemporary satirical crime mystery, set in San Francisco. "It barely sold 2,000 copies," she said. But despite the modest amount of book sales, *12 Bliss Street* received accolades and recognition. When Conway wrote her first novel over a decade ago, she was experiencing life in the work-a-day world of one of the most popular cities in America. San Francisco at that time was going through the beginnings of a major transition, the dot-com boom. Now married with children and very 'settled down' so to speak, *Thieving Forest* emerged from the depths of her imagination and is set in the place where she grew up - Ohio. "I wanted to write something with a broader scope than *12 Bliss Street*, she said. As she made steps



Cont. p. 21

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Second Thoughts • By Jack Kaye



Seeking a Presidential Candidate with a Moderate Agenda

It is less than a year until the 2016 Presidential election. After seeing the possible presidential wannabes, Republican and Democrat, I find myself wanting someone completely different from all of them. On the Republican side, most have not even a whisper of a chance

“...we need a moderate party with a candidate who is neither just liberal nor just conservative but finds a middle path...”

to be the party candidate much less of being successful in winning next November. On the Democratic side we have a woman who is saying nothing very interesting and a socialist who is, but only because some of his ideas are so far to the left.

None appears ready to take on some of the real issues facing our country.

While the Republicans are against illegal immigration, none was saying that we must seal our border, tighten our VISA system, and immediately deport those caught sneaking in, instead of releasing them with hopes of future court dates, until Mr. Trump did. But he went on to say that all here now should be deported and their American born children should not be citizens. The Democratic candidates want full citizenship for those who flouted so many U.S. laws. But I have not heard one candidate suggest we develop a Marshall Plan for Mexico and Central America so that their citizens will want to stay and prosper in their own lands and that some already here might even want to return to their beloved homelands.

None has expressed a desire to reduce our military footprint in the world by closing many of our 700+ foreign bases and for being fully reimbursed by the host countries in which our bases remain. This could save us almost \$100 billion a year and make America seem less like an imperialist nation which seeks to control the world. We would also be less likely to be the 911 of the world, motivating other nations to step up their efforts to defend themselves and their principles.

No hopeful is talking about dramatically reforming the federal income tax code to make it much more simple, fair, verifiable and revenue producing. The GOP candidates want to simplify the code but do it to make the rich pay less. The Democrats want the rich to pay for everything. I would like to see a tax code for individuals that considers all sources of income equally taxable, that has no itemized deductions or credits, replaced by a standardized deduction, and that has only five or six tax brackets and a lower top tax rate (around 35%), but that would apply to one's total income, not just the reduced net after all the itemized deductions and credits currently in place. This plan would widen the base while getting the top earners to pay more. It would dramatically reduce the workload for IRS, since all the needed information would be on the 1099s and W2s. There would be nothing else to verify. The reduced IRS staff can then focus on tax returns from businesses which would still itemize. It would make doing one's taxes take minutes, if not done automatically.

We hear no mention of making government more effective in providing services, while preventing the massive fraud as we have seen in the Earned Income Credit, unemployment insurance, and medical service charges. Not one has suggested eliminating the penny and even the nickel, coins we never need and which cost more to produce than they're worth.

I have heard one presidential hopeful mention sensible changes in Social Security to make sure it remains solvent, but his idea is to increase benefits, threatening its solvency. I have heard none say that we must crack down on fraudulent payments to recipients who are no longer

with us. None has suggested we raise the contribution from 6.2% to 6.5% for the employee and employer, while raising the income ceiling from \$118,500 to \$200,000, or raising it over the next 20 years to 8% on annual earnings up to \$250,000; nor that we change the way we tax the benefits so that all benefit payments are fully taxable, not just the 85% currently subject to tax. Taxes on Social Security benefits go right back into the fund.

And while many have concerns about the Affordable Care Act because of its mandatory individual enrollment, the penalties for non-compliance and the subsidies to healthcare organizations allowing them to charge more, none has recommended changes that would make enrollment voluntary, eliminating penalties and, perhaps, the subsidies. If insurers were able to reject any applicant, enrollment would not have to be mandatory. Applicants rejected by insurers could then get the “public option” which would be government-run like Medicare and Medicaid are now. There would be a share of cost. There would be no fines for not having insurance since the system won't depend on it. Rates would decline and subsidies might be unnecessary.

Neither the liberal Democrats nor the conservative Republicans promised to right a century-old wrong and decriminalize marijuana until Bernie Sanders just recently did, finally. Hillary wants to study it. I am sure that she and Bill have already thoroughly studied and enjoyed its beneficial effects personally.

And there is nothing but silence about ending poverty in our rich land affecting tens of millions of people, including half a million homeless, while much talk is heard about saving the middle class which can barely spend \$600 billion on Christmas presents that nobody needs each year; has purchased a record number of new SUVs and trucks; has enjoyed almost zero percent inflation, incredibly low mortgage rates (remember when they were at 16% instead of about 4%?), low gas prices (remember when they twice as high?) and still contributes \$400 billion to charities.

I have heard no candidate mention reforming high school curricula to better tailor coursework to student talents and inclinations, substituting courses that are not relevant to many students with some that would be instead of insisting on a common core, which mandates algebra and geometry classes for all.

I am waiting for at least one candidate promise to ensure that the U.S. military ground troops will stay out of the Middle East conflicts which have no future prospect of being resolved as the countries there are currently configured. A couple of candidates have come close. None say that these countries, many of whom were created in the 20th century by Western powers after the fall of the Ottoman empire, should be reconstructed to be either Shiite or Sunni but not both. None has called for an independent state for the Kurds.

I think that we need a moderate party with a candidate who is neither just liberal nor just conservative but finds a middle path between both extremes. I believe that we need it very much and very soon.

Feedback: kaye@westsideobserver.com



www.westsideobserver.com

Do you have a pinched nerve? We can help.

Dear friend,

It's hard to believe, I know, but it's true. Last year more Americans were killed by prescription drugs than by guns, AIDS, suicides and terrorists combined...But we'll get to that in a minute.

Let me start by explaining the photo in this letter. You know when I meet people in town they usually say, “Oh yeah, I know you, you are Doctor Meakim. You have been on the corner of Beach and Jones for years”...(and we just moved to our new office on Clement Street). Well, that's me. I'm also the woman hugging her niece at the jersey shore in the picture.

17 years ago something happened that changed my life forever. I was a young woman living in Philadelphia when it happened. I was driving with a friend when she missed a stop sign and rammed into the side of another car. We were all shaken up. The police were called and we all went to the hospital. No one was bleeding, so the doctors took some x-rays of our neck, gave us pain meds and sent us on our way. The next day I woke up with pain everywhere and it just kept getting worse. For years I tried everything that I could find. For an escape from the pain, I went to medical doctors, physical therapists, acupuncturists, I tried special pillows, and anything I thought might help. I spent a lot of time and money.

Along the way I had two more car accidents and the pain kept getting worse and worse. I had developed fibromyalgia, neck pain, mid-back pain and low-back pain with tingling and numbness down my right arm and leg. I was scared that something was really wrong with me. This could not be normal. I was only 33 years old and felt like I was 100. That is when someone told me about a chiropractor that they thought could help. As a matter of fact, after the first person told me about him, two more people did that same week. So I made an appointment with the chiropractor. Thank goodness that they took the time to help me! I went to his office where he asked me about my problems, did an exam, and took some x-rays of my head and back. After that he pointed out where my nerves were pinched and adjusted them. The adjustment was so light I barely felt it. I began crying as I felt the pain leave my body for the first time in years. It may sound strange, but I was so happy and grateful for the relief that I still thank him every day! After that, I knew what I had to do. I had to become a chiropractor, and that's how it happened!

I have adjusted many children within the first 15 minutes after birth. They obviously didn't complain of neck pain or back pain; I adjust them to keep them healthy... as with all the hundreds of children I care for in my office.

You see, it's not normal for kids to get ear infections, asthma, allergies or a number of other illnesses we see clear up in our office everyday.

When the nervous system is working correctly your internal resistance and healing powers are enhanced.

A healthy family does NOT rely on medication to make them well. My family does not turn to medication to seek health and we don't have a “medicine chest” in our home. Due to years of advertising saturation from the pharmaceutical companies most Americans do seek health from outside-in and most families have a “medicine chest” filled with an average of 16 different medications.

In an average year, the World Health Organization (WHO) reports over 1.5 million hospitalizations due to medication. Last year the WHO reported 350,000

deaths due to medication people took... and 160,000 were when the drugs were prescribed correctly. More people died last year from medication than at Pearl Harbor and Vietnam. Amazing huh?

If drugs make people well, then those who take the most should be the healthiest, but this simply isn't the case.

Many people are beginning to understand that health comes from within. This is why chiropractic helps so many people. You see, your body can heal itself. Your body doesn't

need any help; it just can't have any interference. With chiropractic, we don't add anything to the body or take anything from it. We find interference in the nervous system and remove it thus enhancing the healing capacities of the body.

We get tremendous results... it really is as simple as that.

For the past eight years, people from San Francisco and the surrounding area have come to see me with their pinched nerve problems.

- Headaches
- Migraines
- Chronic Pain
- Neck pain
- Shoulder/arm pain
- Whiplash from car accidents
- Backaches
- Numbness in limbs
- Athletic injuries just to name a few.

Here is what some of your neighbors have said:

“I had back pain for 15 plus years and two back operations. Now I play tennis, sit at my computer and enjoy an active pain free life! Thank you Dr. Meakim!” — A. McGrath

“All possible medicines and doctors, you made a miracle taking away my pain!! I am a happy wife and mother again!” — L. Igudesman

“I have had chronic neck, shoulder and arm pain for the last 4 years. After seeing Dr. Meakim I can now twist off caps, button/zip my own pants and there is no longer a need for me to ice my arm in the morning and night! I feel more energetic, and can move my arm and neck pain free!” — C. Brubaker

My qualifications:

I am a graduate of Palmer College of Chiropractic, I have published articles in leading chiropractic journals and taught chiropractic to chiropractors! I've been helping your neighbors in San Francisco since 2004. I've been entrusted to take care of tiny babies to athletes that you may know.

My assistants are Marcy and Raquel and they are friendly and helpful and ready to assist you to set up an evaluation. Our clinic is both friendly and warm and we try our best to make you feel at home. We have wonderful service at an exceptional fee. Our clinic is called Healthy Life Chiropractic and it is at 101 Clement Street (at the corner of Clement St. and 2nd Avenue). Our phone number is 415-751-7071. Call today for an appointment. We can help you. Thank you. — Dr. Christina Meakim D.C. and Dr. Gigliotti D.C.

P.S. When accompanied by the first family member, I am also offering the second family member this same examination for only \$17.

P.P.S. Can you imagine not having to wait at a doctor's office? Well, your time is as valuable as mine. That's why we have a no-wait policy. You will be seen within minutes of your appointment.

P.P.P.S. Of course, all people respond differently to care.



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574 Dellbrook Ave	Midtown Terrace	3	2	1	949,000	1,175,000	123.81
135 San Benito Way	St. Francis Wood	4	3.5	1	2,395,000	2,926,000	122.17
926 Teresita Blvd	Miraloma Park	3	1	2	1,049,000	1,550,803	147.84
300 Cresta Vista Dr	Miraloma Park	4	4	1	2,550,000	2,575,000	100.98
1562 Portola Dr	West Portal	3	2.5	2	1,695,000	1,975,000	116.5

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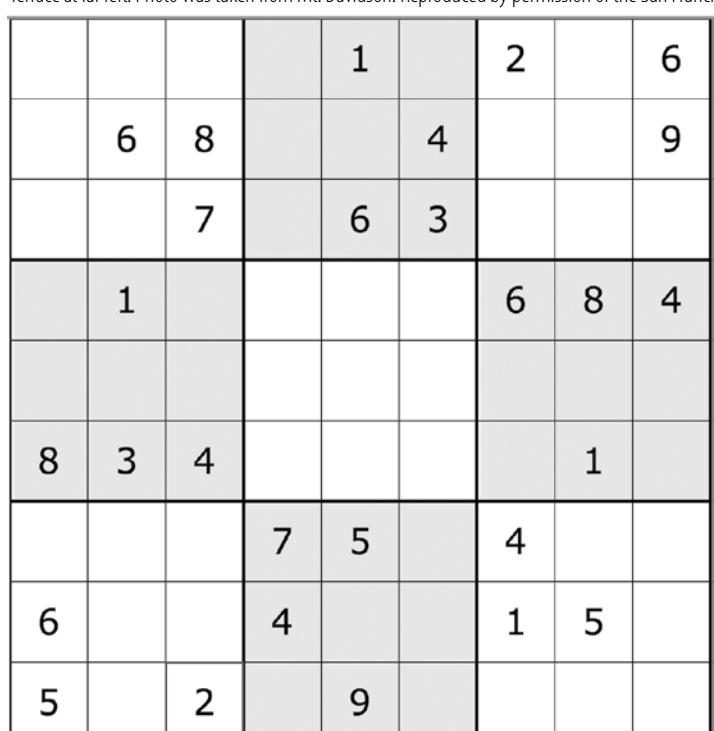


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Remember When?



Gold Mine Hill and the surrounding area in the Diamond Heights district - June 26, 1953. Newsclip: THE VACANT HEIGHTS—Big, empty hill in center of this picture is Gold Mine Hill, one of three vacant heights on which Redevelopment Agency proposes to build 2300 dwellings. In foreground is Miraloma Park, just beyond that is O'Shaughnessy-blvd and dropping off from the boulevard is Glen Canyon, part of Diamond Heights development which will become big park under present plan. To the left are Twin Peaks, with Midtown Terrace at far left. Photo was taken from Mt. Davidson. Reproduced by permission of the San Francisco History Center, SF Public Library.



Sudoku-fun!

Rules:

Each puzzle is a 9 by 9 grid of squares divided into nine 3 by 3 square blocks, with some of the numbers filled in for you.

The Object:

Fill in the blank squares so that each of the numbers 1 to 9 appears exactly once in each row, column and block.

Answer:

The answer appears below.

5	4	2	3	9	1	7	6	8
6	7	9	4	8	2	1	5	3
9	8	1	7	5	6	4	9	2
3	8	4	2	5	9	1	7	6
7	9	6	1	4	8	3	2	5
2	1	5	9	3	7	6	8	4
9	2	7	5	6	3	8	4	1
1	6	8	2	7	4	5	3	9
4	5	3	8	1	9	2	7	6

BRAIN FUD

VACATION TROUBLES...

Five friends decided to take their families on a vacation. One night, while the wives and children slept, they snuck down to the hotel bar to reminisce. After many drinks they returned to their rooms, each forgetting something at the bar in the process. The bartender decided to bring the items back to the friends. Help the bartender figure out who the items belong to and where to take them.

Note that odd rooms are on one side of the hall and even rooms are on the other.

- 1) Each man had a stumble or two getting to their room, but the one man whose full name is type of liquor had trouble seeing and stumbled a bit more than the rest.
- 2) Either Johnnie's room conjoined with another's, or Mr. Beam lost his phone.
- 3) The men whose rooms conjoined one of the others are; the one who lost his glasses, Mr. Goose, the man in 215, and Jose.
- 4) The men entered the stairwell together, but the one who forgot his jacket climbed one flight alone.
- 5) The man who left his phone could hear Jack's wife on the other side of the wall watching tv.
- 6) Jose's wallet was the first thing to be returned, later the hat was returned to 215, but, due to location, Mr. Daniels was the last person to receive his lost item.
- 7) The man in 216 either lost his wallet or is Mr. Quervo.
- 8) Jim's, Jack's, and Grey's room each ended in an odd number.
- 9) Mr. Walker was in 218.

Answer

Johnnie —> Walker —> Glasses —> 218

Jack —> Quervo —> Hat —> 215

Jim —> Goose —> Cell Phone —> 217

Grey —> Daniels —> Jacket —> 355

Jose —> Beam —> Wallet —> 216

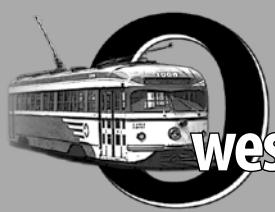


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*SFMTA
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2nd Floor Atrium
6:00 p.m.– 8:00 p.m.*

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16

*IT Bookman Community Center
446 Randolph Street
7:00 p.m.– 9:00 p.m.*

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25

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Board of Supervisors Turn Down Parkmerced Appeal

By Glenn Rogers

In August of 2014, the First District Court of Appeals issued its decision in favor of Parkmerced development interests in the case of San Francisco Tomorrow et al vs. the City and County of San Francisco et al.. When the project, which currently houses



about 8,000 residents, is completed in 2040, an additional 14,000 people will be living in the 152-acre neighborhood, in tower after tower, rather than garden apartments. Parkmerced, already one of the densest developments in San Francisco, will soon become even more crowded.

Notices and Maps

On September 29, 2015 the Board of Supervisors heard an appeal of project maps felt to have been wrongly approved by the Department of Public Works because of numerous errors, anomalies and omissions. The maps were to delineate the planned scope of construction in the future development of Parkmerced. It was hoped that bringing these irregularities to the Board would result in their correction and make the construction process more transparent and harmonious.

Violations of Due Process

The appeal noted numerous violations of due process for tenants who live in Parkmerced. For example, on certain projects, no public hearings were held and individuals were not provided the required ten days to appeal the notice of approval. Another issue, as noted above, was regarding inconsistencies between notices and project maps sent to residents. When the maps were received, they were confusing or had blatant discrepancies and numerous typographical errors; many notices did not even include maps at all. These errors in themselves should require re-noticing.

Ownership and Tax Liability

There were also questions regarding the ownership of the Parkmerced units. On one day alone (11-10-14), three deeds of ownership of the same piece of property were transferred several times within minutes. This behavior needed to be explained by the ownership. With ownership of property being unclear, taxes owned by Parkmerced management are difficult to determine and are confusing at best. Over \$800,000 in taxes are due the City that are unpaid by property owners in Parkmerced. Week after week and month after month, who is responsible for these taxes is unclear because of a failure of the Tax Record Department. Should any accidents happen, ownership of property is especially important to determine liability to the injured.

After listening to the presentation, the Board of Supervisors ruled against the appeal and in favor of proceeding at full speed with the Parkmerced development.

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Martha Conway (Cont. from p. 17)

was on to something. "I did not want to get caught up with the Civil War era, that would have lead me down a very complicated path." Yet, as I began to ponder those earlier pioneer days, I was fascinated about what people must have done to survive. A lot of very different cultures lived side by side in that part of Ohio. It was truly multi-cultural."

Thieving Forest has recognizable elements that many readers would know, such as *The Little House On The Prairie* aspect. But unlike the Laura Ingall's story of a family of sisters growing up together

in a rural setting, *Thieving Forest* is very gutsy and heart-wrenching. It's realism is very much a novel for grown ups. The novel has received several honors, among them the North American Book Award for Best Historical Fiction. As the book continues to gain fans, a movie might not be too far off. Meanwhile, the San Francisco-based author is busy promoting her books, leading workshops, such as one of the workshops in Stanford University's "One Day M.F.A." program, and raising a family.

Jonathan Farrell is a local free lance reporter. Feedback: jonathan@westsideobserver.com



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Education

My New Boy Friend

By Carol Kocivar © 2015

I just got off the phone with my new boyfriend. (My husband Terry ran off to the gym and I ran to do FACETIME.) So what if he is only 14 months old.

So what if most of our conversation revolves around pointing to my nose and seeing if he does the same thing.

I am absolutely sure he knows exactly who I am—even though he lives on the East Coast and we live in San Francisco. He blows kisses into the phone every time I call. No further proof needed.

No one I know has been spared the pictures.

Just before I started writing this column I was in the produce market in West Portal. The phone rang. It was HIM! (Of course, I shared the screen shot with the women behind the counter as we paid for milk and tea.)

I have shared his image with so many friends that I now have a statistically valid poll that confirms he is indeed the cutest little boy in the world.

The one thing that is so confusing to me is that I had the same reaction to my daughter's first child, our granddaughter.

Cute is too bland a description. Luscious. Adorable. With apologies to technology, they are the Apple of my eye.

Hmm. Maybe the word I am searching for is "charismatic." Does that mean

I can't keep my eyes off them? That's it. Charismatic. That seems to capture that special bond.

I am very aware that I should refrain from SPOILING the grandkids. I try to be very thoughtful in what I give them. Books, of course, lots of books. I think I have spent more hours in the West Portal Book Store in the children's section selecting just the right one than the average five year old. Over and over again.

And stickers. I pop a seasonal assortment in the suitcase when I visit. Instructions: share when needed. (Those go right next to the newest set of markers and crayons and paper...the greatest excuse to spend hours creating with the five year old.)

I guess you get the picture. I like being a grandma.

Wishing everyone a wonderful holiday season.

Ohh...and take pictures. Sharing is the best part.

Carol Kocivar is former President of the California Parent Teachers Assn. and she lives in the Westside. Feedback: kocivar@westsideobserver.com

Glaucoma (Cont. from p. 21)

Premium users will need to log-in. Visit www.eyedropsapp.com for information.

Editor's Note: This is a shortened version of this article. To read more go to: westsideobserver.com/health.html

NEXT MONTH: Operative Treatment Wishing you a Merry Christmas and life's best in 2016!

Anise Matteson is an elder care consultant, retired Registered Health Information Technician and writer of reference books for seniors. Information is for educational purposes. For specific questions and care, consult an ophthalmologist. mattesonecs@yahoo.com.





Teachers, Students Push Back at City College

A November 12 march and rally at civic center brought out students, faculty and community well-wishers, to protest the administration's proposed 26% cuts to classes and stalling on faculty contract negotiations. Photos: Claire Brees



Olivia and Jim Guthrie, joined in 2015

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Just Chugging Along

It was 1948. The Second World War was over and our heroic troops were back from the horrors of war in both Europe and the Pacific, and with their return the seeds were sown for the creation of the greatest generation of all time. It was also 1948 when my maternal grandmother left the country of her birth and emigrated from Italy to Chicago where all 8 of her children had previously settled and called home.

It was Christmas, and with two weeks of school vacation we had the perfect opportunity to travel to Chicago to visit my grandmother and celebrate the holidays with her and the rest of the family. Although air travel was certainly available, the most popular cross country mode of transportation at the time was by train. The City of San Francisco was our choice over its competitor, The California Zephyr, with its double decker Vista Dome cars. Not unlike the San Francisco 49ers playing in Santa Clara, The City of San Francisco left from, you guessed it, Oakland. I vividly remember being dropped off at the Ferry Building on the Embarcadero, cruising under the Bay Bridge on a huge Ferry Boat, landing in Oakland and finding our way through the steam and smoke to our very comfortable coach seats. It took a pinch under 40 hours, two nights and a day, to get from the beauty of San Francisco to the grimy, industrial city of Chicago. Chicago has since reinvented itself as one of the cleanest, most beautiful cities in America, but at the time the coal powered locomotives arrived in the center of town and the buildings and streets bore the brunt of



this convenience.

My most lasting impressions of the train was the beautifully-appointed dining car with its white, pressed tablecloths, a menu with endless selections, and service that rivaled that of a 5 star hotel. Those breakfast pancakes and scrambled eggs were amazing. We did have occasional stops along the way at major cities such as Salt Lake City, where we crossed over the lake itself, Cheyenne, and Omaha, and by



8 AM we pulled into Chicago's Union Station. Not that many years ago we traveled from Boston to Chicago trying to relive the experience, but sadly, my memories of that beautiful dining car turned into a box lunch

on our seat with a small bottle of red wine with a screw top....certainly not like riding on the Eurostar from Rome to Venice as we've done in the past.

After the usual hugs and kisses we settled in with the relatives in preparation of Christmas and New Year's. The aunts would cook up a storm; everyone had a kitchen in the basement, while the men played cards and took an occasional nap after those huge meals. Although all the relatives came to America with virtually nothing more than the shirts

by creatively tossing out 17.15% (34,827) of the 203,069 ballots cast, in effect disenfranchising voters.

Had someone unafraid of Ron Conway's billions — say State Senator Mark Leno — jumped into the race for mayor, San Franciscans may have gotten a new, anyone-but-Lee, mayor and we wouldn't see him grinning for four more years.

Hopefully, the election of Aaron Peskin as District 3 Supervisor may help restore some balance of power between the legislative and executive branches at City Hall.

If not, the only option left may be to consider quickly mounting a recall campaign against Mayor Lee, to prevent a complete sell-out of the City to his billionaire backers, including Ron Conway and his ilk, during the next four years.

Monette-Shaw is a San Francisco free-lance journalist. Feedback: monette-shaw@westsideobserver. This article also appeared in the San Francisco Examiner.

on their backs, through the years they all became very successful in their own right. My father's first job was working in a grocery store, six and a half days a week for \$12.00 but eventually saved enough money to buy a used 1935 Ford for \$95.00. All of them eventually ended up with their own businesses, many of them in the meat business, restaurants, bars and coffee shops, and the following generations have certainly benefited from the sacrifices of their parents.



With all the talk these days of illegal immigrants, immigration reform, and big tall fences, perhaps our politicians should look back at how this county was created, and at those that worked so hard to make it easier for the rest of us. Granted, we all came over legally but very poor at the same time, and with hard work and determination we've lived to enjoy the American dream. As I'm so fond of saying, "God Bless America."

Kick the Can (Cont. from p. 4)

conditions threaten public health.

The SFPUC's Sewer System Improvement Program (SSIP) — another huge maintenance deferment — is the SFPUC's wastewater capital improvement program that includes multiple projects to improve the existing system.

Routine repairs are no longer sufficient to keep pace with San Francisco's aging and seismically vulnerable sewer infrastructure. It is important to invest now in larger capital improvements to avoid more costly emergency repairs, potential regulatory fines, and greater impacts on our communities. The longer upgrades are delayed, the more expensive they become. Another clear case of deferred maintenance.

The SSIP is the culmination of several years of wastewater system planning efforts, public meetings, and SFPUC Commission workshops to develop proposed improvements to deferred maintenance of SF's sewage system. The SSIP is expected to cost billions. The first phase is expected to cost \$2.78 billion, alone.

If you have gray hair and don't own your own home, you may also be disappearing — since City-backed developers need to convert your rental apartment into a condominium to make a profit. The Planning Department needs to charge developers higher permit fees to maintain its budget, and the City needs more density to generate more property taxes.

The more dwellings that can be demolished, rebuilt, or increased in density, the more income will be generated by the City. San Franciscans that stay in place in their own homes pay much less in property taxes than new owners.

Mayor Lee and the Board of Supervisors have just financially linked housing prices to residential units.

City government amended the Planning Code so that developers who build residential structures of 20 or more units throughout the City will have to pay an extra \$7.74 per square foot, per unit.

The City's old Transit Development Impact Fee (TDIF) applied to only commercial developments and PDR (production, design, and repair) facilities. Heretofore, the TDIF fees only came from downtown commercial developers.

The new TSF transit funding is an

open door for financial misuse and abuse. TSF funds should be used for transit maintenance and repair only. However, the new TSF funds a complete streets component, enhancement and expansion of bicycle facilities, as well as pedestrian and other streetscape infrastructure to accommodate growth. The TSF is also responsible for maintaining the existing amount of sidewalk space per pedestrian.

This is why there are so many well-paid City employees and so much deferred maintenance.

By charging residential housing developers a transportation fee, the City will collect an additional 40% more in transportation fees annually.

San Francisco's new TSF fee/tax will increase the price of larger residential projects by 2% to 3% per unit. The City hopes to increase transportation fee collection by \$480 million over the next 30 years.

The City will add 190,000 jobs and 100,000 homes by 2040, according to the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), but without improving public transit, traffic in the City could increase by 40%.

Other than as a source of revenue, cars have become the City's lowest priority.

The City set the TSF fee/tax by estimating how much development impacts transit in terms of cost, roughly \$31 per square foot, then balanced it with the results of a fiscal feasibility study that looked at what level fees would discourage development.

According to the TSF Financial Feasibility Report, the average residential base cost per square foot should be \$6.19; however, the City chose to increase TSF residential taxes by 125% to a tax of \$7.74 per square foot.

A brand new 750-square-foot, two-bedroom condominium just became \$5,805.00 more expensive, but comes with a bus that is late, full, broken, or never comes.

Look around you: There is deferred city maintenance everywhere! Our infrastructure cannot support the 30,000 dwellings that Mayor Lee is trying to build over the next five years. City Government is just kicking the can down the road.

Wooding is a board member of the Midtown Terrace Homeowners Association.

Mayors Race (Cont. from p. 16)

civic dialogue about where we are going and how we intend to get there, The City loses out.

The election results show clearly Mayor Lee has no mandate from voters, just a few Emperor's new clothes. Indeed, election results illustrate a referendum against our mayor and his many failed policies during the five years he's served as mayor.

After all, 48.15% (97,771) of voters just couldn't bring themselves to vote for Lee as their first choice in the 203,096 total ballots cast. And with just 7,420 ballots transferred to him during RCV Lee captured just 113,191 ballots, 55.74% of all 203,069 ballots cast.

Don't for a minute believe the myth in the final RCV Pass Report that Lee received 67.28% of final RCV votes, and Francisco Herrera received 32.72%. It's a myth precisely because the denominator was reduced to just 168,232 final ballots,

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