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WESTSIDE OBSERVER

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2019 James Madison Freedom of Information Award

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July/August 2019

Breaking the Silence:**Laguna Honda's Patient Abuse Scandal**

Stunned and bewildered. That was the reaction when 1,650 Laguna Honda employees received an explosive email from DPH Director Dr. Grant Colfax on June 28th. "I regret to inform you that a months-long investigation showed incidents of staff misconduct towards patient-residents at Laguna Honda Hospital" it began. Colfax went on to describe how 6 employees shared cell-phone images of 23 patients in the North 1 and 2 wards and engaged in sexualized conversations, privacy violations, verbal and physical abuse, neglect, and administration of non-prescribed substances to pacify patients. These abuses persisted for 3 years, from 2016 until January 2019.



Former Administrator, Mivic Hirose

Cont. p. 4

Do as I say, Not as I do**SFPD's Internal Affairs Cowboys**

by Lou Barberini, CPA

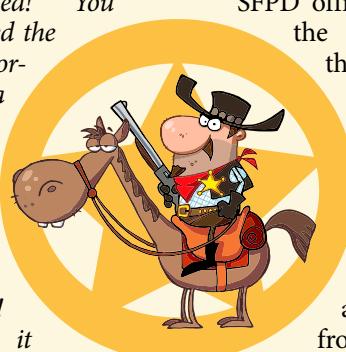
SFPD Academy 1996: Defrauding an Innkeeper Simulation Test

SFPD officer role-playing maître d': Officer, we served this woman dinner and she is refusing to pay.

SFPD role-playing patron: Officer, I eat at five-star restaurants like this all the time and my husband is an attorney. These are the worst potatoes I have ever been served. They are terrible and I won't pay for them.

Recruit (Me): This is not a crime of refusing to pay; this is a dispute over the quality of the food — at a five-star restaurant!

Proctor: Failed! You should have offered the



maître d' the opportunity to make a citizen's arrest on the diner. If you let this diner get away, they will be lined up around the block to eat here for free!

Recruit: Isn't it wrong to infer this is a crime and arrest a patron? Wouldn't we be suggesting negative publicity and damage to the restaurant's reputation?

It is hard to ascertain which SFPD officer signed off on the aggressive stance that a journalist gathering information had committed a crime. While the only person on SFPD's command staff with a legal foundation

from a law degree also happens to supervise the IA unit that served the search warrants on Carmody, more investigation is needed.

The search warrants also raise

"... the proximate timing of these investigations' points to retaliation against officers who blew the whistle on other matters."

For businesses, like five-star restaurants, there is significant intangible value to a business's brand and reputation that are passionately defended through legal and/or public relations' departments. Similarly, it is the Internal Affairs division of every police department, like the San Francisco Police Department (SFPD), to serve and protect the reputation of the organization they represent to ensure that the public trusts police officers, making interactions more conducive. Ninety-nine percent of Internal Affairs officers possess morally-aligned internal compasses and protect the reputation of SFPD.

However, the recent search warrants served on journalist

serious mismanagement issues regarding a small segment of "cowboys," who have developed a reputation for retaliatory investigations, receiving off-the-books departmental promotions above their earned rank, and possessing sketchy resumes — all while these same IA officers pursued members of SFPD for lesser offenses.

If the search warrants disenfranchised the media's and public's trust in SFPD's Internal Affairs, cops on the streets had already decided the unit was balanced on a wobbly three-legged stool, where investigations are dictated more by whom you offended, rather than any

Cont. p. 10

Sunset Uprising: Residents Tackle Property Crimes

By Dr. Derek Kerr

District 4 Supervisor Gordon Mar heard an earful about property crimes from his constituents. In addition to car break-ins, residents are alarmed about residential burglaries and package thefts. Core concerns are the worsening safety in previously low-crime neighborhoods and the targeting of Chinese-American elders by criminals.

On April 25th, Supervisor Mar held a hearing before the Board's Public Safety & Neighborhood Services Committee. A dozen residents expressed frustration and outrage. A construction contractor testified that his company had lost \$80,000 in equipment due to job-site and office break-ins, and a stolen truck. Yet, police investigations and follow-up were disappointing. Most of the commenters were older Chinese residents who recounted home invasions, burglaries, and even the theft of food delivered to a 90 year old woman. Some feared going out at night with more homeless people wandering about and sleeping on private property. Seeing strangers now "caused a tremor in our heart", one said. Amid demands for more police patrols, arrests and prosecutions, one gentleman wondered, "Where is police, maybe policeman sleeping?"



Photo courtesy: stopcrimes.com

"...residential burglary cases had risen from 137 in 2014 to 237 in 2018, she reported an 18% drop so far this year. In 2018, the DA filed charges in 86% of burglaries ..."



Supervisor Gordon Mar

Photo: Sunset Beacon

SFPD Captain Tim Falvey provided statistics showing a steady decrease in residential burglaries and robberies since 2015. The term robbery means that perpetrators confront victims and take property by force or fear, whereas burglaries occur without victims being present. A "hot prowl" occurs when burglars enter premises while residents are present but without confronting them. Taraval Station logged 57 hot-prowls in 2018 – the highest number in the City. However, the 379 burglaries, robberies and hot prowls recorded in 2018 were less than in the prior 3 years. An additional 41%

decline was noted in 2019.

These declines were attributed to the 2018 re-activation of Citywide Burglary and Robbery Units that tackle crimes across all police stations. Previously,

Cont. p. 8

Our State Senator's War on Neighborhoods Accelerates**Wiener's Unethical Gut-and-Amend**

by George Wooding



Senate District 11 residential homeowners may have the most unethical State Senator in California: Scott Wiener. Wiener's latest act of poor governance? On June 12, Wiener used what's known as a "gut-and-amend" maneuver to completely rewrite SB-592.

The original SB-592 addressed licensure for barbers and cosmetologists. He completely gutted it, now calling it the *Housing Accountability Act*.

Wiener eliminated all language in the original barber's and cosmetologist's bill, and replaced it with new language, essentially an amended version including the first part of SB-50 and the first part of SB-330, sprinkled with a dose of SB-167 on top.

He did so in part because SB-592 had successfully passed the Senate Appropriations Committee, whereas his SB-50 had been suspended in Appropriations. He did so to avoid vetting public review during further public hearings and to avoid having to start at the beginning of the process.

SB-592 would once again undermine a long list of local controls over residential development, at the same time Mayor London Breed is trying to override neighborhood input into affordable housing projects with her proposed November 2019 City Charter change.

Gut-and-amend bills are designed for legislators to deceive the public. With this maneuver, a legislator at the last moment before adjournment strips a bill that has gone through multiple committee hearings of its original content and inserts new language usually completely unrelated to the original bill.

"The problem isn't just gut-and-amend," said Jim Mayer, director of the nonpartisan think tank *California Forward*. "Every gut-and-amend — it's really



a power play — comes with the suspicion that it's to avoid public scrutiny."

"The abuse of process is breathtaking," said Sen. Sam Blakeslee, R-San Luis Obispo.

According to *Daily Post* correspondent Elaine Goodman, "The Housing Accountability Act (SB-167), enacted in 1982, is intended to make it harder for local governments to block housing projects. It's sometimes referred to as the anti-NIMBY law, referring to those who say 'not in my backyard' to new development."

Goodman adds, "Wiener's new version of SB-592 would clarify that a housing development doesn't have to be a multi-unit project to be covered by the *Housing Accountability Act* (HAA). A project could be a single housing unit; an accessory

Cont. p. 10

IMPACT OF INCREASED WESTSIDE HOUSING DENSITY

The SF Land Use Coalition's Forum

on Increased Housing Density on the Westside

7 pm • Thursday, July 18

St. John Armenian Church • 275 Olympia Way

Norman Yee, President, Board of Supervisors and D4

Supervisor Gordon Mar

There will be plenty of parking. Tell your friends!

A Land-Grab Developers Will Love

Breed's Blank Check: Re-Zoning Public Lands

by Patrick Monette-Shaw

Mayor London Breed should be commended for advocating for more affordable housing development.

But she's playing from State Senator Scott Wiener's disastrous re-zoning playbook. Wiener's failed SB-827 and SB-50 involved legislation that would have undermined a long list of local controls over housing development.

Similarly, Breed is trying to override neighborhood input into housing projects by trampling on San Francisco's local land-use controls.

Observers wonder whether she and Wiener are pandering to developers expecting *quid pro quo* campaign contributions.

Breed is putting three ballot measures on the ballot this November — a \$600 million general obligation bond; a Charter change measure to hand 100% affordable housing projects "by-right" status that will deprive neighborhoods of input during public appeals and discretionary reviews, and prevent challenges under CEQA; and an Ordinance to re-zone all public land (except Park and Recreation property) to permit housing where residential housing is currently prohibited.

All three measures have serious problems. This article focuses on the re-zoning measure, arguably the worst of the bunch.

Citywide Re-Zoning of Public Lands

On June 11, Breed staged a press conference about the City purchasing 1515 South Van Ness from Lennar Multifamily Properties. She stated: "We have to be aggressive when it comes to getting more housing in the City. ... The other thing that I'm proposing is an Ordinance, which I don't have to go to the Board of Supervisors [for], thank goodness."

Breed wanted to place the "aggressive" measure on the ballot all by herself so she could sidestep opposition from Supervisors and members of the public. Breed could have introduced the same Ordinance to the Supervisors, and the Board



The old Almhouse Photo: Western Neighborhoods Project



could have approved it without asking voters to weigh in. They've done so before.

Clearly, when Breed placed the re-zoning measure on the ballot all by herself, she must have understood she would be depriving both members of the public and the Board of Supervisors of any public debate or discussion about the merits — or lack thereof — of her proposal.

Teacher Housing Project Misinformation

During Breed's June 11 press conference, she implied delays with the teacher housing project at 43rd & Irving are due solely

to zoning issues. Breed claimed: "Everybody is wondering why Francis Scott Key is taking an additional two years. Because the property is not zoned for housing."

That's pure nonsense. The delay was caused by multiple factors, re-zoning the least of them.

The *Chronicle* reported¹ April 24 "developers have yet to break ground, in part because they had to apply to rezone the parcel ..." On June 21, 2019 the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development (MOHCD) admitted the project is still in its "design phase." Third graders know you can't break ground and begin building a project still being designed.

The *Chronicle* mentioned nothing about the three-and-a-half-year delay during which MOHCD has stalled issuing the third and final \$92.5 million portion, or tranche — fully 30% — of the \$310 million 2015 Affordable Housing Bond that won't be issued until the Fall of 2019. The delay issuing the bonds may have contributed to the project not having broken ground.

MOHCD issued a *Request for Development Proposals* for educator rental housing on October 3, 2017. Six months later, MOHCD awarded development rights for the project to MidPen Housing in April 2018. It then took MidPen another seven

Cont. p. 5

DEPT. OF JOURNALISM

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August 19



JOUR 19: Contemporary News Media

76160 TR 9:40 – 10:55 a.m. HC 207 Gonzales

JOUR 21: News Writing and Reporting

76162 TR 11:10 – 12:55 p. HC 206 Gonzales

JOUR 22: Feature Writing

72111 T 6:30 – 9:20 p.m. 1125 Valencia St./ Rm 217 Staff

JOUR 24: Newspaper Laboratory

76882 MWF 12:10 – 1:00 p.m. Bungalow 615 Gonzales

JOUR 29A: Intro Magazine Editing & Production

78546 M 6:30 – 8:20 p.m. 1125 Valencia St./ Rm 217 Lifland

JOUR 29B: Intmd Magazine Editing & Production

78973 M 6:30 – 9:20 p.m. 1125 Valencia St./ Rm 217 Lifland

JOUR 29C: Adv Magazine Editing & Production

78974 M 6:30 – 8:20 p.m. 1125 Valencia St./ Rm 217 Lifland

JOUR 31: Internship Experience

72312 Hours ARR BNGL 615 Gonzales

JOUR 37: Intro to Photojournalism

76939 W 6:30 – 9:20 p.m. 1125 Valencia St./ Rm 217 Lifland

Questions? Call Juan Gonzales at 415-239-3446

View the online schedule at classes.ccsfjournalism.com



July 2019

Shifting SF Sports Scene... The NBA finals ended with a collective call for the medics, and the Golden State Warriors' quest for a three-peat fell short with major injuries to Kevin Durant, Klay Thompson, Kevon Looney, DeMarcus Cousins, and Andre Iguodala. I know it's "next man up" but it's a shame that the team couldn't have been at full strength. As they move across the Bay, back to San Francisco for 2019-2020, the team will be very different. Thompson will be out most, if not all of 2019/20 while his ACL tear mends; Durant exercised his right as a free agent to move to the Brooklyn Nets (let's see how he likes the NY media), Iggy was traded to the Memphis Grizzlies (but may end up with the LA Lakers), and Jordan Bell left for the Minnesota Timberwolves. GSW did resign Looney for 3 years. There will be players to fill the roster spots, but the fun and chemistry of the last 4-5 years is gone forever. It was a great run and a fun time for all Bay Area basketball fans.



A shout out to Gary... Radio giant KNBR also shuffled their roster, dropping bay-area sports -talk icon Gary Radnich after 30 plus years at the station, as well as afternoon host Bob Fitzgerald, also a veteran of three decades. Radnich, who lives in District 7, was a giant in both TV (KRON) and radio (KNBR) concurrently for over 36 years. Regardless of how the decision was made to start his retirement, we applaud his brilliant career, his ability to interact with everyday callers, and his ability to not take things too seriously. We wish him well and hope to see him "Around the Town." And Gary: "We all cared!"

Money for the City... Per the Office of the Assessor-Recorder, San Francisco's property tax base has expanded significantly over the past few years. At a cumulative value of \$271 billion, the total secured roll value represents an increase of 35% compared to three years ago.

There are over 211,000 parcels in the City and County of San Francisco and the Office of the Assessor-Recorder is responsible for establishing a taxable value for all property. The secured property roll is a summary of the assessed value of all real property owned in San Francisco. The office estimates that 16% of the total secured roll growth was attributed to property transfers, 51% to construction activities, and 33% to annual inflationary increases under Proposition 13 (1978).

Property taxes represents approximately one-third of San Francisco's General Fund revenues, supporting local services such as public safety, health, social and neighborhood services. Each year, the Office of the Assessor-Recorder submits roll data to the Office of the Controller for certification. After certification, the Office of the Controller will transmit the data with the Office of the Treasurer-Tax Collector, the agency responsible for preparing and mailing out property tax bills to owners in October.

The SF Arboretum is Celebrating 140 years and will feature a "Botanicals and Brews Beer Garden" on the Third Friday of each month, continuing to November, from 6:30 to 11pm. Botanicals and Brews beer garden is back for another round of local craft breweries and an after-hours look into the world of tropical plants. Explore monthly themes with live music from local artists and exclusively prepared brews on select evenings. For an added thrill, experience a guided flight by expert craft beer makers in our Master Brewer session.

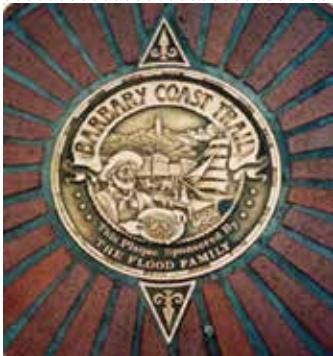
New! Six beer garden nights. Each one not to be missed. Enjoy access to the complete 2019 series with the Six Pack Pass

Like SF History?... The SF Historical Society has several events from July – November:

Barbary Coast Trail® Tours Follow a 3.7-mile urban trail through the historic core of San Francisco. As the "Instant City" grew from a few hundred residents to a bustling city of thousands in just four tumultuous years. Hear the stories of the colorful characters who made San Francisco a city like no other. Saturday mornings at 10 am.

- Part I - **Silver Strikes, Earthquakes, and Lion Dancers** covers Market Street, Union Square, and Chinatown and will be offered on Aug. 7, and Oct. 5.
- Part II - **Gold Rushers, Shanghaier, and Jazz Dancers** covers Portsmouth Square, Jackson Square, and Barbary Coast offered on Aug. 24, and Oct. 19.
- Part III - **Hipsters, Paesani, and Semaphore Hill** covers North Beach, Washington Square, and Telegraph Hill and will be offered on July 13, Sep. 7, and Nov. 2.

Cont. p. 12



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SB 360 : California STYLE Confessions?

By: Former Supervisor Tony Hall

Warning: This article is NOT intended to defend the past practices of any religious organization in their handling of abuse cases among their clergy, but to illustrate yet another intrusion by our government representatives into the private lives and freedoms of individual citizens. Although the content of this article deals with the sacrament of confession in the Catholic Church, it should be of utmost interest to anyone who values individual liberty and freedom as guaranteed by our Constitution and our Bill of Rights.

In a direct assault on religious freedom, the California state Senate on May 23, 2019 voted overwhelmingly to require Catholic priests to violate the seal of the confessional.

By a 30-4 vote, the Senate passed SB360, requiring Catholic priests to report to civil authorities when a penitent confesses to sexual abuse of a minor.

It is important to note that clergy in California are already required to report knowledge or suspicion of child abuse to authorities. Penitential conversations like sacramental confession are exempted, as are other kinds of privileged conversations, including those covered by attorney-client privilege.

The bill's sponsor, California state Senator Jerry Hill (D-CA13) claimed "the clergy-penitent privilege has been abused on a large scale, resulting in the unreported and systemic abuse of thousands of children across multiple denominations and faiths." He cites no cases where abuse has taken place as a result of a priest not disclosing what he heard in the confessional, but is basing his argument on an assumption that the priest should act as an agent of the state, and not that as a conduit to the Lord's mercy while hearing confessions.

Hill needs to review the reasons why we have separation of church and state, and the First Amendment of the United States Constitution. Despite his good intentions, and the unfortunate despicable behavior of some men in collars, Hill's bill is undeniably an incursion by government into the protected religious freedoms of not only the Catholic faith, but of all denominations

Many people, including Catholics, misunderstand the sacrament of confession. Confessions are mostly anonymous. In many cases, the priest and penitent are separated by a door or veil. The point is for the penitent to open up about a burden or a sin or a regret, and to come to terms with it spiritually. Catholics enter into confession as a sign of faith, trust that God's grace is at work, and that it is a path to begin to atone for one's sins. Confession is sacrosanct, according to Catholic teaching, because it is communication between the penitent and God.

According to Church law, a priest is automatically excommunicated if he reveals the contents of a confession.

"In the context of Confession, the priest, we hold, is operating in the very person of Christ, and therefore, the penitent is



speaking to and hearing from the Lord himself, and absolutely nothing should stand in the way of a sinner who seeks this type of redemption."

The act of confession is between man and his maker and is in no way intended to be co-mingled with, or utilized by the state as evidence in the judicial process or substitute for trial by man's peers.

Hearings on the SB360 have not presented a single case — in California or anywhere else — where crimes of abuse could have been prevented if a priest had disclosed information he had heard in confession.

If penitents themselves report being abused, they are generally asked to discuss the matter with the priest-confessor immediately after confession has ended. When such conversations take place after confession, clergy members in California are already required by law to report them.

The bill is not the first time Hill has taken issue with internal Church practices. In 2015 he signed a letter urging San Francisco's Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone to end an archdiocesan requirement that Catholic school teachers live in accord with the moral teachings of the Catholic Church. Hill justified his letter by stating that he thought the requirement had "a divisive tone, which stands in stark contrast to the values that define the Bay Area and its history." Who is kidding whom here?

The right to confidential religious communications has been recognized in Western legal traditions for centuries. The sacrament of confession is understood within Catholic teaching to be a revelation to God of sins, and confession is kept absolutely confidential in order to ensure that no penitent is discouraged from making use of the sacrament.

SB360 would be a striking reversal of long-standing legal precedent preceding even the foundation of the United States. California would be the first to explicitly revoke religious confidentiality while keeping protection for other kinds of confidential conversations in place.

Articles by Tony Hall can be viewed at: Tonyhallarchives.wordpress.com

Ruminations From a Former Supervisor by Quentin Kopp

Poet Paul Valery declared in the *Los Angeles Times* last month: "Politics is the art of preventing people from taking part in affairs which properly concern them." San Francisco voters face an important election regarding the rule of law on November 5, 2019. The incumbent District Attorney, a 2011 political appointee who, while admitted to the State Bar of California, has never tried a case in a courtroom, won't seek another term. There are now four choices: the two best with genuine experience in criminal law and belief in law enforcement are Leif Dautch and Nancy Tung. The two worst are Deputy Public Defender Chesa Boudin, a champion of illegal immigration which results in more work for public defenders at taxpayer expense, and Suzy Loftus, the City Hall establishment favorite, weaned on the public trough as the Sheriff's attorney, who doesn't prosecute crimes.



Chesa Boudin

Leif Dautch

Suzy Loftus

Nancy Tung

Dautch, a four-year veteran of the San Francisco District Attorney's office and Harvard Law School graduate, is now a Deputy Attorney General in San Francisco, trying cases the State Attorney General must prosecute because of a conflicted county prosecutor. Tung, a one-time San Francisco Deputy District Attorney, has been an Alameda County Deputy District Attorney for several years, realizing that office constitutes the second best district attorney's office in the nine-county Bay Area, exceeded in results only by the San Mateo County District Attorney, Steve Wagstaffe.

Dautch neatly observes about prosecutorial failures of the incumbent District Attorney and the candidacy of a Deputy Public Defender, that San Francisco "doesn't need two public defenders."

Loftus last month wrote a mind-boggling column in *The San Francisco Examiner* that she would reverse the sorry record of the current District Attorney in failing to pursue sexual violence cases like rape and assault. Her bromide includes mental health, social services, and "crisis lines . . . community-based services, and protective orders." She eschews "increasing rates of conviction" as solving an asserted sexual violence epidemic in San Francisco. She is afraid to identify the inept incumbent District Attorney as responsible for failures to prosecute sexual violence cases. She informs people she was president of the San Francisco Police Commission. That's true; ask San Francisco police officers their opinion of her tenure. Proof is in the pudding: the Police Officers Association refuses to endorse her candidacy.

Meanwhile, the forgiveness of gross receipts taxes of billion dollar technology companies on Market Street has resulted in more wealth for corporate executives, but hasn't changed upper Market Street to a desirable place to walk. Now customary homeless persons still occupy sidewalks and illegally cross Market Street, deposit excrement, and beg for alms from those brave enough to traverse the area. Every generation of politicians, including the current bunch of majority "progressive" Board of Supervisors members, has to learn you don't build a desirable city

Public financing doesn't shrink the influence of large campaign contributions through independent expenditure committees. It doesn't reduce campaign spending (see Mayor London Breed's 2018 expenditures of \$2,251,065).

(or county or state) by cutting deals with business barons to abolish or decrease tax responsibilities in return for locating here. It's not only San Francisco; three months ago, New York City's leaders finally decided not to give Amazon \$3,000,000,000 in corporate welfare and billionaire socialism for building a new headquarters across the East River from Manhattan in Long Island City. The San Francisco tax cut for billionaires ends this year, fortunately. As noted in *The Wall Street Journal*, such political giveaways are based upon "a pernicious theory of civic welfare that presumes private development is New York's primary goal, the truest measure of urban vitality and health, with money

the city's only real currency."

This year also resulted in City Hall, through the Ethics Commission, changing San Francisco's public financing system by using a 6-to-1 "matching rate," meaning taxpayer money to candidate-raised money from private sources. Spending over \$1,000,000 of your tax money this year on worthless candidates (and more next year) represents a failed proposition, namely, giving fervent politicians tax revenue to propagate their campaigns reduces overall campaign spending. Public financing doesn't shrink the influence of large campaign contributions through independent expenditure committees. It doesn't reduce campaign spending (see Mayor London Breed's 2018 expenditures of \$2,251,065). It doesn't reduce advantages of incumbency. It's false public policy at taxpayer expense. Yet San Francisco, Los Angeles, and other charter law cities in California pursue the Holy Grail.

Fortunately, state law because of a voter initiative written by the late State Senator Ross Johnson, a Republican, Senator Joe Montoya, a Democrat, and me, an Independent, in 1988 prohibits all 460 general law cities from public financing of local campaigns for public office.

Remember late Louisiana U.S. Senator Russell D. Long's 1986 wisdom: "A tax loophole is something that benefits the other guy. If it benefits you, it is tax reform."

Former Supervisor and Judge, Quentin Kopp lives in District 7.

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A New Approach to Homelessness

By John Farrell

First: Let's admit there is a problem. The City's current approach to homelessness isn't working. Jeff Kositsky, the Director of the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing, reports that the new homeless numbers are bad. The number of homeless in our City has increased by 17% since 2017 despite our City's efforts creating hundreds of new beds and spending over \$300 million on homelessness annually, not including the costs of City services such as Police, Fire, Public Works, and Public Health Department.

Even though Mayor Breed plans to open more shelter beds and permanent supportive housing by the end of this year, 75% of our City residents believe homelessness has gotten worse since 2017 per a Controller's survey. Further there is a homeless surge at SFO as increasing numbers of homeless people are going to the International Terminal seeking shelter.

Second: Be compassionate. When my grandmother passed away in 1987 her last words were "Take care of the poor." She lived through the Depression and had a tough life but always smiled and was positive. She had wonderful sayings and one was "Never judge a person until you have walked in their shoes." How I miss her.

Many of us are broken at sometime in our lives. Luckily many of us have had someone there to pick us up. We need to be there for those who don't. Frederick Douglas put it the best, "It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men."

"We need to audit the current \$300 million annually spent on homeless services ...We need to put homeless service providers on alert that we are going to make them accountable and justify their funding. No more feeding at the trough."

Our homeless are broken. We look away when we see them. What if that was your brother, sister, mom, dad, friend, etc. In God's eyes, that is your brother and sister.

Third: We need to reevaluate our current programs and formulate a game plan for the future. Mr. Kositsky said "for every person who exits homelessness, three fall into it." Since our City has no rules and homeless can come and do as they please, we need to enforce our quality of life laws while providing services, especially to mentally ill and drug-addicted people.

We need to look at viable alternatives and successful programs. For example, Providence, Rhode Island has a successful program that saves lives and helps drug addicts. The "Medication Assisted Treatment" (MAT) program. First, they enforce their laws. Drug dealers and people who steal and commit crimes to get their drugs end up in a correction facility. Every day at the facility these individuals in the MAT program line up to get their medication. There are three opioid blockers (Methadone, Suboxone and Vivitrol) that are FDA approved and work to get people off heroin and save lives. The inmates choose what blocker they want to use. These blockers stabilize them physically to handle the emotional work needed to address the disease of drug addiction. MAT provides

2008, LHH cut its SNF beds to 780. The City knew there was a shortfall in SNF beds, and instead of building more and ensuring LHH rebuilt the 1200 as approved by the voters, the City reduced SNFs. This needs to be revisited and more SNFs need to be made available for our aging society.

Fourth: The City must stop spending like a drunken sailor and cut the waste. Over the past several years our City has flourished and our tax revenues have increased substantially due to tourism and the tech industry, and as buildings continue to go up like crazy. The Mayor's budget is \$12 billion, which is \$1 billion more than it was last year.

We need to audit the current \$300 million annually spent on homeless services, including all those provided by our City departments. We need to utilize these resources more effectively and efficiently, to eliminate those that are not cost effective and to reallocate funds to those homeless programs that are justified. We need to put homeless service providers on alert that we are going to make them accountable and justify their funding. No more feeding at the trough.

I am a private citizen and I am not running for any public office. Like many of you, I just want to resolve our homeless situation. We need to look at other alternatives now. I don't have all the answers but I do know that if a program such as MAT works, than don't reinvent the wheel. Let's see what we can do to implement the MAT program here. If you agree, contact the Mayor and Supervisors to look into the program. If you have other suggestions to address our homeless crisis, let me know. Hopefully, together we can turn this around.

John Farrell Broker/Real Estate, MBA, Former Assistant Assessor - Budget & Special Projects, Westside resident - farrellreinvestments@yahoo.com



By Julie Casson



Patient Abuse Scandal (Cont. from p. 1)

The staff memo, a follow-up Press Release¹ and a City Hall Press Conference were carefully crafted, placing abuses in the past and delivering remedies. These include the resignations of CEO Mivic Hirose and Quality Management Director Regina Gomez - both nurses, along with the firings of 6 unidentified staff members. Wellness checks for impacted patients, family notifications, and retraining of staff in preventing and reporting abuses were implemented. An Acting CEO has been appointed; Margaret Rykowsky, RN, Director of the DPH Office of Compliance and Privacy Affairs. She is a retired US Navy Reserve Rear Admiral with the Nurse Corps who previously served as Patient Safety Officer at SFGH and oversaw Laguna Honda's Health at Home program. Within 60 days, Rykowsky will present a Laguna Honda "Turn-Around Plan" to the Health Commission and the Mayor's Office.

So far, all that is known about the scandal is what the DPH has reported. It's telling that Mayor London Breed referred to "horrible actions". A more granular analysis will emerge from an investigation pursued by the California Department of



Former Quality Director
Regina Gomez

Public Health. Supervisor Norman Yee is seeking additional public and professional testimony via a hearing before the Board's Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee. The Westside Observer will examine the root causes of the scandal and welcomes confidential input from Laguna Honda employees.

Perhaps the most disturbing aspect of these violations is that they were discovered by accident - during an unrelated Human Resources investigation this January. Nobody reported the shocking misconduct. Why no whistleblowers? Director Colfax made an accurate diagnosis when he identified a "culture of silence" at Laguna Honda. By allowing abuses to fester, this institutional silence has not only harmed patients but unfairly shamed the many dedicated workers who care for patients with skill and compassion.

Dr. Derek Kerr was a senior physician at Laguna Honda Hospital where he was fired for repeatedly exposing wrongdoing by the Department of Public Health. Contact: DerekOnVanNess@aol.com

1. www.sfdph.org/dph/files/newsMediadocs/2019PR/PR-LagunaHondaPatientCare.pdf

The Department of the Environment

Climate Emergency Hearing

SF City Hall, Room 250
Monday, July 22nd, 1:30 pm

The Department of the Environment's critical report on the Climate Emergency is scheduled to be released at the Land Use and Transportation Committee, and public comment is welcome..

Supervisor Mandelman has called for the public hearing to discuss the report and possible high-priority strategies to achieve deep greenhouse gas emission reductions by 2030, which is when UN scientists say emissions will need to be lowered to 45% or less.

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THE SPHINX SPEAKS.

Breaking his two-year vow of silence, Special Counsel, professional Boy Scout and part time monk, Robert S. Mueller III, took time from his busy schedule of transitioning to the public sector and spoke to the country for almost ten whole minutes. And we were honored.

Part of the thrill is to finally know what the man sounds like, as this was the first time he's spoken to the press since his appointment. Too bad we can't say the same thing about the major subject of his investigation.

It's pretty obvious the hastily arranged press conference was designed to keep Democrats from calling Mueller to testify on Capitol Hill about his investigation. He just wanted to remind, we the people, of the report's salient points. And the fact that the Attorney General, William Barr was out of town probably didn't hurt.

Mueller knows that most of America would rather dive into a piranha tank wearing a raw meat bathing suit than slog through the 448 pages of his investigative gobbley-gook so he grasped this opportunity to give the world the Reader's Digest Condensed Version, highlighting the sticky bits.

He maintains the report is his testimony and there is nothing else to add, at all, ever. In other words, he asks the questions pard'ner, he don't answer them. Which is fine, because Bob Mueller is not the most colorful speaker in the world. The man is so dry, when he talks, little puffs of dust fly out of his mouth.

It was never a fair fight. Robert Mueller is the ultimate 'by the book' guy who believes in playing by the rules. Whereas Donald Trump believes the rules are meant to be broken and has never read a book.

A particular phrase from the report was emphasized, "if we had confidence the president didn't commit a crime we would have said so." Boom, there it is. The essence of the whole thing condensed to a single

"...there is nothing else to add, at all, ever. In other words, he asks the questions pard'ner, he don't answer them."

line. Too complicated for you? He said if they thought the president was innocent, they would have said so. But they didn't say so. Ergo...

He also said Donald Trump's conduct warrants an investigation, which he wasn't able to do, because of a justice department policy that prohibits charging a sitting president with a crime. If he could have, he would have, but he couldn't, so he didn't and there you go, Congress. No pressure.

They're still deciding whether to subpoena Mueller to testify in front of Congress, but the former FBI Director's desire to sit in front of a doubly hostile crowd of half angry Democrats and half angry Trumpsters appears to be between zero and you-got-to-be-freaking-kidding.

Mueller doesn't want to testify. The Attorney General refuses to co-operate. Nobody from the administration is turning over requested documents. The White

House is expanding executive privilege to pizza delivery orders. Congressional Democrats must be developing a complex.

Responding to the sideshow, the president tweeted "I had nothing to do with the Russians helping me win the election." Oops. Then he said that wasn't what he meant and people are picking on his every word. Well, yeah. You're the guy in charge. Every word matters. Perhaps this is just one more reason why, traditionally, the presidency has not been an entry-level position.

Copyright © 2019, Will Durst. Will Durst is an award-winning, nationally acclaimed comedian, columnist, and former movie reviewer for the UWM Post. For past columns, commentaries and calendar of personal appearances: willdurst.com.



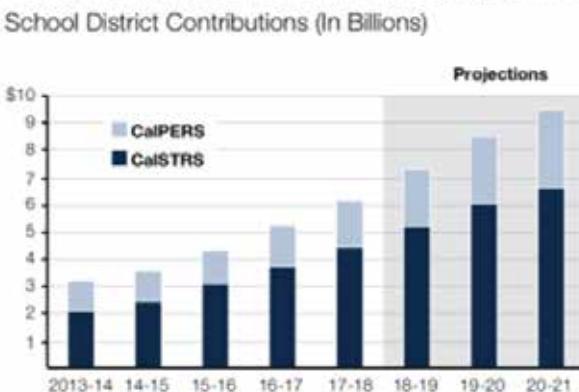
Schools and Money: Some Basics

There is a loud chorus of advocates calling for more money for schools. And rightly so. Even with the largest education budget in the history, local schools are struggling to keep afloat. The reasons are many.

a lot more money to support these pensions. The chart below from the California Legislative Analyst shows how much this has grown. In just 7 years, those costs have gone from about \$3 billion to nearly \$10 billion. BILLION.¹

This means that despite schools get-

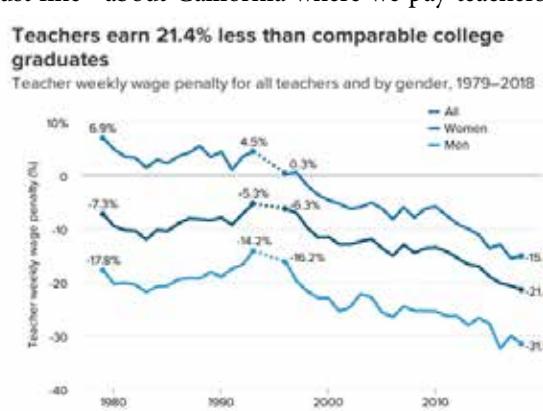
District Pension Costs Are Growing Notably



ting more money, education expenses are growing in this area at a faster clip. The result: less money for other important education investments.

A Perspective on Teacher Costs

Teacher weekly pay is LESS than workers with comparable education. Nationally, teachers on average earn 21.4 % less than comparable college grads. What about California where we pay teachers a



Cont. p. 8

Re-zoning (Cont. from p. 2)

months before it submitted a *Preliminary Project Assessment* (PPA) to the Planning Department on November 19, 2018. It took another four months before MidPen submitted additional applications for the project to Planning in mid-March 2019, including an *Environmental* application (ENV), a *Project Profile* (PRJ), a *Zoning Map Amendment* (MAP), and a *Planning Code Amendment* (PCA).

MidPen submitted a *General Plan Amendment* (GPA) to Planning for the project on May 1, 2019 to create a *Special Use District* for the property. So, in reality, MidPen's re-zoning application for the project has been before the Planning Department for under 60 days since May 2019, not the two-years Breed wildly claims to rationalize her citywide re-zoning of public lands.

On June 17, 2019 the Planning Department reported "No project-specific hearings or re-zoning hearings have taken place, nor have any been scheduled" by either Planning or the Board of Supervisors on MidPen's various applications.

"Against the Interest of the People"

Against this backdrop, the *San Francisco Examiner* reported² on June 15 that another housing project proposed for Balboa Reservoir is against the interests of the community.

Community members are concerned selling public land to private investors is a bad idea. Labor journalist and City College advocate Steve Zelzter said:

"You are turning public land over to private developers — it's against the interest of the people of San Francisco. We should not trust developers to take care of our interests and needs."

Dueling Ballot Measures

News surfaced June 19 that the Elections Department received two competing

ballot measures for November dealing with re-zoning of public land: One ordinance³ submitted by Breed and a second ordinance⁴ by four Supervisors (Supervisors Peskin, Fewer, Walton, and Haney). A side-by-side comparison⁵ sheds some light on their differences.

The *Affordable Teacher Housing Program* component of Breed's proposal requires no less than two-thirds of the housing units must be deed restricted for affordable units. The other third can apparently be market-rate units (on public land re-zoned). That's essentially a giveaway to Senator Wiener's and Breed's developer friends and campaign donors, and amounts to awarding public lands to DIMBY's (*Developers Invading Municipal Back Yards*).

Inexplicably, Breed's measure prohibits building both the *100% Affordable Housing* and *Affordable Teacher Housing* components in RH-1 and RH-1(D) zoned neighborhoods, portending no teacher housing would be built on the West Side.

Breed's measure contains a poison pill titled "*Conflicting Measures*," which says in the event her Ordinance and any other measure(s) regarding 100% affordable teacher housing and regulation of Public (P) zoned districts appear on the same ballot, then the other measure(s) shall "be deemed to be in conflict" and her Ordinance will prevail (provided she receives more affirmative votes), and the other measure(s) "shall be null and void in their entirety."

According to a City Hall source who spoke on condition of anonymity, the Supervisors "only saw the Mayor's proposal" the night before she submitted it to Elections. The source noted:

"I think the Supervisors were clear in their statements ... that they would prefer to do this work legislatively at the Board. But given that the Mayor has refused to sit down

with the Legislative branch about any of her [three ballot measure] proposals, this [dueling measure] creates space to negotiate and work toward a compromise."

Breed prefers to work by fiat.

If a single compromise measure is reached between the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors, they have until August 2 to submit a consolidated measure to Elections.

The best course of action would be to withdraw both competing measures from the ballot, and continue the current practice of having the Board of Supervisors hear re-zoning applications on a project-by-project basis, allowing robust public debate on the merits and impacts of housing developments on affected neighborhoods.

Disconnect on Number of Parcels

The *Chronicle's* April 24 article noted Breed's re-zoning measure would affect "about" 500 parcels zoned for public use that currently prohibit building residential housing.

In June 2018, the Planning Department provided a list of 930 parcels zoned as "Public (P)" by various Assessor "Use Types." Weirdly, the list didn't include a category for "Recreation and Parks" properties. Well over two-thirds of the 930 Public parcels are not vacant land on which the City can build affordable housing.

Nine parcels are our public hospitals at SFGH and Laguna Honda Hospital, which represent just 0.98% of the 930 parcels that we should reserve for medical facilities, rather than housing, in the future.

If there is going to be a re-zoning carve-out exempting Rec and Park property, there should also be a carve-out exempting "P" parcels with an Assessor's "Use Type" of hospitals, too.

Laguna Honda Hospital Land Grab

Healthcare advocates placed Prop. D

on the June 2006 ballot to re-zone LHH's campus for only elderly and disabled San Franciscans. Opponents launched a meritless and brutal disinformation campaign, falsely claiming developers were engaging in a land grab to hand over LHH's campus to private developers. The ensuing hysteria sank Prop. D, which voters rejected.

Ironically, Breed now wants voters to approve re-zoning all public parcels (except parks) to hand over to private developers.

The *Westside Observer* reported⁶ in July 2018 Supervisor Yee began pitching a proposal to MOHCD in March 2018 to build a six-story building with up to 160 units of senior housing on LHH's campus, with a full spectrum for those who need assisted living, skilled nursing, and independent living options.

MOHCD's director, Kate Hartley, shot Yee down, flatly claiming LHH's site "wasn't big enough." Hartley also noted LHH's campus is a Public (P) parcel that prohibits residential housing.

Yee tried again in December 2018, proposing a significantly larger "Life Care Facility" for LHH's campus. That proposal was shot down, too.

Obviously, if LHH's site is "too small" it shouldn't be re-zoned to build market-rate teacher housing on the property!

Secondarily, LHH has worked with community partners to develop hiking trails on LHH's campus, such that its recreational land should also be exempt. The *Laguna Honda Community Trail* project sponsored by San Francisco Urban Riders⁷ has been improving and restoring over two miles of historic multi-use trails at LHH since 2017, funded in part by Supervisor Yee's District 7 Participatory Budget.

Vote No!

Breed and the Board of Supervisors need to clean house streamlining other

Cont. p. 9

— Taraval Station Community Meeting —

Tuesday, June 18 • 6 pm – 7 pm at Taraval Police Station • taraval.org

**TARAVAL STATION Crime Report**

Summer is upon us, kids are out of school, back home from school and many adults, parents or not, are taking time off work and dreaming of sunny summer vacations. Apparently Mark Twain once said "the coldest winter I ever spent was a summer in San Francisco." With vacations in mind it's important to protect your residences while you are away. Try not to make it obvious that no one is home. Don't let newspapers, mail or package deliveries pile up til you're home and don't leave garbage cans out while everyone else has taken their's in. Put a lamp on a timer so it turns on intermittently so it looks like someone is home. These are just some of the tell-tale signs that opportunistic thieves and burglars are looking for.

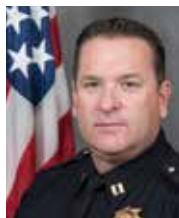
Look out for each other and let your neighbors know when you're away so they can keep an eye out for any suspicious activity. Contact your building security, homeowners association, neighborhood watch groups and friends and family you trust and let them know about your plans. Also be aware that social media posts for everyone to see that you're not at home have come back to bite some people be aware of what you post and if it is public or private. It's fun to share your vacation experiences, but be aware it may present a risk if circulated with too much detail.

The 4th of July is also around the corner and I want to remind everyone that all fireworks—including "safe and sane" are illegal in San Francisco. There have been past incidents of illegal and dangerous fireworks displays in our neighborhoods please don't be part of that and if you see something dangerous just call 911. Also a new tip line has been set up using email, if

you observe any activity where you think there could be any activity related to illegal fireworks sales you can report you concerns to SFPD.fireworks@sfgov.org and we will check it out. Officers throughout the city will be out in the neighborhoods on the 4th taking enforcement action.

Traffic enforcement is an ongoing thing and Vision Zero is always something the Police Dept will focus on. Officers will continue to engage in traffic enforcement operations at different locations in the Taraval District, we call it Focus on the Five. The five intersections with the most accidents are identified through data from our records and then enforcement operations are conducted. Drive safely, look out for each other, have a safe 4th of July and an enjoyable summer.

Follow me on Twitter at @SFPDTaraval f and go to Taraval.org for much more information on crimes tips, traffic safety, home safety and much more.

**Saturday | June 1****Battery**

6:47 pm | 200 Winston Dr

A man was eating dinner when a suspect, who was speaking in nonsense words, approached suddenly punched him, then walked away.

Shoplifting with Force – Arrested

11:30 pm | 2200 Taraval St

Officers reviewed the security footage of an incident they had previously investigated and recognized the suspect as a person with a known history. They located the suspect, who was arrested.

Sunday | June 2**Vandalism to Vehicle – Arrested**

6:50 pm | Quintara St & 14th Ave

A witness said the suspect was trying to get on the MUNI but did not press the button to open the doors. The suspect began to rip the windshield wipers off the bus. The suspect was arrested.

Robbery

5:54 pm | 19th Ave & Holloway Ave

A woman reported that five suspects had started yelling at her and other nearby passengers, to give up their seats to them while they were on a MUNI. She told them she was getting off at the next stop but one of them started to punch and kick her, causing her wallet and phone to fall from her backpack, which they grabbed, and fled.

Monday | June 3**Resisting Arrest – Battery of Police Officer**

7:15 pm | 2600 Ocean Ave

A man said he was standing in front of a bank when the suspect suddenly shoved him, then walked away. Officers located the suspect, but he ignored instructions to stop. He resisted being handcuffed, causing mild injuries to the officers, and after further investigation, he was cited.

Tuesday | June 4**Robbery**

7:03 pm | 300 Vernon St

was on probation. The owner of the vehicle confirmed it had been stolen. Due to the age of the driver, he was cited.

Embezzlement – Arrested

9:28 am | 200 Winston Ave

A lost prevention agent told officers he saw the suspect taking money out of the register. Further, he discovered that \$2000 dollars was missing from the suspect's register over seven days. Security video corroborated and the suspect was arrested.

Saturday | June 8**Battery**

5:01 pm | 600 Capitol Ave

The victim was playing basketball against the suspect, who was pushing him hard, then suddenly punched him in the face. The suspect then walked away.

Sunday | June 9**Hit & run – DUI – Warrant Arrest**

8:43 pm | Holloway Ave

The victim told officers the suspect hit a car before he hit his car and then ran off on foot. A witness confirmed that the driver ran a stop sign and collided with a car in the intersection, then hit a parked car. Officers found the suspect, who appeared confused and made incoherent statements — frequently symptoms of narcotics. A check revealed a warrant for his arrest. He was arrested.

Threats – Battery of a Police Officer

5:04 pm | 00 Byxbee St

Officers deployed pepper spray on the suspect of a reported fight, when he was very aggressive and refused to comply with orders, swinging his arms and hitting the officers. He was handcuffed and after further investigation, arrested.

Monday | June 10**Shoplifting – Possession of Stolen Property**

5:28 pm | 1600 Ocean Ave

After a known shoplifter had just exited a Walgreens, responding officers on their way to the store recognized him at a MUNI platform. When asked, he said the items in his backpack were purchased from Safeway, despite their Walgreen labels. After determining the items were stolen from Walgreens, the suspect was cited.

Shoplifting – Warrant Arrest – Arrested

12:58 pm | 200 West Portal Ave

The merchant said a man came into the store and stole two bags of produce. When officers found him a check revealed a warrant for his arrest, and he was arrested.

Tuesday | June 11**Robbery**

8:14 pm | 00 Lee Ave

A woman said she was walking home when she noticed that she was being followed. Shortly afterwards, somebody pushed her down, grabbed her coin purse and fled.

Firearm in Vehicle – Arrested

3:56 am | 00 Chumasero Dr

Officers noticed a car previously used in

a crime involving a gun. It was occupied by two people and a gun was in plain view. They detained the occupants and a search found an illegal, high capacity magazine. A check on the gun revealed that it was stolen. The driver was arrested.

Trespassing – Warrant Arrest – Arrested

2:00 am | 00 Plaza St

When a trespasser was reported inside the plaza, officers found the suspect walking around without any pants, waving a stick around. The suspect was arrested.

Wednesday | June 12**Robbery with Force on School Grounds**

4:12 pm | 2200 14th Ave

A student said he was approached by another student, the suspect, who told him to give him money or he would hurt him. He refused and the suspect punched him in the stomach.

Robbery with Force

12:55 am | 19th Ave & Judah St

A man was at a MUNI stop when he saw the suspect exit his car, from across the street, walked towards him, point at him and said "that's him" before grabbing his shirt and necklace and punching him. The suspect then left with his necklace.

Battery

1:47 pm | 300 Faxon St

Officers respond to a report of a battery. A woman said her mother in law struck her in the face, then took her cell phone and erased something that was on it before an argument ensued.

Thursday | June 13**Trespassing – Cited/Arrested**

6:57 am | 3200 20th Ave

A trespasser refused to leave the property even though he was warned that he was not welcome there. Officers cited him. He returned at 1 pm and he was then arrested.

Attempted Robbery with Force

4:13 pm | 22nd Ave & Noriega St

The driver stopped at a stop sign to let a man cross the street, but he suddenly banged on her hood and demanded she give him the car. He tried to open the car door, but walked away and boarded a nearby bus when he found it was locked.

Friday | June 14**Robbery with a Gun**

9:40 am | 1800 Ocean Ave

A man was sitting on the passenger side of his car when a suspect broke the window on the driver's side, unlocked the door and stole his wallet and iPhone in the car. When he confronted the suspect, who had a gun in one hand and a knife or screwdriver in the other, as he was taking items from the trunk, he pushed him and fled to a waiting car.

Carrying a Concealed Weapon – Arrested

12:26 pm | Orizaba Ave & Sadowsa St

A suspect was reported walking around

*Cont. p. 7***HAIR SALON & BARBER SHOP****A Sterling Salon**

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Utilities Watch**C'est la vie PG&E**

by Steve Lawrence

Will SFPUC kick PG&E out of town? With PG&E in bankruptcy it's possible. Both mayor and Board of Supervisors have directed SFPUC (water, sewer, power) to investigate acquiring PG&E's City infrastructure, and report.

A preliminary report to the mayor is in. It fails to answer all of her questions, but is a start. The report identifies three levels of involvement from which to choose.

First, background: Just a couple of years ago PG&E was the main provider throughout the City. There were exceptions. Hetch Hetchy powered City Hall, General Hos-

CleanPowerSF buys and generates, and supplies to the grid as much electricity as its customers take from the grid; PG&E too.

Now, with PG&E's bankruptcy, the idea is for CleanPowerSF to supply possibly all of the electricity used in the City, and to take over the lines and distribution facil-

“So what’s the problem? What will it cost? SFPUC doesn’t know: “a few billion dollars” to buy PG&E assets. In what condition are these assets? Unknown. How difficult would it be to integrate the PG&E assets with City facilities? Unknown...

pital, MUNI, the Port and airport. PG&E distribution lines were used.

A couple of years ago, with the advent of SFPUC's CleanPowerSF, the City began supplanting PG&E. Homes and businesses, not just municipal customers, were enrolled. PG&E does still distribute the power over its lines, and bills. CleanPowerSF generates, buys and supplies cleaner electricity.

Electric power comes from the grid. The origin of any electron that lights up your light is unknown. It's an accounting thing.

Police Report (Cont. from p. 6)

with a machete that he used to cut down a tree. When ordered to drop the machete, he complied and a search found nunchucks and throwing knives. The suspect was arrested.

Saturday | June 15**Burglary Tools – Weapon – Arrested**

7:19 am | 1100 Ulloa St

A witness saw the suspect breaking into a neighbor's car. Officers found him and a search revealed pepper spray and tools commonly used to break into vehicles, and that he was on probation for assault. The suspect was arrested.

Sunday | June 16**Resisting Arrest – Under the Influence – Trespassing**

4:00 am | 1300 38th Ave

The victim said an ex-boyfriend had broken into the garage after repeatedly ringing the doorbell. Officers found and handcuffed him, though he refused orders. After investigation, he was arrested.

Investigative Detention

8:05 pm | 200 Miramar Ave

When officers saw a suspicious car, a check revealed that had been involved in numerous auto burglaries. They stopped and identified the driver, then towed the vehicle.

Tuesday | June 18**Theft from a Vehicle – Stolen Property**

12:45 pm | 3900 Alemany Blvd

When officers arrived, the found a reported car burglar in an argument with a victim, then three additional victims came forward and said their cars had also been burglarized. A search of the suspect revealed property belonging to the victims. The suspect was arrested.

Wednesday | June 19**Battery – Cited**

7:43 pm | 1100 Ocean Ave

A security guard saw a suspect taking merchandise from the store. When he confronted him an argument ensued and he hit the guard in the face. The suspect was cited.

Saturday | June 22**Homicide**

8:00 am

A man said he received a text message from the suspect saying he had killed his girlfriend. Officers found the deceased

full-takeover, but the first among them is to take control and be in the driver's seat in the City's effort to be greenhouse gas free by 2030. Lacking control of electrical facilities is a path to failure, implies the report. PG&E is roundly disparaged as well: unsafe, unreliable, uncooperative, etc. Seventy percent of San Franciscans are said to favor kicking the bums out.

So what's the problem? What will it cost? SFPUC doesn't know: "a few billion dollars" to buy PG&E assets. In what condition are these assets? Unknown. How difficult would it be to integrate the PG&E assets with City facilities? Unknown, but there is a shortage of electrical workers. How difficult will it be to hire skilled workers given SF's housing and cost of living?

The upshot is: the matter needs more study. Stand by.

###

Last month this space raised an alarm concerning the largest active SFPUC project: the \$1.3 billion bio-solids digesters, part of the \$7 billion Sewer System Improvement Program (SSIP). The digesters are located in Bayview and will be the heart of sewage treatment. Digesters are big tanks. They will be half in the ground and half above, about 65 feet tall above ground. Sewage is separated into "solids" and water; digesters take the solids. Bugs eat (digest) the sewage, then die; the resulting sludge is disinfected and hauled off for fertilizer.

New digesters (the old ones from the Fifties are beyond their useful life) were to be completed in 2024, but now, with a year's

ties that have long been maintained by PG&E. Workers at those facilities, and on those lines, would no longer be riding in PG&E trucks; they would be City workers.

Returning to the three levels identified in the report, the first option is to very modestly increase City involvement in providing power -- essentially the do-nothing option bureaucrats routinely trot out and reject. The second is a targeted increase in distribution. The third, serious option, is full takeover.

Many reasons are advanced for

victim and detained the suspect, as he attempted to leave the building. He was arrested. This case is being investigated by the Homicide Unit.

Monday | June 24**Attempted Robbery**

8:35 pm | 2200 Irving St

When the suspect asked a woman to use her phone, she suspected he was going to take it, so she started to record the incident when he pulled on her purse. She retained her purse with the help of a witness and the suspect fled.

Attempted Homicide – Arrested

9:26 pm | 19th Ave & Sloat Blvd

A man was on his scooter on the sidewalk when the suspect, who was sweating profusely, brandished a knife and attempted to stab him with it, then crossed the street to get away from him. Officers him and a search revealed a switchblade. He was arrested.

Battery

12:34 pm | 3200 20th Ave

A restaurant worker heard a man knocking on the back door to gain entry, saying he was there to fix something. The worker told him to use the front door. At the front door, he was unable to provide an ID or information and hit the victim with a binder before fleeing.

Tuesday | June 25**Robbery**

9:38 am | 900 Judah St

A woman was walking and looking at her cell phone when several suspects pulled up next to her. One got out and demanded her phone. She refused but he pulled the cell phone away from her and fled in the waiting car.

Wednesday | June 26**Robbery – Cited/Arrested**

7:31 pm | San Miguel & Mount Vernon

A woman was walking home when the suspect approached and asked what the time was. She checked on her cell phone and he tried to take it. She resisted and a second man snatched the phone from behind her. She positively identified them when officers found them, both juveniles. A check revealed that one had an arrest warrant, and he was arrested. The other was cited.

Brandishing Weapon

12:03 am | Garfield St & Bright St

A caller told officers that a man with a gun.

delay, 2025, and operational in 2026. The new digesters are designed to be sufficient until 2045, only twenty years.

Alarm was raised in this space because, right out of the starting box, the job has been delayed one year. Cost implications are yet undetermined. Is the job being drawn out to optimize profitability? That is what happened on the largest job of the soon-to-be-finished water program. Calaveras Dam more than doubled in cost and time.

Who is in charge? The unusual method of contracting used for the digesters calls for "collaboration." The foundation for the digesters is still unknown. Study continues. No one seems in charge. Decisions are easily postponed. Costs mount while decisions are deferred.

Digester construction is to start this August. Expect nominal, not substantial, work in early months.

To your bill, how important is the digesters project? Suppose it overruns as did Calaveras Dam, the largest job of the water system program. The overrun would be about \$1.5 billion. Today's annual budgets for water and sewer are almost a billion; by project midpoint, say \$1.2 billion. For thirty years the overrun would increase the average bill, now about \$115/month, by about \$4.80 in current dollars, without considering interest on debt. Added to each month's bill, with interest, perhaps \$7-8 per month (escalating from today's dollars).

Steve Lawrence is a Westside resident and SF Public Utility Commission stalwart.

customer was upset and demanded a receipt. He told him the payment system was down and he couldn't give a receipt. The suspect pushed him, then struck his face. Officers found the suspect. After further investigation, he was cited.

Robbery – Fireworks – Arrested

7:18 am | 3500 Lawton St

Obtaining information regarding a suspect involved in an earlier robbery incident, TNT officers conducted a search warrant at his home which revealed a large amount of fireworks. The suspect was arrested.

Saturday | June 29**No Driver's License – Traffic Violation**

11:36 pm | 22nd Ave & Irving St

When a car failed to stop at a stop sign, officers stopped the car and a check revealed the driver had a history of the same offense, and did not have a valid driver's license. He was cited and his vehicle was towed.

Threats – Trespassing – Arrested

8:34 pm | 20th Ave & Buckingham Way

The suspect at a Stonestown mall, was told he was no longer welcome and was told to leave. But the suspect said he had a gun and would use it. Officers found him and a check revealed five arrest warrants. The suspect was arrested.

Sunday | June 30**Possession of Narcotics – Arrested**

4:20 pm | 100 West Portal Ave

Officers saw a suspect looking up quickly before ducking behind car inside a parking lot. They approached and saw an open can of beer next to him and a bag of clothes. A computer check on the suspect revealed an arrest warrant and a search of the suspect revealed a pipe commonly used to inhale cocaine. The suspect was arrested.

Editor's Note: This is an incomplete selection of the full Crime Report. For the full report go to: taraval.org

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Award Winning News for the Neighborhood

Society of Professional Journalists, Nor Cal Chapter



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Sunset Crime Meeting (Cont. from p. 1) police stations handled residential crimes within their own districts with Neighborhood Crime Units. That system missed criminals who worked across station boundaries. Under the new system, arrests for burglaries and robberies increased from 322 in 2015 to 465 in 2018. Also, arrests increased to 16% of reported burglaries in 2018, versus 10% in prior years. Yet many Sunset residents contend that arrests are lagging while property crimes spread. The *Westside Observer* has documented¹ the unreliability of some SFPD crime statistics.

The SFPD and Sunset residents agree that package thefts are mounting and can escalate to home burglaries. However, the SFPD doesn't track package thefts as a distinct crime. Instead, they are lumped together with other thefts and classified as "larceny/theft". Without data on the incidence and demographic patterns of package thefts, the SFPD couldn't say whether Chinese residents were targeted. Despite the citywide impact of package thefts, they're still handled as low-level crimes at the station level. SFPD's focus has been public education and prevention as shown on Taraval Station's website; taraval.org.

Cristine DeBerry from the District Attorney's Office reported 16,000+ thefts in 2018. She had no data on package thefts since these were mixed into the larceny/theft category. Prosecutions are based on the value of the stolen items, so anything under \$950 is considered petty theft – a misdemeanor. Although residential burglary cases had risen from 137 in 2014 to 237 in 2018, she reported an 18% drop so far this year. In 2018, the DA filed charges in 86% of burglaries and 88% of these yielded convictions.

Kyra Worthy, director of SF SAFE (Safety Awareness for Everyone), explained how her crime prevention nonprofit partners with the SFPD to conduct free residential security surveys. SF SAFE also sets up volunteer Neighborhood Watch groups and Community Police Advisory Boards.

Frank Noto, co-founder of Stop Crime SF, described how his network of anti-crime volunteers evolved from protecting rental cars to "our homes." He said crimes targeting Asians had increased and favored making package theft a felony. This organization holds law-makers, the police, the DA, and judges accountable for crime.

Wendy Wong, SF Coalition for Good Neighborhoods, said just 4 of 140 SFPD dispatchers speak Cantonese, an obstacle to timely reporting. Chinese people are already hesitant to report crime, and weak enforcement makes this worse.

Supervisor Mar emphasized the need for

data on package thefts and victim demographics to develop better strategies. He called for increased responsiveness from the SFPD and the DA along with more outreach by SF SAFE, as well as a Sunset Town Hall meeting to gather more input.

On May 26th, 140 energized residents packed Grace Lutheran Church for a lively Town Hall meeting organized by Supervisor Mar's aide, Alan Wong. SFPD's Taraval Station distributed tips on preventing burglaries and package thefts. The handouts also showed that burglaries and robberies had fallen in May, compared to April. Mar introduced a panel of anti-crime neighborhood leaders; Amos Lim, a gay and immigration rights activist, Susan Pfeifer from the FDR Club, Wendy Wong from Coalition for Good Neighborhoods, John Zwolinski, a Neighborhood Watch block captain, and Nancy Tung from Stop Crime SF and a DA candidate. Also present was mayoral candidate Ellen Lee Zhou, running on a "make SF safe and clean" agenda.

The multitude was separated into 4 groups. Afterwards, group leaders reported results from their huddles;

- Ask SFPD to provide more patrols and track package thefts.
- SFPD should facilitate crime reporting, address language barriers and improve responsiveness.
- Increase police-community contacts to make cops more approachable and help residents understand SFPD services.
- Seek City subsidies for security cameras and alarms.
- Know your neighbors through events like Neighborfest, a City program that strengthens community networks.
- Work with SF SAFE to organize more Neighborhood Watch groups.
- Community Ambassador Program, a City job-training program providing safety escorts for elders and a visible presence.
- Use Nextdoor, a free social network for neighbors to report suspicious behaviors.

All this led Supervisor Mar to form the D-4 Public Safety Working Group. Good thing because without effective community action, crime fears intensify. Meanwhile, he has to navigate between progressive and conservative approaches to crime, as well as conflicting claims of crime abatement and a crime wave. We asked Taraval Station's Captain Nicholas Rainsford for a comment but received no response.

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[1 westsideobserver.com/news/watchdog.html#jul18a](http://westsideobserver.com/news/watchdog.html#jul18a)



Teacher Salaries (Cont. from p. 5)

bit more because of the high cost of living? The gap is still large: 16.5% Charts shows a steady decline in weekly pay over 40 years.

So, what about health care and pensions? Don't they move teacher compensation to a number above other professionals? Nope. Below is one more chart that shows you the

The teacher compensation penalty was 13.1% in 2018

Trends in the teacher compensation penalty and its components, 1979–2018

| Year(s) | W-2 wage share of compensation | | Public school teachers* | | |
|---------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | Professionals | Public school teachers* | Wage penalty | Benefits advantage** | Compensation penalty |
| 1979 | n.a. | n.a. | -7.3% | n.a. | n.a. |
| 1993 | n.a. | n.a. | -5.3% | 2.4% | -2.9% |
| 2004 | 81.3% | 79.3% | -12.0% | 2.2% | -9.8% |
| 2007 | 80.7% | 77.2% | -13.0% | 3.9% | -9.1% |
| 2010 | 79.8% | 75.6% | -13.5% | 4.8% | -8.7% |
| 2017 | 78.1% | 71.4% | -20.7% | 7.4% | -13.3% |
| 2018 | 78.5% | 70.9% | -21.4% | 8.4% | -13.1% |

numbers.² Even when you take account of those benefits, total compensation is still much less.

"Benefits" refers to the employer costs for health and life insurance, retirement plans, and payroll taxes.

The economics of low teacher pay.

There is a bit of an economic equation going on here. If you can't pay teachers comparable wages, teaching becomes a less attractive career option. Put bluntly: We have a severe teacher shortage. High

quality teachers are the key strategy for student success.

The Debate Over Education Funding

We will hear lots more about education funding in the coming year as a 2020 election looms.

One initiative has qualified for the ballot, the *Schools and Communities First* proposal that will reform Proposition 13 and raise about \$4 billion dollars for schools per year.

Also, in the works, but not yet fleshed out, is an initiative for "Full and Fair Funding" to bring California school funding from the basement to the top 10 states.

I predict someone will argue, "We don't need any more money. We are spending more than ever before on education!"

When that happens, you've now got some data that explains why "more money than ever before" is an empty argument. California still lags the nation in supporting our schools and our children. More to come.

Children's advocate Carol Kocivar lives in the Westside: kocivar@westsideobserver.com

1. <https://lao.ca.gov/reports/2019/3924/edguide-2019.pdf>
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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.



Seventeen 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 it 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 Miranda and Nancy 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.

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.

Are we in over our heads?

Recent news stories feature vivid pictures of record-breaking flooding across the United States. These stories make dramatic evening news coverage, because they show extreme damage in simple before and after pictures. But there is another story around flooding that is not as dramatic - at least not yet - but it is going to happen, and it is going to happen all over the world. That is the unavoidable inundation that will be caused by sea level rise.

To learn more about the potential impacts of sea level rise (SLR), I spoke with Arthur Feinstein, Sierra Club California State Conservation Chair and champion of bays and estuaries. Feinstein and a SLR Task Force have just finished developing a set of positions for Club members to follow when addressing sea level rise issues.

Yes, climate change is causing melting glaciers and disappearing ice packs. The oceans are warming, and that leads to thermal expansion. The net result is that the levels of our oceans are definitely rising.

Sea level rise is happening every day, but it is so gradual that most people are not aware of the enormous risk that it poses to the future not only of those of us who live along the coasts, but also of the ecosystems on which we depend.

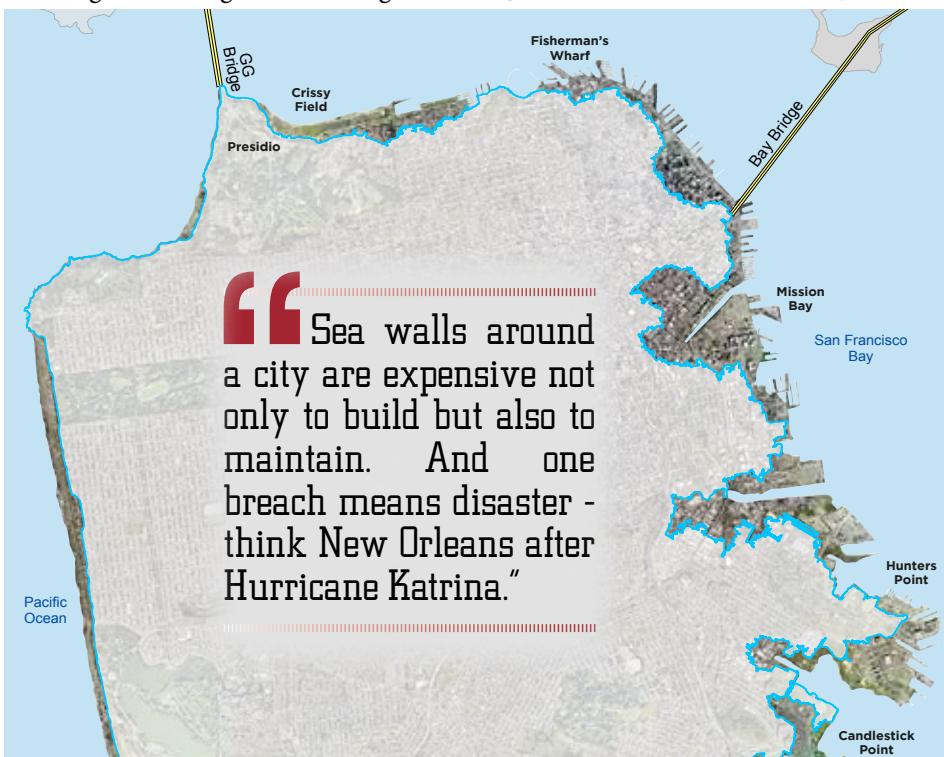
Various government and international agencies have released reports on expected SLR over the next 100 years. By 2050 it is expected that the oceans will rise steadily about 1.0 to 1.5 feet. Scientists say that there is nothing that can be done about this rise; it is locked in, and it is going to happen. After 2050, the amount of SLR will be both faster and more unpredictable. No one is certain how soon the ice in the Arctic, Antarctica, and Greenland will melt. Final predictions for SLR now go as high as a 10 foot rise by 2100. And this is just when the oceans are relatively calm.

Added to the impact of the rise in the static levels of the oceans is the impact of major storms with wind waves, storm surge, nearby river discharge and other events that can intensify SLR by contributing to the erosion of beaches and cliffs and consequent flooding. According to at least one research paper, these dynamic amplifiers can increase the impacts of flooding by up to seven times.

The coming SLR events will result in not only damage to the coastline and destruction of wildlife habitats, but also the loss of homes, businesses, and the infrastructure on which they have come to depend.

Let's start with habitat. The shallow waters along our coasts are the nurseries for ocean life. According to Feinstein, the tidal marshes, mudflats, sea grass, and kelp beds support 70% to 90% of commercial fish and shellfish species. In addition to providing the food that is much of the basis for the ocean web of life, these living coastlines are effective at sequestering carbon from all those decaying plants. (Have you gotten a whiff of that intense odor at low tide? That is life in the making.) Tidal marshes also help to control flooding and inundation by slowing up storm surges. They purify water, trap impurities, and hold in mud. This in turn influences temperatures and helps cool the air.

Sea Level Rise threatens all of this life as these habitats drown in deeper waters. Loss of coastal habitat will impact fisheries in the deep oceans. At the same time as agriculture is impacted by rising temperatures inland due to climate change, another food source, ocean fisheries, will be depleted. And as the carbon sequestration these coastal habitats now provide is lost, Greenhouse Gases will increase, resulting in further global warming.



However, if the oceans rise slowly, and if there is room for the wetlands to move inland, sea life might gradually adapt.

That is why Feinstein recommends that coastal land be set aside to allow the oceans to gradually inundate new coastal areas over the next 30 years and, with luck, the plants and other life will move inland as the oceans rise.

After 2050 other processes may have to be employed to preserve the viability of coastal waters in the face of faster changes.

The need to plan for creating new living shorelines is resulting in some interesting policy reversals. The Bay Conservation and Development Committee (BCDC) was originally formed to protect San Francisco Bay from rampant filling during the mid-twentieth century. Today, BCDC is considering rewriting its guidelines to once again allow Bay fill in order to adapt to the rising levels of the Bay. For example, at the newly recovered salt ponds, mud could be added to raise the elevation of the sea bed to allow for shoreline habitat to re-establish itself at the new coastlines.

But establishing new coastal habitat at higher elevations depends on having vacant land along the coast to inundate. In

areas where there is no undeveloped land next to the existing shorelines, there is a whole other set of problems that must be faced.

Here things become sticky. In principle, we need to allow for open space inland for the rising coastal waters. This may mean saying "no" to new development. At the least, new development should plan for the eventual incursion of the ocean, and property owners should plan ahead to remove the new structures when that happens.

What happens if homes and businesses are already located in harm's way?

There are no easy solutions for land that is already developed. One key phrase you will see in coming years is "Managed Retreat," or permanently clearing



based on income or property values? Or would flat rate compensation be fairer to everyone?

In addition to the impacts on homes and businesses, the financial toll for SLR on surrounding communities will be enormous. Consider the impact on infrastructure - roads, railways, harbors, airports, power plants, wastewater facilities may all be flooded out. How will this be dealt with and paid for, on top of the need to help local homeowners and business owners?

In case you were thinking that SLR could be solved with sea walls, think again. Building a sea wall around your home may protect you for a few years, but in the meantime, it will increase wave action on your neighbor's house. And, eventually, how will you get home at night? Canoeing to Trader Joe's may feel authentic, but it will lose its appeal after awhile.

Wave action against sea walls often precludes healthy marine habitat in the nearby area. Sea walls around a city are expensive not only to build but also to maintain. And one breach means disaster - think New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. Sea walls also require concrete; manufacturing concrete adds to Greenhouse Gases. And so with building sea walls the cycle of climate change builds upon itself.

As in most of the environmental challenges we now face, there are many questions and no easy answers. Feinstein advises keeping an eye on news items and attending public meetings that will be held to deal with this. Ask for a living shoreline whenever this is mentioned. Sea level rise is a problem that is very much not going away, and we will have to plan for it and adapt to it in the future.

To learn more: San Francisco's Sea Level Rise Action plan is a work in process: sfplanning.org/sea-level-rise-action-plan

The USGS mapping system illustrates what may be flooded, combining the level of rising oceans with the strength of storms.

usgs.gov/apps/hera/#overview

NOAA interactive maps and photos shows the impacts of SLR: coast.noaa.gov/slri/#/layer/slri

For the truly wonky among you: USGS Coastal Storm Modeling System (CoSMOS) usgs.gov/centers/pcmsc/science/coastal-storm-modeling-system-cosmos?qt-science_center_objects=0#qt-science_center_objects

Katherine Howard is a local open space and environmental advocate.

Breed's Rezoning (Cont. from p. 5)

bureaucratic delays besides zoning. Neither of the competing ballot measures will solve the other problems.

Re-zoning should be handled legislatively. There's no reason for voters to be weighing in on this when the Board currently has authority to do re-zoning on a parcel-by-parcel basis.

Vote "No"!

An expanded version of this article with additional discussion is available at stopLHHdownsize.com.

Monette-Shaw is a columnist for SF's Westside Observer newspaper, and a member of the California First Amendment Coalition (FAC) and the ACLU. He operates stopLHHdownsize.com. Contact him at

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Endnotes

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- [7. http://sfurbanriders.org/laguna-honda-hospital-project/](http://sfurbanriders.org/laguna-honda-hospital-project/)

L-Taraval Project Community Open House Meeting

**Wednesday, July 17th • 5:30-7:30 pm
Grace Lutheran Church, 3201 Ulloa Street**

Residents will lose 96 parking spaces on Lower Great Highway from Ulloa to Santiago for SMTA's contractor staging for 3 years. The working group formed to discuss such matters was not consulted. Although LGH has no merchants and less residents than other areas on the Westside, the loss of parking that the Project has already done forces many customers, residents and beachgoers to park there. The merchants at the western end of Taraval will have construction in front of them and equipment behind them.

It is only fair that residents have a voice in this matter.



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Wiener's War (Cont. from p. 1)

dwelling unit, or so-called granny unit; or even the addition of one or more bedrooms to an existing home, under the bill."

Goodman also says, "If a developer takes a city to court for rejecting a housing project and wins, SB-592 would allow the developer to receive compensatory damages, in addition to attorney fees."

With virtually no public scrutiny, Wiener has created a situation where it is beneficial for developers and housing lobbyists to sue cities for big settlements, and/or development concessions. Local legislators will see their budgets looted.

Wiener's strongest allies are housing lobbyists who receive contributions from the same contributors that he does — real estate developers and high-techs. They're called "Yes In My Back Yard" (YIMBYs).

Brian Hanlon, the president of YIMBY, helped Wiener write SB-827 and was involved in the amendments to SB-167. He also consulted with Wiener on SB-50.

In 2015, YIMBY formed the *California Renters Legal Advocacy Fund*, or CaRLA, to sue the suburbs. CaRLA has used the HAA

— SB167 — to sue on behalf of developers in Sausalito, Berkeley, San Mateo, Sonoma, Dublin, and Lafayette. YIMBY will now use SB-592, the tougher HAA version, to intimidate cities.

CaRLA is a so-called 501(c)3 non-profit that holds cities accountable that they consider are acting in perceived violation of state laws. CaRLA pursues legal action where developers have not, bringing suit against cities that fail to approve compliant housing. CaRLA claims to work for renters, not homeowner wealth.

Wiener's new stealth housing act will include an amended portion to help groups such as YIMBY coerce or sue cities to build housing.

Amateur lawsuits can lead to unintended housing consequences.

In a huge defeat for YIMBY, Lafayette developer O'Brien Homes had initially proposed 315 apartments at the intersection of Deer Hill and Pleasant Hill roads. O'Brien eventually received approval for 44 single-family homes, which will be far more expensive.

Let's see. 271 affordable homes will not be built in Lafayette and 44 very expensive homes will be. Of course, YIMBY declared victory. Is their mission still to create more affordable housing?

"Lafayette supports smart growth, not indiscriminate growth. In this case, the city and the developer agreed to work together on a more suitable plan for that parcel. That's good government," said Steven Falk, Lafayette's city manager.

"YIMBY should look around — there is a multifamily construction boom in downtown Lafayette and at least seven major developers are now entitling and building projects," Falk continued. "YIMBY is intent on suing the suburbs over the housing crunch. In this case, they sued the wrong suburb."

Put a tent over this circus.

On June 21, John Mirisch, the Mayor of Beverly Hills, wrote to Scott Wiener "We are extremely concerned that SB 592 would stifle opportunities for our residents to engage in a transparent public process and to provide comments on projects involving single-family homes and accessory dwelling units."

Further. "Our residents expect us to take every step that we can to protect the character and excellent quality of life in their neighborhood, but SB 592 would rob us of the ability to carry out this responsibility."

According to Larry Gersten,¹ Ph.D., "Under the rules of the legislature, bills are supposed to be vetted through numerous committee hearings where individuals, experts and organizations like the CMA and others [can] speak up. Sometimes they win and sometimes they lose, but the process is transparent."

Gersten added, "That's what makes the gut-and-amend strategy so unfortunate. With a simple parliamentary ruling of the Senate Rules Committee, the committee process can be tossed aside ... why have committees in the first place? There's nothing illegal about gut-and-amend. Whether it's ethical is another matter."

Wiener is supported by 700 development and high-tech contributors. His goals are to increase developer incentives, market rate housing, and to promote himself.

In 2018, his SB-827 failed to pass, *Planning and zoning: Transit-Rich Housing Bonus*. It received two votes. Then he reintroduced SB-827 as SB-50 *Planning and zoning: housing development: streamlined approval: incentives*.

Both SB-827 and 50 were developer giveaways and entitlements.

SB-50 is currently in the Appropriations Committee and can't be voted on before 2020. His failure may kill SB-50 — a major legislative setback.

Wiener's goal is to increase the size of Westside housing (McMansions) or demolish existing housing and build four - to five-story buildings with no parking.

The SF Land Use Coalition has scheduled a forum on "The Impact of Increased Housing Density on the Westside of San Francisco." It will be held at 7 pm on Thursday, July 18 at St. John Armenian Church, 275 Olympia Way. President of the Board of Supervisors Norman Yee and D4 Supervisor Gordon Mar will discuss housing issues. A presentation on the impacts of proposed state legislation and its impact on Westside housing will be made. There will be plenty of parking and admission is free. Tell your friends!

George Wooding, Coalition For San Francisco Neighborhoods. Contact him at gswooding@gmail.com.

[1. nbclosangeles.com/blogs/prop-zero/Gut-And-Amend-Legislation-California-131151328.html](http://nbclosangeles.com/blogs/prop-zero/Gut-And-Amend-Legislation-California-131151328.html)



West Portal Avenue shopping district • March 4, 1944 | By Permission from the San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library

SFPDs Cowboys (Cont. from p. 1)

transgression committed.

A History of Retaliation

The following are examples of recent bullying investigations against SFPD officers that were launched soon after an officer raised a whistleblower-type issue.

One officer audio-taped another officer's comments he felt were racially offensive. Three months after SF Human Resource Director Micki Callahan ruled in favor of the complainant officer, IA coincidentally launched an investigation into the officer who had mistakenly crisscrossed putting his California vehicle registration tabs on the wrong cars he owned. If a civilian stole and displayed false registration tabs that did not belong to him, a SFPD officer would write a 200-word report. For the complainant officer, who confused his own registration tabs, IA prepared a one-inch thick investigative file. Evidence of overkill?

A police union representative believed a conflict of policies existed when an IA captain arrived unannounced at an officer's home and demanded answers to interrogating questions. The police union rep addressed this issue with a post on Facebook to a private group composed exclusively of members of the SFPD Police Officers' Association: *Does an off-duty officer, at home, have the right to consult with his union rep before he submits to a series of interrogatories from a captain in SFPD's chain of command?* A couple months later, IA launched an investigation against the union rep attributable to an anonymous complaint out of the private Facebook group. Deeming this a retaliatory act by SFPD, the union rep initiated a public records request to IA to learn the identity of his accuser. IA refused to respond to the request.

An officer documented a pay-to-play scheme where the husband of an outside consultant to the city was receiving campaign contributions from suppliers to the city, whose contracts the consultant was subsequently recommending the city should purchase. Within 20 days of the complaint, an investigative detention of a suspect made by the officer 14 years earlier was re-opened to determine if the officer's background check on the suspect was a SFPD violation of computer use.

There clearly might be another side to these incidents. But it is an irrefutable fact that the proximate timing of these investigations' points to retaliation against officers who blew the whistle on other matters.

Compensation Creating Conflicts of Interests

Many officers in the department viewed the compensation packages IA rewarded the "cowboys" with as a buyout to secure their loyalty and adherence. One of the officers involved in various stages of the Carmody search warrant was a lieutenant who was rewarded with a captain's salary and a captain's pension, even though the lieutenant never qualified for the captains' civil service promotional list. And a sergeant was compensated with a lieutenant's salary and pension, even though the sergeant never qualified for the lieutenants' civil service promotional list.

On June 6, 2019 a group of several SFPD officers launched a civil suit because they had studied, tested, and were placed on sergeants' lieutenants', and captains' civil service promotional lists, but were never promoted. IA snagged these promotions for "cowboys," despite their never having completed the promotional tests.

Had command rightfully selected an IA captain or lieutenant from respective civil service promotional lists, those officers would have been in a position to question serving multiple search warrants on a journalist without jeopardizing a cut in pay. By contrast, the IA officers acquired through that Faustian bargain could not confront the command without risking their unearned pay raises and pension spikes. Essentially, IA embezzled the promotions of more-deserving City-approved lieutenants and captains just to puppetize his "cowboys" as compromised pawns.

Sketchy Resumes of Internal Affairs Officers

In addition to some IA officers receiving compensation above their earned rank, there were plenty of department whispers about the resumes of some of IA recruits. Had they conducted a simple Google search on one of the recent additions, they would have learned that the new sergeant (receiving lieutenant's pay) had been investigated by the FBI, though they were unable to conclusively prove that the sergeant knew that the million-dollar remodel of his Marin home was financed by the \$768,000 in Danielle Steel's assets his wife purportedly embezzled.¹

Two years earlier, the same sergeant had zealously campaigned to investigate other cops, but his transfer to IA was rescinded because of a vociferous chorus of complaints from within SFPD. Nevertheless, the sergeant was drafted for a second time in late 2018.

IA seems to consistently wear blinders, whether overlooking Article 1, Section 2b of the California Constitution protecting journalists' sources, or adhering to the SFPD memorandum of understanding that feds officers' promotions shall be taken from civil service promotional lists, or by failing to Google the incriminating history of a sergeant who was part of the initial Carmody investigation.

Reputational Risk

Perhaps there was a calculated gamble using the-ends-justify-the-means search warrants knowing they could outlast the *Chronicle's* and other media outlets' attention spans. Or perhaps — as many street cops have voiced — the *get-the-cop* search warrant was orchestrated to distract from an *exposé* of a guest roster at an illicit crash pad, or to distract from the disappearance of the paramour, or to distract from the curious reason why the Medical Examiner suddenly canceled his request for SFPD to respond to Jeff Adachi's suspicious death scene at 46 Telegraph Place.

Over time, foodies might forget that a five-star restaurant had patrons arrested. Similarly, as the media's interest in SFPD's violation of their rights fades when Carmody banks a lucrative settlement from the City as he likely will, the cops on the street will continue to remember the hypocrisy of IA pursuing officers' venial violations while simultaneously supervising "cowboys" who made the task of patrolling more difficult because the "cowboys" seriously broke the law and damaged SFPD's reputation.

Lou Barberini spent 21 years with SFPD after working for a Big Four firm and as a financial advisor. He has an MBA in Taxation, the AICPA's Financial Specialist designation, and currently provides retirement planning and wealth management through Nich Capital Partners. Contact: lou.barberini@gmail.com

Endnotes

1. <https://archives.fbi.gov/archives/sanfrancisco/press-releases/2010/sf042010.htm>


EVERY SUNDAY • FLOWER PIANO IN GOLDEN GATE'S BOTANICAL GARDENS
Fifth Year Anniversary • Flower Piano • Thursday, July 11– Monday July 22

The annual twelve-day-long Flower Piano is one of the Bay Area's most highly anticipated summer musical events with a special anniversary edition, featuring new opportunities for the public to play, more performances by professional musicians, special events for families including the new evening-time Flower Piano at Sunset, a community sing-along, free piano lessons, and three evenings of Flower Piano at Night, a special after dark event with food trucks and outdoor bars.

Flower Piano transforms the Garden into the city's own alfresco concert hall for twelve days, and everyone is invited to play and listen for just the price of regular Garden admission. The twelve pianos are tucked among the many flower-filled gardens within SFBG's 55 acres and are available to the public to play each day July 11–22 from 9am - 6pm, except during select performances. 1199 9th Ave • INFO: sfbg.org

SPECIAL July 12 Flower Piano at Sunset features Little Mission Studio Chorus and Chamber Ensemble, Charity Kahn, music classes for toddlers, and a young talent showcase that offers musicians ages 12 and under a chance to sign up and perform. Tix: \$40 (Members \$20) 12 & under Free. Food and drink trucks.

Special July 18-20 Flower Piano at Night, a special evening version, is back again this year for three nights. Beautifully lit pathways guide visitors to pianos aglow with performances by Sunset Piano all-stars and open pianos to play. Food and drink are also available for purchase. Tix: \$55 (Members \$30).

July/August 2019
C A L E N D A R
EVERY SUNDAY • FARMERS MARKET

Farmers Market | Every Sun | 9 am–1 pm | Fresh fruits and vegetables stars in this popular market, rear parking lot: Stonestown (19th Ave @ Winston).

EVERY SUNDAY • VICTORIAN TOUR

Sundays | 2 pm | Victorian era architecture Lafayette Square. SF's illustrious history, steep streets & fabulous views! 1801 Bush St. garden. Donations MUNI 1, 3. Check out many tours of SF: INFO: sfcityguides.org

SUNDAYS • FREE COMMUNITY YOGA

Every Sun | 10 am | Bring Your Own Mat for outdoor yoga at Playland at 43rd Ave. All classes are FREE and DROP IN. (Rain cancels.) 1360 43rd Ave & Judah. Cancellations: Playland Yoga Facebook Page.

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.

FRIDAYS • TEEN COMPUTER CORPS

Fri | 4–5:30 pm | Trouble with Technology? We can help with kindles, email, laptops, tablets, cell phones and other electronic gadgets at the Parkside Branch, 1200 Taraval. Info: 415-355-5770.

SATURDAYS • FREE ART MUSEUM DAY

Every Sat | 10 am–5 pm | For SF residents, admission to the de Young and Legion of Honor will be free every Saturday to their permanent collection galleries and special exhibitions. may be redeemed with a driver's license or postmarked envelope

SATURDAYS • COMPUTER HELP

Sat | 2–4 pm | Drop-in help with a teen tech savvy volunteer! Bring your laptop, eReaders, gadgets, digital cameras, tablets or cell phones and we can help you learn how to use it. West Portal Branch, 190 Lenox.

DAILY • STEPHANIE MARTIN ETCHINGS

Thru Aug 31 | 10 am–4 pm | Aquatint etchings depict some of our state's most exquisite native and cultivated flora in this exhibit includes botanical portraits of wildflowers and trees, some with an iconic bird. Crocker Library, SF Botanical Garden, 1199 9th Ave.

SUN • STERN GROVE: SF SYMPHONY

Sun Jul 7 | 2 pm | The SF Symphony returns for its annual summer performance led by conductor Edwin Outwater and featuring contralto Lauren Decker, the SFS performs Mendelssohn, Elgar, Tchaikovsky and Mussorgsky. 19th Ave. at Sloat.

THU • PEOPLE OF PARKSIDE
WED • TARAVEL OPEN HOUSE

Wed, Jul 17 | 5:30–7:30 pm | Meet with SFMTA to discuss the loss of 96 parking spaces on Lower Great Highway from Ulloa to Santiago for contractor staging purposes for 3 years. Grace Lutheran, 3201 Ulloa St.

WED • FROZEN FILM FESTIVAL 2019

You Asked – We Listened!

We are pleased to announce the introduction of what will become a treasured Cliff House tradition.

The Zinc Bar Happy Hour

Please Join Us!

Monday – Friday | 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm | Zinc Bar & Balcony Lounge

Light Bites, Drink Specials & Awesome Views

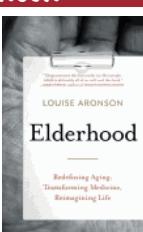
1090 Point Lobos | San Francisco | 415-386-3330 | CliffHouse.com

Some restrictions apply. Promotions are not valid on holidays.

Wed Jul 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 | Various times | Held every summer at the Roxie Theatre at 3117 16th St. and Piano Fight at 144 Taylor. Filmmakers whose work is accepted are invited to come to the city to screen and discuss their work. frozenfilmfestival.com

THU • AUTHOR LOUISE ARONSON

Thu Jul 18 | 7 pm | In *Elderhood, Redefining Aging, Transforming Medicine, Reimagining Life*, the physician and award-winning author brings an essential look at a vital but often disparaged stage of life. Bookshop West Portal, 80 West Portal


THU • WESTSIDE HOUSING DENSITY

Thu Jul 18 | 7 pm | A forum on proposed increase in housing density on the Westside. St. John Armenian Church, 275 Olympia Wy. Supes Norman Yee, and Supe Gordon Mar. Plenty of parking. Tell your friends!

FRI • REINHARDT SWING BAND

Fri Jul 19 | 7–11 pm | It's an event! With four pieces – violin, two guitars, and the ubiquitous stand up bass, it follows the lead of the legendary Stephane Grapelli and Django Reinhardt. Cliffhouse, 1090 Point Lobos.

FRI-SAT-SUN • PLAYWRIGHTS FESTIVAL

Fri Jul 19–Sun Jul 28 | Various Times | One of the oldest (42 years) and most successful new play festivals in the US discovering and supporting emerging writers. 1695 18th St. PlaywrightsFoundation.org for info.

SUN • STERN GROVE: TOOTS/FIELDS

Sun Jul 21 | 2 pm | Jam to a double-bill of reggae and funky soul with pioneering Jamaican group Toots and the Maytals and the prolific, soulful swagger of Lee Fields and the Expressions. 19th Ave. at Sloat.


SUN • STERN GROVE: SF BALLET

Sun Jul 28 | 2 pm | A summer favorite – SF Ballet, under Helgi Tomasson, performs a selection of highlights from their current repertory. 19th Ave. at Sloat.

SUN • STERN GROVE: BRIT POST-PUNK

Sun Aug 4 | 2 pm | Post-punk icons The Psychedelic Furs and folk-rock group James take the stage in a Brit-rock double-bill. 19th Ave. at Sloat.

THU • AUTHOR J. RYAN STRADAL

Thu Aug 8 | 7 pm | In *The Lager Queen of Minnesota* a family is split when their father leaves their shared inheritance entirely to the youngest daughter. Midwestern values, fate and secrets of making a world-class beer, from author of *Kitchens of the Great Midwest* Bookshop West Portal, 80 West Portal

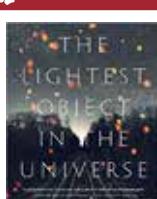

SUN • STERN GROVE: PINK MARTINI

Sun Aug 11 | 2 pm | An eclectic international cocktail of jazz, swing, world music, cabaret, chanson, , Pink

BOOKSHOP WEST PORTAL
JUNE 2019 BESTSELLERS

1. *Murder in Bel-Air* Cara Black *
2. *City of Girls* Elizabeth Gilbert
3. *Pops: Fatherhood in Pieces* Michael Chabon *
4. *KD: Kevin Durant's Relentless Pursuit to be the Greatest* Marcus Thompson
5. *Educated: A Memoir* Tara Westover
6. *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous* Ocean Vuong
7. *Siege: Trump Under Fire* Micheal Wolff
8. *Bad Blood: Secrets and Lies in a Silicon Valley Startup* John Carreyrou
9. *Becoming* Michelle Obama
10. *The Sixth Man: A Memoir* Andre Iguodala
11. *Inheritance: A Memoir of Genealogy, Paternity, and Love* Dani Shapiro
12. *Say Nothing: A True Story of Murder and Memory in Northern Ireland* Patrick Radden Keefe
13. *The Truths We Hold: An American Journey* Kamala Harris
14. *The American Agent* Jacqueline Winspear *
15. *The Island of Sea Women* Lisa See *

* Spoke at BookShop West Portal; signed copies available

WHAT ARE YOU READING?

MON • AUTHOR KIMI EISELE

Mon Jul 15 | 7 pm | *The Lightest Object in the Universe* evokes the spirit of such monumental love stories as Cold Mountain and the creative vision of novels like Station Eleven. It imagines what happens after the global economy collapses and the electrical grid goes down. Bookshop West Portal, 80 West Portal

TUE • COMMUNITY SAFETY MEETING

Tue Jul 16 | 6–7 pm | Meet with Captain Rainsford at Taraval Station. Taraval Community Forum. Meets: 2345 24th Ave. westoftwinpeaks.org (Every 3rd Tues.)

WED • TARAVEL OPEN HOUSE

Wed, Jul 17 | 5:30–7:30 pm | Meet with SFMTA to discuss the loss of 96 parking spaces on Lower Great Highway from Ulloa to Santiago for contractor staging purposes for 3 years. Grace Lutheran, 3201 Ulloa St.

WED • FROZEN FILM FESTIVAL 2019

Wed Jul 17 | 5:30–7:30 pm | Meet with SFMTA to discuss the loss of 96 parking spaces on Lower Great Highway from Ulloa to Santiago for contractor staging purposes for 3 years. Grace Lutheran, 3201 Ulloa St.

WED • HARRY POTTER POTIONS

Sat Jul 27 | 2–4 pm | Join us for Harry Potter-related activities — slime and butter beer — other special surprises!West Portal Branch, 190 Lenox Way.

Money Matters By Brandon Miller



Having "The Talk" With Your Kids (the Money Talk)

Every year on the Fourth of July, the Tahoe neighborhood where my vacation rental is located has a little parade. Kids decorate their bikes, pull pets in wagons, and try to twirl a baton and walk at the same time while adults sit on lawn chairs and clap as they go by. It's straight out of a Norman Rockwell painting—just with a few more tattoos.

I'm all for continuing traditions like these that are good fun for children. But I hate seeing harmful things passed on just because "that's how we've always done it."

As a financial advisor—and a father—it upsets me to see so many parents unwilling (or is it unable?) to talk to their kids about money. After all, it's something that's going to be a major factor in their lives, whether they have it or not.

Let's set our children up for success by teaching them money lessons early and often. Here's what I suggest for kids of all ages...

Make It Tangible for Little Ones I give my twins an allowance—\$1 for every year of age—to help them get used to handling their own money. I mix it up each month and give them six \$1 bills, 24 quarters, 60 dimes, 120 nickels or any combination to start teaching basic math skills. Each child has three buckets that they decorated, one for "me today" money, one for "me tomorrow" and the third for "charity/other people."

Today funds can be spent whenever on whatever. The tomorrow bucket teaches them how to save for bigger items. If they want a deluxe Lego set, for example, they have to save up for it. This instills the idea of delayed gratification and working toward a "long-term" goal. The third bucket is about teaching compassion and the pleasure of doing something nice for others. I let them decide where this money goes, whether that's adopting a whale, tithing at church or giving the money to a homeless person.

The boys also get to decide how much of their allowance to put into each bucket, which changes depending on their goals. The idea is to give them real, understandable lessons about how to divvy up a finite amount of money to get what they want.

Teach Pre-Teens the Value of Time Once kids are capable of doing more to help around the house, it's time to encourage good work habits. In addition to allowance chores, you can offer the opportunity to earn more from additional work. For "extras" such as washing the car or doing yard work or laundry, pay your child an hourly wage. Have them keep track of the hours they work and their earnings for a quick math lesson. This also teaches them the value of their time and what it takes to earn spending money.

Show Teens How to Make Money Work for Them

As your kids age, get them to:

- **Take charge of money spent on them.**

Giving your teen access to all the money you give them on top of their allowance for clothing, entertainment, eating out and more helps them learn about responsibility and budgeting. They'll inevitably make some mistakes and poor choices, but at this stage they should be small and easy to correct, while the memory of the error can keep them from making costly mistakes in the future.

- **Open bank accounts.** Having your teen deal with a financial institution (vs. a decorated bucket) makes them feel more grown up and gets them used to the banking world. If they open a checking account, have them keep the register to get used to funds in/funds out. Once they are 18, a credit card or car loan can help establish credit in their name. And if they are gainfully employed, have them open a Roth IRA and show them how saving even a little early on can have an enormous impact on the money they have later in life.

- **Buy stock in something of interest.** Buying a few shares of a company or brand they care about encourages them to track the market's ups and downs, understand how good or bad news impacts the share's price and introduces your teen to the world of investing. The goal here isn't necessarily the smartest investment, it's getting your kids excited and engaged.

Teaching your kids how to handle money responsibly is a great way to prepare them for adulthood. Plus, it might just prevent them from boomeranging back into your house after college!

The opinions expressed in this article are for general informational purposes only and are not intended to provide specific advice or recommendations for any individual or on any specific security. **Brio does not provide tax or legal advice, and nothing contained in these materials should be taken as such.** To determine which investments may be appropriate for you, consult your financial advisor prior to investing. As always please remember investing involves risk and possible loss of principal capital; please seek advice from a licensed professional.

Brio Financial Group is a registered investment adviser.

Around the Town (Cont. from p. 2)

• Part IV - **Stevedores, Feluccas, and Windjammers** covers the Northern Waterfront, Fisherman's Wharf, and Aquatic Park July 27, Sep. 21, and Nov. 16.

Tours are free for SFMHS members \$15 non-members. Reservations and pre-payment required; call (415) 537-1105 ext. 0 or email rsvp@sfhistory.org 48 hours before the tour. Note: Rain cancels tours.

At the Merced Branch of the SFPL for July... All programs at the library are free!

Merced Craft Night Join us on the 2nd Thursday each month, ages 13 and up. Pre-registration required (415) 355-2825 or sign up with a librarian. | Thur July 11 | 6 to 7:30 pm

Learn to Make Vietnamese Fresh Spring Rolls Want to create a healthy, easy-to-make, delicious delicacy to bring to a party or snack at home? Certified Food Handler Khanh Lu demos how to make Spring Rolls. Samples served, and written recipes will be handed out. To register (415) 355-2825 or speak to a librarian. | Wed, July 24, 6:30 to 8 pm.

Merced Branch Library Book Swap Bring in a book (or 2+) from home that you want to trade in. Browse book choices available to swap. Books should be in good condition. Book swap takes place on the fourth Saturday of each month. | Sat, July 27 | 3 to 4:30 pm

Book-A-Librarian Pick a topic: navigate the library's website, borrow and download eBooks and eAudiobooks, set up an email account, surf the Internet, on the library's computer, or bring your own smart phone or tablet. Basic mouse/typing skills are required. Sign up with a librarian or call for an appointment.

Merced Branch, SF Public Library | 155 Winston Dr. | (415) 355-2825, www.sfpl.org

Bluegrass Bonanza! ... West Portal Avenue's own Shelby Ash (The Music Store) presents music reflecting the best of bluegrass and Americana music. Live Bluegrass & Old-Time String Band Music -- every 3rd Friday

July 19: AJ Lee & Blue Summit @Plough & Stars, 116 Clement St | 9pm doors / 9:30 show / \$6-\$10 sliding scale / 21+Info/tix: www.shelbyashpresents.net

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.

Martini brings their genre-defying sound. Local ensemble Barrio Manouche with a swinging blend of global influences opens. 19th Ave. at Sloat.

SUN • STERN GROVE: ISLEY BROTHERS



Sun Aug 18 | 2 pm | *The Big Picnic*, A Benefit and Concert closes out the 82nd Season with a free concert starring R&B legends The Isley Brothers.

They made their mark with the #1 R&B hit *Twist And Shout*. Their '69 hit *It's Your Thing* sold more than five million and a GRAMMY Award. 19th Ave. at Sloat.

TUE • AUTHOR KIRA JANE BUXTON



Tue Aug 13 | 7 pm | This domesticated crow is a bird of simple pleasures: hanging out with Big Jim, trading insults with wild crows (those idiots), and enjoying the finest food humankind has to offer: Cheetos. He fights to save humanity from an apocalypse in this uniquely hilarious debut. Bookshop West Portal. 80 West Portal

THU • PAPER LANTERNS

Thu Aug 15 | 6:30 - 8 pm | The WP Artistry and Craft Club meets the third Thu. for conviviality and craft-making. Space is limited. West Portal Branch, 190 Lenox Way. RSVP: 415 355-2886 (After Aug 1).

TUE • COMMUNITY SAFETY MEETING

Tue Aug 20 | 6-7 pm | Meet with Captain Rainsford at Taraval Station. Taraval Community Relations Forum Meeting: 2345 24th Ave. westoftwinpeaks.org

SUN • SAN FRANCISCO MARATHON

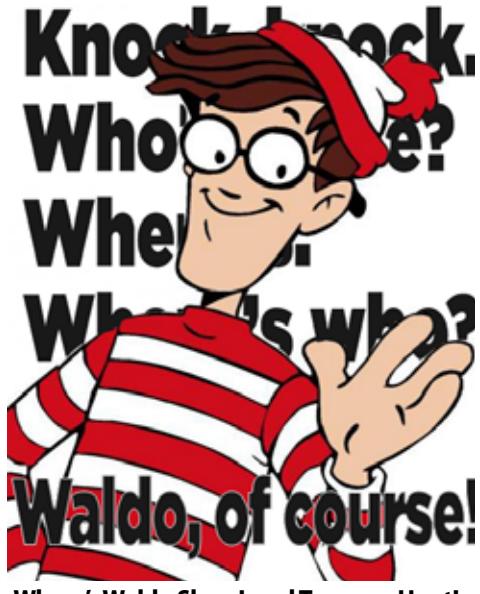
Sun Jul 27 | 5:30 am | The 42nd SF Marathon (Full, 1st Half, 2nd Half, 5K and Ultramarathon) will fill SF's streets with over 27,500 runners pound the pavement through the liveliest neighborhoods like Haight-Ashbury and The Mission. Register: thesfmarathon.com

SUN • ASIAN ART MUSEUM FREE DAY

Sun Aug 4 | 10 am-5 pm | Every first Sunday is free at the Asian Art Museum (save \$12) 17,000 artworks spanning 6 thousand years. Special exhibitions may require separate charges. 200 Larkin St.

TUE • CONSERVATORY FREE DAY

Tue Aug 6 | 10 am-4:30 pm | An up close experience with over 1,700 species of rare, exotic and endangered plants. Opened in 1879, the oldest existing conservatory of its kind in the Western Hemisphere. 100 J F



Where's Waldo Shop Local Treasure Hunt!

Monday, July 1st through Wednesday, July 31st, Bookshop West Portal hands out 250 passports. Once distributed, there will be no further entries, so don't delay. Passports list the roughly two dozen merchants where Waldo hunters can seek their elusive prey.

Every child turning in a completed passport will receive an instant prize—be it a gift certificate from a local merchant, a free ice cream cone, or for one lucky child, the custom designed quilt on display at the bookshop. 80 West Portal Ave. (415) 564-8080.

Kennedy Dr. Free every first Tuesday.

TUE • DE YOUNG FREE DAY

Tue Aug 6 | 9:30 am - 5:15 pm | Art from 17th-20th centuries, native Americas, Africa, & Pacific. 50 Hagiwara Tea Garden Drive. Free first Tuesdays.

WED • FOODIE EVENT OF THE YEAR

Wed Aug 7 | 5 pm - 7:30 pm | The best fine dining restaurants in SF come together for one night to help end family homelessness. Julia Morgan Ballroom, 465 California St. 15th Fl. | www.compass-sf.org

TUE • LEGION OF HONOR FREE DAY

Tue Aug 8 | 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.

THU • OMI NEIGHBORS IN ACTION

Thu Aug 29 | 7 pm | OMI-NIA General Meeting at Temple UMC, 65 Beverly St. @Shields. SF State Warriors and Recology are invited. Meets every 4th Thu -No meeting in July for summer break.

Got An Event? Westside Events Get Priority

editor@westsideobserver.com

Raising Kids?

Learn how to raise their money IQ.

BrioFG.com

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