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# WESTSIDE OBSERVER

Volume 28 • Number 6 Celebrating Our 28th Year www.westsideobserver.com July/August 2015

## Supervisor Norman Yee Surprises Supporters on Police Staffing



**By George Wooding**  
**Why did District seven Supervisor Norman Yee, heretofore a staunch supporter of the police, vote against increasing a depleted San Francisco police force?**

**R**epresenting District seven, San Francisco's most conservative District, Yee did the unthinkable—he voted against adding more police classes. Yee is now paying the price as many of his District Seven supporters are angry with him.

A simple non-binding Board of Supervisors resolution regarding new police staffing levels suddenly became a battleground over how many police officers are needed to effectively stop crime in San Francisco.

Presented on Tuesday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, Resolution (150628) is the first step in establishing a Board of Supervisors policy that police staffing levels be adjusted to account for population and neighborhood growth,

including adjusting the definition of “minimum staffing” upward by several hundred officers. The term “minimum staffing” is open ended and not defined.

The resolution became contentious and passed on a 6–5 vote. Supervisors Wiener, Farrell, Cohen, Tang, Christensen and Breed voted “yes” to pass the resolution and Yee, Avalos, Campos, Mar and Kim voted “No.”

Yee has already passed city budgets which have allowed eight police academy classes to graduate. He has always stated the need for more police, but still people are mad because he did not support a poorly-written, non-binding resolution.

The current number of sworn

Cont. p. 4

## Lake Merced's Champion

Jerry Cadagan was a tireless advocate for Lake Merced, as San Franciscan and friend Dick Morten noted, “I became acquainted with Jerry for over 15 years, through his advocacy for the Lake. Lake Merced was important to Jerry as a parent because his daughter, Kim, rowed for St Ignatius.” But even more important, as Morten pointed out, “Jerry founded ‘Friends of Lake Merced’ as well as a ‘Lake Merced Task Force.’”

The *Westside Observer* lost a leading advocate and voice for the community when Jerry Cadagan died suddenly on May 17. A memorial service was held in his honor at the Boathouse of Lake Merced this past June 24.

Morten noted that it was “Jerry who fought for Lake Merced, when others could not.”



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## Let's Get Mikey!

**By John Farrell**

**M**any of you remember the old Life cereal commercial “Let's Get Mikey.” Two boys are pushing a bowl of Life cereal back and forth since neither one wants to try it. They look at each other and one says, “Let's get Mikey. He won't eat it. He hates everything.” They push the bowl over to Mikey and he digs in with his big spoon. “Mikey likes it!” one kid yells out euphorically, giving the cereal the stamp of approval.



In the case of City Hall officials, they will only

**“**This \$250M bond for affordable housing could have been handled with existing and future city funds if prioritized, without asking taxpayers to pay the bill and cost millions in bond interest payments. But City Hall gets its cake and eats it too...”

give Mikey what they know he likes. Over the next few months they will spoon feed and inundate taxpayers with bond measures like the Mayor's proposed \$250 million affordable housing bond this November, which supposedly won't increase your property taxes, and that we need because families and neighbors are leaving our City for more affordable housing elsewhere. I guarantee that when the voter pamphlet comes out, the Controller's Statement will provide a cost to the homeowner.

Of course anyone with a heart will agree we need housing for our city's low and moderate income families, just like we needed other bond measures previously passed by the voters, like Prop A for Muni infrastructure and projects last November. How can anyone vote against a bond measures to provide affordable housing or better Muni services? That's why City Hall officials play with issues close to the taxpayers' hearts. But I know and you know that many of them are just looking for a slam dunk for their resume, or for a platform for their next stepping stone for higher office.

Doesn't this bother you that you are being asked during an election year? Why not last year or the year before? Year after year we've watched as families and neighbors leave the City for more affordable homes elsewhere. And as you know, once you leave the City, most people can

Cont. p. 6

## Best of the Net: BeyondChron.org

### Should Mayors Influence Commissioners?

**By Randy Shaw**

**A**ccording to the May 17 *SF Examiner*, a San Francisco Planning Commissioner changed their vote on a key short-term rental policy after getting a text message from Mayor Lee's liaison to the commission. The vote switch angered Planning Department staff and other proponents of the policy, which would have prevented home-sharing platforms from advertising short-term rentals that are not city-certified.

The *Examiner* quotes Sara Shortt of the Housing Rights Committee who said, “It seems like commissioner Johnson was voting on the actual merits of the issue related to the policy, and then was called out by her boss and realized she better vote based on the interests of the mayor.” Mayor spokesperson Christine Falvey defended liaison Nicole Wheaton's text to Johnson, saying “She is the mayor's liaison to commissions, the board, and state and federal legislators, so informing commissioners of policy priorities and positions is entirely appropriate.”

Putting aside the merits—and I supported the Commissioner's original position on the policy—do we want commissioners to vote their own conscience on major policy questions or to follow the recommendations of the mayor or Board President who appointed them?

The interests of political accountability and democracy are best served by the latter.

#### The Role of Commissioners

From the time I arrived in San Francisco in 1979, Commission votes were always seen as “political.” That term was used to reflect the common understanding that the Planning Commission under pro-development Mayor Dianne Feinstein would cast pro-development votes. One of the biggest reasons neighborhood activists backed Art Agnos in his 1987 campaign was his commitment to appoint Planning Commissioners who would not rubber stamp every downtown development project.

Many believe that Feinstein (and later Willie Brown) personally called Commissioners before key votes. That practice was called politics.

When appointive bodies are acting in a quasi-judicial



Planning Commission hearings are Thursdays at Noon in Room 400 at City Hall

capacity, such direct legislative intervention is likely illegal. But that is not the case for most Planning Commission votes, and its short-term rental actions were purely advisory.

**“**I want elected officials to be accountable for the actions of their appointees, whether they be commissioners or department heads. I don't see why anyone would prefer shifting the power to set city policies to an appointed commissioner accountable to no one.”

The notion of “independent” commissioners sounds good until you think about what it means for the democratic process. Democracy is undermined when voters elect a mayor to back specific policies only to have their appointed commissioners promote a contrary agenda.

The *Examiner* quotes “long-time California good-government advocate Robert Stern” saying that mayoral appointees “often vote with the mayor's interest because they need to go along with them or they'll be replaced.” But San Francisco Planning Commissioners have four year terms which cannot be curtailed midstream.

#### The Short-Term Rental Hearing

The Planning Commission's short-term rental hearing was not its finest hour.

Mayoral appointees Johnson and Hillis seemed particularly uninformed about the nuances of key issues. I watched first in disbelief and then growing anger as Johnson criticized a nonprofit enforcement provision that Mayor Lee had publicly endorsed. My feeling was not “It sure is great that this appointee is ignoring the policies of the mayor who appointed her.” To the contrary, I felt that the mayor's staff either failed to educate Johnson about this critical issue or that she had failed to do her homework. Had Wheaton texted Johnson about

Cont. p. 6



Secrets and Neglect

Laguna Honda’s Patient Gift Fund

By Dr. Maria Rivero and Dr. Derek Kerr

Health Commissioners and Laguna Honda Hospital (LHH) executives hold monthly public meetings at the hospital to discuss LHH-specific issues. Few from the public bother to attend these Joint Conference Committee meetings as they conceal more than they reveal. Case in point; hiding changes to the Patient Gift Fund that provides amenities for the “pleasure, comfort and happiness” of LHH residents.

On 3/10/15, LHH Finance Chief, Chia Yu Ma, added this afterthought to her Gift Fund report: “Based on the Controller’s Office recommendation, we have been working ... to slowly move our (Gift Fund) stocks from the Treasurer’s Office control to...Charles Schwab.” At LHH, such afterthoughts and mumbled asides warrant scrutiny. Turns out that Ma buried something about the \$2.4 million Gift Fund, most of which is in donated stocks. A week before, the City Treasurer’s Office had advised her to sell the Gift Fund’s \$1.3 million stock portfolio. After receiving the written “sell” recommendation on 4/3/15, Ma again withheld it from her 5/12/15 Gift Fund report. Also omitted was a \$400,000 donation received weeks before from retired LHH physician Milka Rols.

These non-disclosures resembled those preceding the Gift Fund scandal of 2009-10. Briefly, the Gift Fund then held over \$2 million, including stocks donated in the 1980s. Stocks were kept by the City

Treasurer, an interest account was overseen by the Controller, while cash went for LHH patient activities. With the installment of John Kanaley as CEO in 2004, then Mivic Hirose in 2009, Gift Fund policies were surreptitiously altered – in violation of the Administrative Code – to create an administrative slush fund. Pilfering and mismanagement depleted cash holdings to \$185,000 in late 2009. Another \$835,000 was frozen in stocks and \$543,000 was locked in the interest account. This cash crunch triggered warnings that the Gift Fund was bankrupt. Patient activities like bus-trips were curtailed, yet impermissible expenses for staff perquisites surged.

Protests were ignored within LHH, but reported by KGO TV’s I-Team and The Westside Observer’s Patrick Monette-Shaw in 2010. The resulting furor forced the Controller to issue a Gift Fund audit on 11/22/10. LHH had to repay \$350,000, stop misappropriations, issue quarterly reports, and restore the Gift Fund Management



“Pilfering and mismanagement depleted cash holdings to \$185,000 in late 2009. Another \$835,000 was frozen in stocks and \$543,000 was locked in the interest account. This cash crunch triggered warnings that the Gift Fund was bankrupt. Patient activities like bus-trips were curtailed, yet impermissible expenses for staff perquisites surged.”

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Committee. Unfortunately, the Controller dropped the promised follow-up audit to quell negative publicity. Fortunately, a \$500,000 bequest from the Knight estate returned Gift Fund assets above \$2 million in March 2013. Amidst bullying allegations in July 2013, Bill Frazier, Director of LHH’s Activity Therapy Department, was reassigned as Gift fund Program Director, a newly created post. The move also freed him from justifying cuts in patient activities due to misappropriations upstream. Ma’s censored Joint Conference Committee presentations contained grains of truth. In a lashing 2010 audit, the Controller did urge LHH to “actively manage” Gift Fund stocks, but Ma said nothing about the 4-year delay, Schwab’s role, selling the stocks, or Rols’ \$400,000 donation. Instead, CEO Mivic Hirose took center-stage at DPH headquarters to spin highlights before the full Health Commission, leaving crumbs for Ma to dispense at LHH. As in 2010, the WSO had to dig for answers. A visit with Michelle Durgy, the Treasurer’s Chief Investment Officer since September 2010, revealed that her “tremendously understaffed” team began organizing the stocks in mid-2011. A collaboration with Merrill-Lynch collapsed, so SF discount broker Schwab was contracted to manage the holdings in July 2012. By May 2014, \$660,000 in Gift Fund stocks had been quietly transferred to Schwab. According to the Administrative Code, the Treasurer is only authorized to sell or hold stocks, not trade them. Licensed brokers are better equipped to handle stocks. The

Treasurer’s spokesperson, Stephanie Proffitt, assured that so far, “there are no costs” and that Schwab “has no decision-making role in transactions.” Records show that since May 2014, Bill Frazier’s patient advocacy and energetic tracking of Gift Fund assets got results. He lobbied the City Treasurer to 1) transfer all Gift Fund stocks to Schwab, 2) collect the dividends and interest held by Schwab, 3) check the status of all Gift Fund stocks, and 4) reconcile LHH’s records with Treasury logs. In typical e-mails, Frazier emphasized; “We want the dividends in order to enhance the lives of our residents” and “We want it all.” Frazier and Treasury Investment Officer Hubert White powered through a mess of scattered, neglected stocks until the \$1.3 million portfolio was consolidated under Schwab in January 2015. However, there was a \$120,000 discrepancy between stock values reported by LHH and the Treasurer. Elisa Sullivan of the Controller’s Office explained that “the amount is not missing,” just spread among various stock transfer agents. But 185 shares in General Motors, Delphi, and Bethlehem Steel became worthless due to bankruptcies. The fact that LHH hadn’t received any statements about its 104 Delphi shares since 1999 didn’t raise alarms. In 2009, LHH lost track of 2241 shares in Sprint-Nextel. In 2012, they landed in the State’s Unclaimed Property Fund. When located two 2 years later, they had been sold for \$17,736, which Frazier reclaimed. Another \$14,099 had been

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WEST OF TWIN PEAKS CENTRAL COUNCIL By Mitch Bull

The June meeting of the West of Twin Peaks Central Council featured updated information on the **Balboa Reservoir Project** survey, the election of **new officers** for the 2015-16 term and lots of debate and discussion on “**surplus**” land in the city.

WOTPCC President **Roger Ritter** opened the meeting, spoke about the agenda for the evening, and following the roll call, the delegates were asked to shuffle the agenda so that discussion could be held early-on to have the WOTPCC support a resolution to **Increase**

**the staffing of the San Francisco Police Department.** The SFPD has been understaffed for several years and the resolution, authored by District 8 Supervisor Scott Weiner would move to not only bring staffing to the City Charter allowances of 1971 officers, but also increase



Peter Cohen (r) from the Council for Community Housing addresses “surplus land”

not be placed on the ballot.)

The concept of “surplus” land led into our next discussion as **Lisa Spinali**, of the Sunnyside Neighborhood Association gave an update on the survey the group is doing on the proposed development at the “surplus” **Balboa Reservoir** site. She explained the process is moving fast, and the information needs to be explained to the residents. Spinali also lauded the efforts that the Planning Department has made in working with their group, and that a special meeting at SNA will be held on 6/29. (at St. Finn Barr).

In looking at the results of the initial survey of Sunnyside and Westwood Park residents, the important priorities for the site centered around three areas: Walkways/Pathways and Open Space; Parking issues for the site; Maintaining Neighborhood Integrity and Character. Traffic concerns were the fourth item.

It is interesting to note there was little to no support for the following items: Affordable Housing; Public Art; Education Programs; Social Programs; Office Space.

Another issue in the process is that the CAC (**Citizens Advisory Committee**) has not been activated, as the Mayor’s office has not completed all of the appointments necessary to start the CAC process.

A “dormant” proposal to build a new **Performing Arts Center** at City College has come back onto the radar (now that City College has been cleared to continue). Bond money was earmarked for the center, and has to be used for that purpose. As the proposed location of the center is adjacent to the Balboa Reservoir, the development challenges and discussions become even more critical.

Guest speaker **Peter Cohen**, from the **Council for Community Housing**, also spoke about the process within city government of determining what is “surplus” land, terming the process as “untransparent,” with no public hearings. In addition there seems to be no one person who has an accurate tally of what each department has in land parcels.

In the final piece of activity for the evening, a motion was forwarded for the WOTPCC to co-sponsor a **transportation panel** on Monday, June 29 at 6:30 PM at the Squat and Gobble Restaurant at 1 West Portal. There is no cost for the co-sponsorship. The motion was seconded and approved by a unanimous voice vote.

As this was the final meeting prior to the summer recess, the next regular meeting will be on Monday, September 28th at 7:30 PM at the historic Forest Hills Clubhouse.

For more information see the WOTPCC website ([www.westoftwinpeaks.org](http://www.westoftwinpeaks.org)).

Ruminations From a Former Supervisor By Quentin Kopp



Do you have any feelings about the term “public service” or the term “public servant?” If government employees are public servants, they enjoy a high degree of, if not complete, freedom. Think of such public servants as the Bushes and the Clintons.

The Mayor of San Francisco, for example, has presented taxpayers with a 2015-16 budget, which amounts to almost \$9,000,000,000. The City of Los Angeles, with almost 4,000,000 residents, in May enacted a budget of nearly \$8,600,000,000. San Francisco’s population is about 840,000, or about 18% of Los Angeles’s residents. (It’s not a true comparison because San Francisco city government assumes responsibility for a sheriff’s department with *only* custodial duties, public health, and public welfare, unlike California cities in general.)

Often when people hear the term “public service” they are likely to conjure a state of selflessness and sacrifice to the persons who suffer taxes for government employees’ pay and pensions, and do not hold a government employee in servitude!

a Democrat.) Public Defender Jeff Adachi must be pleased by the District Attorney’s lack of performance; he has endorsed the District Attorney for reelection and co-sponsored a fundraising party for him. No opponent has sought to contest such reelection.

Information showed last month that San Francisco’s arrests decreased 42% the last five years, including serious or violent crime arrests, while on the other hand, the first five months of this year serious or violent crime rose 16% and property crimes 20%, including arson, which increased 48% from 2014. The District Attorney sought unsuccessfully in June an appropriation for a panel of three hand-picked, famously liberal retired judges to investigate the possible dismissal of about 3,000 convictions on the premise many resulted from “racism” by San Francisco police offi-

“...last month that San Francisco’s arrests decreased 42% the last five years, including serious or violent crime arrests, while on the other hand, the first five months of this year serious or violent crime rose 16% and property crimes 20%, including arson, which increased 48% from 2014.

Professor David Barash of the University of Washington discussed altruism in the *Wall Street Journal* last month. The word was derived from a Latin word, “alter.” Professor Barash quotes an author who declares altruism leads to the increase of success of another, and concludes that it exists throughout our natural world and history, while selfishness “is at the heart of most of the problems we face today; the growing gap between rich and poor, the attitude of everybody for himself which is only increasing, and indifference about the generations to come.”

City Hall last month lavishly celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary if its existence, with “goodies” financed by huge corporations such as Wells Fargo Bank, Twitter, and PG&E. That’s one way to foster influence at City Hall. Another way is through a donation to Mayor Lee’s favorite activities and projects. There’s a name for that kind of sly favor seeking; it’s now called “behested payments.” That means PG&E contributes a payment to some favorite activity, public or private, of Lee’s at his *behest*, and PG&E then will do just fine on that pesky contract it wants. It’s not altruism as the motivator. With few exceptions, the San Francisco media remains mute on that type of usurpation of pathways to influence city government.

I thought I was alone in detecting and inviting attention to a district attorney without court or jury trial experience who supported capital punishment as a police officer, then changed his mind as an appointed district attorney facing liberal San Francisco voters. I’m not. The San Francisco Police Officers Association has published further instances of his effort to gain political power. It is common knowledge at the Hall of Justice that the Public Defender’s Office performs far better than the chameleon District Attorney. (Upon appointment as San Francisco Police Chief, the District Attorney proclaimed he was a Republican, then re-registered as

cers, regardless of whether the convicted were guilty.

The common current mantra of civil liberty speakers is mandating body cameras for all San Francisco police officers on the streets. The Police Department must write a policy on usage. Guess what? At a public hearing on June 17, 2015, people complained that the same cameras could violate the privacy of private persons, which reminds one of the hoary adages “you can’t have everything” or “be careful lest you get what you asked for.”

A June 1, 2015 interview in *The Dartmouth Review* (Dartmouth is my alma mater) raised a question about academic “studies” programs as follows: “Is there a reason to have Asian, Black, Gay, Women, Hispanic, Native American studies other than to segregate and foster the tribal anti-intellectual? They aren’t math, science, language, or history; they are racial and sexual as their names clearly demonstrate. This isn’t higher education; this is lower education and the lowest and crudest of the low...Does progress come from the free association of the individual or forced association of the group? The reason for success and progress around the world is liberty, and that has zero to do with racial identity, sex, sexual preference, or anything else that lies completely outside the intellectual or the hard work of the individual.”

That says it all for my reflections from now until September, when I will have the pleasure of iterating, neatly but not gaudily, the reasons I hope one-time Board of Supervisors President Aaron Peskin is elected to the Board of Supervisors in November by voters in North Beach, Telegraph Hill, Russian Hill, Polk Gulch, and Chinatown, now known as District number 3. I heartily endorse Mr. Peskin, even from our refuge six or so miles away, because, among other qualities, he is altruistic.

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



Lisa Spinali (Sunnyside Neighborhood Assn) at the WOTPCC

the staffing to approximately 2200 (reflective of the 13% growth in population in SF since 1994). The motion to submit a letter of support was submitted by **Denise LaPointe**, seconded and approved by a unanimous voice vote.

In the next piece of business the **Nominating Committee**, represented by **Dave Bisho** and **Paul Conroy**, discussed the slate of proposed officers for the 2015-16 WOTPCC Fiscal Year. The slate of officer candidates mirrored the officers currently serving in 2014-15. As the nominations were opened for discussion among the delegates, no new candidates were suggested from the floor, and as such, the current officers were nominated and re-elected to serve for the 2015-16 WOTPCC fiscal year. The election was unanimous. **Roger Ritter** will repeat as President, **Sally Stephens** as Vice President, **Carolyn Squeri** as Treasurer, **David Golden** as Secretary and **Lee Hsu** as Parliamentarian.

The discussion next focused on the concept of declaring what city-owned properties are “surplus” and should be examined for possible building projects. In his report, **George Wooding** cited a legislative motion that would deem that properties listed as “surplus” by city departments would be looked at as possible development sites for homeless housing, and affordable housing (in that order). A group of four supervisors are poised to put it on the ballot for November. As there are no scheduled meetings of the WOTPCC until September, and **ballot opposition arguments** must be crafted and submitted prior to August 17, President Ritter held out the possibility of a **special meeting** being called in early August to address this issue. (There is a possibility that the proposed measure will

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George Wooding/Police Staffing (Cont. from p. 1)



full duty officers in the City is 1,730, down from 1,951 in 2010.

The City Charter as adopted in 1994 defines full staffing as 1,971 officers. Yet, that number is now outdated, since San Francisco has grown significantly since 1994 – from 742,000 to 841,000, an increase of 13.3%.

How many police officers should we hire before the

city starts over-hiring?

The June Board of Supervisors “police hiring resolution” could lead to the city hiring at least 283 more police officers, at a cost of more than \$40 million a year—in addition to the 241 new police who are already in the mayor’s existing budget.

San Francisco will have a hard time affording the expected increase in police officers’ salaries, benefits, housing credits, equipment, and jails. Remember that the city’s budget and revenue is at an all time high. Five years ago, San Francisco had a \$500 million deficit and was delaying police salary increases and trying to restructure police pension payments.

There is no doubt that more police officers will reduce crime—we love the police, so why all of the fuss?

Hiring more police may not actually lead to a significant reduction in crime. Ratios, such as officers-per-thousand population, are totally inappropriate as a basis for staffing decisions.

Our current police force should allow citizens to take over police desk jobs. San Francisco should reduce the number of sworn officers (sheriffs) that work with prisoners and events and have them work with the police. This will allow more police on the streets.

According to Sheriff Ross Mirkarimi “Our jails are half empty.” Of the four open jail sites, three in the South of Market neighborhood of San Francisco and one in San Bruno, there’s space for a total of 2,450 inmates. Only 1,246 or 51-percent of jail capacity is currently being used.

According to the *Chronicle*, “At issue is a six-month pilot program — which ended in January — that saw sheriff’s deputies take over duties from police officers who transported arrested subjects from police stations to jail.” Mirkarimi further stated, “this program allowed police officers more time to do their jobs.” In light of that, he questioned the call by city Supervisors Scott Wiener and Malia Cohen to spend millions of dollars to build up the police force to match the city’s growing population, saying the effort was incomplete without considering other ways to free up officers.

There is no legislative mandate as to what these new police would be doing or where in the city they would be serving. There is no legislative prioritization, just a blind adherence to bureaucratic number calculations.

San Francisco definitely needs more police because California has created its own crime wave.

Due to court orders, California has quietly released approximately 10,000 of its lower level criminals to reduce prison overcrowding over the last six months. More non-violent prisoners will continue to be released.

Additionally, the passage of 2014’s Proposition 47, “The Reduced Penalties for Some Crimes Initiative,” has changed the sentencing of felonies to misdemeanors.

Many crimes that were previously “arrestable” as a felony will now only be “citable” as a misdemeanor. This means that miscreants may not be booked into jail but rather given a citation (similar to a traffic ticket) with a court date to appear, and released in the field. They will not be held pending trial.

Such felony crimes that are now misdemeanors include: Commercial burglary (theft under \$950) • Forgery and bad checks (under \$950 value) • Theft of most firearms • Theft of a vehicle (under \$950 value) • Possession of stolen property (under \$950 value) • Possession of heroin, cocaine, illegal prescriptions, concentrated cannabis, and methamphetamine.

San Francisco’s rate of larceny and thefts per 100,000 inhabitants has jumped 27%. Burglary rates rose 10%, and the rate of motor vehicle thefts and break-ins is rapidly approaching a 10% increase.

Do you feel as safe as you did five years ago?

Please read Yee’s press release and call his office for more information. He is simply asking to review police hiring policy practices before approving a poorly written, bureaucratic hiring policy that is *only* tied to San Francisco’s population.

George Wooding, Midtown Terrace Homeowners Assoc.

**Read Supervisor Norman Yee’s Press Release ..... p 7**

**Read the WOTPC Letter to Sup. Yee ..... p 7**

Chief Suhr’s Slurs Fuels SFPD’s Texts Scandal

## Retaliators Keep Their City Jobs

By Patrick Monette-Shaw

All too often, City employees, including department heads and their deputy directors, who engage in retaliation and prohibited personnel practices, get off scot-free, are never disciplined, and keep their highly-paid jobs.

Conversely, employees who report waste, fraud, or corruption in City government typically lose their employment, often suffer great emotional distress, and are insufficiently compensated for financial losses and loss of livelihoods.

Take Kelly O’Haire, a Police Department lawyer who attempted in July 2009 to have then-Deputy Chief Greg Suhr terminated. O’Haire had convinced then-Chief Heather Fong to demote Suhr; his total pay dropped from \$256,162 as a Deputy Chief III in 2008 to just \$187,959 in total pay as a Captain III in 2010, a \$68,203 loss in income, which lost income may have contributed to Suhr’s animus towards O’Haire. O’Haire was terminated by Police Chief Suhr in May 2011, and was just awarded \$725,000 to settle her wrongful termination lawsuit. The retaliator kept his job.

During the past several years, the *Westside Observer* has reported extensively on whistleblowers facing retaliation — ranging from my article “High Costs of City Attorney’s Advice (Retaliation and Bullying of City Employees)” in May 2013, to a whole host of *Observer* articles across the years by former Laguna Honda Hospital whistleblowing physicians, Derek Kerr and Maria Rivero.

**Civil Grand Jury Weighs In**  
On June 8, San Francisco’s 2014–2015 Civil Grand Jury released its report “*San Francisco’s Whistleblower Protection Ordinance Is in Need of Change*.” It’s a damning indictment of City Hall’s failure to adequately strengthen whistleblower protections for City employees.

The Grand Jury reports that although “San Francisco has enacted a series of ordinances intended to protect City officers and employees from retaliation for reporting improper government activity” since 1989, over the years “the scope of these so-called ‘whistleblower protection’ laws has narrowed.”

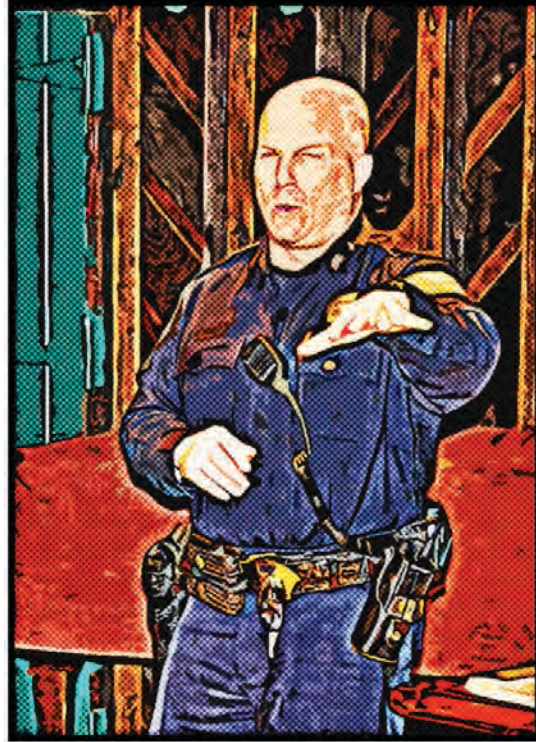
**Narrow Protections**  
San Francisco’s WPO protects only employees who make disclosures “in house.” In order to have the WPO apply, whistleblowers must disclose their government wrongdoing complaints only to certain City government agencies and in certain approved ways; otherwise, the WPO doesn’t apply and provides no protections. The Jury noted “[The WPO] does not protect disclosures that are made by other means, or to persons or entities that are not listed in the ordinance: for example, to news media, to outside law enforcement agencies, or to elected officials outside City government.”

Nor are complaints filed with the FBI.  
If an employee suffers retaliation for reporting wrongdoing to any agency not listed in the WPO ordinance, their complaint will likely be dismissed by the Ethics Commission, which also dismisses complaints not listed in the WPO’s narrow limit of disclosures; waste, fraud, abuse in general, or violations of general law are not included. The Jury notes whistleblowers who disclose such information are not protected from retaliation.

The WPO prohibits only a few types of retaliation: termination, demotion, suspension, and similar job actions. It does not address a wide variety of lesser reprisals and coercion, including non-promotion or reassignment.

**The WPO’s Evolution**  
The Grand Jury reports San Francisco first addressed whistleblower protection when then-Mayor Art Agnos signed the *Improper Government Activities Ordinance* (IGAO) 26 years ago in 1989, which permitted employees injured by retaliation to sue for a paltry \$5,000 in civil damages. Agnos hired Ed Lee to be the whistleblower protection ordinance’s first investigator.

Within 11 years, the Board of Supervisors managed to repeal the IGAO in 2000, replacing it with the WPO, which then Mayor Willie Brown signed into law, transferring investigation of whistleblower complaints from the



The additional 121 cases settled between 2012 and 2015 have cost the City another \$12.2 million, including \$3.6 million in settlement awards and \$8.6 million in City Attorney costs involved during litigation, bringing the total to at least \$32.6 million since 2007, and that’s not counting settlement amounts and the City Attorney’s costs for time and expenses for the 66 pending cases that still haven’t been concluded.”

with other recommendations.

**Uptick In Retaliation Lawsuits During Mayor Lee’s Tenure**

My May 2013 *Westside Observer* article on the high costs of retaliation and bullying of City employees explored 105 cases involving prohibited personnel cases between 2007 and 2012. That article included a pie chart showing the 105 settlements cost \$12.1 million to settle with Plaintiff victims, including at least \$1.4 million to settle 14 “wrongful termination” cases.

In addition, costs were substantially higher when City Attorney costs were added in. Deputy City Attorney’s spent a total of 43,195 hours at a total cost of \$8.3 million defending the 105 cases, bringing the combined total actual settlement awards plus City Attorney time to \$20.4 million in preventable waste of taxpayer funds.

**Surge of Cases Since 2012**

In response to a records request seeking updated records involving prohibited personnel practice lawsuits filed between mid-2012 and May 15, 2015 the City Attorney’s Office provided additional data.

An analysis shows the 105 previously-reported prohibited personnel practices lawsuits between 2007 and mid-2012 has soared to an additional 187 cases in the three-year period between mid-2012 and 2015, a 78% increase during Mayor Ed Lee’s tenure.

The increase in wrongful termination cases from 14 such cases between 2007 and 2012, to an additional 32 wrongful termination cases in the three years since 2012 is troubling, since it represents a 128.6% increase, pointing to a culture of increasing retaliation during Mayor Lee’s tenure.

The additional 121 cases settled between 2012 and 2015 have cost the City another \$12.2 million, including \$3.6 million in settlement awards and \$8.6 million in City Attorney costs involved during litigation, bringing the total to at least \$32.6 million since 2007, and that’s not





## Commentary

# Easy Come – And It's Gone

By Steve Lawrence



Water and sewer rates have been rising at multiples of the CPI in recent years. Rates will continue to rise at similar or greater levels for the foreseeable future to pay for the nearly seven billion dollar program to repair the sewer system.

The latest policy development provides more cause for concern.

Competitive bidding is how public works have traditionally been contracted out (let). The public entity (here SFPUC) prepares detailed plans and specifications, and contractors bid. The low bidder wins the work. The public gets work done at lowest cost. It is fair to bidders.

As public contracts have become less

increases price by weeding out the new and hungry.

In order to stay in favor, contractors/bidders will mostly do as SFPUC staff suggests, hiring favored local businesses for example. The higher cost will just be added to the project cost; the contractor earns more markup on the higher cost.

Social work requirements can be and have been part of detailed specifi-

Now SFPUC wants to jettison competitive bidding in favor or a new method... allows the winner of a contract to be judged not purely on price but 35% on "other factors." "Quality factors" boil down to how well the bidder will, or promises to, serve the "under-served communities" with social programs.

about physical work and more about social work—local business promotion, and local hiring, for examples—competitive bidding gets harder. Not only must a bidder figure out how to buy the materials required, and do the work, but also the bidder must do so meeting numerous requirements—percentage of disadvantaged subcontractors, local hires, use of local businesses, etc. Bidding is hard: subcontractor bids come in at the very last minute before deadline.

Now SFPUC wants to jettison competitive bidding in favor or a new method. The method, called CMGC (construction manager – general contractor), allows the winner of a contract to be judged not purely on price but 35% on "other factors." "Quality factors" boil down to how well the bidder will, or promises to, serve the "under-served communities" with social programs.

For the ratepayer, what is key here is that it is no longer a matter of the lowest price. The cost of public works will rise.

The SSIP program already has a nominally \$6.9 billion price-tag. That is more than \$8200 for every resident.

Competitive bidding is hard but fair. Favored contractors still have to bid low or lose the job. But with the proposed CMGC method, favored contractors' bids will receive favorable subjective scores.

The CMGC method also limits bidders to three who have prequalified. By limiting the pool of bidders the cost of work will rise. Prequalification further

cations. They need to be written out in advance. Bidders figure out how to meet the requirements. Favoritism by public officials is minimized.

Have we come into so much wealth that SF can afford to pay up for billions of dollars of sewer repair? Do we wish to open the door wider to favoritism?

\*\*\*

Affordable housing—a modest proposal. Take one-tenth of the \$1.1 billion, or \$2.7 bn, or whatever is to be spent on affordable housing upcoming, and set up a competition between public and private. For private, give a subsidy to owners who build affordable housing. They earn a check from the city each month they lease an affordable apartment. They have to build the unit, lease the unit to someone occupying it full time, and the rent has to be affordable. That's all. Incentive to build affordable: Guarantee the subsidy, if the above conditions are met, until 2025. Take the present value of that guarantee (assuming criteria always will be met) off from the 10% amount (total: something like \$100-200 million), and continue the offer until funds run out. See how well that works. Compare to government/non-profit, that is today's method(s) of building affordable housing, which, IMO, has not succeeded impressively yet.

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

## Bad Apple Alert

The "Clean Power" ballot initiative many people encountered as signature gatherers circulated in the last few weeks is actually an effort by long-time opponents of clean power alternatives to assure that it will never happen. Many people who were duped into signing the petitions were assured that they were supporting clean power, public power or renewable energy. They may be surprised to learn that its restriction to 100% renewables would make obtaining commercial energy very nearly impossible in the real world—there is no such thing as 100% renewable power. A system without some fossil fuel capabilities or access will fail under high stress situations—proponents do not apply these restrictions to the current power monopoly.

If proponents of this measure wish to assure that the status quo continues unabated, why not just put the question on the ballot in a straightforward manner?

State law specifically prohibits "Willfully and knowingly circulating, publishing, or exhibiting any false statement or misrepresentation concerning the contents, purport or effect of any petition for the purpose of influencing any person to sign that petition."

While it is too late to withdraw a name from a petition once it is in the validation process, citizens need a better way to file complaints when they have been misled.

## Letters to the Editor

I was dismayed to see you published Tony Hall's article "Catholicism Anyone." His comments are not related to the Westside, nor should they have been published under the byline "Former Supervisor." He was writing in response to a paid ad in the *San Francisco Chronicle* and as such should have paid for an ad (in the *Chronicle*) to respond, not been given (or paid?) for space in your newspaper.

Mr. Hall may be unhappy with his fellow Catholics, but his is a religious issue, not a civic one. His role as supervisor was secular as is your newspaper. You owe your readers an apology and should take care to refrain from publishing religious articles and opinion pieces in the future.

Shelley W. Gottlieb



My 2¢ • Will Durst © 2015

## DEAD SOLID SUMMER

It is with a gleeful relief we embrace Independence Day. Because this marks the beginning of dead solid summer. The Fourth of July is a red white and blue arrow to the bulls-eye of patriotism, when we celebrate the anniversary of the birth of our country by packing together in crowds, drinking a lot of beer, and blowing stuff up real good.

That's the thing about summer: it's loud. Fireworks and motorcycles and outdoor concerts and lifeguards on bullhorns and calliopes. Marching bands, for crum's sake. The siren song of the ice cream truck interrupting the high-pitched shrieks of kids in pools, and families at the gates of overbooked flights.

Summer heightens the other senses as well. Lemonade so tart it makes your tonsils pucker. The flash of the Stars and Stripes woven through spokes of fleets of bicycles passing a beauty queen waving a rhinestone wand from the back of a convertible. Eating corn on the cob and letting the butter slide right down your arm to drip off your elbow. Having sand caught in

path across the sky. From the Latin for "stand still." The point at which the days neither lengthen nor shorten. In other words, when time stands still.

That may be the astronomical beginning of summer in the Northern Hemisphere, but it is much less of a fixed date, and more of a state of mind. One that begins when the bell rings for the last class on the final day of incarceration and continues until the sun sets the night before the fall semester begins.

Between now and the MLB All Star Game (The Midsummer Classic), this is the heart of the season. When trips to distant attractions are driven and family reunions attended and sunburns acquired

So, savor this brief respite we call summer. Relax. Saunter. Ramble. Gallivant. Meander. For no apparent reason drag a stick along the ground as you walk.

the pasty-colored folds of flesh that winter clothing has concealed for 8 months.

Summer is the tinny mantra of a baseball game squawking out of a speaker of an AM radio while barefoot at a barbecue eating potato salad that's been left out in the sun all day. Sweating like a stuck pig and waving brooms at mosquitoes the size of footstools. Ducking stray Frisbees while setting picnic tables with plastic utensils. The benign tyranny of a new swimsuit.

And summer is supposed to be fun. Which can cause a kind of forced march frenzy of anxiety as we become so determined to have a good time we need a vacation to recover from our vacation. How many times have you heard... "Damn it, we're going to have a good time if it kills us."

All the meteorologists claim that summer begins at the solstice, which is defined by when the sun takes its most northerly

and roller coasters ridden. And then before you know it, in the blink of an eye, Christmas songs are playing on the radio.

So, savor this brief respite we call summer. Relax. Saunter. Ramble. Gallivant. Meander. For no apparent reason drag a stick along the ground as you walk. Skip stones and fly pinwheels and stay cool and dry and vertical. Or hot and wet and horizontal. Whatever works. Happy 239<sup>th</sup> birthday America. And you know what; in the right light you don't look a day over 225.

Will Durst is an award-winning, nationally acclaimed comic. Go to [willdurst.com](http://willdurst.com) for info about his new one-man show "BoomeRaging: From LSD to OMG" appearing July 9- 16 at the Capital Fringe Festival. [CapitalFringe.org](http://CapitalFringe.org) Check out this example. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HCMU8TnYBqg>

# WESTSIDE OBSERVER

Award Winning News for the Neighborhood — Society of Professional Journalists

[www.westsideobserver.com](http://www.westsideobserver.com)

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The ideas and opinions expressed in these pages are strictly those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the staff or publisher of this paper. The Westside Observer is a free monthly newspaper serving the entire West of Twin Peaks area of San Francisco. Circulation is 18,000 copies, distributed 10 times a year. 16,000 are distributed -to-door, 2000 are distributed via free distribution racks in the West of Twin Peaks area, as well as libraries and other key drop-off points (see [westsideobserver.com/hardcopy.html](http://westsideobserver.com/hardcopy.html)).



**John Farrell/Bonds** (Cont. from p. 1)  
never afford to return. Even back in the September 2008 *Westside Observer* edition, former Supervisor Tony Hall wrote an article on the family exodus from our City.

When I read the article in the Sunday June 7th *Examiner*, "Teachers Struggle to Secure Housing", I became angry. The article noted that "city leaders first began discussing how to provide housing for teachers more than 15 years ago during the thriving dot-com economy of the late 1990's. But the initial commitment for such an effort from the City came in 2007, when former Mayor Gavin Newsom secured \$1 million for the Teacher Next Door Program that helps teachers purchase their first home. As of this year the program, which has since helped 52 teachers find homes in San Francisco, is out of money and without it there is no dedicated source of funding exclusively to help teachers in the City."

The *Examiner* article goes on to note "On May 12, Mayor Ed Lee proposed a \$250 million housing bond that would include \$5 million for the Teacher Next Door Program. Renewing the program per Lee's bond would help 250 teachers." I guess helping 250 teachers find housing is such a priority that no monies were set aside in the Mayor's FY2015-16 budget of \$8.96 billion, which is \$1 billion more than it was 2 years ago. But City Hall knows it can count on its Mikey to fund heart-wrenching issues like this. As the song goes, and as Private Gomer Pyle use to say, "Shame, Shame, Shame!"

Most taxpayers will vote yes on this Housing bond because it is drastically needed. This bond requires a two-thirds vote to pass and would include funding for affordable housing that targets low-income and middle-class San Franciscans, and for rehabbing existing public housing.

It is all good that our City officials want more affordable housing. As concerned citizens we all want that. In my opinion, if the Board, especially former Supervisor and now Assemblyman David Chu, put as much effort in as they did with Airbnb, then this housing crisis would have been addressed sooner and as a priority, not as an election platform.

This \$250M Bond to be paid by

property owners will help the Mayor keep his promise to build 30,000 new units by 2020. We all know Mayor Lee is looking for a legacy. We all know he was hoping it would be the Warriors, if they built their stadium on Port property, but it is no longer the case. If the proposed 30,000 units are created by 2020 he will receive high accolades for his effort. But if not, it should be considered his failure because this whole idea of addressing the housing crisis is part of his election platform for a second term.

I am rooting for the Mayor to keep his promise. However, the Mayor is fully aware that less than 10,000 affordable housing units have been built over the last ten years, and the planning department is backlogged 18 months, as frustrated contractors and their clients are fully aware.

Our City is flourishing and money is coming in hand over fist, and it is expected to continue over the coming years. Our tax revenue has increased substantially due to transfer taxes, property sales, and new construction. And we are not even bringing in hundreds of millions that we can, as I have written in previous articles. In good times like now, programs and services are not as scrutinized in the budget process as they would be in a recession or depression. Let me just stress the fact that I am a strong advocate for affordable housing, and not just during an election year. But I am also for accountability.

This \$250M bond for affordable housing could have been handled with existing and future city funds if prioritized, without asking taxpayers to pay the bill and cost millions in bond interest payments. But City Hall gets its cake and eats it too, because it knows what Mikey likes.

I can't get over the fact that the Mayor's FY2015-16 budget of \$8.96 billion is \$1 billion more than it was 2 years ago and City Hall is still asking homeowners for more. Something is really wrong here.

I wish everyone a wonderful and safe summer!

*John Farrell Broker/Realtor® - Farrell Real Estate, MBA, Former City Asst. Assessor-Budget/Special Projects, 5th Generation San Franciscan, Westside resident - farrell-reinvestments@yahoo.com*



## Kirkham Project: Replace 86 units with up to 460 units

Located near the intersection of 5th Ave. and Kirkham St. in the Inner Sunset District, the Kirkham Heights Apartment complex was built in 1950 and was designed around the car as the primary mode of transport.

Westlake Urban is proposing to redevelop the 86-unit property, creating up to 460 new residential units. The project will be built within the currently developed area of the 6.35 acre site, preserving two acres of the property's existing forest. The proposed site plan complies with the existing zoning's density and 40-foot height limit.

The redevelopment plan includes 86 rent controlled units, and the project's plan includes the opportunity for all existing tenants to return to new rent controlled units. Throughout the redevelopment process, Westlake Urban intends to comply with all requirements of the San Francisco Rent Control ordinance and other applicable San Francisco laws and agreements.

In compliance with the City of San Francisco's Inclusionary Housing Program, as proposed 12% percent of the newly created housing units (not including the rent controlled units) will be rented at below market rate. Together with the 86 rent controlled units, approximately 30% of the homes in this project will be either rent controlled apartments or below market rate units.

The project is at the beginning of a multi-year entitlement process. There is no immediate activity contemplated on this property for several years. Residents are not being asked to make plans or commitments of any kind at this time. While the planning process is proceeding,

While it is too early in the process to provide exact details, Westlake's goal is to minimize the need for residents to relocate during construction to the extent reasonably possible. More info at [thekirkhamproject.com/](http://thekirkhamproject.com/)



## Best of the Net (Cont. from p. 1)

the mayor's position on the issue I would have welcomed it.

To be fair, the Board of Supervisors did not exactly distinguish itself for knowing key facts when it approved the short-term rental measure last fall. But after people on all sides of the debate acknowledged that a rushed debate made for bad legislation, six months of additional time—plus very detailed policy analysis by planning staff—should have brought the Planning Commission up to speed on the issue.

But this additional time did not result in a more informed Planning Commission debate. Instead, one got the impression that certain commissioners had not asked any of their questions about short-term rental policies prior to the hearing, and were almost drowning amidst complicated facts and policies that they did not understand.

For me, that was the real scandal of the Planning Commission's short-term rental hearing.

I understood that the Planning Commission votes on the measures were purely advisory, and this might have impacted how much time Commissioners devoted to the issue. But when commissioners

demonstrate by their questions that they do not understand the underlying policy issues the people of San Francisco are not well served.

I want elected officials to be accountable for the actions of their appointees, whether they be commissioners or department heads. I don't see why anyone would prefer shifting the power to set city policies to an appointed commissioner accountable to no one.

I don't think the Planning Commission's actions will change a single vote on the Board of Supervisors. It should, however, inspire the full Board to get the facts and engage in a more knowledgeable debate on this issue than we have seen in the past.

*Randy Shaw is Editor of Beyond Chron. He discusses some key Planning Commission actions of the past in his new book, The Tenderloin: Sex, Crime and Resistance in the Heart of San Francisco.*

*The Best of the Net features outstanding journalistic efforts to assure that our readers are the best informed in the City. Think we've missed something? email editorWSO@mac.com.*

## Laguna Honda (Cont. from p. 2)

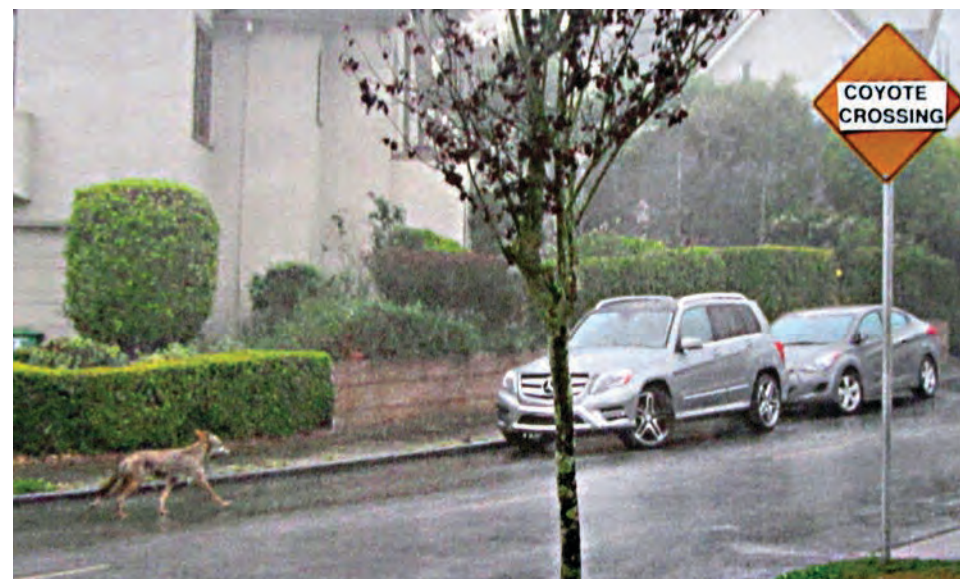
stuck in a Schwab dividend account and was released to LHH in November 2014. In January 2015, LHH learned that 234 Chevron stock certificates worth \$25,674 were lost – although dividends were coming in. Exxon certificates were also lost. Replacing them cost \$915.

Despite these losses and the 4-year slog to sort out the Gift Fund portfolio, most of the stocks had appreciated in value. An analysis by Durgy's team prompted the "sell" recommendation since the market had bubbled to all-time peak and a downturn was expected. Durgy explained that selling the 25 remaining stocks would cost \$13 per transaction - merely \$325. On 5/19/15 the full Health Commission approved the sale, without review before its LHH Joint Conference Committee. To date, stock sales have garnered \$1,163,630,

with more to come. Durgy banked the initial proceeds at 0.65% interest to generate \$7,564 annually.

Chia Yu Ma's Gift Fund reports concealed decades of neglect, uncovered during a long overdue clean-up. Nonetheless, selling the stocks was reasonable, given LHH's inability to manage them, the Treasurer's constraints, and the market outlook. And ethically, LHH shouldn't hold shares in war profiteers like Halliburton, Boeing, and G.E., polluters like Exxon, BP, and Chevron, and obesity purveyors like Coca-Cola. Still, the stock proceeds need tenacious monitoring, given the furtive practices of LHH executives.

*Dr. Maria Rivero and Dr. Derek Kerr were senior physicians at Laguna Honda Hospital where they repeatedly exposed wrongdoing by the Department of Public Health. Contact: DerekOnVanNess@aol.com*



James Corrigan, Forest Hill Extension, snapped this picture of a Coyote at Vasquez and Laguna Honda Blvd. on July 4, 2015.



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## Supervisor Norman Yee: Police Staffing

By Supervisor Norman Yee

On Tuesday, the Board of Supervisors took a vote on a non-binding resolution to establish a Board policy to support increasing the number police officers in San Francisco based on population growth. We have heard from many District 7 residents who were perplexed by my decision to oppose this resolution. Since the media did not cover my perspective, I want to take this opportunity to explain my position.

Since coming into office, I have urged the City to increase the number of police officers to the level that our current Charter supports, which is 1,971. The San Francisco Police Department (SFPD) currently has 1,689 full-duty officers, so we are roughly 300 officers short of meeting the 1,971 goal. Just a few years ago, SFPD had a hiring freeze due to the economic recession and struggled to increase its force. That was unacceptable to me. This year, I supported a City budget which allowed SFPD to add 8 police academy classes over the next two years to train new officers. Police Chief Greg Suhr believes that our city will reach 1,971 police officers by 2017 with this increase in classes.

The resolution introduced by my colleagues did not simply state that we wanted to increase the number of officers to meet our current needs. I would have supported that. Instead, the resolution called for increasing our police force beyond 2,200 officers. The 2,200 figure is based on an old report completed in 2008. The sponsors of the resolution did not even bother to have a discussion with the San Francisco Police Commission, the oversight body of the SF Police Department, about this goal. I have an issue with supporting a policy statement that does not offer an open, transparent dialogue about the real needs to support an increase. I also don't believe in making decisions based on outdated data. Since 2008, there have been many changes that influence the assessment of the appropriate number of police officers needed to keep our city safe. This includes new technology that we are investing in to increase SFPD's ability to decrease response time. Can there be other changes to make SFPD more efficient? Can we move police officers out of desk jobs and on to the beat instead? Are there effective crime prevention programs that would influence the number of officers needed to ensure public safety?

I also want to point out that this resolution is not impactful. It is merely a statement—not a mandate or an action. If we really want to talk about increasing public safety, we should be looking at proactive ways to determine the needs of our city. We have at least two years before the SFPD can even reach the 1,971 goal established by our Charter. I want us to get to a point where we are able to make the call to increase the number of officers based on a comprehensive process. I wanted to offer an amendment to this resolution to include a process to determine how many police officers are needed in the City based on current analysis. I wanted to take the politics out of this vote.

I completely support our police force and look forward to getting our District 7 stations fully staffed to serve our residents. But, as we plan for the future, I want to continue this conversation and approach the question of appropriate staffing for all our Public Safety departments in a comprehensive way.

I hope this helps to clarify my position on this resolution. Let's make sound, logical decisions rather than political ones. It's only fair to the residents of our District and this great city that we take the time to do it right. (June 24, 2015)

## West of Twin Peaks Central Council: Letter to Supervisor Yee

As a district supervisor, you were elected to serve the constituents of District 7 as one of eleven on the Board of Supervisors, the legislative branch of government, as our voice in City Hall.

The West of Twin Peaks Central Council, comprised of 20 homeowner associations and neighborhood organizations, sent a detailed letter to the Board of Supervisors stating our unanimous support for the population-based police staffing resolution, after discussion and a vote at our June 22, 2015, meeting. The matter was on the board's calendar for the next day, and the organizations present at our meeting wanted our position to be known to you. Additionally, your legislative aide, Matthias Mormino, attended the WTPCC meeting and seemingly supported the statements by a delegate that, as the elected District 7 Supervisor, you understood clearly that your duty and responsibility is to represent our interests in City Hall. That's why your vote – opposing the resolution to increase police staffing—came as such a disappointment to us. We have read your statement explaining why you voted against the resolution. With all due respect, we believe that it does not adequately address our concerns, as set forth below.

A taxpayer funded, independent study by the City Controller, published on June 10, 2015, clearly outlines the relationship between increased population and decreased police staffing. Moreover, the resolution had the support of a majority of your colleagues, so what was to be gained by opposing a non-binding resolution supported by your constituents?

The Controller's audit clearly stated that San Francisco's total crime rate (violent and property) per resident and daytime population in 2013, was the second highest among the six other cities studied. The property crime rate was also the second highest in the survey group, only lower than Oakland's rate. At the same time, the staffing levels of San Francisco's sworn staff per 100,000 residents (239 officers) and daytime population (201 officers) were lower than the peer group averages. San Francisco was the most densely populated city, and compared to others, it falls below the peer trend line for number of sworn officers per square mile. The resolution simply supports the data gathered by City Hall's trusted auditors. So aligning your vote with a minority of members on the Board of Supervisors is perplexing.

We stated that we support investment in community policing. As neighborhood leaders, we also support programs and philosophies that promote organizational strategies that enhance the systematic use of partnerships and problem-solving techniques, to proactively address the immediate conditions that give rise to public safety issues, such as crime, social disorder, and fear of crime. Our members know public safety issues are complex and how important it is for our neighborhoods to prevent crime and try to eliminate the atmosphere of fear it creates. Earning the trust of the community enables law enforcement to better understand and address both the needs of the community and the factors that contribute to crime.

San Francisco Police Department staffing is a continuous, increasingly complex challenge, given our City's rapid population increase, compounded by overall affordability issues, making recruiting and retention of officers difficult. We understand that police staffing in a time of increasing attrition, expanding law-enforcement responsibilities, and decreasing public perception of police, is no small matter for City government.

As your constituents, we simply want to ensure that the number of police officers meet the demands placed on them in a cost-effective and ethical manner for the safety and peacefulness of our neighborhoods and property. We sincerely hope you will do the same.

We would be happy to meet with you to discuss this matter further.

Roger Ritter, President, West of Twin Peaks Central Council • July 1, 2015

## MUNI Service Improving?

By Glenn Rogers, PLA



The City believes mass transit needs improving. Does anyone see an improvement of the "on time" performance of MUNI today from yesterday? With construction going on at a record pace, and traffic often blocked with utility improvements, not to mention additional laborers, traffic is worse. One solution for better MUNI performance has been to limit or restrict service, creating hardships for the elderly, the disabled and the handicapped. Even eliminating bus stops to hospitals is considered an improvement in service. However, with an outcry from the public, the 33 bus will postpone canceling its service to San Francisco General until 2020, then review this policy again. No doubt, there will be fewer elderly activists present then to stop this idea. Usually, seniors and those with disabilities move to locations where mass transit provides services to health care. Now, these same citizens will need to move again.

### The Private Taxi Congestion:

Uber, Sidecar and Lyft claim to remove congestion in San Francisco, reducing the need for individuals to travel downtown. Well, with 16,000 to 11,000 vehicles working for Uber alone on a daily basis, it is adding to traffic congestion, not solving it. In addition, Uber wishes to add an additional 120 vehicles to improve service. Uber is the largest of these private taxi services but Sidecar and Lyft also contribute to congestion. SFMTA controls the 1,812 taxis operating in San Francisco today, preventing more taxis from causing gridlock. Uber has no such control over its service providers.<sup>1</sup>

### Private Buses a Boom or Bust to Neighborhoods:

Assembly Bill 61, which would make permanent the Commuter Shuttle Pilot Program, whereby private buses use MUNI bus stops, is presently on hold. Private buses for employees of Google, Apple and Salesforce are prime examples of those that would benefit from this bill. At first glance this pilot program that was to last 18 months would seem to benefit the public, with less commuters on the road; however, let's look at this further. Studies have shown that renters who live beside private bus stops are finding their rents increase, allowing well-paid tech workers to replace

Cont. p. 9



## Stickley Mission Anniversary Sale Now Through July 27, 2015



26 years ago the Stickley Company made history when it reissued the historic Mission Collection. Today we invite you to own a piece of history—lovingly and meticulously handcrafted in the USA. During this celebration the entire Mission Collection is on sale.

## Noriega Furniture

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www.NoriegaFurniture.com





Money Matters By Brandon Miller

3 Ways to Simplify Your Financial Life

When life gets busy it's easy to become more passive about managing your bank accounts and credit cards by letting receipts, bills and statements pile up. Even if you regularly keep up with your finances, it can be beneficial to take a fresh look at them. Simplify your financial life with these three strategies.



1. Go paperless.

It's easier than ever to access financial documents online. Choosing paperless convenience will not only make your life more efficient and clutter-free, it's also environmentally friendly.

A good place to start is by requesting electronic statements and opting out of printed ones from the companies who send you regular bills. Consider going paperless with your bank, credit card companies, your cell phone and cable providers or your electric company. You'll then receive an email when your statement or bill is ready each month. This gives you the option to download and store your statements electronically and also to print as needed and file if needed.

If you're not already enrolled in direct deposit with your employer, make sure to get this set up. It saves a trip to the bank on pay day and you get to enjoy the fruits of your labors sooner. While you're at it, go ahead and request electronic receipts at the store when they're offered in lieu of stuffing them in your pockets or purse.

2. Consolidate where you can.

There are several corners of your financial life that can be simplified through consolidation. Retirement accounts are one of those areas. If you've worked for several employers during the course of your career, you've probably acquired a few retirement accounts along the way. Accumulated assets left in a former employer's retirement account are still yours, but they sometimes offer less investment flexibility. If you like the idea of having fewer accounts to keep track of, or if you prefer to actively manage your retirement dollars, consider consolidating stray 401(k) and IRA dollars by rolling them into a centralized retirement account. There's a lot to consider when it comes to rollovers so it's important to weigh all of your options carefully. (Consider a direct rollover, as withholding tax and tax penalties may apply for cash withdrawals.)

Credit cards and debt are two other areas where consolidation may be wise. Is it time to chop up the card that carries a hefty annual fee? Are you carrying a credit card balance that is snowballing due to high interest rates? It may be financially advantageous to pay off the cards with the highest interest rates and either close the account or put it away for emergency use only. It's a relief to have fewer cards to manage, along with a plan for extinguishing debt.

3. Turn to the professionals.

As you sort through your financial choices, enlist the right team of professionals to assist you. Helpful professionals may include a tax advisor or an accountant, who can provide guidance on how to put you in the best tax situation, and a lawyer who specializes in estate planning. Also consider consulting a financial advisor who can help you streamline your financial life and accelerate your financial goals by recommending specific strategies based on your individual situation. Each of these professionals can share their expertise with you and help you eliminate unnecessary financial clutter.

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

Jerry Cadagan (Cont. from p. 1)

Cadagan was very much aware of the decline of the Lake and its natural habitat. His concern for it went beyond just a small circle of family and friends. His love for Lake Merced was part of his passion for all the waterways and great outdoors. As Morten explained, "the depth of his water resources knowledge, legal analysis, political acumen gained in various water wars, was immense. And so was his media savvy and most of all, his tenacious advocacy for nearly 20 years. He did not give up in his efforts to revive the City's environmental jewel, Lake Merced."

Ironically as Morten pointed out, "Jerry's initial profession was as a corporate attorney for Crown-Zellerbach, a major supplier of paper. But when Jerry discovered river rafting in the 1970's his life took on a new direction."

He and his wife Kristin Ann (Sullivan) Cadagan shared a love for the outdoors and concern for the environment, so much so that they moved from the SF Bay Area to Senora, to be closer to another one of Cadagan's concerns, the Tuolumne River.

Staff at Tuolumne River Trust, like Peter Derkmeier, hold Cadagan in high esteem because of the work he did not just for Tuolumne or Lake Merced, but for all of the waterways. Organizations like "Friends of the River" remember Cadagan for his commitment to preserve, protect and defend the natural habitat of the rivers, not just in the Bay Area but throughout the State of California and the nation.

John Amodio, who worked with the Sierra Club back in the 1980s and '90s, admitted he was a bit wary of a former corporate lawyer who had worked for a paper company. Yet like Morton, he too recognized that Cadagan's legal training and sharpness served the cause of environmental issues very well. "He brought the rare combination of a keen strategic mind that could dissect both policy and political ramifications, and then devise strategies that were not only effective, but fun to pursue," said Amodio.

While Cadagan's interest and concern for environmental issues broadened, the *Westside Observer* witnessed Cadagan's deep affection for Lake Merced. Even though he had to commute from Senora, Cadagan was in attendance at just about every meeting and proceeding concerning the lake. His voice was at times the only one that could withstand the on-going bureaucracy that entangled Lake Merced and its future.

"Jerry was often the only one able and willing to fight 'the two headed monsters,' the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission and SF Recreation and Parks," said Morten. The SFPUC, often referred to as SF Water Power Sewer, Assistant General Manager of the Water Enterprise, Steven Ritchie and Cadagan would clash, as some of the various meetings and community gatherings could get heated and go on for hours.

"But Jerry was never antagonistic," said Morten. Jerry always maintained his ground very respectful of the opposition or adversaries he faced."

Along with Morten, many referred to Cadagan as "a warrior." Cadagan was always willing to go up against the larger powers that can often sweep away any concerns a local community might have about something near to them, like Lake Merced.

Despite his wit, humor, tenacity, fortitude and charm, Cadagan was only human. His son Brent told the *Westside Observer* that the death of his wife Kristin was a tremendous loss to the Cadagan family. She had been driving to visit with friends during the Thanksgiving season this past November of 2014 and died from a car accident.

Morten said, "Kristin's death was too much for Jerry."

The family of Jerry and Kristin Cadagan ask that donations be made to a favorite environmental charity in their memory.

Jonathan Farrell is a local journalist.



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Retaliation (Cont. from p. 4)

counting settlement amounts and the City Attorney’s costs for time and expenses for the 66 pending cases that still haven’t been concluded.

While the 14 wrongful termination cases between 2007 and 2012 cost the City \$1.4 million in settlement costs alone, the 23 wrongful termination cases between 2012 and 2015 involved \$1.2 million in settlement costs. And there’s nine outstanding wrongful termination settlements still not concluded, with an unknown amount of City Attorney expenses unreported.

Wrongful terminations occurred in the Police Department, District Attorney’s Office, SFGH, Laguna Honda Hospital, Department of Human Services, Department of Parking and Traffic, Recreation and Parks Department, the Fire Department, Planning Department, MTA, Department of Juvenile Probation, the Fine Arts Museums, and other City Departments.

While all the victims appear to have lost their City jobs, the department heads named in the lawsuits as responsible — or alternatively were responsible for the actions of their subordinates who engaged in wrongful termination — kept their jobs, including department heads Ed Reiskin, Phil Ginsburg, Joanne-Hayes-White, John Rahaim, Trent Rhorer, Barbara Garcia, George Gascón, and Greg Suhr, among others.

Will the Mayor Stop the Retaliators?

Back in 1989, then-Mayor Art Agnos appointed the then-young Ed Lee to be San Francisco’s first investigator for the City’s whistleblower ordinance. Now that Lee became Mayor, it’s time for him to come full circle and actually fix the many problems with the whistleblower program operated jointly by the Ethics Commission and the City Controller’s Office.

The 2014–2015 Civil Grand Jury’s new report appears to have overlooked three key improvements that need to be amended in the Whistleblower Protection Ordinance.

The first involves amending the WPO to include basic First Amendment protections for City employees. As Judge Claudia

Wilken noted during proceedings in Dr. Kerr’s wrongful termination case, Section 4.115 of San Francisco’s Campaign and Government Conduct Codes that can sanction officers or employees who engage in retaliation does **not** provide any mechanism for **review or reversal of unlawful termination decisions**.

Wilken further noted Section 4.115 does **not** provide retaliation protections for employees who engage in using First Amendment free speech and subsequently face retaliation

The second needed improvement involves the Jury’s recommendation that the Ethics Commission be authorized to cancel retaliatory job actions. There should be a mechanism for review of all retaliatory job actions by an Administrative Law Judge who is completely independent of the City’s Department of Human Resources.

And third, the WPO needs to have a provision added specifying that any manager in every City department found to have engaged in retaliation will face suspension or immediate termination.

Retaliation “Tone” Set at the Top

Mayor Lee has both a duty to ensure retaliation against whistleblowers is detected and remedied, and that organizations set the tone from the top on down that retaliation is not acceptable and will not be tolerated.

The Mayor should adopt all of the Grand Jury’s recommendations immediately. The culture of retaliators keeping their jobs, while the victims of retaliation lose their livelihoods, needs to stop now.

*The in-depth version of this article is available at [www.stopLHHdownsize.com](http://www.stopLHHdownsize.com). Monette-Shaw is an open-government accountability advocate, a patient advocate, and a member of California’s First Amendment Coalition. He received the Society of Professional Journalists–Northern California Chapter’s James Madison Freedom of Information Award in the Advocacy category in March 2012. Feedback: [monette-shaw@westsideobserver.com](mailto:monette-shaw@westsideobserver.com).*

Proposition 218 – The courts are speaking – listen!  
By Brian Browne



Finally, a way to fight utility cost increases, also known as local government taxes. As the courts take a greater interest in 1996 Proposition 218, changes for utility services (local government taxes) are forecast. Ascending tier pricing, where each additional block of water (utilities) usage costs more, and the Rate Fairness Board (RFB), could be scrapped and the right to issue revenue bonds ceded back to the voters. Such changes will depend on how assertive citizens are in demanding their constitutional rights to vote on local government tax increases, which include utility services.

Time to implement Proposition 218

The 1996 Proposition 218 (Jarvis-Gann) is also known as the initiative for the right of citizens to vote on local government tax increases. Proposition 218 created a California Constitutional Amendment. The California Supreme Court in 2006 clarified the definition of local taxes, under Proposition 218, to include water service charges (and, by implication, sewer and refuse collection fees) and related fees that cannot be increased without a vote.

In April 2015 the 4th District Court of Appeals found that the city of San Juan Capistrano’s multiple tier water rates were inconsistent with Proposition 218. Ascending tier rates have long been a staple pricing system used by municipal water systems to ration limited supplies of water. Ascending tier pricing is also an important part of Governor Jerry Brown’s drought-conservation efforts.

The Court ruling did not rule out the use of ascending tier rates. It stated that all water supplies must be based on current production costs. The Court acknowledged that estimating “marginal costs” for rate setting, as prescribed by Proposition 218, would be a daunting task, noting, however, that Proposition 218 is the law and it must be followed.

Proposition 218 does not allow rates to be less or more than actual service costs for current water deliveries. This rules out ascending tiers where part of the water supply is provided at rates below cost, and another part at rates higher than cost to balance revenues and costs. This type of subsidy is not permitted.

Rates must mirror actual costs used to produce current supplies. Exact mirroring may be an impossible task for rate makers tasked with designing and implementing an ascending tier system. The near impossibility of mirroring an ascending tier rate system with actual costs may force utilities to use a one-rate system.

When tier pricing was introduced in San Francisco, much opposition came from lower to middle income folks with large families. These people believed they would quickly use up their tier 1 allocation and be forced to buy a disproportionate amount of water at the higher tier 2 charge, as a function of household size. For these people it is a regressive tax. It is an exacerbated regressive tax on these residents if the “tier-makers” have overestimated tier 2.(3, 4, ...)

The Court in the April decision narrowed the allowed costs that may be used in rate making to those service costs directly used to provide current supplies. This also eliminates any crosssubsidization in the rate structure between time periods. This is sometimes called intergenerational transference, a process clearly not allowed under Proposition 218.

Marginal cost pricing – a better way to go

The insistence by the Court on using

a marginal cost approach to setting rates is good news for rate payers and overall macro-economic wellbeing. Economists working in the United States and other drought areas, particularly Australia, have concluded that using marginal cost pricing leads to a more efficient use of water resources, and more optimally complements the economy than is found

under ascending tier pricing regimes. This, of course, is based on valuing water supplies at a true opportunity (alternatives forsaken) cost.

Prior to 2002 all revenue bonds issued by the SFPUC had to be approved of by the voters. This is clearly in alignment with Proposition 218. San Francisco 2002 Proposition E passed and it stripped these voting rights on the issuance of revenue bonds from the citizens and handed them to the Board of Supervisors.

Revenue bond debt service must be repaid through the rate structure. In 2011 I estimated that the \$4.6 billion repayment cost for the Water Supply Improvement Program (WSIP) would increase the cost of each unit (748 gallons) by an additional \$2.69. There are plans by the SFPUC to issue up to \$15 billion in revenue bonds to fund their overall capital improvement programs (water, wastewater, and power). Proposition P created the Revenue Bond Oversight Committee (RBOC). The RBOC was created to ensure independent oversight over bond issuances and bond expenditures.

The RBOC has been nullified by the SFPUC and other elements of the city administration and is nothing more than a rubber stamp for the SFPUC. Proposition E also stated that only the SFPUC and not the City and County of San Francisco would be responsible for the bond indebtedness of the SFPUC. The illusion of oversight is worse than having no oversight. Fortunately the courts have decided that the state constitution gives us that oversight and financial protection by making it law that all rate (tax) increases must be voted on.

Fortunately for the voters, in 2006, in the Big Horn Decision, the California Supreme Court defined utility services as local taxes and as such subject to the provisions of the California Constitution as added by passage of 1996 Proposition 218. SFPUC bond expenditures do increase utility costs (debt service) and hence local taxes. All revenue bonds issued by the SFPUC are repaid through local-tax increases and therefore, to be consistent with Proposition 218, must be put before the voters to approve or disapprove. San Francisco 2002 Proposition E cannot overcome the mandates of the California Constitution.

The Rate Fairness Board is a contradiction in terms. It was never needed. It must be excised from the body politic. Proposition 218 spoke exactly to what must be considered in making rates. There is no mention of “fairness” in the constitution, just reasonable costs for current services.

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

The Rate Fairness Board is a contradiction in terms. It was never needed...There is no mention of “fairness” in the constitution, just reasonable costs for current services.



MUNI (Cont. from p. 7)

existing tenants. Those that own property, whether it be residential or business real estate, are finding their property values increasing by \$100,000. Therefore, their property taxes are rising. If small businesses move, the diversity provided by “Mom and Pop” stores will diminish, as larger chain stores replace less profitable businesses. The elderly on fixed incomes can also be forced to move, if property taxes become too high.

A Fair Tax for Private Buses:

Considering the drastic changes that are occurring in our neighborhoods because of the Commuter Shuttle Pilot Program, minimal fees of \$1 or \$3.55, and this July of \$3.67, for each visit of a private

bus to a public bus stop, do not pay for the true cost of access. Should this program continue, and there are many reasons why it shouldn’t, a daily flat fee of \$1,000 per stop for access could provide funds for improving MUNI’s maintenance, or the purchase of more vehicles to our existing fleet. Then too, any worthwhile City necessity, e.g., affordable or middle class housing subsidies, could benefit from this tax. The City is missing an opportunity to tax wealthy corporations fairly.

Glenn Rogers is a local landscape architect  
1. <http://archives.sfxaminer.com/sanfrancisco/uber-releases-driver-data-for-first-time-and-its-not-pretty-for-taxi-industry/Content?oid=2917635>

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Not all crimes are reported in the weekly reports.

Mon - June 1

**Theft**  
10:45 am • 2500 Irving St  
A suspect rode away on a new bicycle & never returned.

Suspect – Hispanic male :: 35-40 years :: 5’08” tall :: 160 lbs :: blond hair :: brown eyes :: LSW black jacket, red jersey, blue jeans with security tag on, tattoo “SF” on forearm & a red playing card on neck

**Robbery**  
3:50 pm • Noriega St & 28th Ave

A suspect drove up next to a victim who was walking on a sidewalk, pulled out a gun & pressed it against the victim’s stomach, demanding he surrender his belongings. The victim complied, suspect fled.  
Suspect – Black male :: 5’08” tall :: 150 lbs. :: black hair :: dark skin :: LSW short hair, white T shirt, dark jeans, armed with a black semi-auto handgun  
Suspect Vehicle – White 2015 Chrysler sedan with Arizona license plates

Tue - June 2

**DUI-Speeding-Arrested**  
12:16 am • 31st Ave & Noriega St  
A driver determined to be under the influence drove into the back of an occupied police vehicle. The driver was arrested for driving under the influence. The occupants of all the involved vehicles & the suspect were transported to a hospital.

**Counterfeit Money**  
4:22 pm • 3200 20th Ave  
Three suspects walked into a store & made purchases with counterfeit currency before fleeing.  
Suspect #1 – Asian female, 8-24 years :: 5’02” tall :: 110 lbs. :: black hair with blond tips :: brown eyes :: LSW green dress  
Suspect #2 – Black female, 18-24 years :: 5’08” tall :: 200 lbs. :: black hair :: brown eyes :: LSW black shirt, blue jean shorts  
Suspect #3 – Hispanic female, 18-24 years

Wed - June 3

**Theft**  
11:13 am  
3200 20th Ave  
Officers responded to a report of shoplifting. Five suspects walked into the store, took merchandise items, & fled. A store manager managed to retrieve one merchandise item from one of the suspects they fled.

All 5 Suspects – Black female :: 20-25 years

**Fraud**  
3:50 pm • 1400 Funston Ave  
A man accepted an email offer to put a company logo on his vehicle in exchange for money. He then received a check for a greater amount than was intended. A suspect told the victim to wire the rest of the money to a second suspect. After he wired the excess amount from his own account, the check from the suspect bounced.

Suspect #1 – male  
Suspect #2 – male  
**Robbery-Arrest**  
5:17 pm • 1000 Ocean Ave

A suspect asked a victim to borrow a cell phone to make a phone call, however, the suspect began to walk away with it and threatened him. Officers arrested the suspect for robbery.

**Fraud**  
Reported 6:25 pm  
300 Shields St  
A woman alleged her niece may have forged the victim’s signature to purchase a vehicle used the victim’s identity to help purchase the vehicle. Suspect – Black female :: 25 years :: 5’9” tall :: 225 lbs. ::

black hair :: brown eyes  
**Theft**  
10:09 pm • 00 Fuente Ave  
Officers responded to a report of a stripped vehicle. An unknown suspect had stolen the rear driver side wheel assembly.

**Assault**  
10:23 pm • Wawona St & 46th Ave  
An intoxicated passenger tried to pry open a bus door in order to exit. The passenger then hit the bus driver before fleeing the scene.

Suspect – White male :: 35 years :: 5’10” tall :: 190 lbs. :: blond hair :: blue eyes :: LSW blue sweatshirt, black pants, dark shoes, black back pack.

Thu - June 4

**Shoplifting**  
9:09 pm • 1700 Ocean Ave  
A store manager saw a suspect place numerous items in a store basket and exit the store without paying. Manager stopped the suspect and retrieved the stolen merchandise. She fled in an auto.  
Suspect – Black female :: 35-45 years :: 5’7” tall :: 140 lbs. LSW gray hoodie, black scarf, black back pack, and black tights.

Fri - June 5

**Residential Robbery with Gun**  
1:37 am • 100 Crespi Dr  
Officers responded to a report of a robbery. The suspects knocked on the door and the victim went to see who it was. Once he opened the door the suspects punched and placed the victim on the ground. They then rushed into the residence while brandishing a gun and ordered the rest of the victims to lie down on the ground. The suspects hit the victims and ransacked the residence before feeling the area. Numerous items were stolen from the house.  
Suspect #1 – Black male :: 20-30 years :: 5’5” tall :: 170 lbs :: LSW white clown mask and a green sweater.  
Suspect #2 – Black male :: 20-30 years :: 5’8” tall :: 180 lbs :: LSW red hoody, white latex gloves, gray scarf around face, and tan timberland boots.

Remaining 6 Suspects : Black male

**Battery**  
5:39 am • Lake Merced Blvd & State Dr  
Officers questioned the nude man who stated that someone had assaulted him and he did not know his personal information. Observing injuries on the man they called medical personnel to assist.

Suspect – Male :: 5’10” tall :: 220 lbs

**Aggravated Assault with Gun-Possession of a Loaded Firearm-Arrest**

1:51 pm • Brighton & Holloway Ave  
Witnesses stated that they observed several suspects start to shooting at each other and one person was injured, then they fled in multiple directions. Officers located one shot victim and his brother who went to drop him off. The brother of the shot victim stated that he shot back at the person shooting at his brother. The officers arrested him for firing a gun at someone else and for carrying a loaded weapon in public.

Suspect #1 – Black male :: 19-30 years :: LSW long braids about 10”-12”, and with a semi-automatic pistol that is possibly a Glock.

Suspect #2 –Black male :: 19-30 years :: LSW white t-shirt, blue jeans, with a 38 special black revolver.

Suspect #3 – Black male :: 19-30 years :: LSW white t-shirt, dark blue jeans, with a possible 45 caliber handgun that is black in color.

Suspect #4 –Black male :: 5’10” tall :: 175 lbs :: LSW white t-shirt, short chopped

hair, with a semi-automatic weapon that is possibly a 9MM.

Suspect #5 – Black male :: 14-19 years :: LSW white t-shirt, black jeans, and carrying a black sweatshirt.

Suspect #6 – Black male :: 19-30 years :: LSW white t-shirt and black jeans.

Suspect #7 – Black male :: 6’0” tall :: 180 lbs  
Suspect #8 – Driver of suspect vehicle that fled the area.

Suspect #9 – Driver of suspect vehicle that fled the area.

**Battery**  
8:57 pm • Kirkham St & 9th Ave

The victim stated that the suspect struck her with a closed fist twice on the face. The suspect then fled the area. The MUNI driver confirmed the statement.

Suspect: Black male :: 25-27 years :: 5’6” slim :: 170 lbs :: black hair :: LSW gray hoodie, gray pants, low haircut.

Sat - June 6

**Robbery with Force**  
9:05 am • Lenox Way & Ulloa St

A juvenile walked into Taraval station with his father to report a robbery. The juvenile stated that he was at a park late at night when a male approached him asking for drugs. The victim stated that he didn’t have any. The suspect and a large group of others then started to chase and hit him and his friends. The suspects stole some of their personal belongings and fled the area.

All 15 suspects were Black males :: 15-18 years

**Threats**  
9:52 am • 00 Cambon Dr

A store employee stated that two suspects entered the store to pick up a vehicle with another person’s reservation. The employee declined. They left the store and returned with another suspect and began verbal threats and throwing. They fled when the police were called.

Suspect #1 – Hispanic female :: 20-30 years :: 5’5” tall :: 260 lbs :: black hair :: LSW blue sweatshirt and a white t-shirt.

Suspect #2 – Black male :: 20-30 years :: 6’0” tall :: 165 lbs :: black hair :: LSW all dark clothing, blue top and dark jeans.

Suspect #3 – Hispanic female :: 20-30 years :: 5’3” tall :: 110 lbs :: black hair

**Warrant Arrest-Arrested**  
10:56 am • 1300 41st Ave

Officers met with the victim who stated that he had just purchased a property and a man was refusing to leave. The officers conducted a computer records search that revealed the suspect to have an active warrant for his arrest. He was arrested.

Mon - June 8

**Assault**  
2:33 am • 3800 Noriega St

Officers responded to a report of an assault. Three victims said that they were outside a restaurant smoking when one of them made a comment that the suspects did not like. The suspects used an unknown metal object and hit the victims.

Suspects were all Asian male.

**Burglary**  
7:53 am • 1300 10th Ave  
The suspect gained entry to the garage by cutting a padlock. Once inside, the suspect stole a bicycle and some tools.

**Extortion**  
11:35 pm • 00 Chumasero Dr

A victim met suspect on an online dating site. After exchanging personal video, the suspect demanded money or the personal video would be posted on the victim’s Facebook account for everyone to see.

**Threats – Arrest**  
10:44 pm • 200 Wilson St

Officers responded to a report of threats. A victim stated a family member made threats to hit her and kill her. Suspect was located and arrested.

**Battery – Arrest**  
4:21 pm • 1800 Vicente St

Officer responded to a report of battery. 2 Victims said the suspect pushed and punch them. The suspect was arrested, given a court summon and released to Juvenile Justice Center.

Tue - June 9

**Vandalism and Threatening Phone Calls**  
9:55 am • 2300 Ocean Ave

A victim said that an ex-boyfriend started calling and cursing at her and yelling profanities. The suspect then showed up to where she was and started breaking items. He left when confronted by co-workers.

Suspect Black male :: 53 years :: 6’0” tall :: 198 lbs. :: black hair :: brown eyes

**Theft-Shoplifting**  
1:20 pm • 3200 20th Ave

A store manager reported that two suspects entered the store and grabbed multiple items. They then fled the store.

Suspect #1 – Black female :: 13-19 years :: 5’6” tall :: 120 lbs :: black hair :: LSW stripped Mexican hoodie, jeans, and black with white Jordan shoes.

Suspect #2 – Black female :: 13-19 years :: 5’6” tall :: 120 lbs :: black hair :: LSW gray and blue flannel shirt, cut off jean shorts, and black with white shoes.

**Battery**  
8:26 pm • 19th Ave & Sloat Blvd

A couple were in a vehicle when they started having an argument. Suspect slammed her head against the center console causing bruising. Suspect stopped the car and victim walked away.

Suspect – male :: 24 years :: 6’2” tall :: 180 lbs. :: black hair :: brown eyes

**Theft from Building**  
11:33 pm • 00 West Portal Ave

The victim who stated that an unknown suspect stole her personal belonging from the chair she was sitting on while she was at the restroom. An employee stated that the owner of the place could retrieve video surveillance at a later time.

Wed - June 10

**Theft**  
12:05 pm • 22nd Ave & Irving St

A woman walked into Taraval Station to report a theft. She left her belongings unattended on a table at a restaurant. Upon return, they were gone.

**Fraud**  
2:36 pm • 00 Lagunitas Dr.

A man reported he was notified by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) that his & his spouse’s tax return was rejected because someone else used their identity to file a separate return.

**Battery-Theft**  
6:38 pm • 300 Arballo Dr

A woman reported her roommate-who is also the landlord, pushed her after a brief argument. Later, she noticed a check, left unattended in her room was gone. The landlord told her he took the check as rent payment. She did not give him permission to enter her room nor to take her check.

Suspect – White male :: 39 years :: 5’04” tall :: 150 lbs :: shoulder length black hair ponytail :: brown eyes :: LSW black jacket

**Fraud**  
7:50 pm • 00 Lagunitas Dr

Cont. p. 11



# TENNESSEE GRILL

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Where Friends Meet

**Next Taraval Community Meeting: Tuesday – July 21, 2015, 7pm – 8pm at Taraval Station Community Room on 2345 24th Avenue**





**“Batkid” (the Movie)** ...I recently saw a trailer for “Batkid” the movie, which details the process by which the Make A Wish Foundation, and pretty much the entire City of San Francisco came together to grant the wish of five year old Miles Smith, who has battled leukemia throughout his life. The “wish” generated a tremendous amount of good will throughout the world for San Francisco and our region and (for a change) gave the television news programs and the periodicals something seriously heart-warming to report on. Now we have the movie of how it all came to be. Although we report on items that need attention within the city, I cannot help but to say Thank you to Mayor Lee, Police Chief Suhr, the folks at the Make a Wish Foundation and everyone else who worked to grant the wish and truly caring people that make up San Francisco, and remind us that each of us can indeed make a difference. Judging from the trailer, keep an entire box of tissues handy, as it documents a community coming together to do something for a little boy of which we can all be proud.

**Heron watch...** local naturalist and media blogger Jake Sigg reports that a new nest of Great Blue Herons has been spotted at Stow Lake, and that it holds two chicks. The “San Francisco Nature Education” organization will be having “watching” parties on Saturday July 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> from 10 AM to Noon at Stow Lake. For more information please go to their website at [www.sfnature.org](http://www.sfnature.org).



Photo courtesy Nancy DeStephanis

**Jerry Cadagan...** we received the news recently that Jerry Cadagan, a well-known environmental advocate who worked on and reported about local water related issues, passed away in mid-May. Although he was a former lawyer for the Crown Zellerbach Company, he was at the forefront to protect California’s Wild and Scenic Rivers, Urban Lakes, and affect policy on water related issues. Our condolences go out to his family and friends. (See Jonathan Farrell’s tribute on page one.)

**Election Alert...** in early election news, San Francisco District 8 Supervisor Scott Weiner has announced his entry into the race to succeed State Senator Mark Leno in November. Leno, who is being termed out, is the current incumbent for State Senate District 11, which covers all of San Francisco, Daly City, Broadmoor, Colma and portions of South San Francisco.

**La Boulange (redux?)...** with the recent (shocking) news that Starbucks will be closing all of the La Boulange restaurants, and that La Boulange founder Pascal Rigo is leaving the company, it is possible that Rigo could be making a play for some of the locations for a future retail venture. We will be very interested to see what happens to the West Portal Avenue site.

**Beach Chalet fields...** construction crews were busy last week laying the new all-weather turf at the Beach Chalet Soccer field location in Golden Gate Park. Opposition still exists to the project, but with construction being closer to the end of the project than the beginning, it remains to be seen what effect the lawsuit that has been filed will have, as the project “won” the ballot battle by over 10 percentage points.

**World Cup Soccer...** speaking of soccer on artificial turf, the USA Women’s Soccer Squad has reached the finals for the World Cup, where they faced Japan, who they lost to (by penalty kicks) the last time they met in a World Cup Final. This time they rushed out to a four-goal lead and took the title 5-2. Congratulations to the USA Women’s Soccer Team.

**Crime and Punishment...** it was recently reported in the *San Francisco Chronicle* that violent and serious crime in California has dropped to a new low point not seen in decades. Although there were 1697 homicides in California in 2014, this pales in comparison to the 4095 killings recorded in 1993. Robberies were also down, with robberies at their lowest rate in 43 years. In San Francisco, scofflaws are bucking the trend as property crimes are up 39% from 2010-2014.

**Summer Days (Daze?)...** although our typical weather in summer is not aligned with what most of the country experiences (thank goodness), the days of summer provide many opportunities to get out into the city and “be a tourist.” The San Francisco Public Library has an amazing list of classes, films and events throughout the SF Library System for July and August. For example, the Western Neighborhoods Project will present writer Frank Dunnigan at the Merced library branch on Wednesday, August 5<sup>th</sup> as he speaks about his book, *Growing Up in San Francisco’s Western Neighborhoods: Boomer Memories From Kesar Stadium to Zim’s Hamburgers*. The event will take place from 7:00 -8:30 PM, and yes, signed copies of his book will be available for purchase. This is just one of hundreds of classes and events throughout the system during the summer. Go to: [www.sfpl.org](http://www.sfpl.org) for more information on the myriad of programs offered.

**Smoking...anyone?...** a new study, conducted by researchers at UCSF has determined that unlike the general perception that as smoking declines overall, only those who cannot quit will remain, quite the opposite was the case in their study. Spanning 18 years in the US and six years in the European Union, what the research determined was that as the fraction of the total population that smoked declined, the remaining smokers actually smoked less and were more likely to quit than to stick with it.

*Do you have any information, news, or other tidbits that you would like to share with the neighborhood? Just drop a line to me at: [mitch@westsideobserver.com](mailto:mitch@westsideobserver.com)*

**Crime Report** (Cont. from p. 10)

A woman was notified by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) that her tax return was rejected because someone else used her identity to file a separate return.

**Thu - June 11**

**Battery**

2:43 am • 2900 Taraval St  
A fight between two males caused officers to find one male standing on the sidewalk and saw another fleeing the area. The officers detained the fleeing suspect and he stated that he punched the other suspect once, in an attempt to get away from him. The officers offered medical attention but he declined any assistance.

**Child Abuse**

9:30 am • 300 Brighton Ave  
A victim’s mother, alleged that her ex-husband had inflicted bruises on their child.

**Accidental Death**

9:58 am • 1200 34th Ave  
Officers determined that a victim accidentally slipped down a staircase. The medical examiner arrived on scene and took over the investigation.

**Public Intoxication – Arrest**

12:43 pm • 800 Irving St & 9th St  
An aggressive man was screaming, and spitting. Officers determined the suspect to be intoxicated and was unable to care for himself. The officer arrested the individual.

**Robbery with Force – Arrest**

4:25 pm • 1200 Ocean Ave  
In a restaurant, a suspect stole food from the victim when she went to order a drink. She confronted the suspect and he hit her twice on the face with a clenched fist and walked away. The officers arrested the suspect for robbery.

**Fri - June 12**

**Warrant Arrest**

7:38 am • 19th Ave & Randolph St  
Officers observed two males sitting in a vehicle acting suspicious in an area that is known to be high in crime. A computer check of the vehicle discovered that the registered driver had a warrant for his arrest. The officers arrested the driver.

**Expired Registration Tabs – Suspended Drivers License – Warrant Arrest**

7:45 am • 19th Ave & Sloat Blvd  
Officers observed a vehicle with expired registration tabs. A computer check discovered that the driver had an active warrant for his arrest. The driver was given a court summons for the traffic violations and arrest for the warrant.

**Theft from Building**

8:42 am 200 West Portal Ave  
An employee observed the suspect take a few items and walk out without making an attempt to pay. Officers searched the area for the suspect with no results.  
Suspect – Black male :: 57 years :: 6’0” tall :: 180 lbs :: black hair :: brown eyes :: LSW black hooded sweatshirt, black pants, white shoes, and with a beard.

**Robbery with Force**

11:08 am • 1700 Taraval St  
An employee and witnesses stated that two female suspects had stolen multiple items and ran out of the store. The employee was at the entrance/exit of the store to block their path and was shoved out of the way by the suspects causing her injuries. They left the area in a vehicle.  
Suspect #1 – Black female :: 20-25 years :: 5’6” tall :: 110 lbs :: LSW long hair, a short shirt that was showing her stomach, and had a thin build.

Suspect #2 – Black female :: 20-25 years :: 5’6” tall :: 110 lbs

**Theft by Employee**

2:40 pm • 3200 20th Ave  
A manager noticed one of the store employee’s register was missing cash on several occasions. The suspected employee admitted to taking money from the register on multiple occasions. The officers arrested the suspect.

**Embezzlement – Elder Abuse – Fraud**

3:11 pm • 2100 25th Ave  
A man stated that his client’s son is living with the client and takes care of her, as

she is frail and old. The house is not kept clean and orderly, and he has noticed a large sum of money missing from his client’s accounts.

Suspect – White male :: 54 years :: 5’10” tall :: 190 lbs :: gray hair :: blue eyes :: LSW long hair, bad teeth with several missing.

**Sat - June 13**

**Trespassing**

3:34 pm • 2600 Vicente St  
Domestic violence incident. Victim stated that her estranged husband somehow got through the front gate and demanded to see their children. He left when she threatened to call the police. Suspect – White male :: 41 years :: 5’8” tall :: 185 lbs :: brown hair :: blue eyes ::

**Theft – Shoplifting – Arrested**

4:30 pm • 3200 20th Ave  
An employee observed the suspect taking a merchandise and exiting the store without paying. He placed the suspect in handcuffs until officers arrived. The suspect was arrested and given a court summons & then released.

**Warrant Arrest – Resisting a Peace Officer – Assault- Arrested**

5:15 pm • 1900 19th Ave  
Officers observed a male suspect whom they recognized as a Wanted Person. Officers attempted to arrest the suspect. He resisted and caused injuries to one of the officers. The officers arrested the suspect for his active arrest warrants and for the above listed violations.

**Sun - June 14**

**Suspicious Death**

9:05 am • 100 Aptos Ave  
An elderly person at a care home was found unresponsive with a wound. Paramedics arrived & declared the person deceased. Homicide investigators responded & took over the investigation.

**Aggravated Assault-Robbery-Arrested**

10:13 am • Sunset Blvd & Quintara St  
Officers responded to a report of fight on a MUNI bus. Two passengers got into a fight. The victim was beaten & the suspect then fled with the victim’s belongings. Officers found the suspect & arrested him for aggravated assault & robbery.

**Mon - June 15**

**Vehicle Fire**

2:34 am • 1700 16th Ave  
Officers responded an unknown complain. Officers arrived on scene and observed the fire department putting out a vehicle fire. Fire investigator determined that the fire was suspicious.

**Battery**

7:50 am • 500 Taraval St  
Officers responded to a report of a battery. The victim said that one of her employee’s pushed her down onto the floor and then kicked her. The suspect subsequently fled the area.

Suspect – Hispanic male :: 32-25 years :: 5’8” tall :: 160 lbs :: black hair :: brown eyes

**Aggravated Assault on Peace Officer – Vandalism – Resisting Arrest – Arrested**

9:04 am • 200 Stratford Dr  
Officers responded to a report of a man trying to break into a residence. Officers arrived on scene and tried to subdue the erratic suspect. The suspect was throwing hard objects at the officers. Officers used their less than lethal (bean bag) weapons to subdue the suspect. The suspect was arrested.

**Theft from Person**

9:33 am • 19th Ave & Randolph St  
Officers responded to a report of a robbery. Officers met with the victim who stated that an unknown suspect had taken her personal belongings, while she was fixing her clothing.

Suspect – Asian male :: 20-30 years :: 5’9” tall :: 150 lbs :: LSW gray hat, and a gray sweatshirt with a hoodie.

**Vehicle Burglary – Possession of Stolen Goods – Arrested**

1:17 pm • Skyline Blvd & John Muir Dr  
Officers responded to a report of a burglary of a vehicle. Officers met with the victim and witness. Witness stated that he observed the suspects break a vehicle.

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Now At the Movies / By Don Lee Miller

DOPE

Inner-city geeky teen Malcolm: Shameik Moore innocently goes to a neighborhood night club when the shooting starts, he grabs his backpack and runs, little realizing it has been filled with drugs meant for a dealer. His new girlfriend Lisa: Kiersey Clemons and best pal Jib: Tony Revolori (*Grand Budapest Hotel*) attempt to help him get out of the mess. Writer-director Rick Famuyiwa combines serious life-or-death situations with comedic sequences, occasionally at the same time. Profanity. Drug content. Sexuality/nudity. Some violence—all involving teens.

INSIDE OUT 3D

Animated with voices of Amy Poehler, Phyllis Smith and Richard Kind. Pixar's newest film occurs inside the brain of an 11-year old girl whose family moves to SF from the East. The five core emotions—Joy, Anger, Disgust, Fear and Sadness—control her behavior, with Sadness being the one to conquer. Pete Docter has directed a perfect movie for teens, but not younger. Mild thematic elements. Some action.

JURASSIC WORLD IMAX-3D

Spielberg's fourth film in the series has had ample gestation period. Genetically produced dinosaurs roam the theme-park island off of Costa Rica. Mom shuttles off her two sons, Zach: Nick Robinson and Gray: Ty Simpkins to her sister, Claire: Bryce Dallas Howard, the manager of Jurassic World. The timing couldn't be worse. Claire has a new deadly dino wreaking havoc on the park. Owen: Chris Pratt, the trainer who can talk to the animals, is more tongue-tied with Claire, but their endangerment pits them together. Lots of chomped theme-park visitors and workers, including Hoskins: Vincent D'Onofrio, the bad guy! Intense sequences of science-fiction violence and peril.

MAX

When a Marine, Kyle Wincott: Robbie Arnell dies in action in Afghanistan, his military dog Max, who would sniff out the dope and guns of the natives, becomes attached to his younger brother Justin: Josh Wiggins. Justin learns that Kyle's (supposed) buddy Tyler: Luke Kleintank may have been responsible for the "friendly" fire that killed Kyle. Justin's Uncle Ray: Thomas Haden Church and Aunt Pamela: Lauren

Graham, with whom Justin lives are trying to help him keep Max. The opposition is coming from Tyler and a deputy friend whom Kyle found out were shorting arms shipments to sell the guns in the U.S. Ray and Justin learn the truth the hard way. The third act presents a sloppy attempt at generating suspense. Action violence and peril. Brief profanity. Some thematic elements.

SAN ANDREAS

The 9.1 earthquake may start between Hoover Dam (which it destroys!) and Las Vegas, but it is soon travelling fast north from LA to SF. First, our hero Ray: Dwayne Johnson is introduced as an LA fire department rescue helicopter pilot assigned to help quake victims. His primary concern is rescuing his ex-wife, Emma: Carla Gugino and daughter Blake: Alexandra Daddario, who is college-bound for Berkeley in the private jet of Mom's new millionaire builder-fiancé Daniel: Ioan Gruffudd. He has the tallest building in SF under construction. Fortunately for Blake, she meets an eligible Brit, Ben: Hugo Johnstone-Burt who is showing SF to his younger brother Ollie: Art Parkinson. When the massive quake hits, Daniel goes for help for Blake, but doesn't come back. Lucky girl, it's Ben to her rescue until Mom and Dad arrive from LA just in the nick of time. Writers Allan Loeb, Carlton Cuse, Carey Hayes, Chad Hayes and director Brad Peyton have fashioned a very destructive future for our beloved Bay Area with both bridges being destroyed, as is the Pyramid and Chinatown. LA construction engineer, Lawrence: Paul Giamatti and TV news anchor Serena: Archie Panjabi are able to warn LA about more quakes that are coming. Intense disaster action and mayhem throughout. Brief strong profanity.

SPY

A seductive arms dealer Rayna: Rose Byrne compromises the CIA's top agents (Bradley: Jude Law, Rick: Jason Statham) causing Elaine: Allison Janney to send a desk-bound analyst, Susan: Melissa McCarthy to go undercover in many hilarious disguises in this overstuffed action comedy. "Spy" proves that the very likable MM can do so much more than look like a slob

Cont. p. 16

At the Theater

Choir Boy

It's a Masterpiece at Marin Theatre Company! Marin Theatre Company closes out its 48<sup>th</sup> Season with a Bay Area premiere of *Choir Boy* by Tarell Alvin McCraney, the celebrated American Playwright of the *Brother/Sister Plays Trilogy* and *Head of Passes*. Kent Gash, who previously directed the San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Critic Circle's award-winning production of August Wilson's *Seven Guitars* at MTC, powerfully directs this exceptionally beautiful piece of theatre. This is pure theatre magic!

*Choir Boy* takes place at the Charles R. Drew Prep School, an institution devoted to the development of extraordinary young black men. This play is a series of vignettes focusing on Pharus Jonathan Young (Jelani Alladin), a talented singer at the school. Pharus, a scholarship student, is ambitious and has worked hard to become the leader of the school's famous gospel choir, but he's also not inclined to hide his natural flamboyance and has to decide how to deal with gay slurs from his classmates.

Director Kent Gash has created an ensemble of performers who work as a unit, while each actor manages to maintain his individuality. The primary conflict is between Pharus and Bobby Marrow (Dimitri Woods), member of a prominent family and nephew of Headmaster Marrow (Ken Robinson), while Pharus' main defender is his roommate Anthony Justin "AJ" James (Jaysen Wright). Filling out the cast are two more students Bobby's friend Junior Davis (Rotimi Agbabiaka) and Pharus' serious friend David Heard (Forest Van Dyke). The Headmaster enlists Mr. Pendleton (Charles Shaw Robinson), a retired Caucasian faculty member, to help the singers work together and think through their difficulties.

Jelani Alladin succeeds in portraying the different sides of Pharus: a young man who wants to be loved and accepted, but who understands the need to follow the rules. Dimitri Woods successfully shows Bobby's frustration, at not getting the respect to which he feels entitled, without becoming a villain. Headmaster Marrow, as portrayed by Ken Robinson, sympathetically shows how the Headmaster is occasionally in over his head, and Charles Shaw Robinson adds some comic relief as Mr. Pendleton, who emerges gradually from being less shy and becoming more authoritative.

McCraney incorporates acappella gospel songs between the scenes, sung brilliantly by the leads, directed by Darius Smith and Sound Designer/Assistant Music Director Chris Houston.

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Flora Lynn Isaacson

Linda Ayres-Frederick



# TOAST

By Henry Wong

I love to eat breakfast. I can literally have breakfast morning, noon and night. Sweet syrup slowly dripping over some warm waffles, eggs in every shape or form, sausages & bacon, potatoes, fries, crispy slices of buttered toast, muffins with jam sauce, corned beef hash and then some more fries. So now that I got that out of the way let me just say how happy I was when a friend of mine recommended that I look at a relatively new eatery recently launched in this town simply called Toast.

We all know how lucky it is to live here in San Francisco where we are in the middle of one of the world's major hubs for eating enthusiasts and purveyors of fine cuisine. Within these 49 square blocks you have your choice of menus that can run the gamut from Mexican, Vietnamese, Korean, Japanese, Italian, French & Indian. And that's not even mentioning the explosion of food trucks of every stripe & color. But back to this new eatery, Toast, which is giving a big nod to the simple idea that breakfast is not just for breakfast time and that is just my kind of meal ticket.

So on a lazy take my family and to the Toast Eatery Portal neighborhood occupied by Vilnoon so the place is goers, but luckily our anticipated 15 min-mention that the staff helpful without being ordered a hot cup of with the toast scram- of crispy portions of sausages with lots of onions covered with



Sunday morning I make our way over located in the West that was previously lage Grill. It's about crowded with lunch wait was less than the utes. I want to also was very attentive and too intrusive. My wife hand-poured coffee bler, which consisted bacon, chicken-apple tasty mushrooms and melted cheddar. She later mentions to me that the hand-poured coffee had a fresh nutty flavor and how it paired well with her meal. Overall, she felt the hint of apples struck a good balance with the bacon and cheddar. Happy wife equals happy life. So far so good.

We ordered the buttermilk pancakes for my daughter, Penny. I was fortunate (sneaky) enough to sample a bite of her meal before she devoured both stacks by herself. I was pleasantly surprised to find the buttermilk pancakes to be fluffy without being too dry and how nice it went with my dulce de leche latte. Or, as my wife calls it, the dulce "delish" latte.

And for myself, along with the dulce "delish" latte, I ordered the corned beef hash with a pair of English muffins and scrambled eggs. With the first bite I felt that the

crust on the hash browns had a nice firm texture blending with a warm soft center. The corned beef had a very fresh taste and was layered with copious amounts of onions and potatoes. Another thing I notice and appreciate is that the strips of corn beef were very juicy and flavorful, but not compromised with too much salt. Although I felt that the scrambled eggs could have used some more time on the pan, the whole meal was both very satisfying to my palate and fulfilling to my tummy. Soon after a comfortable silence my wife and daughter were completely done with their meals and I followed shortly by washing down the last bite with my fancy latte.

Ultimately, I found that our meals were well prepared and nicely presented, which is indicative to me that the Toast Eatery staff pays attention to small details. The obligatory visit to the large clean restroom provided me with more evidence that Toast is deserving of a return visit. I really like that the wash sink is separately located in the foyer leading to the private restroom in the back of the restaurant.



So if you also like the idea of eating breakfast morning, noon or night, then give Toast a try. They currently have three other locations right here in San Francisco and each with a different vibe of its own.

1601 Polk Street  
415-928-1233

1748 Church Street  
415-282-4328

3991 24th Street  
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Second Thoughts / by Jack Kaye



Awards

We Americans love awards and award programs. We want to celebrate success in competition. We want to recognize and honor excellence. We have awards for almost everything. We have awards for entertainment such as the Emmys, the Oscars, the Golden Globe awards, the Grammys, the Country and Western Music awards and the daytime Emmys. For sports we not only have our championship games in football, baseball, hockey and basketball, but we have awards like Rookie of the Year, Most Valuable Player and the many Hall of Fame honors.

Americans make up less than 5% of the world population, but earn many times their share of international awards as well. We earn the majority of Nobel Prizes and Pulitzer prizes in many categories like physics, economics, literature, peace and medicine.

Our prizewinners are then entitled to add the award to their names, much like aristocratic titles of old, and those still granted today in England. The person is introduced as Pulitzer Prize winner or Nobel Prize winner or Hall of Fame inductee or Oscar winner. The title gives the holders greater authority and usually a bigger future pay check in their field.

But these prizes are not without much controversy and disagreement.

In the field of sports awards, questions have arisen as to whether an athlete's moral character should be a factor in the selection process. There are several recent examples. A man considered the best baseball player ever because he hit the most home runs in a single season and the most in a career, while also winning many Golden Glove awards for fielding excellence and several season MVP awards and for making many All Star game appearances, had been accused of using performance enhancing drugs. Should he be eligible for the Baseball Hall of Fame? What about another who denied similar charges for years and finally admitted that he had lied repeatedly and had actually used the forbidden fruit? Should he ever be eligible, since he too was a great player and a team leader? Then there was the man with the most base hits who lost his career for betting on baseball. Can he ever be forgiven and awarded for his performance?

In the entertainment industry, awards are even more in question. How does a movie get nominated for best picture, but the director doesn't get a mention? How do some movies or actors win when few believe that they were the best? Remember when "Chicago" won best picture? Remember when Halle Barry won Best Actress for that dreadful movie? And why do Meryl Streep and Helen Mirren seem to win so often, just because they are by far the best two actresses in the world? Can't we set quotas on how often one could be nominated for or win this treasured award? Why doesn't Maggie Smith win more awards? And why didn't the Mentalist and Simon Baker get awards when theirs was one of the best American T.V. shows for many years?

The latest claim against the entertainment awards is that they do not go enough to people of different ethnic and racial populations.

This disproportionality has also affected international awards like the Nobel and Pulitzer. Members of one religious/ethnic group which represents less than .2% of the world population has won more than half the awards since the end of World War II, while a religious group's membership, accounting for almost a quarter of the world's population, has won only three or four and one of those was a peace prize that went to a terrorist.

Time magazine also has an annual award - Person of the Year. The recent nominees have included some of the least likely people, like a genocidal dictator, an alleged narcissistic traitor, and a woman who was able to avoid paying inheritance taxes on her wife's multi-million dollar estate.

President Obama won the Nobel Peace Prize when he was first elected. Since then he has done everything possible

to earn it retroactively. He got us out of Iraq and Afghanistan and kept us out of Libya, Egypt, Iran, Syria, and Ukraine. He has realized that the affected countries and their regional organizations should deal with conflicts in their area. Our troops will no longer be the 911 of the world. His next step should be to close many of our 700+ foreign military bases. But he would have done all this even without the Nobel prize.

We already have many ways of voting for our favorites.

In sports, we have the statistics which give an objective evaluation of the player's greatness. In baseball we have batting averages and stats on the number of home runs hit, the number of runs batted in, the number of bases stolen, etc. We know who the best players are in every area. We also have objective statistics in football, basketball, hockey, etc. Our best athletes are known, clearly identified by accomplishments, and are paid accordingly. We have athletes who make as much as \$20 million a year; surely that is a reward and an award.

In other areas of entertainment we have other solid criteria and rewards to honor the best. The best actors get the best parts, generate some of the best box office receipts, and most importantly are paid generously for their accomplishments.

In the case of awards for economics, literature, science and politics, they are also very subjective, while there are objective criteria that are recognized for these high achievers.

In economics there are clear winners who provide theories that greatly affect economic analysis. They are awarded high level positions in academia and the business sector that profit from the ideas and are awarded generous salaries. How many award winners in economics warned us about the crash of 2008? How many have come out with a simple and fair federal tax code?

One Nobel Prize winning economist supported the mistaken idea that the Occupy Wall Street people came up with that our problems are caused not by Wall Street but by the top 1%, making 99% of us innocent and helpless underdogs. So every person earning \$400,000 or more is the enemy. This includes all successful actors, professional athletes, musicians, comedians, writers, educators, directors, producers, surgeons and economists. He didn't realize that he himself was in the group. Or maybe he did.

*(We are now being told by the socialist senator from Vermont that the fault really lies with our top .0002%, our 536 billionaires. That would make 99.9998% of us helpless, economic and political victims - a nation of underdogs.)*

In literature we have best-selling authors, as well as those who produce great classics. Shakespeare never won a Pulitzer or Nobel prize, but we still know how great he was. The same with Salinger, Peter Beagle, John Barth, etc.

*(Full disclosure: I did not get a Pulitzer for my novel, "Reflections of a Freelance Monk," though it is considered by some the best example of its genre - the modern metaphysical murder mystery memoir appearing to be an unauthorized and unintentional autobiography. Had I won, I would have donated the prize money to organizations helping young, inner-city metaphysicians.)* In science we have great inventions and cures. The scientists who devise these breakthroughs are known, recognized and rewarded, regardless of award ceremonies. Prize-winning scientists get into trouble

Cont. p. 19

Senior Smarts by Anise J. Matteson

Aging: Macular Degeneration and its Affect on the Eyes

More than 3.3 million Americans aged 40 and over are either legally blind (having best-corrected visual acuity of 6/60 or worse (=20/200) in the better-seeing eye) or are low vision (having best-corrected visual acuity less than 6/12 (<20/40) in the better-seeing eye). The leading causes of blindness and low vision in the United States are primarily age-related eye diseases such as age-related macular degeneration, cataract, diabetic retinopathy, and glaucoma.<sup>1</sup>

Twenty-five percent of persons aged 75 and over have nonexudative ARMD and five percent have exudative ARMD.<sup>2</sup> Early diagnosis and treatment is crucial to preserving vision.

VISION

Low vision is a significant loss of vision that cannot be corrected medically, surgically, or with eyeglasses.<sup>3</sup>

Visual impairment or visual loss, is a decreased ability to see to a degree that causes problems not fixable by usual means, such as glasses.

Certified Low Vision Therapist (CLVT), Vision Rehabilitation Therapist (CVRT) and Orientation and Mobility Specialist (COMS) often work in close partnership with the optometrist or ophthalmologist and can provide training in how to use low vision optical or non-optical devices in practical everyday situations.<sup>6</sup>

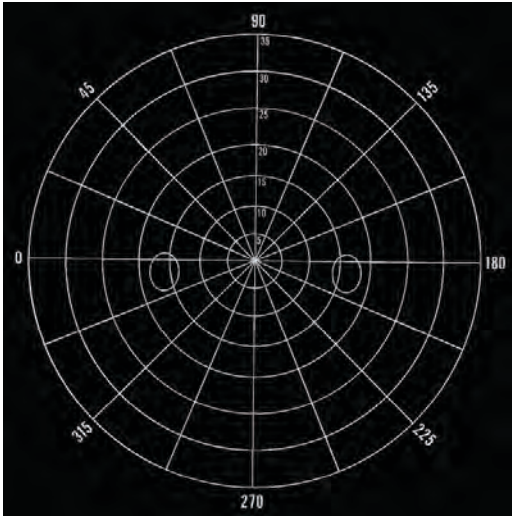
Vision rehabilitation includes a wide range of professional services that can restore functioning after vision loss.<sup>6</sup>

Vision rehabilitation services allow people who are blind or have low vision to continue living independently and maintain quality of life. Services available: communication skills; counseling; independent living and personal management skills; independent movement and travel skills; low vision evaluation and training with low vision devices; and vocational rehabilitation.<sup>6</sup>

Affects on Quality of Life

The negative outcomes experienced by visually impaired seniors: potential for falls; potential for serious injury or death when combined with hearing loss (e.g., inability to hear an approaching vehicle); potential for depression (e.g., secondary grief, anxiety and depressed mood); affects overall function: performing ADLS (basic and instrumental); involvement in social and religious activities; loss wages.

Statistics defined in "Utility Values of Patients with Age-Related Macular Degeneration (ARMD) and Response Groups" (The Burden of Macular Degeneration: A Value-Based Medicine Analysis by Gary C. Brown, MD et al) indicate patients' enjoyment of life: Mild ARMD: 83%, Moderate ARMD: 68%, Severe ARMD: 47%, Very Severe ARMD: 40%.<sup>10</sup>



Tangent Screen

CARING FOR THE AGED

Science

Ophthalmology. The health science pertaining to the eye and its diseases.

Optometry. The science of diagnosing, managing, and treating conditions and diseases of the eye and visual systems.<sup>4</sup>

Eye Care

Ophthalmologist. A physician (M.D.) who specializes in the treatment of diseases of the eye and vision, prescribes glasses and contact lenses and performs eye surgery.

Optometrist. A doctor of optometry (O.D.) who prescribes glasses and contact lenses, gives vision exams. If an optometrist detects symptoms that indicate diseases in the eye, the doctor refers the patient to a physician.<sup>8</sup>

Optician. A specialist in filling prescriptions for corrective lenses for eyeglasses and contact lenses.<sup>4</sup>

Vision Rehabilitation Services<sup>8</sup>

Certified Low Vision Therapist (CLVT) instruct individuals in the use of residual vision with optical devices, non-optical devices, and assistive technology, and help determine the need for environmental modifications in the home, workplace, or school.

Certified Vision Rehabilitation Therapist (CVRT) teach adaptive independent living skills, enabling adults who are blind or have low vision to confidently carry out a range of daily activities.

Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialists (COMS) teach the skills and concepts that people who are blind or have low vision need in order to travel independently and safely in the home and in the community. They teach safe and independent indoor and outdoor travel skills, including the use of a long cane, electronic travel devices, public transportation, and sighted guide, human guide, and pre-cane skills.

MACULAR DEGENERATION

Age-related macular degeneration (AMD) is a progressive eye condition affecting as many as 15 million Americans,

NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The Biosolids Digester Facilities Project at the Southeast Treatment Plant (Case No. 2015-000644ENV)

We want to hear from YOU!

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

Thursday, July 16, 2015, 6:30 p.m.  
Open House with Q&A, 5:30 p.m.

SOUTHEAST COMMUNITY FACILITY

Alex Pitcher Room 1800 Oakdale Avenue

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT: [sf-planning.org/puccases](http://sf-planning.org/puccases)

Para una copia de este material en español o para más información en español, por favor póngase en contacto con nosotros en (415) 554-3289 o [Steve.Smith@sfgov.org](mailto:Steve.Smith@sfgov.org).

拿取這些資料的中文副本,或詢問其他資料,請致電 (415) 554-3289 或電郵 [Steve.Smith@sfgov.org](mailto:Steve.Smith@sfgov.org).



SAN FRANCISCO  
PLANNING  
DEPARTMENT

[sf-planning.org](http://sf-planning.org)



WEST OF TWIN PEAKS PROPERTIES SOLD SINCE 4/1/15

FACT: INVENTORY HAS NEVER BEEN LOWER WHEN COMPARED TO BUYER DEMAND

ADDRESS	TYPE	BEDS	BATHS	PK	ASKING	SOLD	%OF ASKING
20 Alton Ave	Forest Hill	3	3	2	1,650,000	2,075,000	125.76
440 Dellbrook Ave	Midtown Terrace	3	2	1	998,888	1,360,000	136.15
115 San Pablo Ave	St. Francis Wood	3	2.5	1	2,200,000	2,015,000	98.29
830 Rockdale Dr	Miraloma Park	3	2	1	1,095,000	1,400,000	127.85
82 El Sereno Ct	Miraloma Park	3	2	2	1,375,000	1,600,000	116.36
98 Rockaway Ave	Forest Hill Extension	5	3.5	1	2,995,000	3,025,000	101
431 Staples Ave	Sunnyside	4	1	1	799,000	1,000,000	125.16

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Construction of Stonestown Apartment Buildings • July 2, 1949 Permission: San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library.

Then & Now

Newscoy: “A small city is rapidly springing up west of 19th-av, on the shores of Lake Merced. It’s ‘Stonestown,’ 23-million-dollar project of Ellis and Henry Stoneson, and this photo shows the rapid progress being made on the four 10-story apartment houses (in the rear) and the smaller two- and three-story buildings in the foreground. Company spokesmen say the smaller buildings will be ready for occupancy about Aug. 1, while it will be another six months before the apartment houses are completed. Work on a complete shopping and recreational area will begin soon.

“The project will consist of 28 smaller apartment houses, the four large ones, each with 90 apartments, and an extensive shopping center. Between 3000 and 3500 persons will live in ‘Stonestown’ in the 783 rental units. The project covers 67 choice acres. The picture was taken from Vernon and Shields-sts, a hill just east of the project.”

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

Sudoku-fun!

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

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

**Answer:**  
The answer appears below.

Ε	4	1	2	9	5	8	6	
9	2	6	5	8	1	Ε	2	4
5	2	8	6	Ε	4	2	1	9
8	Ε	2	9	4	2	1	6	5
1	9	5	8	6	2	2	4	Ε
2	6	4	Ε	1	5	8	9	2
2	8	9	4	2	Ε	6	5	1
4	1	2	2	5	6	9	Ε	8
6	5	Ε	1	9	8	4	2	2

BRAIN FUD

Some Like it Not Hot – A riddle

Gobble it down fast, or nibble or gnaw,  
There is a vegetable we mostly eat raw.  
It can't be pickled or made into jam.  
You can't fry it up to go with your ham.  
You can't dry it out or powder it a bit  
And freezing or canning will not be a hit.  
Some cooks might grill or stir-fry or use a soup pot,  
But eating it hot is something that's not done a lot.  
Such creative cuisine of everyday food leaves me in awe,  
Since everyday, most of us routinely, just eat it raw.  
What vegetable is this?

.....  
It's lettuce! The stuff in your salad or atop your burger.

Movies (Cont. from p. 13)

(“Tammy,” “The Heat”) or a hot mess (“Identity Thief”), and take prat falls (“Tammy”) plus bombast with anatomically improbable threats (all three). Writer-director Paul Feig wrote the part of Susan’s best pal Nancy especially for Miranda Hart who takes over the desk as Susan’s earpiece to guide her out of trouble. (She could be the next Edna May Oliver!) This film allows the audience to laugh with MM rather than at her. 50 Cent as himself croons a tune. Profanity throughout. Violence. Some sexual content including brief graphic nudity.



By Julie Casson @toysalsa



# 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....." "Well, that's me. I'm also the woman hugging her niece at the jersey shore in the picture.

17 years ago something happened that changed my life forever. I was a young woman living in Philadelphia when it happened. I was driving with a friend when she missed a stop sign and rammed into the side of another car. We were all shaken up. The police were called and we all went to the hospital. No one was bleeding, so the doctors took some x-rays of our neck, gave us pain meds and sent us on our way. The next day I woke up with pain everywhere and it just kept getting worse. For years I tried everything that I could find. For an escape from the pain, I went to medical doctors, physical therapists, acupuncturists, I tried special pillows, and anything I thought might help. I spent a lot of time and money. Along the way I had two more car accidents and the pain kept getting worse and worse. I had developed fibromyalgia, neck pain, mid-back pain and low-back pain with tingling and numbness down my right arm and leg. I was scared that something was really wrong with me. This could not be normal. I was only 33 years old and felt like I was 100. That is when someone told me about a chiropractor that they thought could help. As a matter of fact, after the first person told me about him, two more people did that same week. So I made an appointment with the chiropractor. Thank goodness that they took the time to help me! I went to his office where he asked me about my problems, did an exam, and took some x-rays of my head and back. After that he pointed out where my nerves were pinched and adjusted them. The adjustment was so light I barely felt it. I began crying as I felt the pain leave my body for the first time in years. It may sound strange, but I was so happy and grateful for the relief that I still thank him every day! After that, I knew what I had to do. I had to become a chiropractor, and that's how it happened!

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

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

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

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

In an average year, the World Health Organization (WHO) reports over 1.5 million hospitalizations due to medication. Last year the WHO reported 350,000 deaths due to medication people took... and 160,000 were when the drugs were prescribed correctly. More people died last year from medication than at Pearl Harbor and Vietnam. Amazing huh?

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



Many people are beginning to understand that health comes from within. This is why chiropractic helps so many people. You see, your body can heal itself. Your body doesn't need any help; it just can't have any interference. With chiropractic, we don't add anything to the body or take anything from it. We find interference in the nervous system and remove it thus enhancing the healing capacities of the body.

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

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

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

Here is what some of your neighbors have said:

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

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

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

Now...Find out for yourself and benefit from an AMAZING OFFER- Look, It should not cost you an arm and a leg to correct your health. You are going to write a check to someone for your health expenses, you may as well write a lesser on for chiropractic. Anil know you're smart. You want to get to the cause of the problem, and not just cover it up with drugs. When you are one of the first 20 people to call and schedule a new patient exam (by August 15<sup>th</sup>) you will receive that entire exam for \$37. That's with a consultation with the doctor, examination and x-rays... the whole ball of wax, and there are no hidden fees. But call right away because we expect to be flooded with calls as this exam costs \$437. Again there are only 20 of these slots so don't miss out. I hope that there's no misunderstanding about the quality of care just because I have a lower exam fee. You'll get great care at a great fee. I just offer that low exam fee to help more people who need care.

My qualifications:

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

My assistants are Marcy and Raquel and they are friendly and helpful and ready to assist you to set up an evaluation. Our clinic is both friendly and warm and we try our best to make you feel at home. We have wonderful service at an exceptional fee. Our clinic is called San Francisco Family Spinal Care and it is at 505 Beach Street (we are at the corner of Beach and Jones on the edge of North Beach). Our phone number is 415-771-7071. Call today for an appointment. We can help you. Thank you. — Dr. Christina Meakim D.C. and Dr. Gigliotti D.C.

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

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

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

Education

Take the Test!

By Carol Kocivar © 2015

How much do you know about education? Let's take a short quiz.

How well are California's children doing on the Nation's Report Card?

☐ Above the national average?

☐ At the national average?

☐ Well below the national average?

What gets more funding in the state budget?

☐ Prisons and corrections?

☐ Schools?

☐ Social Services?

As the economy improves, more people are enrolling in courses to become teachers in California.

☐ True

☐ False

A good strategy to close the achievement gap is to give children who are lagging behind extra remedial classes and cut arts and physical education.

☐ True

☐ False

Common Core and STEM are concepts that are learned in biology.

☐ True

☐ False

BONUS Question

Poor children get more state education dollars than middle and upper income children in California.

☐ True

☐ False

How'd you do?

We all have opinions. No one is short on that score. But how much did you really know?

ANSWERS—

Sorry....but I really am going to ask you to do your homework.

Question 1. Read Lesson 1.1 in www. Ed100.org

California Context: Are California's Schools Really Behind? (Hint: I would not bet the house on answers 1 and 2.)

Question 2. Read Lesson 8.1 in www. Ed100.org

Spending: Does California Skimp on Education? (Hint: There are a lot more students in school than prisoners in prisons.)

Question 3. Read Lesson 3.2 in www. Ed100.org

Preparation and Certification: How To Make a Teacher. (Hint: Thousands and thousands of education jobs disappeared in the last decade.)

Question 4. Read Lesson 6.8 The Arts in www.Ed100.org. and Lesson 6.9 PE and Athletics. (Hint: Think about the skills our children need:

creativity, innovation, social skills. And think about how young children love to move.)

Question 5. Read Lesson 6.1 in www. Ed100.org

Great Expectations: How Do Common Core Standards Work? and 6.4 STEM: Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. (Hint: Core and stem may sound like biology but....)

Bonus Question: Read Lesson 8.5 in www. Ed100.org

Local Control Funding Formula: LCFF Dictates How State Funds Flow to School Districts. (Hint: It is just the opposite of what most people think.)

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

Disclosure: I helped write ED100 to help create informed parents and community leaders who can work together to help our children succeed.

University of California San Francisco

Results of the PROPPR study at San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center Results from the National Institutes of Health funded study known as PROPPR (Pragmatic, Randomized Optimal Platelet and Plasma Ratios) which was conducted at San Francisco General Hospital and multiple sites nationwide, compared the results between the two ratios of blood products given to injured patients with severe trauma and major bleeding. The study showed that early administration of plasma, platelets, and red blood cells in a 1:1:1 ratio versus a 1:1:2 ratio did not result in significant differences in mortality (rate of death) at 24 hours or 30 days after admission to the hospital. However, more patients in the 1:1:1 group stopped bleeding from their injuries, and fewer patients died due to severe loss of blood within the first 24 hours of admission to the hospital. This study was conducted nationally and at San Francisco General Hospital from August 2012 through December 2013. The results were published in The Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) on February 3, 2015. To learn more about the PROPPR trial results, visit the PROPPR website at <http://cetir-tmc.org/research/proppr>.



**Theater** (Cont. from p. 13)

The boys’ sharp prep-school uniforms are designed by Callie Floor and Scenic Designer Jason Sherwood’s stately set is circled by portraits of great African-American leaders. Lighting Designer Kurt Landisman’s effective lighting enhances the mood.

*Choir Boy* is at the top of my list of shows not to be missed!  
**Flora Lynn Isaacson**

Coming up at Marin Theatre Company, to start its new Season, will be *The Oldest Boy* by Sarah Ruhl from Sept. 10 – Oct. 4.

Love and Information

Caryl Churchill’s collection of 57 self-contained scenes on the title’s subject at ACT, each lasting from five seconds to five minutes, with over 140 characters played by a talented ensemble of twelve actors. Each scene contains from one to three actors and the entire show runs about 90 minutes. This theatrical kaleidoscope, employing video and film, is staged imaginatively by Director Casey Stangl in the newly-opened Strand Theater at 1127 Market Street, SF. Continuing through August 9. Tickets \$40-\$100 415.749.2228/act-sf.org. Discount tickets are also available on Goldstar.com.

Detroit

Aurora Theatre Company closes its 23<sup>rd</sup> season with *DETROIT* by Lisa D’Amour. This Bay Area Premiere of the Obie-winning satire features Amy Resnick, Jeff Garrett, Luisa Frasconi and Patrick Kelly. Ms. Resnick is wildly funny as Mary, who with her newly unemployed husband Ben, is attempting to survive in their suburban home. Welcoming young Sharon and Kenny, who met at rehab and have just moved into the long empty house next door, the older couple’s values get threatened when the backyard barbecue turns dangerous and threatening. Director Josh Costello keeps this dark comedy moving as we watch the social fabric of the American psyche fray strand by strand. *DETROIT* plays through July 19 at the Aurora Theatre in Berkeley. Tickets \$32-\$50 510.843.4822/auroratheatre.org

Grey Gardens, the Musical

Extended through July 5 is Custom

Made Theatre’s SF Premiere of *Grey Gardens, the Musical*, directed by Stuart Bousel with Musical Direction by David Brown. Based on a true story and the documentary, *Grey Gardens* (book by Doug Wright, music by Scott Frankel, Lyrics by Michael Korie) is a fascinating exploration of Jackie Kennedy’s aunt and cousin she discovered in 1973 living in a squalid Long Island Mansion, hanging on to reality by a thread. The stellar cast brings to life this musical exploration of the American dream gone wrong, and what it means to become a social pariah, by examining both the back-story of the family and the fate they couldn’t possibly have imagined. Heather Orth and Juliana Lustenader lead the cast in spot on performances. Tickets \$20-\$50 [www.custommade.org/tickets](http://www.custommade.org/tickets).

Upcoming July 9-Aug 2 and back for the fifth time, don’t miss Custom Made’s longest running show in their 16 year history, the hilarious *Book of Liz* by David and Amy Sedaris, about everyone’s favorite squeamish nun, Elizabeth Donderstuck and her famous cheeseballs, at Gough Street Theatre. And as of Sept 1, Custom Made will have a new home at 533 Sutter Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, between Powell and Mason. [www.custommade.org/tickets](http://www.custommade.org/tickets).

The Birthday Party

Around the corner at the Phoenix Theatre at 414 Mason Street, Off-Broadway West just completed its run of Harold Pinter’s modern classic *The Birthday Party*, ably directed by Richard Harder. *The Birthday Party* is about Stanley Webber (Adam Simpson), a one-time piano player in his 30s, who lives in a boarding house run by Meg (Celia Maurice) and Petey Boles (Graham Cowley) in an English seaside town. Two sinister strangers, Goldberg (Keith Burkland) and McCann (James Centofanti), who arrive supposedly on his birthday and who appear to have come looking for him, turn Stanley’s apparently innocuous birthday party, organized by Meg with their saucy neighbor Lulu (Jessica Lea Risco) as a guest, into a nightmare. This is ensemble acting at its best. Sound and Lighting Design by Ian Walker create additional elements of foreboding on Bert Van Aalsburg’s believably English set. OBW’s next production will be in 2016. [www.offbroadwaywest.org](http://www.offbroadwaywest.org)  
**Linda Ayres-Frederick**

released.

Thu – June 18

**Assault with a knife**  
1130 am • 1700 16th Ave  
Victim walked into Taraval Station regarding an assault and stated that he got into an argument with his sibling. The suspect pulled out a knife and swung it towards the Victim who then suffered a non serious cut to his finger from the incident. Suspect Asian male :: 53 years :: 5’01” tall :: 150 lbs :: bald head :: brown eyes

**Robbery**  
8:19 am • 1200 14th Ave  
A Victim was at the Muni platform and placed her purse on top of the metal guard railing so she can look for something inside. The suspect was driving by in a vehicle and reached out to grabbed the purse and continued driving. The Victim was dragged a few feet and suffered scratches to her knee. Suspect – Black male :: 20–30 years :: Driving a beige Hyundai

**Battery**  
12:51 pm • 1000 Irving St  
A victim stated that he saw an open parking spot, made a U-turn and pulled into the spot. The suspect pulled up next to the Victim and said that was his parking spot. A few minutes later the suspect approached the Victim on foot, pushed and punched the Victim on the chest. Suspect – Asian male :: 23-27 years :: 5’10” tall :: 160 lbs :: black head :: black eyes driving a black Acura

*Editor’s Note: Crimes are reported as space is available, this is not a complete report, nor is the report online at [taraval.org](http://taraval.org), but that site is a more complete source.*

Macular Degeneration  
(Cont. from p. 15)

with 200,000 new cases each year.\*

AMD causes severe vision loss—it attacks the macula of the eye.<sup>3</sup>

The *macular area* is the area of the retina that provides central vision.<sup>4</sup>

The *retina* is the innermost area of the eye, which receives images transmitted through the lens and contains the reception for vision, the rods and cones. <sup>4</sup>

*Central vision* is vision resulting from light falling on the fovea centralis. <sup>4</sup>

Symptoms

Blurring of central vision. Straight lines may appear distorted or warped. As the disease progresses, blind spots may form within the central field. The extent of central vision loss varies depending on the type of AMD—dry or wet. <sup>4</sup>

AMD can make it difficult to: read, drive, recognize faces, watch television, safely navigate stairs, and perform other daily tasks.

Stages<sup>5</sup>

*Mild AMD.* Visual acuity 20/20 to 20/40 in the better-seeing eye (e.g., visual acuity of 20/40 means that a person sees at 20 ft. what the normal eye could see at 40 ft. <sup>4</sup>).

*Moderate ARMD.* Visual acuity 20/50 to 20/100 in the better-seeing eye.

*Severe ARMD.* Visual acuity ≤20/200 in the better-seeing eye.

*Very severe ARMD.* Visual acuity ≤20/800 in the better-seeing eye.

Types

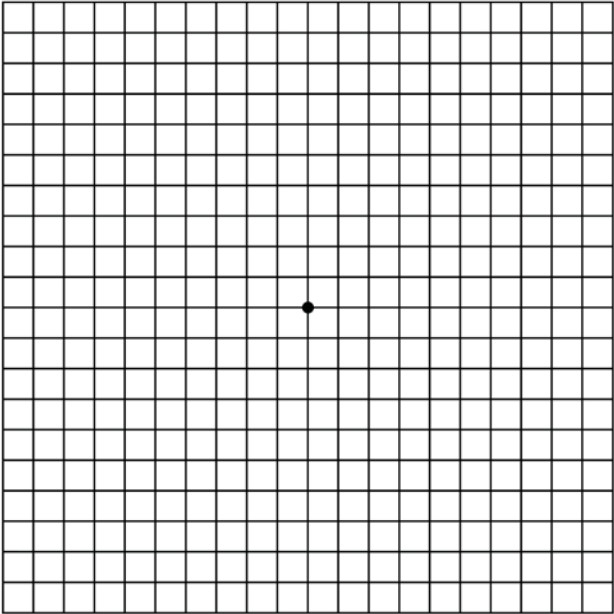
*Dry AMD (atrophic nonexudative, drusenoid macular degeneration).* A characteristic is the accumulation of tiny protein and fat-containing “drusen” deposits in a tiny layer of cells beneath the photoreceptors in the retina called Bruch’s membrane. Reduction in central vision occurs gradually over many years. Total loss of central vision is usually not experienced—tasks that require finely focused vision may become more difficult. TREATMENT: No standard therapies currently exist.<sup>5</sup>

*Wet AMD (choroidal neovascularization (CNV), subretinal neovascularization, exudative, disciform degeneration).* Abnormal blood vessels grow beneath the macula that discharge photoreceptor cells. Often progresses rapidly. Can cause substantial loss of central vision.<sup>5</sup>

Treatment: Wet AMD<sup>5</sup>

*AREDS formulation [The Age-Related Eye Disease Study]* is an over-the-counter antioxidant supplement recommended for people who are at risk of developing more advanced forms of either wet or dry AMD.

*EYLEA™ (afibercept)* administered as an intraocular injection to block the



Amsler Grid

development of unhealthy blood vessels underneath the retina.

*Lucentis™ (ranibizumab)* administered as an injection effective in reducing the risk of losing vision from the abnormal blood vessel growth under the retina associated with wet AMD.

*Avastin®* [colorectal-cancer drug] used “off-label” by some ophthalmologists to treat wet AMD.

*Macugen® (pegaptanib)* administered by injection into the eye to inhibit the growth of abnormal blood vessels under the retina.

*Visudyne (verteporfin) Photodynamic Therapy (PDT)* injected intravenously, it involves the use of a light-activated drug that targets and destroys the blood vessels that cause vision loss in wet AMD.

*Vision-Enhancing Implantable Telescope (IMT)* for enhancing the central vision of people with end-stage, untreatable AMD. The IMT provides improved central and detailed vision by focusing and magnifying images onto the functional, outer regions of the recipient’s retina.

Clinical Trials: DRY AMD<sup>6</sup>

*Advanced Cell Technology (ACT)* is a cell-based therapy using transplants of retinal pigment epithelial cells derived from stem cells.

*Encapsulated Cell Technology (ECT)* is a tiny capsule—the size of a rice grain—implanted into the eye. The capsule contains retinal cells that produce a vision-preserving protein, Ciliary Neurotrophic Factor (CNTF).

*Fenretinide* reduces the accumulation of vision-robbing toxins in the retina.

Clinical Trials: AMD<sup>6</sup>

*RetinoStat®* is a gene therapy that blocks the growth of leaky, unhealthy blood vessels under the retina that cause vision loss in wet AMD.

*Fenretinide* reduces the incidences of wet AMD.

Clinical Trials: Therapies

Therapies include: eye drops,

Cont. p. 19

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## Real Travel By Sergio Nibbi

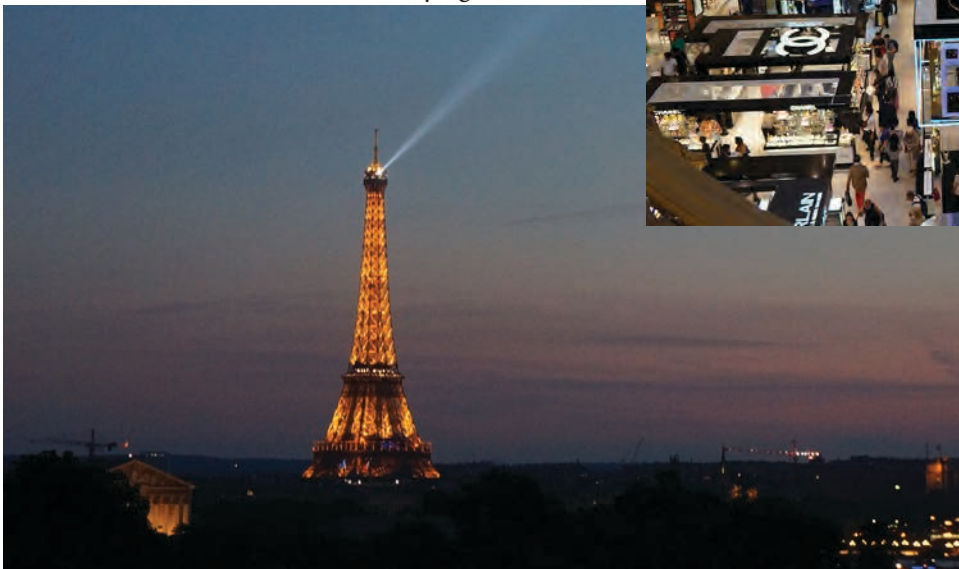


### An American in Paris

It's a bright, sunny, Sunday afternoon as our United Airlines flight sits anxiously waiting on the tarmac, listening for that familiar message from the control tower, "United Flight 990 ready for takeoff." With a June 22nd Westside Observer deadline looming in the wings, what better excuse than to spend seven days in the City of Light for some great food, fun, and festivities. Although our flight was almost two hours late in leaving, we did arrive at Charles de Gaulle on schedule and fairly rested. Our driver Nalen, who was born in Sri Lanka, was there to help us with our two bags and direct us to his waiting car, and we listened to his curses sotto voce as we were told that the traffic was horrible due the air show that's in town all week.

Our home for the next seven days would be at the Hotel Brighton at 218 rue de Rivoli, a first for us but certainly not the last. A close friend who preceded us by a few weeks at the hotel struck up an acquaintance with the director, John Rodrigues, and told him that we would also be staying

clocks on either end of the d'Orsay Museum, directly across from us.

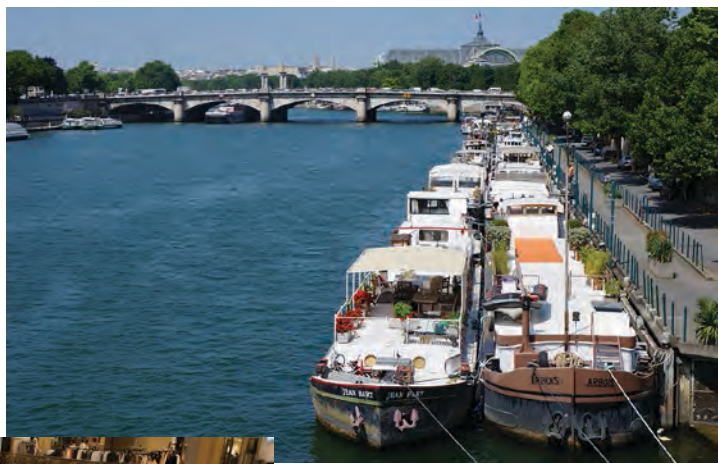


at the Brighton. Actually we're the ones that recommended the hotel to him, but whatever was said it certainly worked. Room 408 sits on a corner of the building and faces the Tuileries Gardens, and our view stretches from the towers of Notre Dame to the Eiffel Tower and beyond. Not the typical European small, dark, cramped room, this could pass for a studio apartment in today's San Francisco, so much so that we've never spent so much time in a hotel room admiring the gardens, the buildings of the Louvre, and enjoying the two brightly lit

Tuesday morning we were joined by my cousin Giulia, who lives in Lucca but is presently teaching at the University of Bordeaux. We had also set up a lunch with some Marin County friends who are in Paris, and the five of us had a very Parisian lunch and lovely visit. By late afternoon our daughter, her husband, and our granddaughter arrived from London and are also staying at the Brighton.

Wednesday and Thursday were devoted to touring the museums, and our two day pass served us well as we started

with the Musee d'Orsay, which was a former train station and is now home to countless displays of impressionist paintings, Art Nouveau, sculptures and modern works of art. The biggest surprise was that now photos are allowed. The Musee de L'Orangerie was



Avenue des Champs Elysees. It quickly became a tossup as to what cost more, Frank Gehry's building or our quick visit at the store!!! Our next stop was at Notre Dame to say a few prayers for our American Express cards, and then after a brief lunch stop we headed to Montmartre, which was packed with tourists, followed by a brief visit to the Basilica of the Sacre Coeur. Those prayers must have worked.....no bounced checks yet.

Thursday evening we enjoyed a true Parisian experience as we joined a group of 15 others for a nighttime tour of the Eiffel Tower. The tour started at

9:30 and ended at 11 pm. The young tour guide handed us all our own earphones and receiver and spoke of the history, construction, and the politics of the day before they ever drove a rivet. We then boarded a two level elevator that followed the shape of the tower and dropped us off at the 2nd level viewing area. At night Paris was spectacular.

Saturday we spent the day walking around the area, sat in the metal reclining chairs that surround the huge pond in the Tuilleries, and had a nice quiet dinner before starting to pack for our Sunday afternoon flight to Florence.

It's been a marvelous stay but much too short. We've seen a lot and what more can one say about Paris? Great fun and memorable as always, but I must admit to one indiscretion which I hope that the good Lord will see to forgive me. Certainly not like me but we all make choices that we carry throughout our lives and hope for forgiveness at some point.....God forgive me.....in a weak moment, I bought a selfie-stick!!!

interesting, but lacked the grandeur of its bigger brother, but again we were treated to two large rooms whose walls were covered by Claude Monet's water lilies. An afternoon stop at the Opera House was the perfect pathway to the Galeries Lafayette, a ten story department store that has one of the most spectacular glass and steel domes and Art Nouveau staircases ever seen. We were tempted to have lunch at MacDonald's on the second floor, but settled for the main dining area which is on the 6th.

But as spectacular as the Galeries is, nothing could have prepared us for our visit to the Foundation Louis Vuitton on Friday. Designed by American architect Frank Gehry, the ultra-modern, glass and steel structure is beyond words. Imagine taking a sheet of paper, crumpling it up and then designing a building that looks like it. Truly a masterpiece. After touring the various exhibits and gardens we wrapped up our cameras and headed out. Our driver Sylvain Inzani asked us if we wanted to make a few other stops. With three women in the car their unanimous choice was the Louie Vuitton store on the

Kaye (Cont. from p. 15)

when they venture outside their very specific area of expertise.

One Nobel Prize winner recently made some absurd comments regarding working in a lab with women and was forced to resign his unpaid position in humiliation. Award-winning physicists embarrass themselves when they venture into philosophy, especially metaphysics. Their genius is as limited as is their award specialty. They would be well advised to opine only in their very narrow area of

expertise and leave philosophical speculation to the professionals.

It seems that these many awards and award shows promote narcissism and controversy, and emphasize the extrinsic rather than encourage excellence.

Could we ever live without these awards, bold symbols of our meritocracy? Could we establish people's authority without knowing their provenance?

I think that it would be nice to try.

Feedback: kaye@westsideobserver.com



**Macular Degeneration** (Cont. from p. 18) ocular injections, gene therapy and pharmaceutical agents.

#### Visual Field Testing

Visual field test is an examination that can detect dysfunction in central and peripheral vision which may be caused by various medical conditions.<sup>11</sup>

*Tangent screen [Bjerrum screen]*

A simple device used in perimetry to test the central position of the visual field.<sup>4</sup>

*Amsler grid*

A grid of horizontal and vertical lines used to monitor a person's central visual field.

A diagnostic tool that aids in the detection of visual disturbances caused by changes in the retina, particularly the macula, as well as the optic nerve and the visual pathway to the brain. Patients with macular disease may see wavy lines or some lines may be missing.<sup>12</sup>

#### ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY DEVICES

**Spotlight Text.** A reading app and ebook reader specifically for readers with vision loss. Download at [www.amg.org](http://www.amg.org).

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Registered Health Information Technician, writer of reference books for seniors—Caring for an Aging Loved One: The Family Caregiver's Guide Book and Caring Boomers Newsletter—AMD article revised from February 2012. Information is for educational purposes. For specific questions and care, consult an ophthalmologist. [mattesonecs@yahoo.com](mailto:mattesonecs@yahoo.com).

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12. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amsler\\_grid](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amsler_grid)

**Editor's Note** - This is an abbreviated version of the article which is available in full on our website: [www.westsideobserver.com/health.html](http://www.westsideobserver.com/health.html).

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# BALBOA PARK STATION IMPROVEMENTS

OPEN HOUSE CO-HOSTED BY MUNI AND BART

## OPEN HOUSE TO SHOWCASE:

- SFMTA's Balboa Park Station Area and Plaza Improvements:  
**[www.sfmta.com/balboaparkarea](http://www.sfmta.com/balboaparkarea).**
- SFMTA's Green Light Rail Center Track Replacements:  
**[www.sfmta.com/greenlightrail](http://www.sfmta.com/greenlightrail).**
- BART's Balboa Park Eastside Connection:  
**[www.bart.gov/about/projects/balboa](http://www.bart.gov/about/projects/balboa).**

Please join us on Aug. 24, 6 to 7:30 p.m. at CCSF's Ocean Campus on 50 Phelan Ave in the Multi-Use Building, room 140.

**For more information on the projects or open house, please contact Cristina Padilla at [Cristina.Padilla@sfmta.com](mailto:Cristina.Padilla@sfmta.com) or 415.701.2474**

## MEJORAMIENTOS PARA LA ESTACIÓN DE BALBOA PARK

EXHIBICIÓN ABIERTA AL PÚBLICO ORGANIZADA POR MUNI Y BART

## LA EXHIBICIÓN MOSTRARÁ

- Proyecto de SFMTA Balboa Park Station Area and Plaza Improvements: [\*\*www.sfmta.com/balboaparkarea\*\*](http://www.sfmta.com/balboaparkarea).
- Proyecto de SFMTA Green Light Rail Center Track Replacements: [\*\*www.sfmta.com/greenlightrail\*\*](http://www.sfmta.com/greenlightrail).
- Proyecto de BART Balboa Park Eastside Connection: [\*\*www.bart.gov/about/projects/balboa\*\*](http://www.bart.gov/about/projects/balboa)

Por favor únase con nosotros el 24 de agosto, de 6 a 7:30 p.m. en el Ocean Campus de CCSF en 50 Phelan Ave en el Multi-Use Building, numero 140.

Para obtener más información sobre los proyectos o la exhibición, por favor póngase en contacto con Cristina Padilla en [Cristina.Padilla@sfmta.com](mailto:Cristina.Padilla@sfmta.com) o 415.701.2474.

# BALBOA PARK站改進項目

三藩市公車局Muni與灣區捷運BART聯合舉辦說明會

說明會將展示:

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[www.sfmta.com/balboaparkarea](http://www.sfmta.com/balboaparkarea)
- 三藩市交通局的Green街車中心更換鐵軌工程：  
[www.sfmta.com/greenlightrail](http://www.sfmta.com/greenlightrail)
- 三藩市交通局的Balboa Park站東邊轉車站修建工程：  
[www.bart.gov/about/projects/balboa](http://www.bart.gov/about/projects/balboa)

了解工程細節，請前來參加於8月24日晚7點半舉行的會議，地址在三藩市社區大學，50 Phelan Ave, 140會議室。

了解有關說明會的訊息，可與Cristina Padilla 聯絡，郵址 [Cristina.Padilla@sfmta.com](mailto:Cristina.Padilla@sfmta.com) 或致電415.701.2474。