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# WESTSIDE OBSERVER

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## Where Does The Money Go?

By George Wooding



**D**on't vote for "50% plus one" revenue measures or taxes, since the City almost never uses the money collected for the intended purposes.

San Franciscans have to become aware of the difference between ballot measures that are designated to specific projects, versus 50% plus one ballot measures that don't have anything to do with what the ballot proponent promises the public.

All, some, or none of the revenue generated by a 50% plus one ballot measures may be used for the cause for which the money was supposed to be used, because the revenue generated goes straight into the General Fund, where it can be used to fund almost anything, and often is.

in deferred maintenance that needed to be fixed. Deferred maintenance is the practice of postponing maintenance activities, such as repairs on both real property, e.g. infrastructure, and personal property, e.g. machinery, in order to save costs, to meet current budget funding levels, or to realign available budget monies.

On Monday, September 28, 2015, District 2 Supervisor Mark Farrell spoke before the West of Twin Peaks Central Council and stated, "I am here to talk about a measure to increase funding for our Recreation and Parks system. As a born-and-raised San Franciscan, I spent my sum-

**"Fifty-percent plus one ballot measures are usually used for projects and programs that either failed to be passed as legislation at the Board of Supervisors (BOS), or are so unpopular with the public that they could not attain the two-thirds votes necessary to become either a designated revenue bond or law at the ballot box."**

A designated bond or tax measure needs to receive 66.7% (two-thirds) of the vote to pass. Financial instruments such as bonds and taxes have to be linked to a specific City project. For example, the June 7 Proposition A ballot measure was a \$350 million General Obligation Bond measure strictly dedicated for paying specifically for seismic strengthening and betterment of critical community health facilities, mental health facilities, and emergency response facilities.

Fifty-percent plus one ballot measures are usually used for projects and programs that either failed to be passed as legislation at the Board of Supervisors (BOS), or are so unpopular with the public that they could not attain the two-thirds votes necessary to become either a designated revenue bond or law at the ballot box.

The recently passed Proposition B — a Charter amendment designed by District 2 Supervisor Mark Farrell, Chairperson of the BOS Budget and Finance Committee, with the help of Phil Ginsburg, General Manager of the Recreation and Parks Department (RPD) — is a great example of how a 50% plus one proposition misrepresented its purpose to the public.

Voters were told that RPD has over one billion dollars

mers playing in my neighborhood park. For me, this is very personal. I use our parks as a father now. As our City budget has grown, the Rec. and Parks funding has been stagnant. Our City has been 'densifying.' Our City may grow to as much as a million [residents]. Our parks are being used more heavily than ever. More trash, more wear and tear. Ninety-nine percent of Rec. and Parks' maintenance response is emergency [maintenance]. Less than 1% is preventive maintenance. I am working with the Mayor's office to add \$3 million a year to increase funding for these important public institutions."

Under Farrell's 50% plus one Charter amendment, all mention of park maintenance was deliberately deleted and eliminated, so there's no guarantee the deferred maintenance backlog will be addressed with the increased revenue.

Farrell further stated, "I am not a fan of set asides. But when I was shown the statistics about Rec. and Park and see how comparatively the RPD has been hampered as the City budget has grown, it was an alarm bell for how important this is. We pass bonds for new projects but we don't have the budget to maintain them. I'm not a big fan of set-asides. But this is a small growth,

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## Rebirth of Manor Coffee Shop Defies Recent Trends

By Tony Taylor

**F**or over 45 years Manor Coffee Shop has been a neighborhood haven along West Portal's intimate shopping strip, and as small businesses become real estate bait for big development companies, Chef Michael Gonzales plans to keep the local diner alive.

A San Francisco native, Gonzales has been eating at Manor since his childhood and he credits the "old school vibes" to a lack of gentrification.

"The area hasn't been 'techified,'" he says. "Diners are a lost breed and Manor is a neighborhood fixture."

The process of taking over Manor from its former owner, Raymond Jeung, began in July 2015. After shadowing Jeung for nearly six months, Gonzales' became the official owner of Manor Cafe on Christmas Day of that same year.

"I thought it was important to keep certain things the same, but I also wanted to make it mine," Gonzales says.

It took Gonzales five months to rejuvenate the restaurant with new floors and paint. In addition to refurbishing the original 1960's cash register, the bar stools with hat clips on back, and reupholstering the dining booths, he says he has spent hundreds of dollars to maintain the iconic sign outside.

The cafe's clients are locals who have lived in the area for years, and just like Gonzales is getting used to them, they are

getting used to him, too.

As West Portal residents of 51 years, Bruce



Manor has been located at 321 West Portal Avenue since 1967

and Jean Brugmann have always patronized Manor. They were trepidatious about returning with new, unfamiliar ownership, but they were delighted to find that Gon-

**"... the same staples like milkshakes, burgers, and pancakes ... the 'Kitchen Sink' omelette, which is a choose-your-own ingredients style menu option. Known for its pies, Manor's famous custard pie has been updated with a Parisian twist."**

zales had retained the original atmosphere.

"The configuration of the counter and booths is the same and the buttermilk pancakes are as good as ever," Mr. Brugmann says. "Manor was right out of a

small town and we have always felt at home here."

Kathy Goegger, a resident of West Portal since 1972, likes the new look. "It brightens the place and brings it up-to-date," she says.

"It's nice to see they have one of the same chefs, too," Goegger adds referring to Tom, a quiet, tenured chef assistant who has been making breakfast there for 30 years.

"Michael is very nice," Goegger says after chatting with Gonzales. "I think he has a lot of understanding about food and he wants to expand the menu. It

Cont. p. 19

## By the Numbers

### The Cop In The Arena

By Lou Barberini, CPA



**J**oaquin "Jack" Corrales' patrol car glided along the Great Highway as he admired the narrow sliver of tropical hues resting on the inky Pacific and weighed by the seasonal gray dome. This was the extent of the daily sunset out here: nature's taunt to the locals that the rest of the world was experiencing a more uplifting summer than those on the west side.

**"The man in the leather jacket mocked Corrales, 'You've got to ask yourself one question: do I feel lucky? Well do you cop?'"**

The radio interrupted the tranquility, "Citizen says suspicious person wandering around Golden Gate Park windmill. Dark leather jacket. Has unknown object in his hand."

The advent of cellphones has exponentially increased the citizen calls for San Francisco Police Department's service. Corrales calculated that cellphone technology revolutionized solving crimes, though it had also stimulated

some of the citizens' television-influenced imaginations. How many times was the unknown simply imagined?

Corrales notified the dispatcher that he would look for the suspicious person and drove the remaining length of the Great Highway to the windmill parking lot. Dusk was rapidly yielding to

nightfall. No cars. No people in sight.

Corrales prided himself on consciously serving the public, and took the extra precaution to ensure there was no one even behind the windmill. Jack got out of his car and walked into the park.

As he circled behind the windmill and approached the blind spot, he unfastened his gun and held it behind his rear. While he needed to be prepared for the worst, he did not want to startle an innocent citizen, but the park was desolate of either a threatening situation or an ordinary citizen. Corrales returned to his patrol car

Cont. p. 8



# Bullying Costs Soar to \$41.3 Million

Update on Civil Grand Jury Whistleblower Report

By Patrick Monette-Shaw

Thirteen years after voters passed Prop “C” in 2003 requiring the Board of Supervisors to enact adequate protections to curtail retaliation against City employees who file complaints involving improper government activity and matters of public concern, progress has inched forward over the past year — but just barely.

Since 2007, the cost of bullying San Francisco City employees has soared to \$41.3 million, but that’s counting only those who were fortunate to afford filing lawsuits against the City. That \$41.3 million could have been better spent solving a myriad of problems.

## Cost of Retaliation Against City Employees Keeps Soaring

In May 2013, the *Westside Observer* carried my first article on the high costs of retaliation and bullying of City employees. In July 2015, I wrote an update on the subject in “Retaliators Keep Their City Jobs” for the *Observer*.

Dr. Derek Kerr, a former Senior Physician Specialist at Laguna Honda Hospital for over 20 years wrongfully terminated for his exposé of the raid of the hospital’s patient gift fund used for staff perks instead, first placed a records request with the City Attorney’s Office in October 2012 for records involving lawsuit settlements for a host of prohibited personnel practices. The first 103 cases involved \$9.6 million in lawsuit settlements, and another \$7.7 million for the costs of City Attorney time and expenses trying to stop the lawsuits.

The lawsuit settlement amounts paid by the City Attorney do not include back pay awards or other amounts not processed through the City Attorney. Checking Board of Supervisors’ agendas, six of the 103 settlements received a total of an additional \$1.4 million, ostensibly for back pay or other awards, bringing the total to \$18.8 million for the first 103 cases

that I reported in 2013.

On May 29 of this year, I placed another records request for updated data on lawsuits settled between October 2012 and May 29, 2016. The number of cases settled in that period surged from 123 to 159, involving \$7.2 million in settlements awarded, and a whopping \$14.6 million costs in City Attorney time and expenses, for a total of \$21.8 million, plus an additional \$1 million awarded by the Board of Supervisors for back pay or other awards, pushing the total since October 2012 to \$22.8 million, above and beyond the first 103 lawsuits.

Combining all cases since 2007, the City Attorney has settled 259 lawsuit totaling \$16.6 million, plus \$22.2 million in City Attorney time and expenses, plus \$2.5 million awarded by the Board of Supervisors for back pay or other awards, bringing the costs across the past nine years to a staggering \$41.3 million, with 63 lawsuits still pending!

Of the approximately 29 categories of already-prohibited personnel practices on the law books, four, Racial Discrimination, Disability Discrimination, Wrongful Termination, and Other-Actions by Employees against the City, have accounted for 67 % (\$27.8 million) of the total costs for the 259 cases settled to date, including \$8.6 million involving Racial Discrimination (40 cases), \$6.6 million involving Disability Discrimination (46 cases), \$6.4 million involving Wrongful



Termination (41 cases), and \$6.3 million involving Other Actions (45 cases).

Together they total 172 of the 259 cases settled to date, but there are another 41 pending cases spread across these four categories that will push the combined total to 213 of the 322 cases filed to date between 2007 and May 29, 2016.

Between 41 cases settled to date, and 9 more still pending, the number of wrongful termination cases since 2007 totals 50 cases. That’s a lot of careers and lives damaged after being wrongfully fired, and suggests much of it is likely due to retaliation by managers and City department heads who think they can get away with firing employees wrongfully.

Which is precisely why the City’s Whistleblower Protection Ordinance needs to be amended as the Civil Grand Jury recommended over a year ago.

## Efforts to Strengthen the Whistleblower Protection Ordinance

As I wrote in July 2015, on June 8, 2015 San Francisco’s 2014–2015 Civil Grand Jury released its report “*San Francisco’s Whistleblower Protection Ordinance Is in Need of Change*,” dated May 2015. The Grand Jury’s report was a damning indictment of City Hall’s failure

to adequately strengthen whistleblower protections for City employees since directed by voters in 2013, 13 years ago.

The Grand Jury noted that since 1989, the scope of San Francisco’s whistleblower protection laws narrowed, providing weaker protections for City employees than for state and federal government employees. That narrowing, or shrinkage, of protections for City employees who blow the whistle had been no accident, but was driven by the “powers who be” who have tried valiantly to silence City employees for years.

Following the Grand Jury’s report, our Ethics Commission held two hearings (on Jan. 20 and Feb. 24, 2016) and forwarded recommendations to the Board of Supervisors to amend the Whistleblower Protection Ordinance (WPO).

Board president London Breed introduced legislation on June 14 to amend the WPO, which legislation will be heard by the Board’s Rules Committee in late July or after the Board’s recess in August. Breed’s amendments address most of the recommendations made by the Friends of Ethics, which the Ethics Commission had incorporated, including:

- Greater specificity on whistleblower complaints filed by City employees and City contractors, adding protections against retaliation for City contractors.

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## CORRECTION

District 7 Candidate for Supervisor **Mike Young** was incorrectly identified as Mike Lee in our June introduction to D7 candidates.

The *Westside Observer* regrets the error and wishes him well in his campaign.



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## West Of Twin Peaks Central Council By Mitch Bull

Crime and Coyotes dominated the discussion at the West of Twin Peaks Central Council meeting on June 27. **President Roger Ritter** kicked off the meeting at 7:35 in front of a large crowd and immediately introduced **San Francisco District Attorney George Gascon**.

Gascon was at the meeting as a follow-up to the recent meetings focusing on neighborhood crime. Previously presentations from the SFPD and Public Defender's office had given attendees a peek into the workings of the local police stations, as well as the scope and operation of the office of the Public Defender. Gascon, who is known for his reliance on trends, data, and numbers, didn't disappoint as he started by giving the following crime numbers within the Taraval and Ingleside Police Stations from 2014 to 2015.

For the Taraval station, the D.A. reported that for the period from January 2014 to March 2015 there were 2,290 auto burglaries reported with 16 arrests, which is less than 1%. Of the 16 arrests made, the D.A.'s office took action on 14 cases. For the same period the Ingleside station reported 1686 auto burglary cases, with 22 arrests, again a little over 1%. Of those 22 cases, the D.A. took action on 16 cases. Gascon stated that nationally, the trends show about a 14% arrest rate for auto burglary. When asked why more arrests were not being made, he referred these types of questions to the SFPD.

The numbers look very slightly better when examining property crime. For the same 15-month period, the Taraval station reported 5342 cases with 173 arrests (a 3% rate), with the D.A. taking action on 124 of the 173 arrests. In Ingleside, 3% was also the norm as 158 arrests were made on 4,687 property crimes. The D.A. said his office took action on 107 of the 158 arrests.

Gascon said that his office is hitting conviction rates that are their highest in the last 10 years, but still 95% of cases nationwide are handled through a plea bargain arrangement.

When asked about **Prop 47** reclassifying some former felonies as misdemeanors, Gascon did not feel that an increase of crime has come from the proposition.

The D.A. spoke about the problem of **70% recidivism** rates (meaning that 7 of 10 jailed criminals will repeat offend within a short period of time after their release). He believes that training, psychological evaluations and treatment can help lower these rates, and that many of the burglaries are being done by gangs working as teams, often not from the immediate SF areas. The number of property crimes has risen from 38112 in 2010 to 64870 in 2015. He strongly believes the City should establish a four-tier type of behavioral health center to try and council and treat offenders. He cited homelessness, mental health issues and substance and alcohol abuse as large problems within the crime statistics.

Following a roll call of the delegates to establish a quorum of voting organizations, one was reached, and Ritter introduced a **Balboa Terrace Homes Association** resolution calling for the capture and extermination of all **coyotes** within Balboa Terrace to the maximum extent

permitted by state law. A vibrant and informative discussion ensued with representatives from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Little Blue Society, and the Balboa Terrace Homes Assn. all making points about the best methods of changing the behaviors of the coyote families within the city.

Several speakers focused on the conditions that force coyotes into the urban neighborhoods and gave pointers on what to do if faced with a coyote situation. **Andrew HUGHAN**, California Department

of Fish and Wildlife told the attendees that Fish and Wildlife would not step in to take action with the coyotes unless a person was bitten by one. At that point he said that F&W would bring in as many people as needed to eradicate coyotes until the "attacking" coyote is identified.

The debate moved back and forth with what can be done and whose responsibility it is. **Mary Paglieli** of the **Little Blue Society** spoke on the culture of coyote families, their hunting grounds and the ways that neighborhoods can change the patterns of the animals to encourage them to move to other "more natural" areas for hunting. She believes that the main problem is that areas in parks and golf courses, etc. have been cleared of thickets, and dense underbrush

combined with the drought (and a lower food supply) has forced the animals out into the neighborhoods. She described the coyotes as basically lazy, and not interested in attacking dogs and cats, but if stressed and hungry the small animals can become a target. She also added that killing or relocating "alpha pairs" could actually increase the number of animals, as then the "beta" pairs would not be held in check by the pack's leaders, and then increased breeding and expansion of the pack could occur. The dynamic of the "family" is that the alpha pairs run the pack for 4-5 years and do the majority of the breeding, keeping the beta pairs in check as just pack members.

The society has published **guidelines** for avoiding conflicts with coyotes, and safeguarding children around areas where coyotes are present. The website is: [www.littlebluesociety.org](http://www.littlebluesociety.org).

Following the discussion, a call to support **the resolution** forwarded by the BTHA was discussed and passed, with several no votes and several abstentions, with the intention that the WOTPCC would be sending a letter in support of having the city draft a comprehensive plan to address the coyote situation, and have the resolution letter from the BTHA attached to the packet.

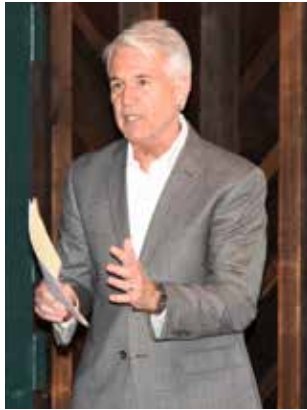
The WOTPCC select nominating committee (**Dave Bisho**, **Paul Conroy**, and **Denise La Pointe**) reported on the officer nominations for WOTPCC officers for the 2016-2017 year. Bisho reported that the nominating committee has nominated the current slate of officers to continue again for the 2016-17 year, (**President Roger Ritter**, **Vice President Sally Stephens**, **Secretary David Goldman** and **Treasurer Carolyn Squeri**). A voice vote of approval affirmed the slate and the officers were elected to serve for another year.

Lastly, President Ritter reminded the attendees of the upcoming **WOTPCC/District 7 Supervisorial Candidates Forum** - The date is **Saturday, September 10** and it will be held inside the **Forest Hills Clubhouse**, with refreshments being served outside. The forum will be conducted between 10:00 AM and Noon.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30. Finally, Congratulations to District 7 resident **Lee Hsu**, nominated by the Mayor and approved by the Board of Supervisors to serve as a member of the SFMTA.

The next regular meeting of the WOTPCC will be on **Monday, September 26th** at 7:30 PM at the **Forest Hill Clubhouse**.

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



District Attorney George Gascon



Andrew HUGHAN from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife

## Ruminations From a Former Supervisor By Quentin Kopp



The incomparable Winston Churchill once observed: "The inherent vice of capitalism is the unequal sharing of the blessings. The inherent blessing of socialism is the equal sharing of misery." That aphorism may not be as relevant now that U.S. Senator Bernie "The Bern" Sanders has lost the Democratic Party nomination for President of the United States, but it nevertheless constitutes a reminder as we approach the Presidential campaign in earnest. (I'll let you, the readers; calculate its application on a day-to-day basis!)

One of the sagas unmentioned by local media is the effort of two Board of Education Commissioners, Emily Murase and Jill Wynnns, to effectuate a complete reestablishment of the Junior ROTC programs in seven San Francisco high schools. Over eight years ago, the then Board of Education abolished JROTC after 70 years of operation. San Francisco voters

and Norton seek reelection. They deserve it. Incidentally, on June 7, 2016, the Board of Education again rejected a proposal to render neighborhood schools as the second factor in pupil assignment, after the factor of whether a sibling attends the school requested for your child to attend. The vote was 4-3 against restoring the neighborhood school to its rightful prior-

46 years ago the abolition of automatically assigning children to their neighborhood school was abolished in favor of busing them to other neighborhoods to achieve racial balance, one reason the San Francisco Unified School District contains 40% fewer pupils than it did in 1970-71, despite an approximate 100,000 or more increase in San Francisco's population to 850,000."

swiftly qualified a ballot initiative resolution, legally non-binding but morally a mandate, to restore JROTC. The initiative was approved overwhelmingly in November 2008, as I have heretofore reminded readers. The Board of Education reinstated JROTC, but omitted three essential elements. Early this year, Commissioners Murase and Wynnns introduced a Board of Education resolution to restore those elements. Despite the voters' November 2008 action, their quest has been difficult. Finally, on June 14, 2016, the Board of Education narrowly on a 4-3 vote approved two of the three resolution mandates, namely, reinstating the ability of high school students to obtain State-required physical education credit for hours spent in JROTC, and a policy permitting JROTC instructors to teach physical education, as authorized by the California Commission on Teaching Credentials.

The "heroes" on the Board of Education in addition to Commissioners Murase and Wynnns were Commissioner Rachel Norton and Board President Matt Haney. The miscreants who refused to obey the voters' direction were Commissioners Sandra Fewer, Hydra Mendoza, and Shamann Walton. Left hanging was the third element, which authorizes money from a so-called "central fund" to be used to match federal funds for JROTC, as required by federal law. Haney refused to vote for such measure, although in his winning campaign for the Board of Education, he used JROTC high school students to distribute his campaign literature! Walton, another ultimate hypocrite, insisted at the June 14 Board of Education meeting that he "supports" JROTC. Not supporting use of central fund appropriations will, however, probably result in the end of JROTC at Galileo and Mission High Schools for lack of compliance with federal matching fund requirements.

There is hope, however, on the horizon. Three Board of Education seats are on the November 8, 2016 ballot. Commissioner Fewer will vacate her seat because she is a candidate for election to the Board of Supervisors from District 1, which to old San Franciscans means the Richmond District. A worthy candidate who pledges to restore central fund appropriations for JROTC is Trevor McNeil. Mr. McNeil is a middle school teacher with ten years' experience in a Peninsula school and a resident of the Outer Sunset. Incumbents Wynnns

ity. Commissioners Norton and Fewer were the champions. History repeats itself because 46 years ago the abolition of automatically assigning children to their neighborhood school was abolished in favor of busing them to other neighborhoods to achieve racial balance, one reason the San Francisco Unified School District contains 40% fewer pupils than it did in 1970-71, despite an approximate 100,000 or more increase in San Francisco's population to 850,000.

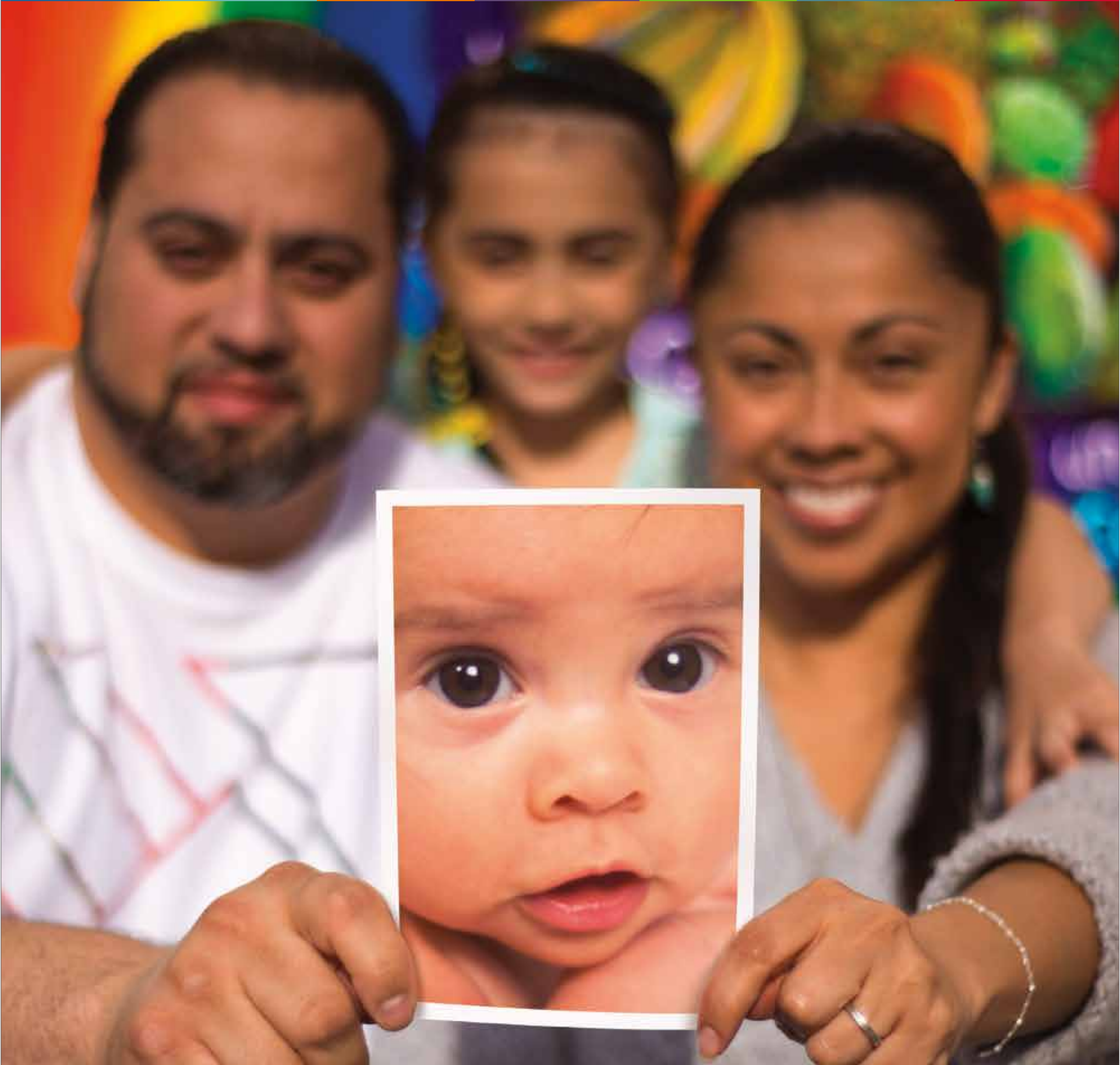
By your leave, I abandon local matters to discuss the law, and particularly the vacancy on the U.S. Supreme Court caused by the death of Justice Antonin Scalia. The President has nominated a successor. The U.S. Senate under leadership of Senator Mitch McConnell of Kentucky declines even to schedule a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on whether to give its advice and consent to the President by confirming (or not-confirming) his nomination. Democrats condemn McConnell and his cohort, claiming, "The sky is falling." The historical facts belie that contention.

Since World War II, there have been 15 lengthy periods in which the Supreme Court had only eight justices. Justice Robert H. Jackson was absent on leave in 1945 to serve as the Chief Prosecutor at the post-World War II Nuremberg (Germany) trials; Justice Abe Fortas, appointed by President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1968, resigned from the Supreme Court in 1969, and wasn't replaced for one year. Justice Lewis F. Powell, Jr. retired in 1987, and his replacement, Justice Anthony Kennedy, wasn't confirmed until eight months later. During the 15 extended periods in which the Supreme Court consisted of only eight justices and split evenly on a case, it affirmed the lower court in 25 cases without an opinion and ordered re-argument in 54 after its complement of nine justices was full. A Supreme Court vacancy, thus, delays rulings in a small number of cases. Don't let the egotistical "commentators" and partisan politicians convince you otherwise. The republic will endure.

Finally, I invite attention to a May 3, 2016 *Washington Post* article (reprinted in the Police Officers Association newspaper) which discussed a laboratory project at Washington State University that used realistic police simulators, real guns modified to fire infrared beams rather than bullets, and set up simulations to observe the

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# *Beyond new baby* **Care.**



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# Techie Take-over Rankles MUNI Riders

By Glenn Rogers, PLA

**The Court Decision:**

After numerous delays by the defendant supporting the use of public bus stops being used by private carriers, on April 28, 2016, the San Francisco City Attorney, with the support of the law firm, Morrison and Foerster representing the real party in interest, Genentech, prevailed in the Google shuttle bus pilot case. Judge Garrett Wong ruled that the temporary bus program lawsuit was moot since the pilot program had ended and been replaced by a “permanent” program. Originally, the case against the pilot bus program in the City began in May 1, 2014. Plaintiffs were SEIU 1021 and a handful of local citizens. Representing SEIU 1021 were Richard Drury and Rebecca Davis of the law firm Lozeau Drury LLP. After many delaying motions on the part of the defendants, the trial was finally held on November 13, 2015. The pilot program was scheduled to end on January 31, 2016. Judges are supposed to rule on cases within 90 days of the trial. But Judge Wong did not issue a ruling until April 28, well past the 90-day deadline and after the adoption of a “permanent” program, of sorts, to replace the pilot program. At the time of publication it is not known if plaintiffs will appeal.

**The Pilot and Permanent Program:**

The pilot program had green placards on the buses. Now, blue placards represent the permanent bus program. This “permanent” program must be reviewed in six months and only lasts for one year. The pilot and the permanent programs are otherwise nearly identical. The “permanent” program, however, restricts the number of stops that can be utilized by private carriers to 125 whereas language in the pilot program indicated an unlimited number of stops could eventually be incorporated into the program. However, neither the pilot nor the “permanent” program has any restrictions on the number of shuttles that can receive the blue placards. For administration fees, private shuttles have been charged \$3.67 per stop. That charge will go up to over \$7 per stop to pay for additional enforcement of the program.

**The Tech Bus Problem:**

According to California Vehicle Code 22500, it is illegal for private carriers to use public bus stops. Despite this, the City of San Francisco has decided to experiment with a private bus system “sharing” public bus stops in order to reduce congestion on the highways and provide a “greener” solution for commuters.<sup>1</sup> Today, approximately 8,500 people take a round trip bus to their destination to either Apple, Facebook, Yahoo, eBay, Youtube, Genentech, Google and other peninsula and South Bay companies. Employees can board their private buses at 125 different locations in San Francisco, with about 100 of those locations being at bus stops previously used exclusively by MUNI. These private buses, often with few passengers,



normally get 3-10 miles per gallon. The two story buses weigh over 25 tons and can often be found illegally on streets that have heavy weight restrictions. Other infractions include blocking bike lanes, obstructing traffic and blocking bus zones. NBC Bay Area has reported this past spring that the tech shuttles have racked up over 800 traffic violations since the start of the pilot program in 2014. Many of the violations were moving violations. The problem has gotten so bad that SFMTA has decided to hire 50% more enforcement officers to police the problem.

**Gentrification:**

The tech buses may be at the root of another problem with our City, gentrification. Young, rich, tech workers, seeking to live in neighborhoods close to private bus stops, may be linked to the eviction and displacement of long-time residents, as property owners seek to charge more in rent to those better able to pay. Property value in these areas has increased dramatically for both home and business property.<sup>2</sup> Our City, faced with a ballooning budget, has been happy to accommodate the tech industry. After all, a real estate boom provides increased property taxes, a source of income for the City. An Environmental Impact Report (EIR) could study the overall effect of local residents leaving San Francisco, then traveling great distances to return to work. This study could see if real environmen-

“Some say Google buses provide a “greener” solution than each tech worker riding a solo car to their destination. However, this analysis does not account for buses waiting long periods of time to be allowed to enter a MUNI bus stop, or the fact that the diesel engines used by the shuttle buses pollute more than regular cars.”

tal savings are occurring by tech workers replacing long-time San Francisco residents. Unfortunately, EIR’s have no ability to demand change, only make suggestions.

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# Sunshine: Uphill Battle to Keep 'em Honest

San Francisco leads the nation with its revolutionary open government laws. Its unique people's court—the Sunshine Task Force—is an approach to resolving problems ordinary folks have with a burgeoning bureaucracy—access to documents and meetings. It all looks good on paper, but the reality has been shown, after almost 20 years, to have too many loopholes that officials have routinely exploited.

By Richard Knee

Activists aim to get a package of sunshine-law amendments on the local ballot that would, among other things, increase the independence and effectiveness of the city's 11-member open-government watchdog commission and lessen the ability of public officials to sabotage the commission's work as happened in 2012.

The grassroots group San Franciscans for Sunshine has drafted a series of revisions to the city's open-meeting and public-records laws known collectively as the Sunshine Ordinance (Administrative Code Chapter 67) and hopes to put the measure to the voters by collecting upward of 9,500 valid signatures..

Besides giving the commission more power and autonomy, the initiative would

bring the Sunshine Ordinance into the 21<sup>st</sup> century on the technology side, mandating live televising or video-streaming of all policy-body meetings in City Hall and tightening requirements for retention, storage and accessibility of electronic records. The initiative would also prescribe a \$500 to \$5,000 fine for willful violations of the ordinance.

The measure's text appears on the home page of the SFS website, *SanFranciscansForSunshine.org*. It is the product of more than a decade of work by the commission, called the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force, drawing on the body's own experiences and input from dozens of citizens.

The SFS steering committee (disclosure: this writer is on it) comprises current and former task force members and other sunshine activists, most notably Bruce B. Brugmann, the retired Bay Guardian editor who shepherded the original ordinance through the Board of Supervisors in 1993 and helped lead a successful initiative campaign to strengthen it in 1999.

But remaining loopholes in the law and persistent refusal of entities and officials who can enforce it to do so signal people in City Hall that they can violate it without consequence, sunshine advocates say.

On top of that, task force members who vote to find willful violations of the ordinance risk political retaliation. In September 2011, the task force found unanimously that Board of Supervisors President David Chiu and Supervisors Eric Mar, Malia Cohen and Scott Wiener had violated local and state open-meeting laws by ramming through a Parkmerced redevelopment contract with 14 pages of amendments that Chiu had slipped in at the last minute.

The following spring, Chiu, Wiener and Supervisor Mark Farrell orchestrated

a purge of the task force resulting in appointments of five neophytes and a former member, David Pilpel, well known for trying to curry favor among elected city officials and department heads. At the same time, the board failed to appoint anyone with a physical handicap – even though incumbent Bruce Wolfe met that criterion – prompting a deputy city attorney to caution that in light of a requirement in the ordinance that the task force at all times have a physically handicapped member, any actions taken without such a person seated could pose legal risks to the task force and its individual members. The task force had to take a five-month hiatus, exacerbating an already thick backlog

“... task force members who vote to find willful violations of the ordinance risk political retaliation. In September 2011, the task force found unanimously that Board of Supervisors President David Chiu and Supervisors Eric Mar, Malia Cohen and Scott Wiener had violated local and state open-meeting laws by ramming through a Parkmerced redevelopment contract with 14 pages of amendments that Chiu had slipped in at the last minute.”

of complaint cases.

In 2014, the board's Rules Committee, which conducts initial vetting of board and commission applicants, recommended reappointment of Pilpel and two other Anglos to the task force and then deferred action on other appointments, saying there wasn't enough racial/ethnic diversity among the remaining applicants.

Subsequent scathing commentaries in the *Westside Observer* and the *San Francisco Chronicle* embarrassed the committee into ending its stall.

The appointments process this year went relatively smoothly, but unless the system is changed, there is no safeguard against recurrence of the 2012 outrage. SFS's initiative proposes a remedy: expanding to nine from four the number of task force members who must be nominated by outside organizations and requiring the board to appoint all nominees absent clear and convincing evidence that specific individuals are not qualified to serve



Sunshine Task Force prior to the Board of Supervisors' purge: Suzanne Manneh, Allyson Washburn, Vice Chair Bruce Wolfe with guide dog Lady (below), Jay Costa, Richard Knee, Jerry Threat (City Atty), Chair Hope Johnson and Administrator Andrea Ausberry

on the body, which would be renamed the Sunshine Commission.

Also, commissioners' terms would be staggered beginning in 2019. Currently, most of the terms start and end in even-numbered years. The length of all terms would remain at two years.

Equally important, the initiative would empower the commission to appoint its own executive director/legal counsel and a clerk. Currently, legal and clerical aides are assigned by the city attorney and the Board of Supervisors clerk, respectively, and that has created problems.

Originally, the deputy city attorney assigned to the task force attended all meetings of the task force and its committees and stayed for their duration. Purportedly due to budget constraints, the deputy CA has for about the last decade been attending meetings of the full task force only and must leave at 9 p.m. (meetings usually start at 4 p.m.).

The initiative would give the commission more say in the hours and duties of its staff personnel. It would also enable the commission to exercise quality control in terms of its aides' competence. The administrator now assigned to the task force, Victor Young, is highly regarded by task force members but a number of them give low marks to the currently assigned deputy CA. And a number of Young's predecessors were clearly in over their heads.

The measure has support from the League of Women Voters of San Francisco; the First Amendment Coalition, a San Rafael-based free-speech and sunshine advocacy organization; and the Pacific Media Workers Guild (NewsGuild-CWA Local 39521). SFS is seeking additional endorsements.

Richard Knee is a freelance journalist who served on the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force from 2002-14.

Info/contact: [sanfranciscansforsunshine.org](http://sanfranciscansforsunshine.org)



Retiring Chair Allyson Washburn accepts an award from Dr. Derek Kerr, San Franciscans for Sunshine, at her last meeting with the Sunshine Task Force.

As the nominee from the League of Women Voters, she remained on the Task Force as a "holdover" when the Board of Supervisors refused to reappoint her. This happened because the League stood steadfastly behind her, refusing to nominate anyone else.

She currently chairs the effort to adopt the proposed amendments proposed by San Franciscans for Sunshine.



## Revamping the Sunshine Commission

Currently the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force includes an attorney and a journalist nominated by the **Society of Professional Journalists**, a journalist nominated by **New America Media** and a member of the public nominated by the **League of Women Voters**. The other seven members are directly appointed by the Board of Supervisors.

A ballot initiative sponsored by **San Franciscans for Sunshine** would rename the body the **Sunshine Commission**; would, beginning in 2018, increase to nine the number of members nominated by outside public-interest groups; and would mandate that the board appoint all nominees absent clear and convincing evidence that specific nominees are unqualified to serve on the commission. The nominating roles:

- **Society of Professional Journalist NorCal** would continue nominating an attorney and a journalist, and would take over New America Media's authority to nominate a journalist from a racial/ethnic minority or L/G/B/T/Q community. Both organizations are requesting this change.
- **The First Amendment Coalition** would nominate an attorney.
- **The Media Alliance** and the **Pacific Media Workers Guild** would each nominate a journalist.
- **The League of Women Voters of San Francisco** would continue nominating a member of the public.
- **The Freedom of the Press Foundation** would nominate a member of the public with information-technology expertise.
- **The Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods** would nominate a member of the public.
- **The Board of Supervisors** would directly appoint two members of the public, at least one of whom must have a physical disability.

## Letters to the Editor

### Remember When

I am writing about the picture of Ingleside Terraces Homes published in the *Westside Observer* Apr, 2012.<sup>1</sup> By the slope of the land, the donkey engine looks to be located a little east of the present

intersection of Urbano and Moncada. I believe the large building just left of center would be the Farragut Grammar School, so this picture would have been taken near the present intersection of Cerritos and Moncada, looking East-South-East. The



Farragut Grammar School in *Remember When* feature of 1911 photo of the future site of Ingleside Terraces Homes

outcrop of rock on the hill is still there at the top of Ashton/Orizaba. Perhaps an



interesting question for your consideration would be the location for the inspiration of Richard Diebenkorn's Ingleside II. Art historians place it at Moncada, looking south toward Cedro. But could it be Entrada at Borica looking South-East?

Jim Service

1. [www.westsideobserver.com/remember.html/#apr12](http://www.westsideobserver.com/remember.html/#apr12)

### Judicial Bias

When Donald Trump made comments about the federal judge overseeing

his case it received a lot of media attention because he is a candidate for the office of the United States President. A judge's lenient sentencing of the defendant in the Sanford sexual assault case received a lot of media attention. The issue of judicial bias is very serious and can compromise our rights enumerated in both the United States and California Constitutions.

When you are not wealthy or a student at a prestigious university there is almost no coverage of judicial bias in your case. There is a saying about the mainstream media "if it bleeds, it leads." If your story does not fit into this category there will be little or no media coverage at all.

Judges can recuse themselves from a

Cont. p. 11

## Commentary

## Great Sums of Public Money End Up Flushed

By Steve Lawrence

Over the next two decades SFPUC expects water and sewer rates to rise 7% per year average, three-and-a-half times inflation. Increase that number if there are overruns on the \$7 billion SSIP (sewer program), or “extras,” such as better flood protection.



“Flooding and inadequate capacity troubles are occasionally ugly and smelly; they will get worse unless remedied. No one opposes the SSIP (Sewer System Improvement Program). The trick is getting it done without many overruns, and fairly—without favoritism, waste, and corruption, and without public employees living far above private San Franciscans.”

Rates have been rising fast. These past few years you have used less water, which has lowered your bill, but that is temporary. SFPUC’s costs are fixed; if it sells less water eventually it must do so at a higher price to recover costs. Reserves, which have been filling in during drought, won’t last. The average bill is going from today’s \$51 to over \$200 in twenty years.

Modern civilization rests on a broad foundation, one that can fail in a trice. Without water and sewer life gets ugly fast. San Franciscans know that relying on a private water system (Spring Valley) did not work in 1906. To be prepared, the miracle which we enjoy today, the Hetch Hetchy water system, was created. By drowning a beautiful valley, and using a corner of Yosemite as watershed, San Francisco acquired a system that supplies crystal pure water and generates electricity. Generations have enjoyed the benefits. After spending \$4.8 billion to upgrade the system, there is hope that generations to come will, too.

While the sewer system remains to be upgraded, the Sewer System Improvement Program (SSIP) is launched and is underway. It is expected to take more than two decades to complete, for \$7 billion. Digesters, the heart of the system, are old and require replacement. Flooding and inadequate capacity troubles are occasionally ugly and smelly; they will get worse unless remedied. No one opposes the SSIP. The trick is getting it done without many overruns, and fairly—without favoritism, waste, and corruption, and without public employees living far above private San Franciscans.

What have we in place to prevent waste, corruption, favoritism and over-spending? Not much. Hopefully our public servants are civic minded and upright; but where there is opportunity.... There is a Commission of five that meets twice monthly. Commissioners have their specialties, e.g., environment, union, etc. There is a Revenue Bond Oversight Committee that meets five times a year; don’t count on it. There is a Citizens Advisory Committee which does not look into money matters. The Mayor might intervene if spending becomes too outrageous. Rates rise in the distant future.

Today, the major supplier of engineering services, URS, was in 2014 acquired by prior competitor AECOM, which is now dominant. Construction contracts are now let not by the old competitive bidding system, but by a looser method that considers factors other than price. How easy is it to steer contracts to a favorite when there is no low bidder. As

always, change orders aplenty will inevitably be requested and granted; how easy it is to spend ratepayer money doing a “good-guy” a favor with a generous change order. Public contracting is not the essence of efficiency at best; at worst, great sums of public money end up flushed.

\* \* \*

Do you know what June’s Prop A does? Nearly 4 of 5 voted YES. All the city names were for it. \$350 million in bonds are to be sold. For? Public health and safety. What’s that? Do you have adequate assurances that it will be well spent? Were there experts assuring you of the need for the spending? What is planned? Is there a definite list of projects or uses?

Nearly four in five voted YES whether or not any of these questions were answered satisfactorily. Back at the turn of the Millennium when voters were asked for bond authority, there were expert reports, lists of projects, and public meetings to answer questions and explain the use of funds. Today, who needs all that when nearly four of five will vote YES with a dozen colorful mailers with a proud list of known names supporting?

More than three-quarters of Prop A funds are to improve earthquake and fire safety systems at General Hospital, and (all lumped together) renovate and expand the Southeast Health Center and other high-demand neighborhood health clinics. \$20 million to homeless shelters. The remainder, \$58 million, to build a higher-capacity, more efficient and seismically-safer facility for City-owned ambulances. Hopefully you knew that. Did you also know that a 2008 proposition provided \$888 million for “building a new hospital” at SF General? Do you understand why there is—so soon—a need to improve fire safety systems?)

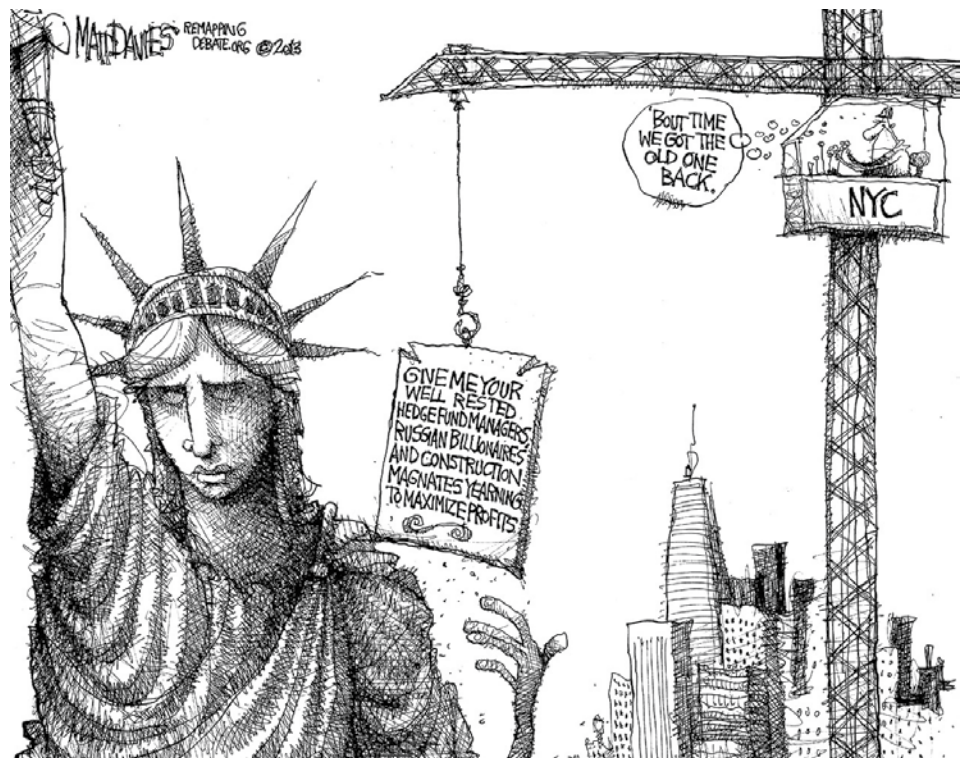
Prop A always is supported by the big names. Prop A always wins, regardless of its merits.

\* \* \*

This year’s city budget is \$9.6 billion, about \$11,300 for each resident. Spending on homelessness rises about 17%. Will that do the trick? At 440 Turk a new office building will rise for the Dept. of Homelessness. After the November election, sales tax in the city will rise half a percent, which is .75 up, partly offset by expiration of a state component, .25 down.

Affordability is not only housing.

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



My 2¢ • Will Durst © 2016



## VENISON JERKY.

If the goal is to cause both sides of the political spectrum to quiver and twitch and shiver and shake like a raccoon clinging to the outside of a cement mixer speeding through a railroad yard, just casually throw out the term, “gun control,” and step back. The left considers all guns the reprehensible tool of warriors, criminals and primitives, while in most of red state America, the definition of gun control is using two hands and hitting the target.

“They’re called “assault weapons” for a reason. They’re not “tucking kiddies into bed” rifles. They’re for assaults. Yes, the Second Amendment guarantees a well-regulated militia the right to bear arms, but at the time our Founding Fathers were talking about citizen-soldiers wielding one-shot muskets, not terrorist-wannabees brandishing HK MG4s capable of shooting 800 .45 caliber bullets in under a minute with a range of a half a mile.”

Then some addled-brained, flipper-unit actually uses those techniques to take out a bunch of innocent people, and the blowback starts with a debate about how big our guns should be, further restrictions on who can purchase them and whether we need to know the identity and shoe size of the purchasers.

Yes. Indeed. You bet. We do. For crum’s sakes, you need to present identification to apply for a card to take a book out of a library. Admittedly, in the right hands, a book can be more dangerous than a gun, but they hardly ever put holes in people’s bodies that the blood leaks out of way too quick.

With increasing frequency, these body counts shoot north into double digits, which triggers a discussion of banning these high-powered, personal weapons of destruction. For a minute. Then the Republicans kowtow to the perverted wishes of their cruel masters, the NRA, which thinks the best way to avoid school shootings is to ban schools.

This same NRA commanded their lapdogs to prevent research into gun-related deaths. That’s right, Republicans have refused to allow the funding of government-related, gun-death research. Which is a shame, since America has a surplus of raw data. You could say we are dead solid center of the gun-related death universe. It’s like talking about sandwiches in Philadelphia but prohibiting any mention of the cheesesteak. As Holland is to tulips, the USA is to gun deaths.

In the wake of these horrific tragedies, conservatives then predictably go straight to the handbook of NRA generated talking

points to say the same things over and over. “Our thoughts and prayers are with the victims and their families.” “None of this would have happened if the gay Hispanic dancers were armed.” “Assault weapons can be used as legitimate hunting rifles.”

Really? That’s your argument? Because, okay, it makes a sort of sense. You can also use a chainsaw to cut butter. Might get a little messy around muffin time. Come to think of it, a hand grenade will signal the end of recess. Doorbells can be rung with 12-pound sledgehammers. Once.

They’re called “assault weapons” for a reason. They’re not “tucking kiddies into bed” rifles. They’re for assaults. Yes, the Second Amendment guarantees a well-regulated militia the right to bear arms, but at the time our Founding Fathers were talking about citizen-soldiers wielding one-shot muskets, not terrorist-wannabees brandishing HK MG4s capable of shooting 800 .45 caliber bullets in under a minute with a range of a half a mile.

Hunting weapons? Seriously? What are you hunting? Tanks? A herd of triceratops? Can you imagine someone putting a full clip into a deer at 30 yards? You’d end up with venison jerky. In noun and verb forms. Jerky being the operative word here.

Copyright © 2016, Will Durst is an award-winning, nationally acclaimed columnist, comedian and former Crummies sandwich shop operator. For sample videos and a calendar of personal appearances including his new one-man show, *Elect to Laugh: 2016*, every Tuesday at the SF Marsh and other theaters, go to willdurst.com.

## WESTSIDE OBSERVER

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— Society of Professional Journalists

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## L Taraval Rapid Project Public Hearing

Friday, July 22, 2016, 10:00 am  
City Hall - 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place

This public hearing is for community members to provide public comments on the proposed changes to Taraval Street, part of the L Taraval Rapid Project.

If you are unable to attend the public hearing you may provide comments by:

Emailing sustainable.streets@sfmta.com with the subject line “Public Hearing”.

Mailing SFMTA Transportation Engineering, 1 South Van Ness Ave, 7th Fl, SF 94103

Faxing (415) 701-4737

Plan renderings: www.sfmta.com



Going Negative:

Supervisor Mark Farrell v. Ethics Commission

Dr. Maria Rivero & Dr. Derek Kerr

Not once did Supervisor Mark Farrell stand before the Ethics Commission to answer questions at 8 public meetings over 18 months. Whether indignant, insecure or entitled, he couldn't access the humility once displayed as a novice candidate, or the comity befitting a twice-elected official. Instead, he deployed proxies; attorney James Sutton to parry City Hall, and crisis manager Nathan Ballard to spin the media. Ballard declared an Ethics inquiry into Farrell's tainted 2010 supervisorial campaign "was no reason for Farrell to waste his time".

Farrell had already cooperated with the State's Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) investigation. It found that his campaign consultant, Chris Lee, had illegally coordinated with an Independent Expenditure Committee (IEC) that raised \$221,500 to defeat Janet Reilly. In November 2014, the FPPC acknowledged Farrell's ultimate responsibility for his agent's misconduct, but decided he hadn't authorized it and held him harmless. Lee was fined \$14,500. However, in December 2014 the Ethics Commission told Farrell he violated City campaign laws and had to forfeit \$190,903 of the "independent" expenditures made in his behalf. Since then, Ethics has been a battleground with Farrell refusing to pay, Reilly pressing for more penalties, the City Attorney declining to pursue Farrell, Ethics Executive Director John St. Croix waiving the forfeiture, the commissioners overruling St. Croix, and St. Croix resigning. Perceiving "egregious violations", the commissioners had questions for Farrell but got Sutton's answers instead.

Political optics were at play. It looked like big money had swung an election illegally. The beneficiary, Farrell, got a pass. His underling was flamed. Also, Ethics was seeking a budget boost while scrutinizing Farrell who chairs the City's Budget and Finance Committee. Still smarting under its "Sleeping Watchdog" tag, inaction would be seen as "genuflecting before an instrument of power" as Commissioner Keane put it. And, Farrell's posture behind surrogates suggested hubris or guilt. On 4/25/16 the Commissioners voted 5 to 0 to sue Farrell to disgorge the \$190,903 in shady contributions. Four days later, Farrell sued the City to block the forfeiture, recoup attorney fees, and procure "other and further relief." On 5/23/16 Ethics Chair Paul Rene vowed to "vigorously" respond with a cross-complaint.

Next came echoes of the negative campaign that launched Farrell into City Hall. Much as Farrell's proxies had trashed his rival in 2010, surrogates were now bashing



the Ethics Commission. Sutton portrayed Farrell as the "totally and completely innocent" victim of a "witch-hunt". Ethics was "guilty of a gross violation" and "blatantly ignored City law" resulting in an "outrageous" and "utterly frivolous" forfeiture demand. Ballard painted Farrell as persecuted by biased commissioners and sore losers. Behind it all, the pursuit of power.

**The 2010 Battle for District 2:** By November 2010, the Marina, Pacific Heights, Presidio and Sea Cliff had weathered a 2-week blitz of anti-Reilly attack ads from an IEC called "Common Sense Voters" (CSV). Underdog Farrell squeaked past his rival by 258 votes. Reilly had 196 more first-choice votes, but Farrell culled more secondary votes. His margin was less than 1% of the 28,911 votes cast. Swaying 129 potential Reilly supporters toward Farrell could have done it. Reilly attributed her loss to CSV's mud-slinging, coordinated by Supervisor Michela Alioto-Pier and Farrell's campaign. She reported violations of the

the opportunity to run for State Insurance Commissioner. Then, illness thwarted her bid. Still set on governing, she sued the City to run for supervisor. Her win in Superior Court threw the Reilly and Farrell campaigns into disarray. But Herrera prevailed on appeal, forcing Alioto-Pier out in August 2010 and resuscitating the other candidates. Formerly friends, Reilly and Alioto-Pier got entangled in competing ambitions. Reilly even filed an *amicus* brief faulting Alioto-Pier for disrupting existing campaigns. So, Alioto-Pier projected herself into Farrell's race.

By then Reilly was ahead in endorsements, polls and contributions; eventually receiving \$363,865 compared to Farrell's \$265,198. Farrell's team had to chop her lead. Enter attacks ads. Because going negative conveys a feral desperation, or a win-at-any-cost ferocity, trailing candidates welcome third parties that malign rivals "independently." IECs can raise unlimited funds, whereas candidate committees are limited to \$500 contributions and barred from corporate funding. However, IECs cannot coordinate with candidate committees, must identify major donors in their ads, and report income and expenses to the Ethics Commission.

FPPC records indicate that Farrell's camp concocted "Common Sense Voters" (CSV) in September 2010 when Alioto-Pier decided to endorse Farrell's "common sense values." She encouraged her aides and her political consultant Richard Schlackman to help, gave Farrell her donor list, and boosted CSV. Nominally, CSV was formed by Jack Helfand, a San Mateo corporate attorney.

Formerly a law-firm colleague of Farrell's, Helfand served on Farrell's campaign Finance Committee - until he quit to start CSV. He hired Farrell's campaign treasurer as CSV's treasurer. Farrell's campaign consultant Chris Lee gave Helfand set-up advice, pegged Rich Schlackman to guide CSV, writing; "We have a consultant on board that you will need to meet...," and sent him Farrell's campaign donor list. Helfand

rallied people "who were sort of outside San Francisco," initially raising \$30,500 from 5 venture capital buddies. Slyly, CSV was registered as "primarily formed" to support Farrell - rather than oppose Reilly. Farrell told the FPPC he learned about CSV "through public filings."

Meanwhile Alioto-Pier lobbied socialite-philanthropist Dede Wilsey and Republican real-estate magnate Tom Coates to fund CSV, something Schlackman wanted kept secret "because of politics." Farrell wasn't idle. He told the FPPC that he spent two hours with Dede Wilsey - to solicit a \$500 campaign contribution. Wilsey poured \$50,000 into CSV 12 days later. Per FPPC records Farrell was "only

interested in Coates hosting a fundraising event and possibly writing a check to help out his campaign." Three days after hosting said house-party, Coates pumped \$100,000 into CSV, plus another \$41,000 the next week. Regarding her energetic fundraising, Alioto-Pier explained to the FPPC that she "really liked Farrell."

In the two weeks before the election, CSV disbursed the \$191,000 bestowed by Coates and Wilsey (86% of its war-chest) to depict Reilly as a covert purveyor of "radical politics" and a puppet of the "ultra-lefty Daly-Peskin faction." CSV mailers cited her \$500 donation to Peskin's 2000 campaign. Her husband Clint Reilly's \$10,000 contribution to the 2008 SF Clean Energy initiative became her "risking public safety." Other ads featured Supervisor Chris Daly as "the wizard behind Janet Reilly's agenda." The ads didn't identify Coates and Wilsey as the major donors. Silly as they sound, such attack ads work subliminally - and effectively, to plant doubts and kindle fears. No matter that Gavin Newsom, Frank Jordan, Louise Renne, and Diane Feinstein denounced the smears as disgraceful, destructive, or ridiculous. Amidst this chorus, Farrell stayed mum. In his victory speech, he pledged to "return common sense...to City Hall."

Common Sense Voters' attack ads overwhelmed all other third party expenditures. *Source: Ethics Commission*

Candidate	Support Spending	Opposition Spending
Mark Farrell	\$62,939	\$19,153
Janet Reilly	\$59,302	\$148,004

CSV reported spending \$148,004 against Reilly. That doesn't include the \$8,399 spent on "comparative mailers" that were actually attack ads, the \$5,000 paid to the Republican County Central Committee, or operational expenses like Helfand's \$2,181 fee to pay a \$500 Ethics fine. Although \$35,000 was spent on door-hangers lauding Farrell, most of CSV's \$221,500 targeted Reilly. In comparison, outside spending against Farrell was minor; \$12,912 by the Bay Area Firefighters PAC and \$7,244 from the Democratic County Central Committee.

As for going negative, Farrell finally spoke out in May 2016 while running for the Democratic County Central Committee. In a memo to constituents, he acknowledged that his 2010 campaign had "turned incredibly ugly" - because the Reillys "spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on personal attacks against me" and "tried to win by tearing others down." Why this 180 degree spin? As the *Chronicle* reported, during the DCCC race Clint Reilly spent \$20,000 on ads mocking Farrell's "failed ethics" since he "cheats to win" then sues to "avoid paying" Ethics fines. That's when Farrell condemned as "disgusting tactics" the type of ads that propelled his political career.

*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*

“Since then, Ethics has been a battleground with Farrell refusing to pay, Reilly pressing for more penalties, the City Attorney declining to pursue Farrell, Ethics Executive Director John St. Croix waiving the forfeiture, the commissioners overruling St. Croix, and St. Croix resigning.”



Political Reform Act to Ethics and the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC).

The feud originated in 2008 when City Attorney Dennis Herrera decided Alioto-Pier couldn't run for a third term. Seeing an open field, Farrell and Reilly launched their campaigns. Janet Reilly, a former journalist and PR professional, and a Golden Gate Bridge District director, was backed by her husband Clint, a political insider and commercial real-estate baron. Farrell, a lawyer and managing director with Quest Hospitality Ventures was a political neophyte who hired Chris Lee of Town Square Consulting as his campaign consultant. As for Alioto-Pier, she seized

4.115(a) of the WPO from \$5,000 to \$10,000, for which they may be personally liable in court proceedings.

A glaring omission remains:

As I have written in the past, Federal Judge Claudia Wilken had noted in her September 6, 2012 Court Order keeping Dr. Kerr's wrongful termination lawsuit alive that San Francisco's Campaign and Government Conduct Code §4.115(a) does not contain anti-retaliation protections for City employees who exercise their First Amendment free speech rights to speak out on matters of public concern, even though the U.S. Supreme Court has consistently ruled that federal, state, and municipal employees absolutely have those First Amendment rights when it comes to

issues of public concern. Wilken had also noted San Francisco's current Sunshine Ordinance explicitly states in §67.22(d) that City employees absolutely *are* guaranteed these First Amendment protections when they speak on matters of public concern, which appears to have unfortunately escaped the attention of the 2014-2015 Civil Grand Jury, who mentioned nothing of this issue in its June 2015 report.

Those protections need to be explicitly duplicated into §4.115(a).

I have repeatedly testified to the Ethics Commission that this disconnect must be fixed, so that all 39,122 current full- and part-time City employees are finally afforded this anti-retaliation protection, but in the right City ordinance.

If the Whistleblower Protection Ordinance is fully amended and enhanced, it may well help reduce the number of lawsuits filed against the City by City employees who wrongly face retaliation.

*An expanded version of this article is available on [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).*

Retaliation (Cont. from p.2)

- Authority for the Ethics Commission to order reversal of wrongful retaliatory actions.
- The ability to sanction City officials and contractors who retaliate (including a provision to permit civil lawsuits against specifically-named employees who engage in retaliation).
- Requirements that reports of action taken by City Departments' action or inaction with explanations be filed after a referral.
- Greater confidentiality protections for whistleblowers.
- Whistleblower complaints can be filed without being required to be in writing.
- Increasing civil penalties for City officers and employees who violate section

Money Matters By Brandon Miller

6 Facts You Might Not Know About Medicare

More than 50 years ago, the federal government established programs designed to help Americans afford health care services, called Medicare and Medicaid. Since both of these programs involve many variables, they can be somewhat complex. To provide insight into how the coverage works, here are six facts you might not know about Medicare:

1. Medicare and Medicaid provide most of the same services, but for different people. Medicare provides services for those age 65 and over and with other qualifying conditions, while Medicaid is a program intended for lower-income Americans based on financial need. The government continues to evolve and expand the programs to match the ever-changing health care environment.

2. Medicare coverage has four parts. Each part covers different categories of medical expenses. As you look into Medicare, you may see the term "original Medicare." This term refers to what is now called Part A and Part B.

Part A is the hospital insurance portion, which covers inpatient stays in hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, hospice facilities and sometimes also covers home-based health care services. Depending on your situation, you may automatically be enrolled in Parts A and B, or you may need to enroll.

Part B covers doctor visits, durable medical equipment, home health services and qualified preventive services, among other related expenses.

Part C (Medicare Advantage plans) provides Part A, Part B and usually prescription drug coverage from private insurers. You must be enrolled in Part A and Part B before you can receive Part C coverage.

Part D covers outpatient prescription drug coverage from private insurers. You must be enrolled in Part A or Part B before you can receive Part D coverage.

3. Everyone can enroll in Medicare – eventually. There are three different times when you can sign up for Medicare Parts A and B:

Initial enrollment period: Once you reach age 65, you may enroll within three months on either side of your birthday month.

General enrollment period: If you don't sign up during your initial enrollment period, you have the option to enroll each subsequent year between January 1 and March 31.

Special enrollment period: You may get started with Medicare at any age if you experience a qualifying condition. Qualifying conditions may include disabilities, certain cancers or

end-stage diseases. After your initial enrollment period ends, you may have a chance to enroll in Medicare during a special enrollment period due to a qualifying event such as moving away from your existing coverage or losing coverage from an employer.

4. Medicare is not free for most of us. While Part A comes with no monthly premium if you have at least a 10 year history of paying Medicare taxes, you will be responsible for deductibles and coinsurance, unless you qualify for help. For example, the deductible for 2016 is \$1,288 for each benefit period, with varying coinsurance depending on the length of stay. The Part B premium costs \$104.90 per month in 2016. Premiums can be higher for beneficiaries with incomes that exceed specific thresholds.

5. Original Medicare operates without networks and caps. With original Medicare, there are no networks to worry about. You're free to go to any doctor or hospital that accepts Medicare, including outside of your home state. In addition, original Medicare does not limit your annual costs. Health care bills owed (due to coinsurance) continue to grow all year if you don't have supplemental insurance to help manage these expenses. This is in contrast to Medicare Advantage plans, which operate around the concept of networks.

6. After you enroll in Medicare, you may need supplemental insurance. While Medicare covers a variety of expenses, there are limitations to its coverage. Therefore, you may need additional coverage depending on your current or future health needs. Carefully review information about what expenses each part covers before enrolling, and be sure to ask other insurance providers how their coverage complements with Medicare.

The federal government and most states provide resources to help you understand your options and guide you through the Medicare enrollment process. It's good to be prepared – start learning more today so you're ready when you become eligible for Medicare coverage.

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.



DEPT. OF JOURNALISM

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Fall 2016  
Classes Start  
August 12



Jour 19: Contemporary News Media

M W F 9:10 - 10:00 AM HC 203 Gonzales

Jour 21: News Writing and Reporting

M W F 10:10 - 11:00 AM HC 203 Gonzales

Jour 22: Feature Writing

T 6:30 - 9:20 PM Mission / Rm 217 Rochmis

Jour 23: Electronic Copy Editing

TR 11:10 - 12:25 PM MUB 160 Graham

Jour 24: Newspaper Laboratory

M W F 12:10 - 1:00 PM BNGL 615 Gonzales

Jour 26: Fundamentals of Public Relations

R 6:30 - 9:20 PM MIC 217 Gonzales

Jour 29: Magazine Editing & Production

M 6:30 - 8:20 PM Mission / Rm 217 Lifland

Jour 31: Internship Experience

Hours Arranged BNGL 615 Gonzales

Jour 35: Internet Journalism

TR 9:40 - 10:55 AM MUB 160 Graham

Jour 37: Intro to Photojournalism

W 6:30 - 9:20 PM Mission / Rm 217 Lifland

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Questions? Call Juan Gonzales at 415-239-3446  
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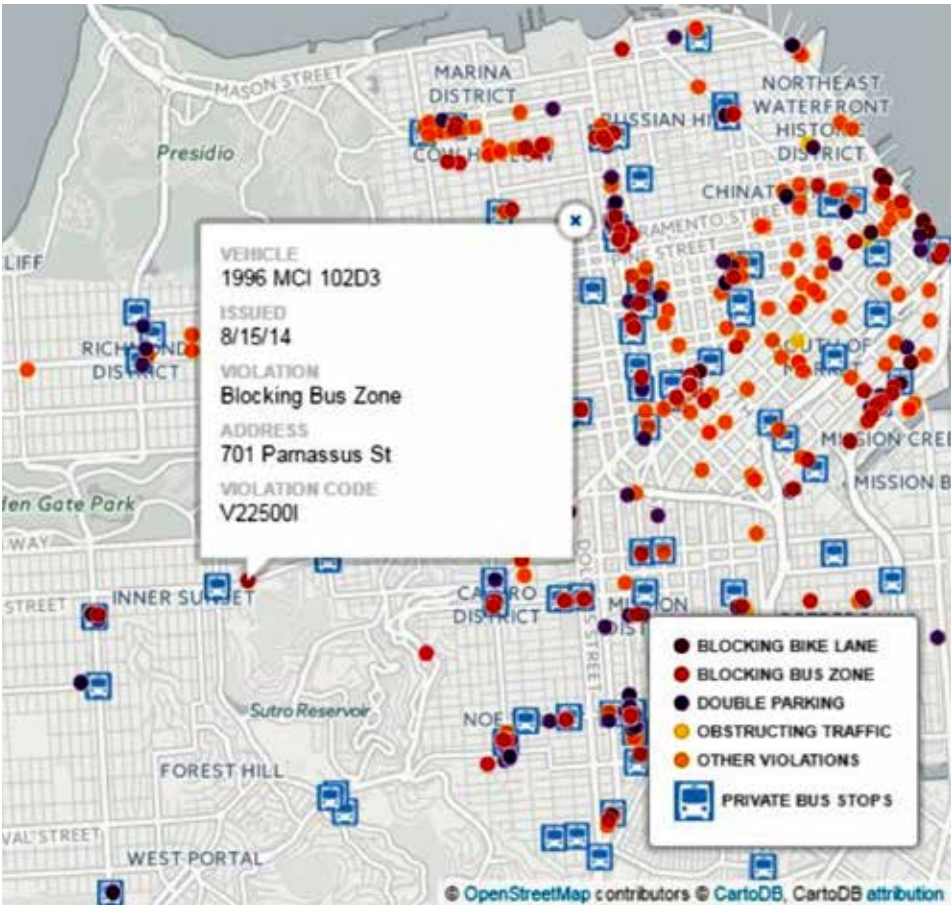
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Tech Buses (Cont. from p. 5)

**The Solution:**  
Until July 4, 2016, the SFMTA is conducting a survey that is exploring a Shuttle Hub Program. One possible location for commuter pick-up would be the Cow Palace.<sup>3</sup> It would be logical that smaller buses would be used to gather tech workers and deposit them at this location, where larger buses would take them to work.  
Some say Google buses provide a “greener” solution than each tech worker riding a solo car to their destination. However, this analysis does not account for buses waiting long periods of time to be allowed to enter a MUNI bus stop, or the fact that the diesel engines used by the shuttle buses pollute more than regular cars. Also, the buses are not commuting at full capacity.  
The ideal solution for those that work outside of San Francisco is for them to live closer to work. Unfortunately, housing closer to work outside of San Francisco may be even harder to find than housing here. South Peninsula municipalities need to be convinced of the value of providing more housing for nearby workers. The shorter the commute, the faster it will be to get to your destination on Highway 101.  
Assemblyperson Travis Allen, a Republican from Orange County, sponsored Assembly Bill 61 (AB 61) which would have amended the State Vehicle Code to allow private carriers to operate in public bus stops. This bill died on January 11, 2016, but Allen introduced two more bills with the same language that have not

yet been heard in committee: AB 1641 and ABX1-25. Among the organizations that have opposed AB 61 and/or the other two bills are:  
AFSCME - AB 61  
AFSCME District Council 57 - AB 61  
Amalgamated Transit Union - AB 61  
Bernal Heights Democratic Club - AB 61  
California Alliance for Retired Americans - AB 61  
California Council of the Blind - AB 61  
California Walks - AB 61  
D5 Action - AB 61  
District 8 Democratic Club - AB-1641 and ABX1-25  
FDR Democratic Club - all  
Gray Panthers of San Francisco - AB 61  
Haight Ashbury Neighborhood Council - All  
Harvey Milk Democratic Club - AB 61  
Hayes Valley Neighborhood Assn - AB 61  
Pacific Felt Factory - AB 61  
Potrero Hill Democratic Club - AB 61  
Progressive Democs of America SF - AB 61  
Protect Noe’s Charm - AB 61  
Richmond District Democratic Club  
San Francisco Green Party - AB 61  
SF Senior and Disability Action - AB 61  
San Francisco Tomorrow - AB 61  
San Francisco Latino Democratic Club  
Save Muni - AB 61  
SEIU - All  
TWU 250a (Muni operators) - AB 61  
Unite Here Local 2 - AB 61  
United Educators of San Francisco - AB 61  
Upper Noe Neighbors - AB 61  
1.) [www.leginfo.ca.gov/cgi-bin/displaycode?section=veh&group=22001-23000&file=22500-22526](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/cgi-bin/displaycode?section=veh&group=22001-23000&file=22500-22526)  
2.) [www.sfmta.com/news/project-updates/commuter-shuttle-hub-model-study-call-suggestions](http://www.sfmta.com/news/project-updates/commuter-shuttle-hub-model-study-call-suggestions)  
3.) [truecostblog.com/2010/05/27/fuel-efficiencymodes-of-transportation-ranked-by-mpg/](http://truecostblog.com/2010/05/27/fuel-efficiencymodes-of-transportation-ranked-by-mpg/)  
Glenn Rogers is a landscape architect who lives in the Westside.

**Letters** (Cont. from p. 6)  
case but, it is seldom done. There are newspaper articles written about judges not recusing themselves from cases involving financial institutions they have investments in, even though they are supposed to do so. See the articles “Law Breaking Judges Took Cases That Could Make Them Even Richer” in *The Daily Beast*, April 28, 2014; 245 AM ET and “Ethics Lapses by Federal Judges Persist, Review Finds” in the *Washington Post*, April 08, 2006.  
Judicial bias does exist and there are procedures to address this issue. These procedures involve a lot of tedious paperwork. If you are facing judicial bias make sure you: know that it is judicial bias, how to find evidence of judicial bias and what remedies are available to address the issue. Legal matters involve a lot of research before you enter the courtroom. It will benefit you to thoroughly research all parties involved in your case. I presently struggle with judicial bias. I am exercising every legal remedy available to me.  
You can sue a judge and there is case law showing how it has been done. The United States Supreme Court has also ruled on the issue of suing the government, and sided with the plaintiff who brought their case before the Court.  
History has proven that the truth cannot be buried forever. The rights of my family is what I am advocating for under the United States Constitution. Whatever your experience, I would suggest you consult with a good lawyer who can assist you as soon as possible.  
Lynn Gavin

UPCOMING NERT TRAINING

July 18, 25-August 1, 8, 15, 22 | Mondays | 6:30-10pm

St. Mary the Virgin | Union St at Fillmore. The Neighborhood Emergency Response Team (NERT) is a program to help the citizens of San Francisco be self-sufficient in a major disaster situation. Free. (415) 970-2024. NERT training helps citizens develop multi-functional teams that are trained in basic emergency skills. Through this program, individuals learn how to prepare themselves and loved ones for a disaster while also creating a resilient community.

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## TARAVAL STATION Crime Report

### Detailing the Decrease in Property Crime



Many of you have asked me how we are looking at Taraval for staffing of officers and if you could voice your desire to have more officers at Taraval. Currently at Taraval, we are seeing a slight, but consistent increase with our staffing level. As more classes graduate, I am confident we will see that number slowly increase. For the officers we have right now at Taraval Station, they are doing a great job. Despite the challenges they have faced, these officers have not skipped a beat. If anything I have witnessed their commitment to the community, the department and to each other grow stronger.

.....  
...we have seen tremendous support by residents who are now aware of these types of crimes and are calling them in when they identify a subject acting suspiciously. We recently made two arrests of subjects who have been in possession of stolen property. In these two cases, both were the result of residents calling in and describing the suspicious actions of these suspects.”

In the months of Nov and December of 2015 and in January 2016, we saw our numbers grow in the area of burglaries and theft from vehicles. With the thoughtful strategic deployment of uniformed officers, continued investigations by TNT, Taraval SIT and the partnerships we have formed with the community we are seeing a decrease in these types of crimes in recent months. For example, in March, we had 154 incidents of theft from a vehicle and in April, we saw a decrease to 111. Just in the first 15 days of May, we have only seen 33 incidents. I attribute the decrease to a higher uniformed presence in specific areas, on specific days and at specific times of the day. Another important strategy is to conduct undercover operations not only by our Taraval resources but also by the department’s plainclothes resources coming into the district to work with us.

Finally, we have seen tremendous support by residents who are now aware of these types of crimes and are calling them in when they identify a subject acting suspiciously. We recently made two arrests of subjects who have been in possession of stolen property. In these two cases, both were the result of residents calling in and describing the suspicious actions of these suspects. Officers were able to arrive on scene quickly to detain the subjects and to begin an investigation. I know some residents are uncertain about the role they want to play in their neighborhood’s safety and that is understandable. For those of you who have made the decision to be part of your neighborhood safety, “Thank you!” We will always be more successful when we can work in partnership with the community we serve.

Another case I would like to highlight was investigated by Sgt Kevin Healy of Taraval SIT. Two burglaries had occurred, one was at the 1500 block of Taraval and the second was at the 700 block of Taraval. Thanks to the excellent work of Officer Michael Pheng, video evidence was retrieved which documented the same subject committing both burglaries. During the burglary at the 700 block of Taraval, the suspect stole petty cash and lottery tickets. When the suspect attempted to cash these lottery tickets, more video evidence was retrieved that had clear images of the suspect. Sgt Healy was able to identify the suspect who committed both burglaries. Sgt Healy was able to obtain a search warrant for the subject’s residence. During that search warrant, he recovered a large amount of crack cocaine and several used lottery tickets. The subject was arrested on 2 counts of burglary in which the District Attorney’s office rebooked on charges for prosecution. The subject, Delbert Young, has priors for burglary. These are the types of investigations and arrests that I believe are contributing to our decrease in property crime. Let me say also, I firmly believe the decrease we are seeing in the Taraval is based on a citywide effort by officers to identify these prolific subjects, apprehend them and present strong investigations to assist with prosecution.

On Saturday, May 21st, two residents who own a business on Ocean Ave and reside on 27th Ave, were followed home by two subjects. Once the residents were in the garage, the suspects followed them inside into the residence. The suspects then barricaded the victims in a room while they went to search out a safe. This type of home invasion crime can be one of the scariest types of crimes out there. Taraval SIT is working hard to obtain investigative leads that would lead to the identity of these suspects. For your safety, if you are a business owner and you are heading home at the end of the day, be aware of who may be behind you. I would recommend detouring slightly from your normal path that leads you home. Take a few extra turns so you can spot a vehicle that may be following you. If you think you are being followed, call 911 and drive to the closest police station. This advice rings true for all residents. Do not hesitate in calling and do not second guess yourself. If you think there is something suspicious, it most likely is. We would much rather have you call the police and have it be nothing, than to not call and find that it was something we could have helped to prevent.

On a daily basis, officers are recovering suspected stolen property from subjects. One of the biggest challenges facing the officers is being able to connect that piece of property to an owner. If you have the ability to put your first initial and last name on your property, especially electronic devices that could really assist us in these types of investigations. For example, on your iphone or ipad, if your locked screen is an image of your name, we have the ability to conduct a computer query of your name and if you’ve made a report, we can get your property back to you.

With Acting Chief of Police Toney Chaplin leading the way for reform in the department, many of you have asked about the Acting Chief. I wanted to take a quick moment to give you a little background on Acting Chief Chaplin. He has been a member of the San Francisco Police Department for 26 years. As an officer, he was assigned to Taraval Station from 1991-1993 and a second time from 1996-1999. During these years, he was assigned to the Taraval Neighborhood Team (TNT), and he was an intricate part of community relations in the OMI during a time when the neighborhood was plagued with violence and drugs. The mission of TNT was to work closely with the community to improve quality of life and to be a consistent visible presence for the

residents. Acting Chief Chaplin was known by the community for his hard work, commitment to residents and for always prioritizing how he engaged with the community. I know Acting Chief Chaplin to be smart, compassionate and dedicated to improving the police department not only for the community but for the officers who serve so selflessly every day and night. As a city and as a department, I believe we are fortunate to have Acting Chief Chaplin in this role.

In closing, I would like to say I am truly honored to be the Captain of Taraval Station. I am constantly impressed not only by the officers of Taraval but by the community as well. Thank you for working in partnership with me in my role as Captain. We are in this together! Please if you have any questions, concerns or comments for me contact me at Denise.flaherty@sfgov.org or by calling Taraval Station at 415-759-3100

Editor’s Note: Captain’s remarks and Police Reports are shortened to available space. For complete report go to: taraval.org.

#### Wednesday - June 1

##### Assault – Arrested

1:54 am | 200 Orizaba Ave

Officers responding to a reported fight, observed a victim bleeding from the side of his neck and a suspect holding a machete. They ordered the suspect to drop the weapon and the suspect told the officers that he had cut the victim. The victim was treated at a hospital but refused to provide any further information about the incident.

The suspect said he was inside the store stocking items and hearing some noises, opened the door and saw the victim who threatened to get a gun from his vehicle. Then he walked to his vehicle and back to the gate with his hands behind his back. The suspect struck the victim with his weapon. Then he walked away and waited for the police. A search revealed no gun at the location and the suspect was arrested.

##### Child neglect – Under the influence in a Public Place – Arrested

1:47 pm | Sloat Blvd & 45th Ave

On a report that a woman who appeared to be under the influence with a young child, officers found the suspect and child aboard a bus. They observed that she exhibited several symptoms of intoxication: droopy eye-lids, oblivious to her surroundings and unsteady on her feet. She admitted she had been drinking while babysitting her niece. Learning that she was cited in January for the same offense, she was arrested and the child was taken to child protective services.

##### Trespassing – Warrant Arrest

2:15 pm | 1200 Great Highway

Officers responding to a 911 hang up call found the caller, who said two males broke into the restaurant by unscrewing door’s hinges. Officers found two suspects. One

of them had a warrant for his arrested. The owner of the property requested to press charges; one of the suspects was cited for trespassing and the second suspect was arrested for trespassing and warrant.

##### Robbery

5:33 pm | 1700 Ocean Ave

The witness, a store employee, told officers she saw the suspect walk around like a normal shopper but he put items into his backpack. The witness attempted to retain the property but the suspect threatened her to leave him alone and fled the store.

##### Public Nuisance – Cited

10:00 am | 1300 12th Ave

A known homeless female was reported as a nuisance. Arriving officers observed that she had belongings scattered about her with a strong odor of urine and feces emanating from the gutter. Noting she had a long history of camping in public causing the same issues and that the Homeless Outreach Team had been working unsuccessfully to get her into housing, since she refused all help and options that were offered. She was cited and forwarded to the DA’s office for a stay away order.

#### Saturday - June 4

##### Threats

8:51 am | 600 Lincoln Way

The victim, an employee, said the suspect came into the gas station and asked to use the microwave. The victim said to do so quickly. But the suspect overheated his food and was asked to leave. He left but came back for his “property.” The victim said there was no “property” but the suspect threatened to kill the victim.

##### Theft From A Vehicle – Vehicle Tampering – Possession of Stolen Property

3:46 am | 2300 31st Ave

Cont. p. 20

Next Neighborhood Safety Taraval Community Relations Forum Meeting:  
July 19, 2016 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm at Taraval Station taraval.org

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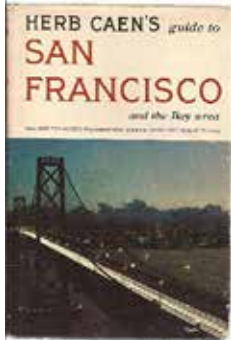
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..... July 2016 .....

**Summer around the town and the bay area...** the weather is glorious as I write this, although not on a trusty Royal typewriter as did stalwart columnist Herb Caen for those many years. He would have been 100 this past April. I recently re-read a book entitled Herb Caen's *New Guide to San Francisco*, written in 1957-58 about his favorite places and hangouts in the City, and it struck me how much has changed in the urban landscape since he wrote of dinner-dance haunts such as the Forbidden City, Fack's 11, the Chinese Sky Room, Sinaloa, and Goman's Gay 90's. You can imagine how he would have observed the continual changes in the almost 20 years since his passing in 1997. Of course I imagine that he would have loved to continue to trade stories with Mayor Willie, Jon Carroll, and the rest, ruminating on the Giants, the Warriors, and the state of the city as only he could see it. It's very good to read that the new prospective owner of Fisherman's Grotto #9 is expecting to refresh it and keep it operating, much like he has done with the venerable Tommy's Joynt. The Grotto is an iconic location and the food is very good, though less well known than its neighbors Alioto's and Scoma's.



The cup of tourism has runneth over, and now that school is out for the summer, we brace for the summer tourist season from other parts of the U.S. as well as Europe and Asia. With the sudden realization that the UK has exited the EU, the dollar gets stronger and the pound weaker. Will that dampen the tourism season? We'll just have to wait and see.

.....

**Campaign season has also arrived...** with the final results in from the June primary election, now we can get down to business and get ready for the campaigning for the big ticket offices in the November Presidential election. We have big elections here in California also, so make your voice heard for the important State Senate, Assembly, US Senate and US House of Representatives contests. And being California and SF, don't forget the Propositions on the ballot, as well as the hotly contested District 7 Supervisor's race. The West of Twin Peaks Central Council will be conducting a District 7 Candidate's Forum on Saturday, September 10th at the Forest Hills Clubhouse. If you're interested in what the candidates stand for, you're not going to want to miss it.

.....

**Kudos to the Warriors and the Sharks...** even though Game 7 for the Warriors and Game 6 for the Sharks spelled the end to their respective seasons, we can thank them for the entertainment they gave us throughout the fall, winter, and spring seasons. Tied with a minute left in game 7, it looked as though the Warriors would find a way to win it, but it



## SUMMER FUN AT THE CLIFF HOUSE



### Join us for these Cliff House Weekly Favorites

- Wine Lovers' Tuesday – Half Priced Bottled Wines\*
- Bistro Wednesday Nights – \$28 Three-Course Prix Fixe
- Friday Night Jazz in the Balcony Lounge
- Sunday Champagne Brunch Buffet

\*Some restrictions apply. Promotions are not valid on holidays.

### Guided Historical Walks

Spend a memorable Saturday morning exploring Lands End. Start with a continental breakfast at the historic Cliff House then walk through Adolph Sutro's magical 'kingdom by the sea' with historian guide John A. Martini. Regarded as the ultimate authority on this part of the City's fabled past, John's walks will be offered on July 9, August 6, September 10, and October 8.

For more information and to make reservations please visit [www.cliffhouse.com/history/Johns\\_Walk.html](http://www.cliffhouse.com/history/Johns_Walk.html)



1090 Point Lobos 415-386-3330 [www.CliffHouse.com](http://www.CliffHouse.com)



was just not their year. Injuries to Andrew Bogut in game 5, and Stephen Curry earlier in the playoffs, gave the Cavaliers a small enough cushion of room to pull the upset win at Oracle. For the Sharks, the Penguins were just a little too fast and too much. I hope the Cavaliers and Penguins fans enjoy their hard fought triumphs it may be a while before the Warriors and Sharks let a final get away from them again. Counting the Giants, we are so fortunate to have competitive teams in all of the major sports. (Hey, there's even hope for the 49ers.)

.....

**Look for us on Alemany...** we just got word that DPW will be installing a new set of newspaper boxes over at the intersection of Alemany and Arch St. near the Oceanview Shopping Center. Through the paper box lottery we were able to secure one of the spaces, so look for us starting later this month, but remember, we take the month of August off, so this is the last issue until we roll out a new one in September.

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

# See San Francisco with the Push of a Button.







## [sfmta.com/munimobile](http://sfmta.com/munimobile)



# July-August Calendar



## ED RUSCHA AND THE GREAT AMERICAN WEST • JULY 6 – OCT 9 • DE YOUNG MUSEUM

**Sat Jul 16 |** In 1956, at the age of 18, Ed Ruscha left his home in Oklahoma and drove a 1950 Ford sedan to Los Angeles, where he hoped to attend art school. His trip roughly followed the fabled Route 66 through the Southwest, which featured many of the sights—auto repair shops, billboards, and long stretches of roadway punctuated by telephone poles—that would provide him with artistic subjects for decades to come.

Ruscha continues to work steadily at the age of 78, and this exhibition includes prints made as recently as 2015. He maintains a studio in the California desert and makes regular road trips through the spare and evocative landscapes that first inspired him as a young man. Ruscha has now worked in California for more than 50 years, and this exhibition celebrates his long commitment to exploring the American west as both romantic concept and modern reality. \$20, Seniors 17, Students 10. Golden Gate Park | 50 Hagiwara Tea Garden Drive.

## EVERY SUNDAY • FARMERS MARKET

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

## EVERY SUNDAY • VICTORIAN TOUR

**Sundays | 2 pm |** Victorian era architecture of the city's first suburb in the neighborhood of Lafayette Square. San Francisco's illustrious history and some steep streets. Many fabulous views! 1801 Bush St. garden. Donations OK. MUNI 1, 3. [sfcityguides.org](http://sfcityguides.org)

## EVERY TUE/THU /SAT • GET IN SHAPE!

**Tue/Thu | 8:30 am | Sat: 9 am |** Get into shape, improve your health. FREE exercise classes. Kinesiology students from SF State in partnership with SF Rec and Park. Turf field at Minnie and Lovie Ward Park, 650 Capitol Ave. [100citizens.sfsu@gmail.com](mailto:100citizens.sfsu@gmail.com), [www.100citizens.org](http://www.100citizens.org)

## EVERY TUES • QUE SYRAH HAPPY HOUR

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

## EVERY THURS – NIGHTLIFE

**Every Thu | 6–10 pm |** The Academy of Sciences brings live music, science, mingling and cocktails. GG Park \$12 (\$10 Members). [calademy.org/nightlife](http://calademy.org/nightlife).

## JAZZ FRIDAYS @ THE CLIFF HOUSE

**Every Fri | 7–11 pm |** The Balcony Lounge at the Cliff House hosts jazz every Fri night. 1 Seal Rock. [cliff-house.com/home/jazz.html](http://cliff-house.com/home/jazz.html).

## FRIDAY NIGHTS @ THE DEYOUNG

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

## FRIDAYS @ OFF THE GRID/FT. MASON

**Every Fri | DJs 5-7:30/Bands 7:30-10: pm |** Off

the Grid: Over 32 food trucks and street food carts in a huge circle with a full bar and bands in the middle? That's a party! Free. Ft. Mason Ctr. Two Marina Blvd.

## SATURDAYS • FREE YOGA IN THE PARK

**Every Sat | 11 am |** Come play outdoors, in nature. Enjoy a rejuvenating morning flow and meditation for body, mind, and spirit. GG Park, Big Rec Baseball Field (across from the Botanical Garden). Bring a mat or blanket, FREE. Cancelled if raining. Dog OK

## DAILY • BOOK-A-LIBRARIAN

Learn Basic Computer Skills. Choose a topic—searching databases, setting up email, or surfing the web. Basic mouse skills required. Call 355-2825 to make an appointment. Merced Branch Library, 155 Winston Dr.

## DAILY • ART OF PINOCCHIO

**10 am - 6 pm |** *Wish Upon a Star: The Art of Pinocchio*. Until Jan 9, a never-before-seen exhibition. Discover how one of the most influential animated films in history was produced: Disney's 1940 feature-length masterpiece Pinocchio. Walt Disney Family Museum, 104 Montgomery, Presidio. Closed Tuesdays.

## WED • REAL & IMAGINED

**Wed Jul 6 | 6:30-8 pm |** Historical fiction authors Ciji Ware, Mark Wiedranders and Mary Burns talk about writing historical fiction set in California. Co-sponsored by the Historical Novel Society of Northern California. Main Branch Library, 100 Larkin St.

## FRI • ONE-ON-ONE E-RESOURCE HELP

**Fri Jul 8 | 4-5 pm |** Get an appointment for one-on-one with library staff. Learn to access our online resources— eBook/eAudiobook collections, streaming music, TV and movies, online classes. Must have basic working knowledge of their computers. 557-4388 or sign up Main Branch Library, 100 Larkin St.

## WED • INSIDE OUT

**Wed Jul 6 | 6:30-8:30 pm |** A little girl is uprooted from her peaceful life when her father landed a new

## AIDS WALK SAN FRANCISCO 2016

**Sun Jul 17 | 10 am |** AIDS Walk (the route is 6.2 miles). It begins and ends in Sharon Meadow ( 2.5 hours). Limited street parking: MUNI bus lines stop near the entrance to Golden Gate Park at Stanyan: 5 Fulton, 7 Haight, 21 Hayes, 33 Stanyan, 71 Noriega (at Lincoln), and N Judah (bus before 8 a.m., train after 8 a.m.). The 37 Corbett and 43 Masonic stop about two blocks from the park entrance at Haight and Cole.



## THE WALK TO END BREAST CANCER



**Sat - Sun Jul 23-24 |** Trek gorgeous neighborhoods— North Beach, Pacific Heights, across Golden Gate Bridge, through Sausalito and Marin. AVON 39 starts at Fort Mason. Walk to help those affected by breast cancer worldwide raising funds for medically

under-insured women and men, for screening and treatment. \$50, 888-540-9255, [avonfoundation.org](http://avonfoundation.org) \$50 INfo: (866) 505-AVON Register: [avon39.org/san-francisco](http://avon39.org/san-francisco)

job in San Francisco. Now, as Riley prepares to navigate a new city and attend a new school, her emotional headquarters becomes a hot bed of activity. Parkside Branch Library, 1200 Taraval St.

## WED • REAR WINDOW

**Wed Jul 13 | 6:30-8:30 pm |** One of Alfred Hitchcock's most popular films, stars James Stewart as an adventuresome photographer confined to his rear apartment with a broken leg. He observes his neighbors with the help of Grace Kelly. Together they detect stories of love and murder as they dangerously unfold. West Portal Branch Library, 190 Lenox Way.

## WED • FERMENTATION BASICS

**Wed Jul 13 | 6 pm |** Join UCCE Master Food Preserver volunteers as they lead several live demonstrations on how to ferment various foods. Leave with recipes and ideas to try at home. Main Branch Library, 100 Larkin.

## SUN • SAN FRANCISCO VILLAGE

**Sun Jul 17 | 2-4 pm |** SF Village is a non-profit, organization that connects older San Franciscans to the community, programming and expertise they need to continue living lives of purpose and promise. Join Kate Hoepke, executive director, West Portal Branch library, 190 Lenox to get involved.

## SUN • STEPPING FORWARD -POETS

**Sun Jul 17 | 1-4 pm |** Join poet laureate Jack Hirschman and Bay Area poets Jorge Argueta, Francisco Herrera, Jorge Molina, Dorothy Paine, and many others for an afternoon of poetry. Koret Auditorium, Main Library, 100 Larkin.

## WED • COMMUNITY SAFETY MEETING

**Tue Jul 19 | 7-9 pm |** Meet with Captain Denise Flaherty at Taraval Station. This is a special 4 times per year meeting.

## WED • HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA 2

**Wed Jul 20 | 6:30-8:30 pm |** Hotel owner Dracula (Adam Sandler) is concerned that his half-human grandson Dennis isn't embracing his vampire heritage. He puts Dennis through a "monster-in-training" boot camp. Parkside Branch Library, 1200 Taraval St.

## THU • NATIVE PORTRAITS

**Thu Jul 21-Nov 27 | 11 am-5 pm Closed Mon |** Contemporary Tintypes by Ed Drew — a series of portraits of members of the Klamath, Modoc, and Pit River Paiute tribes (California and southern Oregon). Drew was commissioned to photograph "talking circle" weekends. Drew was also drawn to the larger history of conflict between Natives and the US government. Calif. Historical Society, \$5. 678 Mission St.

## SUN • MARCH AGAINST BREAST CANCER

**Sun Jul 23 | 10 am |** AVON 39 starts at Fort Mason. Trek gorgeous neighborhoods like North Beach and Pacific Heights, then cross the iconic Golden Gate Bridge, through Sausalito and the scenic countryside of Marin. \$50 INfo: (866) 505-AVON Register: [avon39.org/san-francisco](http://avon39.org/san-francisco)

## TUE • POETS 11 : 6TH EDITION

**Tue Jul 26 | 6:30-7:30 pm |** This summer join us at West Portal Branch to hear your neighbors read their poetry. Friends of the San Francisco Public Library's city-wide poetry contest, Poets 11: 6th Edition, reflects San Francisco's rich literary life and thriving poetry community.

## MON • CENTRAL COUNCIL

**No Meetings in July or August**

## MON • S.H.A.R.P /BRAINWORK

**Mon Jul 25 | 7 pm |** Brain Work: A Scientist Studies Neurogenesis. Ever wonder what those hotshot biomedical researchers at UCSF actually do? And how? And why it matters? Georgia Panagiotakos, Ph.D, runs a lab that studies how the brain develops (neurogenesis). 1736 Ninth Avenue.

## WED • BIG HERO 6

**Wed Jul 27 | 6:30-8:30 |** This movie depicts the special bond that develops between plus-sized inflatable robot Baymax and prodigy Hiro Hamada, who team up with a group of friends to form a band of high-tech heroes. Merced Branch Library, 155 Winston Dr.

## SAT • BIKE POWERED SMOOTHIES

**Sat Jul 30 | 2-4 pm |** Rock the Bikes' innovative bicycle-powered blender will be on site, ready for some pedalers to create unique and delicious smoothies. Ingredients provided, just bring your person-power! Merced Branch, 155 Winston Dr.

## THU • OMI NEIGHBORS IN ACTION

**Thu Jun 30 | 7 pm |** Meets last Thu each month. This meeting is at Temple UMC 65 Beverly/Sheilds Street.

## THU • AUTHOR LINDSAY HATTON

**Thu Aug 4 | 7 pm |** Alternating between past and present, *Monterey Bay* explores histories both imagined and actual to create a portrait of an exceptional woman, a world-famous aquarium, and the town they call home. Bookshop West Portal, 80 W Portal.

## THU • AUTHOR LORI OSTLUND

**Thu • Aug 11 | 7 pm |** The debut novel *After the Parade* from award-winning author Ostlund is smart, resonant, and imbued with beauty that provides considerable pleasure and emotional power about a man who leaves his longtime partner in New Mexico for a tragicomic road trip into the mysteries of his Midwestern childhood. Bookshop West Portal, 80 W Portal.

## SUN • ASIAN ART MUSEUM FREE DAY

**Sun Jul 3 | 10 am-5 pm |** Every first Sunday is free at the Asian Art Museum (save \$12) -17,000 artworks spanning 6 thousand years. Special exhibitions may require separate charges. 200 Larkin St.

## TUE • CONSERVATORY FREE DAY

**Tue Jul 5 |10 am–4:30 pm |** An intimate, up-close experience with over 1,700 species of rare, exotic and endangered plants. Opened in 1879, the wood and glass greenhouse is the oldest existing conservatory of its kind in the Western Hemisphere. 100 J F Kennedy Dr. Free every first Tuesday.

## TUE • DE YOUNG FREE DAY

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

## TUE • LEGION OF HONOR FREE DAY

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

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THE 79TH ANNUAL STERN GROVE FESTI-

Sunday July 10 | San Francisco Symphony

The SF Symphony returns for its annual summer performance at Stern Grove Festival. Since its inaugural concert in 1938, Stern Grove Festival has partnered with the SFS to offer a world-class performance that many attendants otherwise would not be able to afford. This season, SFS returns for the third year led by Director of Summer Concerts Edwin Outwater for an afternoon of American Landscapes, a nod to the Centennial of the National Parks Service: Three Americana Selections by John Williams, Ferde Grofé’s Grand Canyon Suite, and Dvořák’s Symphony No. 9 in E minor, Opus 95, “From the New World.”

Sunday July 17 | Joan Osborne’s Soul Revue

Seven-time GRAMMY nominee Joan Osborne is regarded as one of the most talented and soulful vocalists of her generation. With self- and co-produced hits throughout the 1990s, she returns with a new attitude in Joan Osborne’s Soul Revue, paying tribute to some of the biggest R&B, soul, and Motown hits of all time like “Midnight Train to Georgia”, “Ain’t No Sunshine”, and “I Don’t Need No Doctor”.

Local band John Brothers Piano Company open the show with a mix of early jazz, classical, and blues tunes. John Brothers Piano Company will premiere a new work as part of the Festival’s local artist commission series, “Interplay: Artists in Concert with Nature.”

Sunday July 24 | Julieta Venegas

The 20-year career of Mexican singer, songwriter, instrumentalist, and producer Julieta Venegas is mapped by a string of successful bands and albums, a solo career, and both American and Latin GRAMMY nominations and wins. Billboard has applauded Venegas, as “A pioneer whose music and image have broken Latina stereotypes. . . Venegas has forged a path between Latin alternative and pop music.”

La Misa Negra, an Oakland-based eight-piece group, opens the show with vibrant Cumbia and Afro-Colombian dance hits. La Misa Negra will premiere a new work as part of the Festival’s local artist commission series, “Interplay: Artists in Concert with Nature.”

Sunday July 31 | San Francisco Ballet

The incomparable San Francisco Ballet returns to Stern Grove Festival in the company’s only Bay Area summer appearance. Led by Artistic Director, Helgi Tomasson, the Company performs selections from their current repertory, with the GRAMMY-winning San Francisco Ballet Orchestra and conductor Martin West.

Sunday August 7 | The O’Jays

Rock and Roll Hall of Famers, The O’Jays, bring their Philly Soul sound to the Grove, with smooth harmonies, intricate arrangements, and chart-topping hits like “Love Train,” “Back Stabbers” “For The Love of Money”, and “Use Ta Be My Girl”.

Bay Area group MJ’s Brass Boppers open the day with their swinging New Orleans-style sound blended with funk, jazz, and pop. They will premiere a new work Concert with Nature.”

Cont. p. 16

At the Theater • Flora Lynn Isaacson & Linda Ayres-Frederick

Kicking Facebook

Kicking Facebook, Margery Kreitman’s serio-comedic monologue, premiered in April and early May at the Exit Theatre, where she will be reprising it at the SF Fringe Festival in September before heading to perform the show in the United Solo Festival in New York City in October at the Studio Theatre 410 West 42<sup>nd</sup> Street. Earlier in April, Ms. Kreitman performed an excerpt of Kicking Facebook at the Douglass Morrisson Theatre in Hayward as part of the All for One Solo Festival.

With her inimitable, hilarious, deadpan delivery, Ms. Kreitman relates her love/hate relationship with social media, in particular Facebook. After the breakup with her long-time partner, Margery turns to the Internet for diversion, solace and to find love and connection. Distracted from the world, she learns to maneuver in the oh-so-crazy digital one, where she rapidly becomes not only an online aficionado but addicted and trapped in a web of internet videos, loops and jargon.

Her appreciation of the bizarre relationships within the animal kingdom as shared on the net along with her revelations about our recommended need for hugs are sincerely heartfelt and still make us laugh. Her fascination and frustration with electronic life finds relief in a chance meeting with her ex in the lingerie department. There, her longing is superbly yet subtly drawn as she overhears the mutterings of a frustrated customer (her ex) in the next dressing room. Kreitman’s genius emerges through her humor that entertains at the same time that it reflects our own foibles. Bring a hanky, as you may find yourself laughing through tears.

Writer/Performer Margery Kreitman is a 3Girls Theatre Resident Playwright in San Francisco is creator and curator of LEZWRITES! a reading series for lesbian writers. Also a monologist and solo performer, her solo pieces, The Boot, A Singular Story and Soul Stone were all launched in the 3GirlsTheatre reading series. Her award winning comedies, one acts, and sketch comedy shows have been produced

in San Francisco, Los Angeles and New York, and her short stories have appeared in numerous journals and reviews. She has taught Theater Arts extensively at public and private schools, including ACT’S Young Conservatory, The Academy of Art University, and The New Conservatory Theater Center. She most recently taught at Open House For LGBT seniors in San Francisco.

Kicking Facebook directed by Jayne Wenger is a show you do not want to miss. It will play at the EXIT Theatre Stage Left 156 Eddy Street, San Francisco (one block from Powell St. BART Station) Sun Sept 11 4:00 PM, Sat Sept 17 6:00 PM, Tues Sept 20 8:30 PM, Fri Sept 23 7:00 PM Tickets: \$10 at the door, \$12.99 online: SFFringe.org/kicking. Limited Seating. Advanced Reservations recommended.

Among the many offerings coming to the September SF Fringe be sure to check out: Abracadabra! & Other New Work directed by Ian Walker at the EXIT Theatre Main Stage: three strangely magical tales of fate, of journeys taken, of crossings interrupted. A Woman steps out into a crosswalk, clutching a bag of tamales. She looks both ways, but does she see it coming? Does anyone ever see it coming? Marian packs a suitcase as if she were really going somewhere—and maybe, just maybe she is. An old man, older than dirt, leafs through a box of crumbling photos while his daughter wields a mop in

Cont. p. 16



Flora Lynn Isaacson



Linda Ayres-Frederick



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*Stern Grove (Cont. from p. 15)*

## Sunday August 14 • Atomic Bomb! The Music Of William Onyeabor

Featuring Jamie Lidell, Luke Jenner, Money Mark, Sinkane, and more special guests

Atomic Bomb! is a supergroup featuring a rotating line-up of musicians who pay tribute to the futuristic, synth-heavy electronic Afro-funk of an underground legend, West African synth pioneer, William Onyeabor, a musical genius who produced some of the most influential funk albums to date.

Opening the show is local club favorite, **Afrolicious**, a collective of musicians and DJ's who combine soulful vocals, funky bass, and lively horns and beats with classic funk, soul, disco, Latin, and Afrobeat.

## Sunday August 32 • The New Pornographers

Stern Grove Festival's 79th Season finale features famed indie-pop collective The New Pornographers, the Canadian supergroup with six albums. The 15-year-old supergroup of primarily Canadian musicians has evolved as a collective of skilled power pop artists led by front man and vocalist A.C. Newman.

Opening the show is Oakland-based dreamy

electronic group **Astronauts, Etc.**, led by front-man Anthony Ferraro.

Concerts start promptly at 2 pm, and ends 4:30 to 5:30 pm. Stern Grove is located at 19th Ave. and Sloat Blvd. Seating is first come, first served basis. Benches are reserved for seniors and disabled patrons and seats are first come, first served. Share the Space!

To ensure visibility for all patrons, tents and large shade structures are not allowed. If you have a small umbrella be aware that it must be down prior to and during the performance. Please bring only lawn chairs that are low to the ground with backs at shoulder height. Please be considerate so everyone can enjoy the day!

The Concert Meadow will be closed to further entry when capacity is reached. (Announcement will be made 30 minutes prior to the closing.) Staff will begin hand stamping at the entrances at approximately 10 a.m.

No pets, no smoking, no high-backed chairs, large tables, large shade structures, no barbecues no video or audio recording equipment, no professional still camera equipment, no skateboards, scooters, weapons, fireworks or illegal substances. Info: sterngrove.org

## Theater (Cont. from p. 15)

desperate combat with a gigantic thawing, dripping... well, you'll just have to see it to find out what. *Out of the Darkness* and *Watershed* by yours truly, Linda Ayres-Frederick with *The Suitcase* by Nancy Cooper Frank, presented by the Best of Fringe 2014 winning team Frank & Frederick that includes the acting talents of Terry Lamb, Niki Yapo-Held & Linda Ayres-Frederick.

*Abacadabra! And Other New Work* plays Fri Sept 9 7PM, Sun Sept 11 4pm, Tues Sept 20 7pm & Sat Sept 24 5:30pm at the EXIT Theatre Main Stage 156 Eddy Street, SF.

Tickets: \$12 at the door; \$14.99 online [www.sffringe.org/abacadabra](http://www.sffringe.org/abacadabra). Limited Seating. Advanced Reservations Recommended.

*Colette Uncensored* impressively performed by Lorri Holt, written by Zack Rogow and Lorri Holt, premiered at The Marsh San Francisco in April and due to popular demand, will transfer to

the Marsh Berkeley with performances Thursdays 8pm and Saturdays at 8:30pm July 7- August 20. Directed by David Ford, *Colette Uncensored*, tells the story of the famed and infamous French novelist's passionate quest as a writer, a woman, a pioneer for social change, and as a lover of both genders.

The show evolved from local bookstore readings of a newly published collection of Colette's writings, *Shipwrecked on a Traffic Island and Other Previously Untranslated Gems*, translated by Zack Rogow and Renée Morel. After receiving enthusiastic response, Holt and Rogow created a one-woman show based on Colette's life and work that was presented as a work-in-progress at the Kennedy Center last year during the pre-Broadway premiere of the newly revived musical *Gigi*.

Tickets (\$20-\$35 sliding scale, \$55-\$100 reserved), [www.themarsh.org](http://www.themarsh.org) or call The Marsh box office 415.282.3055 Monday thru Friday 1-4pm. Linda Ayres-Frederick

## The Invisible Hand

As of June 2, Marin Theatre is currently presenting *The Invisible Hand* by Ayad Akhtar. Director Jasson Minadakis and MTC have a consecutive winner following their production of *Anne Boleyn*. In *The Invisible Hand*, the subject is terrorism and its effects on a single individual, as well as a nation.

American banker Nick Bright (Craig Marker) finds himself in the wrong place at the wrong time when an Islamic militant group kidnaps him in Pakistan. When the United States won't negotiate his release, Nick offers to raise the \$10 million ransom on his own by teaching his quick-tempered captor Bashir (Pomme Koch) how to play the stock market – but the teacher turns student when Nick quickly learns he must decide whether the price of freedom is something he's willing to pay.

The title of Akhtar's play shows writ large when Nick speaks of the invisible hand of free-market forces that functions as an automatic corrective whenever the economy is out of whack. That religious belief in the profit motive is something to keep in mind in the first act in this highly-charged drama, which takes place in a bleak cell somewhere in Pakistan where American banker (earnestly and ultimately endearingly) played by Craig Marker is now in his third week of captivity. Under the circumstances, Marker is amazingly

self-possessed.

The tension builds in the first act when Bashir (the totally commanding Pomme Koch), Nick's heavily-armed and thoroughly imposing captor, steps in to harangue his prisoner for the failure of Citi Bank to cough up his exorbitant \$10 million ransom. The fact that the intended target was Nick's boss cuts no ice with Bashir or the frightening Imam Saleem, played by the charismatic Barzin Akhavan.

Finally, the profit motive kicks in, and not a moment too soon. Jasson Minadakis has directed this play with the building tension of a full-blown political thriller, but before you know it, Nick and Bashir have buddied up and are busy playing for big stakes at a thrilling game. Even Dar the gentle jailer (sweetly played by Jason Kapoor) gets excited at the prospect of making a few dollars.

The conclusion is abrupt when Nick becomes a free man again.

Kat Conley has designed a chilling prison set, and York Kennedy provides the punishing lighting with nice assistance from Chris Houston's sound design, which helps create a claustrophobic environment. Callie Floor's costumes are appropriately subdued. The Dialect Coach, Lynne Soffer, did a wonderful job with a talented cast.

*The Invisible Hand* as directed by Jasson Minadakis is first-class theatre, and the run has been extended through July 3rd.

This is end of the MTC 49th Season, and the 50th Season is opening on September 8, 2016, with *August: Osage County* by Tracy Letts, running through October 2nd, 2016, and directed by Jasson Minadakis.

Flora Lynn Isaacson

## Responding to the SFPUC

By Brian Browne

Apparently in response to my *Westside Observer* articles, Mr. Eric Sandler, CFO and AGM, SFPUC, wrote (6/13/2016) to assure me that the SFPUC is in compliance with the legal cost-of-service



requirements in setting rates for water and wastewater services. Mr. Sandler specifically cited Article XIII D of the State Constitution.

There are many laws, legislated procedures, and judicial findings that direct Mr. Sandler and the SFPUC on what they can and cannot do in regard to charging for water and wastewater services. One imperative is that they stop calling the charges for these services "rates" and refer to them as special "taxes." A special tax may only be used for very specific purposes. This makes it very different from a general tax or assessment.

Some notable benchmarks (but by no means all) on the thorny road to constraining local government taxing power in California are as follows:

1978 Proposition 13 added Article XIII A to the California Constitution and sought to set tax limits, mainly on property taxes. The model created by Proposition 13 spread quickly beyond the borders of California.

1979 voters approved Proposition 4. This imposed limits on the spending proceeds derived from taxes (Article XIII B California Constitution, Government Code 7900-7914).

1986 California Proposition 62 amended part of the California Government Code and imposed substantive, procedural requirements on new and increased taxes.

1996 Proposition 218 added articles XIII C and XIII D. The intent of this Proposition is clearly signaled in its official name "Right to Vote on Taxes." This Proposition, considered a judicial progeny of Proposition 13, added additional and substantive requirements for new and increased taxes, assessments, and property related charges. One analyst noted that Proposition 218 was needed to stop local government end-around-end runs on avoiding Proposition 13.

2006 The Bighorn- Desert Water Agency v. Verjil the California Supreme Court held that metered water rates charged by public agencies are subject to Proposition 218. This means public agencies (SFPUC) must comply with public noticing, public hearings, and majority protest requirements. This Decision extended Proposition 218's reach to cover sewer and garbage services provided by these entities. These charges are special taxes and may not be increased or changed without a vote.

The Supreme Court in the 2006 Bighorn case voided a 2000 decision (Howard Jarvis v. City of Los Angeles) that noticing, public hearing, and a majority vote were

not Proposition 218 requirements; they definitely are law. This 2006 Decision also invalidates all utility rate increases since 1997 that did not comply with all procedural requirements of 1996 Proposition 218

2007 The SFPUC introduced tier pricing for water and wastewater taxes.

2015 The Court of Appeals 4th Appellate District, Division 3 Case No. G048969 decided that San Juan Capistrano must dismantle its ascending tier pricing structure for water and repay \$4.1 million in overcharges. Any ratepayer who was charged under the top three of the four tiers: \$4.24, \$6.37, and \$11.67 per unit (748 gallons or 100 cubic feet), will be reimbursed based on the base rate of \$3.18. The Court made it abundantly clear that tier pricing is not illegal per se, but to be legal it must follow all mandated procedural requirements and mirror costs that are reasonable and allowable in providing current services.

Mr. Sandler further noted that the City Attorney's office was involved in ensuring full compliance. I had always hoped that the City Attorney would have been more proactive in responding to my numerous complaints of committee nullification during my term (2003-2012) on the Revenue Bond Oversight Committee (RBOC).

Mr. Sandler states that their electronic cost-of-service calculations are accompanied with a readily understandable narrative. I replied to Mr. Sandler that I disagreed with him. When I asked the SFPUC to produce such a document (similar to a detailed road map – giving explicit directions from A to B) they said they could not.

Two possibilities for this situation: 1) there is no such document and/or 2) information is not effectively shared at the SFPUC. The theory of the firm is that organizations, such as the SFPUC, exist to lower information and transaction costs.

SFPUC still has serious concerns about the drought continuing. With a market based pricing system, as mandated by Proposition 218 et al, supply and demand pricing would produce a market clearing price. It would adjust automatically to shifts in supply and demand and send clear signals regarding resource use and investment priorities. This dynamic-type pricing would arguably be legal under Proposition 218. Proposition 218 has objections to administered pricing not rooted in economic theory, as is currently used by the SFPUC.

Brian Browne was coauthor of 2002 Prop P and former member of the Revenue Bond Oversight Committee it created. Feedback: [browne@westsideobserver.com](mailto:browne@westsideobserver.com)



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Second Thoughts • By Jack Kaye

## Parking Problems in Paradise

San Francisco is a peninsula paradise of 49 square miles filled with hills and valleys, creating stunning views. And while it is a very public transit first, progressive city with an excellent public transportation system including Muni and BART, there are 1.5 million daytime visitors and residents; some of them will drive and be in need of parking during the daytime hours.

If you see “No Stopping” signs left up after they are no longer needed, you can call the contractors listed on the signs and ask them if their work is done. If it is, the signs should come down. You can also call 311 in San Francisco and ask that the signs be removed.”

Some of the city’s parking is metered and can cost as much as \$6 an hour to park a car in busy commercial and tourist areas. Monthly rents for garage spaces can be at least \$300 and are still hard to find. Residential areas have special residential parking permits that allow residents to park all day in non-metered spaces. Visitors to these neighborhoods are restricted to two-hour parking from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays.

Then there are the temporary “No Stopping” signs that restrict parking either for construction or for residential moving. Those posted for construction projects are controlled by the Department of Public Works (DPW). Those posted for residential, usually apartment, moves are issued by the Municipal Transportation Agency (MTA). It is with these two agencies and their issuances that I have a big problem and have done everything I can think of to let their leaders know.

DPW issues these restricting permits to contractors who are either doing work for the city (DPW contracts out most of the work it used to do for our infrastructure, as does Recreation and Parks) or for home owners and developers. The city issues the permits the contractors request for up to six months at a time. The permits usually restrict parking from 7 a.m. to 6 or 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday. The problem is that San Francisco contractors and their construction workers almost never work past 3:30 or 4 p.m., and very rarely work on Saturdays, but the many posted spaces are unavailable to anyone else during these covered periods. If the project ends sooner than the expiration date of the permit, the contractors have no motivation to take the signs down, meaning people will be unable to use the precious spaces for weeks while no one is using them for their restricted purpose.

I have recommended that these permits be issued to end at 4 p.m. and not include Saturdays unless the contractor is willing to pay a large premium, and contracts to work Saturdays. If the rare case occurs and a crew actually works past 4 p.m., their vehicles will secure their space. If they leave at 3:30 or 4, as is usually the case, residents and visitors can make use of the parking.

I have a different issue with MTA permits issued. Their pricing structure was apparently designed to make it easy for accounts receivable. “No Stopping” signs for apartment moves cost \$180 a day whether the signs restrict parking for 40 feet or 180. So if someone realizes he needs only 40 feet but must pay as much as he would if he needed more than four times as much has two possible reactions: either that he should not get the signs and therefore will take his chances double parking for the two hours it takes to get his stuff into or out of the truck, or that he’ll go for the full monty, 180 feet, which is about six or seven parking spaces. And even though

the mover knows it will take two to four hours, and they will be between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., he can request that the parking restriction last 12 hours a day for the same price.

I recommend the obvious. Charge a higher rate for additional space so that getting 40 feet will cost less than a fourth as much as would 180 feet, and that the latter should be discouraged without great justification, such as that the move will use two large moving vans with loading ramps. Also the permits should end at 4 p.m. since they rarely go later, and if they do, the trucks will occupy the space until the work is completed. If they leave at or before that time, others will be able to use these spaces.

It would also be nice if contractors and movers removed the “No Stopping” signs the minute they are no longer needed. I have been saddened to find that most don’t. A nice neighbor left their five signs up for six weeks after all the work on their home had been completed and refused requests by neighbors and DPW to take them down. They paid for them so they felt justified.

I recommended that DPW and MTA refund the prorated cost of the unused time.

Being at ground zero for construction projects and apartment moves, I can see as many as 25 “No Stopping” signs in my one block area. We now have one construction project that has been going on for more than 16 years, another in its fifth year and one going into its second year. People in the area want to add a garage or redo the interior of their home. One project took only 18 months and involved tearing down a small building and building a four unit condo. The four units sold for more than \$11 million, netting the contractor more than \$8 million. A few blocks away workers are building condos using a former dental school building. The apartments will cost from \$3000 to \$4000 a square foot. So construction work is a big and lucrative business, but it must also be responsible and it’s the city’s job to make sure it is.

So I have written to the heads of the MTA and DPW. So far I have seen few changes. Perhaps by making more people aware of the problem, some will join in the effort to have more parking available with fewer spaces going to waste.

As I wrote in a previous column titled “Private and Public Ownership,” residents need to take responsibility for their public spaces as well as those they privately own. The streets and sidewalks are our public property. If you see “No Stopping” signs left up after they are no longer needed, you can call the contractors listed on the signs and ask them if their work is done. If it is, the signs should come down. You can also call 311 in San Francisco and ask that the signs be removed.

Let’s work to end or at least reduce our parking problems in paradise.

Feedback: [kaye@westsideobserver.com](mailto:kaye@westsideobserver.com)

## Do you have a pinched nerve? We can help.

Dear friend,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Here is what some of your neighbors have said:

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

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

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

My qualifications:

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

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

Thank you. —Dr. Christina Meakim D.C.

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.



# Don't Miss Another Issue!

\$20

Per Year

Mail to the Westside Observer with your check to:

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WEST OF TWIN PEAKS PROPERTIES SOLD SINCE 6/1/16

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

ADDRESS	TYPE	BEDS	BATHS	PK	ASKING	SOLD	%OF ASKING
20 Santa Rita Ave	Forest Hill	4	3.5	1	2,695,000	3,050,000	113.17
301 Edgehill Way	Forest Hill Extensio	2	1	1	998,000	1,130,000	113.23
491 Ulloa St	Forest Hill Extensio	2	1	2	1,095,000	1,200,000	109.59
4 Lansdale Ave	Sherwood Forest	3	2	2	1,395,000	1,450,000	103.94
72 Westgate Dr	Mount Davidson	2	2	2	1,298,000	1,450,000	111.71
95 Keystone Way	Mount Davidson	4	3	1	1,575,000	1,625,000	103.17
376 Hazelwood Ave	Westwood Highlands	3	2	1	1,395,000	1,625,000	116.49
135 Wawona St	West Portal	4	3	2	1,928,000	2,185,000	113.3

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C.W.A. Workers at Lake Merced Boulevard • Call • Jan. 24, 1934 1 photographic print : gelatin silver fiber print ; 5 x 7 in. San Francisco Department of Public Works Photograph Collection  
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Civil Works Administration

The Civil Works Administration (CWA) was a short-lived U.S. job creation program established by the New Deal during the Great Depression to rapidly create manual labor jobs for millions of unemployed workers. The jobs were merely temporary, for the duration of the hard winter of 1933–34.

President Roosevelt signed the Executive Order establishing this jobs program on Nov. 8, 1933, upon the instigation of

Harry Hopkins, who was already the head of the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA). But, whereas FERA was limited to providing relief in the form of handouts to those who could prove their indigence, the CWA was devoted to creating jobs that paid wages, and stimulated the productive economy as well. Hopkins was designated the head of the new program.

The CWA was established as a clear, and unbureaucratic, response to an emergency, the fact that the onset of the winter of 1933-34 was likely to bring a level of

privation, including starvation, that would devastate the country. The Public Works Administration (PWA), which had been established by the passage of the National Recovery Act, and had the mandate to carry out substantial public works in the area of infrastructure, was moving at a snail's pace, and not showing significant results in the job market. And the private sector was still collapsed.

The CWA was a fully Federal program, in which those employed were Federal employees. The provisions called for

one-half of the jobs to go to those who were on relief (today's welfare), and the other half to anyone else who needed work. In both cases, this meant a considerable upgrading of conditions. Those who came from relief now received wages at minimum wage, rather than charity—an increase from \$6.50 to \$15.00 a week. The other workers did not have to submit to a "means test," (proving you have absolutely no assets) in order to get an income.

Hopkins set conditions on providing the jobs, including that black and white workers get equal wages. While many of the Southern states did all they could to get around this, the principle was established.

The CWA employed millions of people, fast. Operating initially with monies from the PWA, Hopkins set out the objective of creating 4 million jobs by Dec. 15, about one month after the establishment of the program. While he only reached 2.6 million by that date, he had employed a small army of 4.2 million by the middle of January.

Conceived as temporary aid to prevent social disaster during the winter, CWA operated under enormous constraints, in terms of the projects it was given. The major purpose was to put income into people's pockets, and 80% of the monies went to salaries, out of the approximately \$1 billion spent. Political pressures forced Roosevelt to discontinue the program by April of 1934.



CWA workers on their way to fill a gully with wheelbarrows of earth during the construction of the Lake Merced Parkway

OPEN LATE



Julie Casson

BRAIN FÜD

Inventions...

Dave, John, Cara, Robbie, and Kate are five budding inventors. Their newest inventions? Each has combined a popular ingredient with a drink! Figure out who's who, what their "mix" is, and when they each invented their product.

1. The five inventors are Dave, Ms. Roberts, the "Potato Man", the July inventor, and the one who added an ingredient to lemonade.
2. No one's first name is similar to their last name.
3. Kate made a peanut smoothie.
4. Winter in the Northern Hemisphere seemed to be a "hot" invention time - both John and Cara concocted something then!
5. Marshmallows were incorporated into Kay's creation. Chocolate was in Davidson's.
6. Banana Vodka was a spur of the moment brainstorm.
7. April just happened to be "chocolate season", at least for Robbie.
8. Believe it or not, potato cocktails were very popular in January!

Answers (Page 21)

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

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: appears on the right.

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

**The Manor** (Cont. from p. 1)  
looks like things are going to be moving forward with more than just breakfast and lunch.”

While he continues to update the restaurant’s offerings based on sales and customer feedback, Gonzales has kept the same staples like milkshakes, burgers, and pancakes. He has also kept the “Kitchen Sink” omelette, which is a choose-your-own ingredients style menu option. Known for its pies, Manor’s famous custard pie has been updated with a Parisian twist.

He plans to remain a coffee only establishment, and has no interest in incorporating espresso and latte drinks. Gonzales partnered with long-time friends and Java Beach Cafe owners Buffy and Patrick Maguire to serve their Oakland roasted Carville Coffee beans.

Gonzales comes from a Mexican heritage and grew up cooking at home with his mother. He added a Mexican Breakfast to the menu, which includes slow-roasted pork, refried black beans, fresh tortillas, and cojita cheese. He says it is important to honor his roots.

His 71-year-old mother, who does the baking, was hesitant to take on the workload. “She didn’t know if she would be able to keep up,” he says. Mom’s Chocolate Devil’s Food Bundt Cake is the first item listed on the dessert menu. There is also a Devil’s Food Cake Shake for those warm San Francisco afternoons.

As a first time business owner, Gonzales graduated top of his class from a

culinary school in Paris and he stayed in France until his work Visa expired.

“You need to get kicked around in the kitchen a bit in order to really learn how to cook,” Gonzales says. “You can only learn so much in a classroom setting.”

He spent 12 years as a private chef before he developed the taste for entrepreneurship.

The rising costs of San Francisco real estate is not lost on Gonzales. He has gotten feedback from disappointed customers over his new pricing structure, but he insists the quality of the food has improved under his ownership. For Manor’s classic BLT sandwich, he “really focused on the bun and the amazing bacon.” He also incorporated a green goddess dressing, dried Sonoma jack cheese, and butter lettuce.

Another reason for an influx in pricing: the upcoming minimum wage increase. Gonzales, a first time business owner, signed a new five-year lease when he was unable to keep the same rate Jeung paid.

This being his first time crafting American food, he says the challenge is making simple things interesting. He incorporated his love of beets into the salad menu and he favors his simple chili



Chef Michael Gonzales shares a moment with longtime Manor customer Kathy Gouger

made with lamb, pork, and beef. He has added local beers from Magnolia Brewery and Anchor Steam to the menu, as well as Sonoma Valley wines.

“I’m still learning everyday,” Gonzales says. “And making mistakes, too.”

One lesson he has learned is to take customer criticism with a grain of salt. One particular critique has been of Manor’s branded t-shirts which have earned mixed reviews. The frontside of the shirt is an image of Manor’s classic street sign image and on the back, in bright orange letters, reads “the customer is always wrong.”

“Everyone always says the customer is always right, but that’s not true,” Gonzales

laughs. The t-shirts, meant as a joke, were his wife’s idea.

“I’ve already sold about 50 of them,” he adds. “I have a lot of great, happy customers, but you can’t please the world.”



Maria serving brunch to customers on a busy Saturday afternoon



Server Maria Villafuerte has been working at Manor since it reopened in June



## AFFORDABLE HOUSING BONUS PROGRAM

The Board of Supervisors continues to draft the Affordable Housing Bonus Program to comply with state law. Several changes have occurred to the program, which included both a Mixed-Income Program and a 100% Affordable Program.

At the June 13 Land Use Committee meeting, the following amendments were made:

### Mixed-Income Program:

- Prohibit demolition of existing residential units including rent-controlled units;
- Require a Conditional Use authorization process;
- Direct City to explore a variety of small business preservation tools including a small business relocation fee, first-right-of-refusal, and early notification to be no less than 19 months; and
- Must preserve neighborhood serving use on the ground floor.

### 100% Affordable Program:

- Prohibit demolition of existing residential units;
- Require early notification to commercial tenants be no less than 18 months;
- Must preserve neighborhood serving use on the ground floor; and
- Require a “Modified Conditional Use Permit” process that will include a hearing before the Planning Commission and the opportunity to appeal to the Board of Supervisors.

The Board of Supervisors will consider only the 100% Affordable portion of the AHBP in July.

The Mixed-Income program of the AHBP will remain in Land Use until a feasibility study is completed in the Fall.

For information on the Affordable Housing Program, please visit the Planning Department’s website.



## GGNRA’s Proposed Dog Management Rule

Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) is conducting a planning process to determine the manner and extent of dog walking in appropriate areas of the park.

On February 24, the GGNRA released their Proposed Rule for Dog Management on GGNRA lands, including Ocean Beach, Fort Funston and Crissy Field in San Francisco, as well as other GGNRA lands in Marin and San Mateo Counties.

The overall goal of the plan is to develop a clear, enforceable policy that:

- provides a variety of visitor experiences, including areas where dog walking is allowed;
- improves visitor and employee safety;
- reduces user conflicts;
- provides a variety of visitor experiences and
- promotes the preservation and protection of natural and cultural resources and natural processes.

Changes to dog management may include restricting both on and off-leash areas that are currently open for dog access. Comment on the Proposed Rule concluded on May 25, 2016. Those comments are currently under review this summer, and the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) will be released this fall with a final selected alternative. In early 2017, a Record of Decision will be signed, a Final Rule will be issued and published in the federal register, and implementation of that rule may begin as early as 30 days later. INFO: [parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?projectId=11759](http://parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?projectId=11759)

Police Report (Cont. from p. 12)

witness reported a suspect trying to open vehicle door handles. He was found hiding between a vehicle and a garage door. He found an unlocked vehicle, climbed in and rummaged through its contents. The officers contacted the owner, who reported missing items from the vehicle. A search of the suspect revealed the stolen items. After further investigation the suspect was cited.

Trespassing – Vandalism – Cited

6:25 am | 3600 Judah St  
The victim told dispatch he was following a suspect after he saw the suspect ripping fuses out of a fuse box and setting off a fire extinguisher. Officers detained the suspect. He was cited.

Threats – Concealed Weapon – Arrested

11:42 pm | Ortega St & 10th Ave  
A MUNI driver was victimized by a suspect brandishing a knife. He said he saw the suspect sleeping and attempted to wake him to determine his destination. But the suspect sat up and began yelling profanities and pulled out a kitchen knife. Officers detained him and found the knife. He was found to be on probation and was arrested

Sunday - June 5

Battery  
9:11 am | Confidential  
The victim said she and the suspect were having an argument about their relationship. He punched her several times, kicked her, and fled.

Robbery  
7:15 pm | 1100 Junipero Serra Blvd  
The victim said the suspect walked into the store, pointed a hand gun at him and demanding money. He gave the suspect all the money in the register. The suspect fled.

Battery  
12:30 pm | 2400 19th Ave  
The victim said she made breakfast for the suspect but he did not like what she made. An argument ensued and the suspect started slamming around the plates and forks. She failed to calm him down, and the he choked her. Eventually, he let her go and walked out of the house.

Concealed Weapon – Traffic Violation

11:07 pm | Quintara St & 47th Ave  
A suspect reported driving erratically — making donuts on the corner while one of the passengers was waving a gun. Responding officers stopped the vehicle with four people inside. A computer check revealed the driver had no license. A search found no guns, but did find a set of brass knuckles in a passenger’s pocket. The driver was cited, the suspect with the brass knuckles was arrested and the other two passengers were released.

Wednesday - June 8

Robbery  
5:23 am | 41st Ave & Taraval St  
The victim was walking north on 41st Ave when she observed the suspect walking towards her. He walked past her, then turned around and pointed a gun at the victim demanding her bag. Fearful, she gave him her property and he fled.

Thursday - June 9

Robbery of a Bank  
1:45 pm | 2400 19th Ave  
The witnesses of a robbery said the suspect walked up to the teller, placed a plastic bag on the counter, pulled out a gun and demanded money. The victim handed the suspect some money but the suspect demanded more. However, the victim seemed paralyzed with fear and couldn’t move. The suspect fled.

Friday - June 10

Assault  
1:25 am | 2300 Irving St  
A stabbing victim said he walked into the bar to use the bathroom and then ordered a drink, he walked outside to text someone when he felt somebody hit him in his back. The victim followed the suspect but stopped because he didn’t recognize the suspect. He sustained a non life threatening stab in the back.

Monday - June 13

Robbery  
2:20 pm | 3000 San Jose Ave

The victim said he was behind the counter when the suspect entered the store, approached the register while holding a gun and demanded “all the money.” The victim complied and the suspect exited the store and fled in a waiting vehicle.

Wednesday - June 15

Attempted Robbery  
2:11 am | 17th Ave & Judah St  
Two victims said they were sitting on the curb when a vehicle stopped in front of them. Two suspects exited the vehicle and pointed a handgun demanding their wallets and cell phones. They said they didn’t have anything on them. They thought the victims were homeless and got back into their vehicle driven by a third suspect and fled. Officers located the three suspects who had committed several other robberies in the area. They were arrested.

Thursday - June 16

Attempted Burglary – Cited  
12:13 pm | 2200 24th Ave  
An officer on patrol observed three juvenile suspects in front of a house looking around suspiciously, then heard loud bangs and two suspects suddenly emerging from the front door — when all five suspects ran down the street towards the park. The victim said he was watching tv when he heard some voices and banging as they were trying to break into the house. When he opened the door and the suspects fled. Officers located all five suspects who were sent to Community Assessment and referral Center where they will be cited.

Robbery – Arrested  
1:31 am | Judah St & 10th Ave  
Two victims involved in a robbery flagged a Sargent. The victims said they were walking down the street when a vehicle stopped next to them. Three suspects exited the vehicle, one with a gun and demanded the victim’s property. A suspect said to drop their purses and run. Several officers found the suspects and recovered the gun. A search revealed the stolen property in the vehicle. It was later determined that the suspects committed three other SF robberies that night. They were arrested.

Saturday - June 18

Homicide  
12:20 am | Lake Merced Blvd & Font Blvd  
Responding officers located the injured victim of a shooting lying on the ground. Numerous witnesses reported that they saw the victim being chased by the suspect who had fire shots at the victim. The victim was transported to the hospital but succumbed to his injuries.

Threats – Arrested  
9:06 pm | 900 Lincoln Way  
Officers responded to a report of threats made at a residential group home. Previously, the suspect threatened to shoot both the staff members and residents of the home. The suspect then left but returned later that day. Responding officers arrived and arrested the suspect.

Robbery – Arrested  
8:52 am | 700 Irving St  
Multiple witnesses reported an aggressive suspect shouting and trying to start a fight. One, an employee from a nearby business said the suspect came into his store and started throwing items at the employee and customers. He refused to leave, started swearing at the employee, stole an item and left the store. The employee followed and asked for the item’s return. The suspect refused and threatened to hit the employee with the stolen item instead. Officers located the suspect sitting next to the stolen item and arrested him.

Robbery  
9:35 pm | 00 Palos Pl  
The victim said he was walking on Crestlake Dr. when he was approached from behind by three suspects running toward him. One of the suspects wrapped his arms around him while a second suspect said he had a gun and pointed something at his stomach and told the victim not to scream. However the victim did not see a gun. The third suspect reached into his pocket and stole his property. The suspects ran to their

Cont. p. 21

Senior Smarts By Anise J. Matteson

Weather Forecast Preparedness: Tornado, Flood, Hurricane and Wind

Tornadoes occur in the United States during the spring and early summer, mostly in the Midwest and states that border the Gulf of Mexico—Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Iowa, Missouri, Illinois, Mississippi, Indiana, Alabama, Georgia, and Florida.<sup>1</sup>

In the United States, Most hurricanes affect areas near the Atlantic Ocean or the Gulf of Mexico—Texas, Florida, New England, New York, North Carolina, Mississippi, Louisiana, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Virginia—from June to November—most of them in September.<sup>2</sup>

If you have a loved one who is a boomer or senior living in states subject to severe weather conditions, keep in touch during the season or have someone check on them.

If you are traveling or plan to travel in the future, please read Spencer Christian’s contribution to “Weather Forecast Preparedness” thoroughly. (See the June issue, “Weather Forecast Preparedness: Rain, Lightning and Thunderstorm,” for the health care professional’s perspective and resource list.) You may want to take these articles with you when traveling and a copy for your disaster kit and to share with your loved ones.

Safe travels.

TORNADO



Tornadoes are spawned by violent thunderstorms that create extremely unstable conditions in the atmosphere. The Bay Area is fortunate to be situated in a region where thunderstorms are rare, and tornadoes are even rarer. However, there are some important facts we should remember about tornadoes. They are the most dangerously violent of all storms, and are capable of generating winds over 200 miles per hour. Because tornadoes are so powerful, it doesn’t matter whether windows in a home are open or closed—they are still likely to be shattered by the winds.

The safest place to be during a tornado is in a low-lying area. In your home, that means a basement, storm shelter, or lowest floor in the house. If possible, gather all members of the household in that low-lying area and try to cover yourselves with a large cushion, mattress, or blanket—if you can’t get below ground level.

Motor homes are extremely vulnerable to tornadoes. Sturdier structures (buildings or shelters) will offer much greater protection.

If you’re driving, don’t try to outrun the tornado. If you can determine the direction in which the tornado is moving, drive at a 90-degree angle away from it. Also, if time permits, seek a ditch, valley, or other low-lying area. Then, get out of the car and crouch as low to the ground as possible, covering your head and face with your arms, or a blanket if you have one.

FLOOD

Floods occur when heavy and/or continuous rain produces a greater volume of water than the ground can absorb and more than rivers and other bodies of water can contain. Floods are most common in low-lying coastal areas and river flood plains. Flooding may last only a few hours or several days or weeks, depending on how extensive and severe the flooding is. Flood waters can produce costly and permanent damage to homes. If there is a flood warning in your area, try to move valuable possessions to the highest possible location in your home, and obey evacuation alerts if they are issued. Flood waters can quickly become contaminated with infectious bacteria. For your safety, do not attempt to drive or walk through

deep puddles or pools of water. If your car stalls in rising water, quickly abandon the car and seek higher ground.

MEDIA WARNINGS

All electronic and digital media provide frequent and ongoing alerts during all forms of extreme weather. That includes radio and TV stations, weather apps on mobile devices, and numerous websites online.

Warnings and alerts from the media are issued in many forms. Radio and TV stations will often interrupt regular programming with severe weather alerts; they post warnings on their websites; and they use social media—Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, etc.—to post urgent weather information. News and weather apps are also offered by print and broadcast media for the specific purpose of providing severe weather updates.

HURRICANE

When travelers are visiting an area that is hurricane prone, they should pay careful attention to local weather forecasts and take seriously all alerts and warnings related to evacuation, flooding, dangerous wind gusts, travel restrictions or delays, etc. Although hurricanes can be very destructive, they tend to move slowly and in predictable paths. Therefore, those who are attentive will have time to



either prepare for a hurricane’s impact or move out of its path.

WIND

Some descriptive words used regularly in weather forecasting for the Bay Area to inform the public are:

Light winds/light breezes: Generally under 10 miles per hour.

Breezy: Generally 10 to 20 miles per hour.

Windy: Generally sustained winds over 20 miles per hour, with occasional gusts that are 25 to 35 miles per hour or higher.

Media Warnings

Local Bay Area media will issue alerts to help the public prepare for potential wind damage whenever we experience a pattern of sustained strong winds. Some of the possible hazards are: downed trees and power lines, power outages, increased fire danger, personal injury, property damage, dangerous driving conditions, and many more. The possibility of trees being uprooted is greater when the ground is saturated by rainfall. All of these factors are incorporated in weather preparedness reporting, which we provide on the following platforms: regularly scheduled newscasts, live “cut-ins” which interrupt regular programming, our websites, news and weather apps, Facebook/Twitter/ social media.

©Information courtesy of Spencer Christian, Weather Anchor, ABC 7/ KGO-TV.

1,2. The World Book Encyclopedia

Anise J. Matteson is an elder care consultant, retired Registered Health Information Technician and writer of reference books for seniors.

Police Report (Cont. from p. 20)

vehicle and fled.  
**Extortion**  
7:34 pm | 1500 22nd Ave  
The victim said he met a female through a chat app and exchanged photos and address after friendly conversation. He was ready to set up a dinner date with her when she and her associate demanded money, threatening to hurt the victim. Fearful, he sent the money as gift cards.

**Sunday - June 19**  
**Assault – Arrested**  
12:27 pm | 00 Orizaba Ave  
A victim of domestic violence reported that the suspect had returned home from work and seemed agitated a few days ago. The victim attempted to help when the suspect said she didn't fell well. She struck him several times with a hair dryer andkicked him when he fell down. The next day, the suspect accused the victim of not feeding their children. The suspect cut the victim on his left shoulder and also took a cleaver and struck the victim with the handle and left Officers were with the victim when she returned. The suspect was arrested.  
**Elder Abuse – Arrested**  
12:29 pm | Broad St & Capitol Ave  
A victim reported that the suspect, her daughter, depended on her after separating from her husband. While she was on the computer, attempting to file paperwork to give the suspect her inheritance early but the suspect seemed intoxicated and aggressively demanded a copy of the paperwork, pulling the victim by her forearm. The victim complained she was mentally drained and from dealing with the suspect's behavior and notified the police. After investigation, the suspect was arrested.

**Monday - June 20**  
**Drunk Driving – Arrested**  
1:04 am | Sloat Blvd & Skyline Blvd  
A witness reported a single vehicle accident where a driver hit the curb and didn't stop until the car was in other side of the traffic lane. Responding officers observed that the driver was hysterical and seemed intoxicated. The driver said it was her boyfriend who crashed the car and ran off. The witness, however, said the driver seemed to be the only passenger in the vehicle. Police observed that only one airbag was deployed and the driver had her blood drawn and was arrested.

**Tuesday - June 21**  
**Threats – Arrested**  
7:46 am | 1800 Irving St  
The victim reported that the suspect had been in the store previously and was throwing items around at customers. When asked to leave the suspect to yelled and threaten to harm the victim and left the store. When the suspect returned to the store he admitted making the threats, but he "didn't mean it." He was arrested.  
**Theft of a Computer – Arrested**  
1:04 pm | 1200 Irving St  
A victim said he left his laptop on the table at the food area to use the restroom. When he returned the suspect had taken his laptop and fled the scene. The suspect gave the Lieutenant a chase for about 10 blocks. Once in custody, the laptop was also located and the suspect was arrested.  
**Assault – Attempted Homicide**  
7:32 am | 3000 22nd Ave  
Multiple officers responded to a report of gun shots. The victim said the suspect, his girlfriend's ex-husband, approached him and fired several shots at him. Fearful but not injured, the victim fled back into the garage and hid until the suspect fled. Taraval TNT team located the suspect and arrested him.

**Thursday - June 23**  
**Resisting or Obstructing Peace Officers Duty – Traffic Violation – Cited**  
8:28 pm | Noriega St & 14th Ave  
Officers observed a stopped vehicle that idling and without license plates. When they approached the vehicle a thick white cloud of smoke smelling like marijuana came from the passenger's side. A computer check revealed that one of the occupants in

the vehicle gave false information about his identity. The driver of the vehicle was cited for not having license plates on his vehicle and released along with one other passenger. The passenger who lied about his identity was taken to Taraval station, where officers learned his true identity and cited him for obstructing duties.

**Friday - June 24**  
**Theft**  
8:07 pm | 1300 Judah St  
A witness, an off duty police officer, detained a suspect. He said he was at a café when he saw the suspect steal the tip jar and fled on foot. The witness chased the suspect who was later identified and cited.  
**Threats – Robbery – Arrested**  
12:26 pm | Confidential  
A victim said she had just broken up with the suspect earlier in the morning then he walked into her work place and started yelling and grabbed her purse. She struggled but the suspect removed money from the purse and walked away. He came back shortly after and threatened the suspect. Officers found and arrested him.  
**Theft – Arrested**  
11:45 am | 1300 19th Ave  
When a known suspect reached into a mail slot, an officer observed her pull out pieces of mail, look through then and toss some of it to the ground. The officer detained the suspect who did not live at the house and searched her. Finding other pieces of mail and credit cards that weren't hers, had been reported stolen as well as fraudulent charges on them, a computer check revealed a warrant for her arrest and she was currently on probation for shoplifting. The suspect was arrested.  
**Stalking – Brandishing a Weapon**  
10:51 pm | Confidential  
A victim of a domestic incident said the suspect brandished a gun on the previous night. While she was sitting in her friend's car the suspect approached them in his vehicle and positioned it to block their vehicle. The suspect got out of the car took out a black gun and brandished it, however it was never directly pointed at the victim. The victim requested that she did not want to press charges but wanted the suspect to be informed she wished to be left alone.

**Saturday - June 25**  
**DUI – Arrested**  
8:56 pm | 600 Lincoln Way  
A witness reported a vehicle driving in an erratic manner; the vehicle entered the opposite lane of traffic while running stop signs and stop lights and also hit a parked car. Responding officers found the car in the middle of a gas station with the engine running while the driver was unconscious behind the steering wheel with an open bottle of beer in the cup holder next to him. The driver exited the vehicle but refused to cooperate with investigations or sobriety tests but eventually submitted to a breathalyzer test. He said this was his fourth DUI and that he was out on bail from a DUI in Placer County. The driver was arrested.  
**Robbery – Assault – Resisting – Arrested**  
8:05 pm | 500 Buckingham Way  
A victim said he was at the ATM making a transaction when he felt something on his lower back. He saw the suspect holding something wrapped in a shirt pointed it at him. When the suspect demanded money he froze, angering the suspect who fired several shots at the victim. When something hit him his forehead, he realized it was BB pellets and chased the suspect who jumped into a waiting vehicle and fled. Officers located the suspect in the area of Sunset Blvd and Wawona St. While persuing suspect's vehicle, the officers it run a stop light and strike another vehicle. Both suspects then attempted to flee on foot and one suspect threw BB replica gun away. After a chase both suspects were apprehended and it was determined that the suspect's vehicle was also stolen. Both suspects were arrested.

**Editor's Note:** This is an incomplete report as space allows. For the entire report go to: [www.taraval.org](http://www.taraval.org)

Education

Summer Learning: The Next BIG Ed Reform?

By Carol Kocivar © 2016



It's that time of the year when schools and libraries start rolling out summer reading lists. And for good reason. A ton of research tells us that **summer learning is a big deal**.

**Summer Learning and the Achievement Gap**  
Without summer learning, kids fall behind — especially poor kids. A study by [John Hopkins University](#) finds that lack of summer learning contributes substantially to the achievement gap between low and higher income students.

**Beyond Reading Lists**  
Summer reading lists are GREAT. You can find some of my favorites at the bottom of this post. But there is now significant evidence that more needs to be done.  
Is “summer vacation” — as we know it — a good idea? Is there actually someone at home during the summer to take care of the kids? For too many families, the answer is “no”. A recent article in the New York Times, “[The Families That Can’t Afford Summer](#)”, highlights these challenges and the growing need to support low cost summer learning opportunities.

**Is Your School District Investing in Summer?**  
The Partnership for Children and Youth provides a [guidebook for parents](#) on how to advocate for high-quality summer learning programs. They also identify [school districts that invest in summer learning](#). Good News. San Francisco is one of them!  
California's Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) provides school districts with significant flexibility in how to invest in students, especially students in poverty, learning English, or in Foster care. If summer learning options aren't available through your school district, that represents a budget choice.

**Summer Reading Lists**  
No, I did not forget.  
The [American Library Association](#) provides lists by age group, starting birth-preschool.  
[Reading Rockets](#) not only has reading lists but also provides summer reading tips. You'll receive 3-4 text messages each week, all summer long.  
[GreatSchools](#) provides a massive list in 18 categories.  
[School Districts](#) also team up with their local libraries to create local lists. Ask a librarian for advice!

**Don't Forget Your Public Library**  
This year the program is called “Summer Stride” and it runs through August 14th at all San Francisco libraries. Here are the details:  
Summer readers of all ages can choose between the 2016 Reading Ranger Badge or the 2016 library tote bag as their finishing prize for Summer Stride.  
All ages will be eligible to receive the prize after completing 15 hours of reading, listening, or learning! Both prizes feature artwork by Christian Robinson.  
**Grownups Need Summer Reading, Too.**  
Check out [www.Ed100.org](http://www.Ed100.org) —This is a free on-line course that helps you understand California's education system.  
Tip: A great resource for parents as you get ready for the next school year.

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

Brain Fud Solutions

Dave Kay, Marshmallow Soda, October  
John Cora, Potato Cocktail, January  
Cara Roberts, Banana Vodka, February

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Real Travel By Sergio Nibbi

# Up in Smoke

What was once illegal and immoral is now front page news. Open any major newspaper or popular magazine and the pages are filled with endless articles about weed and the new weed economy. What was once known as Mary Jane is now, pure and simple, medical marijuana. You have an ailment? We have a cure. Dispensaries are now out in the open and available as a McDonald's.

And speaking of pot, some years ago we had the good fortune to have visited Amsterdam for the second time in a few years, and enjoy the beautiful sights and sounds of this bustling city. As the capital of the Netherlands it's a city of canals, great houses with gabled facades, years of history including the city's 17<sup>th</sup> century Golden Age, and a very tolerant "live and let live" attitude. Having been there before, we planned well in advance and arrived with our e-tickets in hand which allowed us to use the "Fast Lane" to the Rijksmuseum to admire the rooms full of paintings by the Dutch masters. The most famous was Rembrandt's "Night Watch," a huge painting taking up an entire wall. Next was a brief visit at the Van Gogh Museum before moving on.

After an enjoyable visit at the museums and a brief walk down the street we made it to the canal boat landing, and within minutes we were aboard and under way. Amsterdam is a city built around miles of canals and with the canals, endless canal boats of all sizes and shapes. During our 75-minute canal boat tour we were treated to the real beauty of the city. We saw the location of Anne Frank's house, a must see for us, but on our return trip on foot we found the line wrapped around the block and too long a wait for our limited stay.

red lights. After the initial shock and awe we settled into reality and realized how sad the whole thing is. So many young, beautiful women who should be doing better things with their lives. As was proven once again, money is the root of all evil.

So there we were, pot and prostitution. Does that mean that if one passes this November the other is soon to follow? Fortunately we still had two weeks to enjoy our cruise as we headed through the Kiel Canal with a brief stop in Warnemunde, where a cadre of soft ice cream vendors spoiled us while watching a young man standing in front of a table full of water filled glasses playing operatic arias. Next was Copenhagen, Helsinki, Saint Petersburg for a two day stay, and finally Stockholm.

Looking back it was an enjoyable but eye opening experience. All those different cultures and lifestyles, but in the end we all strive for the same thing.....a decent meal and a comfortable bed in which to sleep.

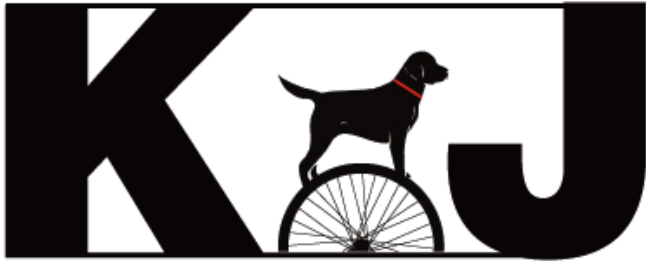
In retrospect, maybe we should have visited one of those Coffee Shops. With the jetlag that followed we could have used a good night's sleep.

Sergio Nibbi gets around—the world!  
Feedback: [sergio@westsideobserver.com](mailto:sergio@westsideobserver.com)



## Congratulations ALC Riders!

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(Time to upgrade that bike parking at home)



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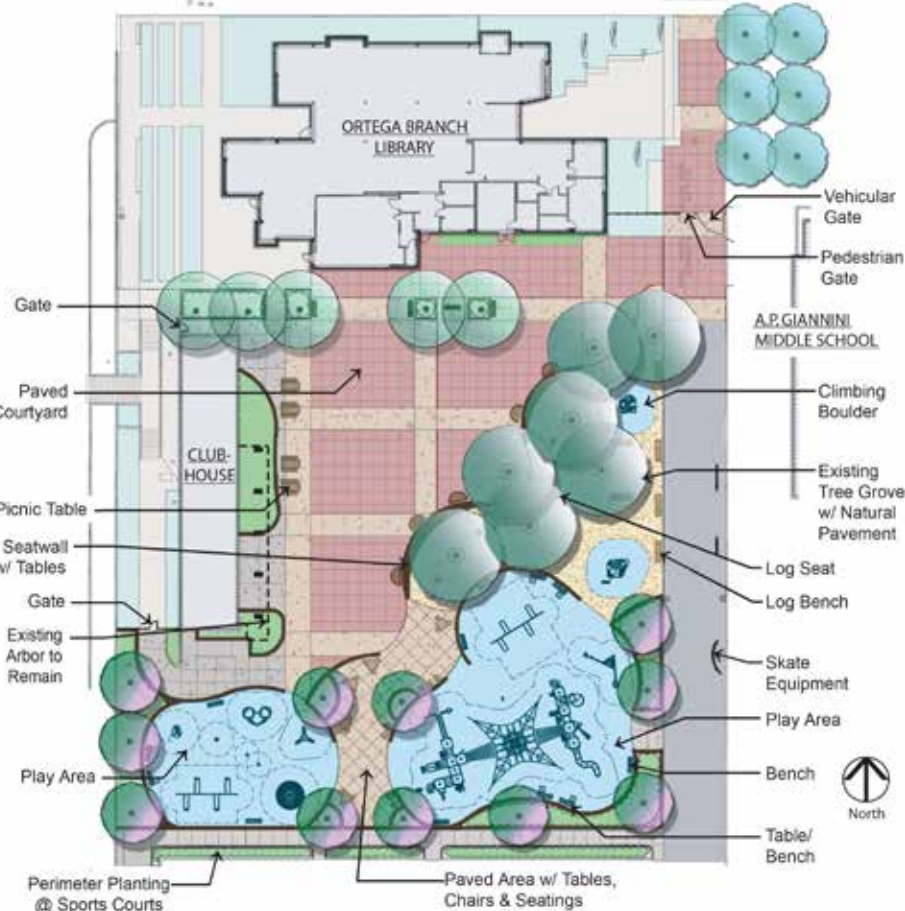


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## WEST SUNSET FIELD RENOVATION

The 2012 Park Bond, approved by voters included funding for improvements to the West Sunset Playground (39th and 41st Ave and Ortega and Quintara St).

Improvements included replacing fencing and retaining walls, installing two new batting cages, upgrading the drainage infrastructure, improving disability access, and resurfacing the parking lot.

The Recreation and Park Commission approved award of the construction contract on May 19th, and the Recreation and Park Department plans to start construction in late July. The current construction duration is anticipated to take 12 months.

For more information on the project: [sfrecpark.org/project/west-sunset-playground](http://sfrecpark.org/project/west-sunset-playground)

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