

When Will San Francisco Take the Assessor Seriously!

By John Farrell



We all agree that one of the most, if not the most, important revenue producing department in the City and County of San Francisco is the Assessor's Office. The Assessor's Office is responsible for identifying and appraising all real and business property within the City and County of San Francisco, resulting in approximately \$2 billion in tax revenue annually. These monies provide funding for our Police and Fire, for Social, Recreational and Educational Programs, and for administrative offices such as the Mayor's Office, Board of Supervisors, and Controller, to name a few. Then why do we not take the Assessor seriously?

... the Assessor position ... has been considered a place where someone would be politically rewarded and retire at a high pension. ... it is now looked at as a stepping stone for higher office. I hope the current Assessor will take this opportunity to provide a professional environment, and not just use the position like her predecessors ...

Since the two-term limit passed in 1990 there have been five Assessors - All Politicians. Former Supervisor Dick Hongisto, who resigned being Assessor to become Police Chief, later fired for taking neighborhood newspapers; former Supervisor Doris Ward, who hired her campaign manager on a City contract to run her campaign; former Supervisor Mabel Teng, who resigned midway thru her first term in office; Phil Ting, who used public financing to run for Mayor to help boost his bid for the Assembly; and now former Supervisor Carmen Chu, who was being termed out as District 4 Supervisor, needed a place to go, and was appointed by Mayor Ed Lee. I wished her good luck on her new position.

If this were private industry, none of these people would be considered for the Assessor position based on their qualifications and experience. Before the two-term limit, the Assessor came up through the ranks and had the experience and qualifications needed to run the office, just like in the real world in private industry. However, this is government and as you know, qualifications are secondary to political payback. Three of the five former Assessors resigned and were replaced

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City Has "No Plan" for Climate Change

By Keith Burbank

San Francisco faces serious risks from rising seas, according to a report by the County's Civil Grand Jury. Yet, the City still has no comprehensive plan to address the risks, the grand jury found. A separate report called the Climate Action Plan for San Francisco, published in 2004, says City infrastructure "could be severely stressed or overwhelmed if rare instances of flooding or storm damage become common occurrences."

"I think the major thing is that realization that sea level rise is upon us, and it's going to happen," said Elena Schmid, the spokesperson for the jury. Maryta Piazza, committee chair overseeing the grand jury's report, said the committee's major concern is the City's wastewater treatment plants, which could be inundated with salt water as a result of rising seas. Salt water kills the organisms that treat the waste and can damage plant infrastructure.

"The City does not have an overall plan," Schmid said. Yet every person the grand jury interviewed "admitted that the issue is real," said Piazza.

San Francisco's Civil Grand Jury is a body of 19 residents selected by the Superior Court with the authority to investigate County government. The jury inspects



A winter 2011 king tide breaches the Embarcadero seawall near the Ferry Building—a dramatic illustration of what future king tides would look like as sea levels rise. (Creative Commons License, dave6sf@yahoo.com)

records, interviews officials and receives relevant information from the public. At the end of an investigation, County agencies responsible for implementing the jury's recommendations must report whether or not they accept the recommendations, in whole or in part. The responses are part of the public record.

"It's time to get something started," Schmid said. By 2050, the sea is expected to rise by 16 inches, according to estimates by the Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC), a group that oversees bay

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SF's War on Motorists

By Former Supervisor Tony Hall



My last column dealt with the foolishness of some of our City "leaders" who want to narrow some of our streets and procure smaller and less equipped emergency response vehicles, all at the expense of Public Safety.

In this column, I want to encourage you to consider supporting the initiative Restoring Transportation Balance, (website is restorebalance14.org), which is a Declaration of Policy calling for the Mayor, Board of Supervisors, and the SFMTA Board to restore transportation balance, as opposed to their current "Transit and Bicycle Only" Policy.

... 79% of San Francisco households who own or lease a motor vehicle have been the target of bad transportation policy for the past 15 years, as determined by the radicals who have taken over the SFMTA Board and espouse a "car-less" San Francisco...



The Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods, along with the West of Twin Peaks Central Council and various community organizations and leaders all across the City are supporting this initiative, which should be enough motivation for our poll-watching politicians to take notice, lest they prefer a mandating Charter Amendment in 2015.

The origin of the initiative is centered on the fact that 79% of San Francisco households who own or lease a motor vehicle have been the target of bad transportation policy for the past 15 years, as determined by the radicals who have taken over the SFMTA Board and espouse a

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Laguna Honda Hospital: "Where Do They Go?" Dumping Our Frail Elderly

By Patrick Monette-Shaw

Are our "Old Friends" — the elderly and people with disabilities — being dys-integrated right out of San Francisco? Where do they all go?

In the *Westside Observer's* March issue, former Laguna Honda physicians Maria Rivero and Derek Kerr summarized Laguna Honda Hospital (LHH) changing patient demographics, and posed thoughtful questions, including "What happens to 'Old Friends' who can no longer care for themselves? Where do they go? And who checks whether the care they receive elsewhere is comparable to care provided in the new \$595 million Laguna Honda?"

Kerr and Rivero's questions are astute, given news that the Health Commission and the Department of Public Health are relying on an analysis that projects a shortage of 700 skilled nursing facility (SNF) beds in San Francisco just over 30 years from now, and the number of San Franciscans over the age of 75 is expected to increase by almost two-thirds over the next 20 years.

On March 20, the State of California's skilled nursing facility and long-term care Ombudsman for SF, Benson Nadell, testified to the Board of Supervisors Neighborhood Services and Safety Committee, saying:

"This is not just [about] giving people the option of *not* going to nursing homes, there aren't any [nursing homes]. In addition, there are not any low-income or affordable care homes in the City as well, and so the squeeze is on."

As in, squeezed out-of-county, but then factor in the current trend of converting long-term care SNF beds to short-term care SNF beds throughout California.

Patient Demographic Shifts Displace Frail Elderly

In March, Kerr and Rivero reported that for the first time in memory, women and the elderly over age

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in San Francisco



Patrick Moore
Senior Customer Care
Implementation Manager

INGLESIDE RESIDENT

“I work in energy efficiency and help customers in San Francisco save energy and money every day. It’s nice getting to help my family, friends and neighbors save while also helping our environment.”

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Replaced approximately 28 miles of gas pipeline in 2013



Invested more than \$167.5 million into electrical improvements in 2013



Donated more than \$5 million to non-profit and community organizations in 2013



Connected more than 4,500 rooftop solar installations for residents and businesses

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Ruminations From A Former Supervisor By Quentin Kopp



Abane of civic engagement and democracy, whether local, state or federal, is a lack of accurate information. Author Nathaniel Hawthorne, once observed, "Accuracy is the twin brother of honesty; inaccuracy of dishonesty." San Franciscans have historically depended upon a strong, usually accurate press, since the 1920's on radio, since the 1940's upon television, and in the 21st century on the Internet. With two small exceptions, all those sources of accurate information patently failed San Franciscans last month.

We have all been subjected to regular utterances from Recology, Inc., the monopoly garbage collecting multi-corporation, and City Hall-approved proclamations of recycling excellence, which serve the commercial purpose of Recology and the puffery of City officials from the Mayor to the City Environmental Health Office. If you believe those sources, San Franciscans recycle over 80% of our collective waste and will soon

“Did you read anything about this case in the Chronicle, Examiner, even the Guardian or San Francisco Weekly? I didn't. No one did. Gone are the investigative reporting days of Charles McCabe, Dick Nolan, Russ Cone, Bruce Brugmann, Tim Redmond, Lance Williams, Arthur Caylor, much less Ambrose Bierce or Mark Twain.”

achieve 100%! There is one problem: It isn't true, and city government perpetuates such inaccuracy. It remained, however, for one honest citizen and two supremely stalwart lawyers to put the lie to such City Hall and Recology misrepresentations. Brian McVeigh is a native San Franciscan, once employed by Recology, Inc. at its recycling operations on Tunnel Road near Brisbane and Pier 94. Because of his vigor, diligence and competency, he was promoted to supervisory responsibility in 2008. He observed dishonest labeling of contents and quantities of containers delivered by Recology, Inc. from San Francisco to California's Redemption Value Program in return for State taxpayers' money. He observed removal of cement at Recology's Tunnel Road facility for inclusion in recycling material and its subsequent repaving. He's a "whistleblower." He's honest. He reported such overpayments to the Brisbane Police Department. He was admonished to eschew such activity, and then fired.

Obtaining legal representation from David Anton, Esq. and John Scott, Esq., he sued Recology for wrongfully discharging him. He also sought permission from the California Attorney General, Kamala Harris, to file a *qui tam* legal action for City and State taxpayers under California law. Harris refused to act on his request, which was supported by a plethora of facts, for over one year. (By law, Harris could have pursued such suit herself or, failing that, authorized McVeigh, as a taxpayer, to proceed.) Finally, in 2010, McVeigh was permitted by Harris to proceed.

Despite numerous pre-trial delaying motions by Recology's attorneys, a Washington, D.C.-headquartered firm of 1,000 or so lawyers, Mc Veigh's *qui tam* action was tried to a San Francisco Superior Court jury last month. (His wrongful discharge suit against Recology, Inc. will commence before a San Francisco Superior Court jury on September 8, 2014.) Besides cheating California of taxpayer money, Mc Veigh's suit involves fraudulent payments by San Francisco's Environment Health Office of \$1,300,000 to Recology, Inc. in 2008 as a recycling "bonus." Recology's contract, awarded, of course, without competitive bidding, authorizes a bonus payment for any year in which citywide recycling supposedly surpasses a predetermined amount. After three weeks of grueling trial, and seven days of jury deliberations, on June 9, 2014, an honest whistleblower and his dogged attorneys achieved success. The jury found that Recology, Inc. had defrauded San Francisco taxpayers in 2008 regarding recycling quantities, and awarded damages of \$1,300,000 to McVeigh, who is entitled to receive some of such money for having the guts to bring legal action, and the remainder to city taxpayers. Under California law, Recology, Inc. must pay interest at 10% per year from 2008, the year of its false bonus claim, on \$1,300,000, or about \$780,000 more, and attorneys' fees of Messers. Scott and Anton, which will be considerable. Moreover, California law mandates trebling of the \$1,300,000 fraudulent payment to Recology, Inc. by the Environment Health Office, which means a verdict of \$4,900,000, plus interest and legal fees.

Regrettably, the jury decided in Recology's favor on the charge of cheating the State. McVeigh's lawyers intend to file and pursue a motion for judgment on that charge notwithstanding the jury verdict; Recology's attorneys will surely file a similar motion to upset the verdict against their client. Such motions will be heard on July 24, 2014 by the same judge who presided over the trial.

Did you read anything about this case in the *Chronicle*, *Examiner*, even the *Guardian* or *San Francisco Weekly*? I didn't. No one did. Gone are the investigative reporting days of Charles McCabe, Dick Nolan, Russ Cone, Bruce Brugmann, Tim Redmond, Lance Williams, Arthur Caylor, much less Ambrose Bierce or Mark Twain. While interviewing Mc Veigh's lawyers, I was vexed by the assertion that the City Attorney "could have helped (Mc Veigh's lawyers) but didn't." I also note that under the business-as-usual atmosphere at City Hall, ratepayers will probably foot the bill for Recology, which in its next rate increase will include this judgment of nearly \$6,000,000 against it in its cost of operation. The Director of the Department of Public Works routinely grants Recology its costs plus about 10% as profit.

Meanwhile, the Mayor and Board of Supervisors are on their way to enacting by July 31 an annual budget of \$8,600,000,000! On June 23, the City Tax Collector reported that the payroll tax exemption conferred by the Mayor and Board of Supervisors upon Twitter and similarly situated companies in Mid-Market resulted in revenue decrease of \$4,200,000. In 2011 and 2012, total payroll tax not collected from Twitter was \$1,900,000. In 2011 the estimated uncollected payroll tax from Twitter was \$22,000,000 over the six-year exemption period, exclusive of payroll tax on stock options. A CPA last year estimated such tax break as \$56,000,000 if stock options were included. As some readers may recall, for years on the Board of Supervisors, I tried to eliminate the payroll tax, which represents illogic, meaning every time you hire an employee you pay city government a tax for doing so. Consider businesses not located Mid-Market who pay the payroll tax while Twitter *et al* do not. Because of litigation against the City, the payroll tax has been abandoned as part of the resuscitated gross receipts tax. The point is that "tax breaks" for businesses inevitably create disparity between businesses favoring politicians' business du jour, and not others. It's political expediency, for which City Hall politicians, beginning with the Mayor, are obviously experts.

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



A Taste of What's Possible

By Keith Burbank

Last month's first-ever event "A Taste of West Portal" drew residents and visitors to West Portal Avenue for food and entertainment, and to the West Portal Playground for canine contests.

"Our goal was accomplished," said Tammi Scott-Wigens, an organizer of the event and owner of West Portal's S. Marco Fine Leather. The goal was to triple foot traffic along the avenue.

"People were having a lot of fun," she said. Anyone walking along the avenue would probably agree. Along with food, sponsors brought out the brass band and the circus.

St. Gabriel's Celestial Brass Band played a variety of tunes, stopping at various locations, and circus performers walked a tight wire in front of 345 West Portal Avenue, a property owned by Mary Ravetti. Earlier, in front of the library, a man juggled to a captive crowd.

"This is so wonderful," Ravetti said of the event. "It's a long time coming." Besides

“Merchants won't stop talking about ways to bring more business to the commercial district and make little-known West Portal a destination.”—Mary Ravetti

bringing visitors to the neighborhood, Ravetti said it's a great way for merchants to meet and get galvanized. Merchants won't stop talking about ways to bring more business to the commercial district and make little-known West Portal a destination. Ravetti says visitors can experience all of San Francisco on the West Portal corridor.

"We call it [West Portal] the light at the end of the tunnel," she said.

The canine events drew about 50 people, about half of which live in other neighborhoods. Dogs and their owners participated in contests for cutest dog, best costume and best trick. Alan Berezin's 10-year-old Chow Chow won the cutest dog contest. The Chow Chow's purple tongue held sway over one judge's opinion.

Judges included District 8 Supervisor Scott Wiener, San Francisco Assessor-Recorder Carmen Chu and District 7 Supervisor Norman Yee. Chu is a former District 4 supervisor.

"Hopefully it [the Taste] will be bigger next year," said Cynthia Pereira, who's 11-year-old Samoyed, named Miss Zuree, walked the red carpet in the cutest dog contest. Pereira grew up in West Portal, and currently has family in the neighborhood.

On the avenue before the canine contests, Jose Calvo-Perez was serving visitors samples of nouveau Peruvian cuisine outside Fresca, his restaurant at 24 West Portal Avenue. "It's good," the chef and owner said of the Taste of West Portal. "Not bad for the first time." Calvo-Perez thinks the event will have its intended effect of improving business on the corridor.

"I couldn't ask for more," said Maryo Mogannam, president, West Portal Merchants Association, the event's main sponsor. The avenue was as busy as he's ever seen. The weather cooperated. "It's the buzz and the vibe you see," he said, reflecting on the feelings people seemed to be sharing during the day.

Keith Burbank is a local journalist.



Nancy's Naughty Numbers

The Mayor's Spending Plan

By Nancy Wuerfel

It's budget season down at City Hall, so most citizens could use some help understanding the ways the Mayor proposes to spend our \$8,567,000,000 budget. Over half of the budget will be used to pay for salaries and benefits of the 28,497 city employees, totaling \$4,331,000,000. The *average expense per employee* is \$151,985 (this is not a typo, see page 24 of proposed budget). The rest of the money will be spent in cost categories listed as "Non-personnel" Operating Costs - 22.6%; Debt Service - 11.5%; Capital & Equipment - 5.5%; Grants - 4.8%; Aid Assistance - 4.2%; Reserves - 2.6%; Facilities Maintenance - 0.8%; with a "credit" of 2.6% from Recoveries and Overhead.

...since the Board of Supervisors must approve the budget in July, one can assume that your Supervisor understands it well enough to explain it to you if you have any questions."

BROAD EXPENSE CATEGORIES	Proposed Allocation	Personnel (FTEs)
public works, transportation, commerce	\$3,033,000,000	9,282
community health	\$1,947,000,000	6,276
public protection	\$1,299,000,000	6,359
human welfare, neighborhood development	\$1,038,000,000	2,218
general administration & finance	\$444,000,000	2,540
culture & recreation	\$326,000,000	1,822
"general city responsibilities"	\$72,000,000	no employees
TOTALS	\$8,567,000,000	28,497

The expenses of the 52 city departments are grouped into 6 broad categories, plus the behind-the-scenes catchall of "General City Responsibilities" that funds the expenses we voters approve such as GO Bond debt service, retirees health benefits trust fund, reserves, grants, and many more obscure fiscal costs. The table shows the proposed budget allocations (all amounts are rounded) with the number of funded positions. Please note that the most often cited category of "where your taxes go" - Culture and Recreation (libraries, parks, museums) - has the least amount of funding. If you need more detail on the budget, the whole thing is online through the Controller's Office website. Also, since the Board of Supervisors must approve the budget in July, one can assume that your Supervisor understands it well enough to explain it to you if you have any questions.

Ms. Wuerfel is a government fiscal analyst and served for 9 years on the Park, Recreation, Open Space Advisory Committee (PROSAC).

Billionaire's Ballot Initiative Takeover Scam

By Kathrine Howard

A few months ago, a coalition of grassroots park activists filed to put an initiative on the November ballot. Its goal is to give the public the opportunity to vote a simple "yes" or "no" on putting artificial turf and stadium lights in the western section of Golden Gate Park.

Suddenly, at the end of June, the Board of Supervisors (BOS) and the Mayor, with the support of the Department of Recreation and Park and the private City Fields Foundation, filed a befuddling counter-measure.

This is a typical election-time trick — initiative opponents who know they cannot win fair and square will often submit a confusing counter-measure. This is especially true when initiative opponents do polling and get adverse results. Their goal is to tilt the playing field by introducing a nifty-sounding counter-measure.

But beware — this new BOS initiative is not just about Golden Gate Park. This new initiative applies to what is going to happen to ALL of our parks. It also has implications for San Franciscans' rights to be respected and their opinions heard on park issues.

But beware — this new BOS initiative is not just about Golden Gate Park. This new initiative applies to what is going to happen to ALL of our parks. It also has implications for San Franciscans' rights to be respected and their opinions heard on park issues."

We'll provide more analysis once we get a chance to thoroughly review this strange and wondrous initiative.

Undoubtedly there will be a flood of flashy ads supporting this new ballot initiative. Meanwhile, we suggest you wait to make up your mind until there is more information about the full impact of this measure.

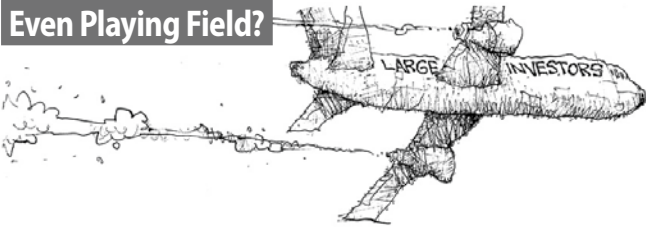
Let's find out exactly what this BOS initiative means for your neighborhood park, and for all of our parks and open space.

Websites:
The ballot Initiative to protect Golden Gate Park: Coalition to Protect Golden Gate Park www.protectggp.org
Beach Chalet soccer fields background and info on the ballot initiative: SF Ocean Edge: www.sfoceanedge.org
BOS initiative - no website at this time. But with billionaire funding behind this, expect a grand website and a major publicity push.

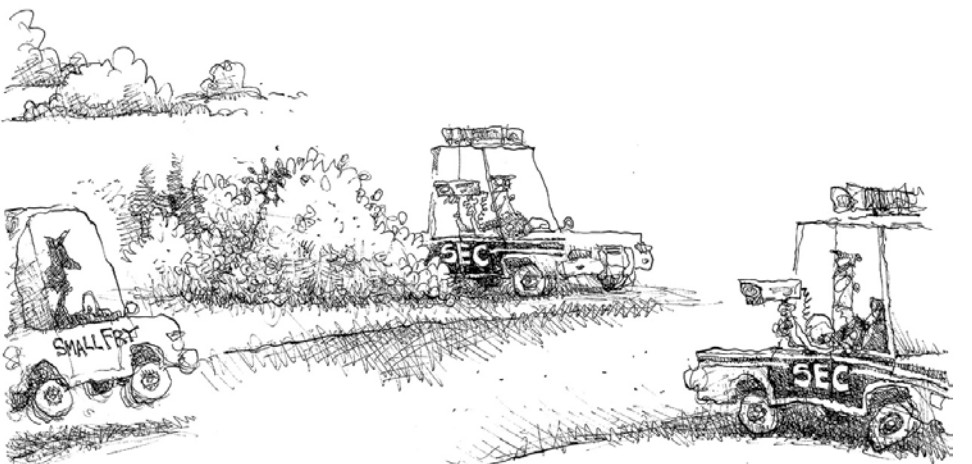
Katherine Howard, ASLA, Landscape Architect, Golden Gate Park Preservation Alliance, www.goldengateparkpreservation.org



Even Playing Field?



MAT DAVIES
2014
REMAINING
DARTERS



My 2¢ • Will Durst

HOW TO WATCH THE WORLD CUP.

The refrain has echoed across the globe our entire lives. "The World Cup Is The Most Exciting Sporting Event On The Face Of The Planet. Bigger than the Super Bowl, Stanley Cup and World Series combined and go ahead, throw in the next Star Wars movie especially with Carrie Fischer and Harrison Ford dragging their walkers through it."

We Americans should be congratulated for finally growing up and stopping with the mocking, "Oh, really. Soccer? So what's the second most exciting sporting event on the planet then, the Norwegian Army Widows Seal Clubbing Tournament? Does the Desert Tricycle-Built-for-2 Marathon Relay Seniors Tour come in third?"

No. We're sophisticated now. Look at the huge leaps Major League Soccer has made in the last couple years, easily propelling itself to 8th or 9th most popular team sport in the country, right behind football, basketball, baseball, hockey, bowling, beach volleyball, polo and lacrosse. And maybe badminton. Jai Alai. And in some regions, cow tipping and pie eating.

But whether you call it soccer, futbol or boring, Pele got it right when he called it: "O jogo bonito." The Beautiful Game. We occasional spectators from the Estados Unidos just need to learn how to watch the darn thing.

HOW TO WATCH THE 2014 WORLD CUP.

Choose a team to root for. Every match. Pick the land of your ancestors. Or the land next to the land of your ancestors. Teams from your own hemisphere. Orange is your favorite color. Been there. Always wanted to go there. But always root for the underdog, because that could include us.

Choose teams to root against. Hiss and boo the squads whose victory would impede your favorite's progress or just root against overbearing bullying countries. Which again, could include us. Root against the country that invaded the land of your ancestors. Or go traditional, and root against the Axis powers. Or some of the more obstreperous Allies.

The World Cup should be watched with people. Preferably at a bar frequented by the countrymen of the team you're rooting for. But do some research. You don't want to show up at a French bar in Italian colors. As simple as wearing green instead of blue.

If you must watch it at home, turn on Univision, not ESPN. The announcers are much more entertaining. You know the guy who goes "GOOOOOOAL" when someone scores? He screams like that all the time: at a penalty, when someone almost scores, even when players trip and fall, clutching their face like they were sliced by a machete. Which is not flopping. Its injury simulation.

You need a big ass TV. The bigger the better. 70 inches is a good start. Because soccer is fond of cameras fastened to the inside edge of the International Space Station.

Make your own red and yellow cards and hold them up when you need snacks or beer. Really makes non-watchers feel part the game.

Complain about the refereeing. Every knowledgeable fan does. These guys don't speak the same language as the players. But they do have spray paint. Which is so cool. Something the NFL might want to consider.

And go USA. And anybody who plays the country that invaded the land of your ancestors. Which, once again, could be us.

Will Durst is an award-winning, nationally acclaimed political comic. Go to willdurst.com to find about more about his new one-man show "Boomeraging: From LSD to OMG," info about the upcoming documentary film "3 Still Standing," and a calendar guide to personal appearances.

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PO Box 27176, SF 94127 • 415 517-6331

www.westsideobserver.com

Publisher/Editor: Mitch Bull
mitch@westsideobserver.com

Editor: Doug Comstock
editor@westsideobserver.com

Ad Sales • Mitch Bull

Contributors:

Linda Ayres-Frederick, Kevin Birmingham, Brian Browne, Mitch Bull, Keith Burbank, Julie Casson, Matt Davies, Will Durst, John Farrell, Susan Hartman, Flora Lynn Isaacson, Joanne Jordan, Jack Kaye, Dr. Derek Kerr, Dr. Carol Kocivar, Quentin Kopp, Steve Lawrence, Barbara Meskunas, Deanna Micros, Brandon Miller, Don Lee Miller, Patrick Monette-Shaw, Sergio Nibbi, Alix Ottiz, Dr. Maria Rivero, George Wooding. Photos: Luke Thomas.

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Fate of Parkmerced Awaits Court Of Appeals Decision

By Glenn Rogers, PLA and Aaron Goodman

On Monday, May 19, 2014, the Court of Appeals heard oral arguments regarding the case of *Parkmerced vs. the City and County of San Francisco*. The judges that presided over the case were Justice Tony Cline, James Richman and by special assignment, Alameda County Superior Court Judge Steve Brick. These three judges will decide the fate of *Parkmerced*; no jury will be present. Lawyer Stuart Flashman represented San Francisco Tomorrow and Parkmerced Action Coalition, while Deputy City Attorney Brian Crossman represented the City and County of San Francisco as well as the project's sponsor, Parkmerced Investment Partners.

The courtroom seats 100 people. The space is impressive, with a ceiling at least 30' high and well lit. A large mural, painted by Willard Dixon, was the backdrop behind the judges. The pastoral scene in the Central Valley portrayed a simpler time, before large farmers tilled the land, when water languished on site and when fences were not required. (1) The majestic nature of the architecture imposed a formal demeanor on those witnessing the hearing. The importance of the decision by the court was on everyone's mind. That being said, notes were being taken by many of those present.

Prior to the meeting the judges read the arguments presented by both parties; they asked the presentation lawyers to emphasize particular points they felt important. Stuart Flashman spoke extemporaneously in a conversational convincing style that was easy to understand.

City Attorney, Brian Crossman, presented his argument, that was short and difficult to understand.

Proposition M

The most convincing argument made by Stuart Flashman referenced Proposition M, passed by the voters in 1986, limiting the amount of development in San Francisco. Flashman argued that the will of voters trumps the authority of the Board of Supervisors (BOS) and the Planning Commission regarding development policy; the Proposition M building restriction would apply to new construction at *Parkmerced*. The City Attorney disagreed, stating that the vote of the people has no greater standing than laws originating with the BOS; this was a view challenged by Justice Cline. However, the Judge thought that perhaps Proposition M might not be able to meet all of its overall objectives because several priorities could be in conflict with each other. He asked attorney Flashman what should happen then. Flashman said that the voters intended that if a project couldn't meet all the policies, it should be turned down. Even if the project was essential to meet one of the policies, he said the voters intended maximum possible compliance, not merely that the project "generally comply," as the City argued.

Other arguments presented by Stuart Flashman included the recognition of *Parkmerced* as an historic landmark. As such, it should receive protection under the San Francisco General Plan.

Numerous prestigious organizations involved with the preservation of historic places have endorsed the protection of Parkmerced. Moreover, Stuart Flashman also noted that neighborhood character and housing affordability are protected by proposition M.

Therefore, *Coit Tower*, *Chinatown*, and our Victorian housing stock located beside *Alamo Square* and elsewhere all need our protection. The parallel being made was that these unique places, which everyone would agree need protection, should include *Parkmerced*. After all, *Parkmerced* is a shining example of the "Modern" design movement, designed by Thomas Church, the "father" of landscape architecture in the Bay area. Parkmerced is special for this reason, not to mention it being the largest affordable housing development in San Francisco, one of Church's largest projects, and a project that is easily accessible to the public.

.....
If City Attorney Brian Crossman's assertion is true that Proposition M has no ability to influence building policy today, then what about Proposition B, passed by voters in the last election, which concerns building height along the waterfront?..."

Lastly, in his data section, Flashman noted that the FAR (floor to area ratio) and the I-27 and I-2 sections of the housing element tables provide little information from the planning department regarding development guidelines. Suggestions for reasonable or recommended density levels, population density, building intensity, transportation effectiveness and other requirements for successful development are excluded.

Arguments presented by Brian Crossman, the City Attorney, included the belief that development would be seriously hampered if San Francisco accepted the position set forth by Stuart Flashman. In agreement with the City Attorney, Judge Cline volunteered the belief that "chaos" would occur if Proposition M was strictly adhered

to; Judge Brick volunteered his fear that the City would be frozen in amber with the strict interpretation of

Proposition M. Flashman countered that a strict interpretation of Proposition M would not stop other development, if the public was in agreement with the new project.

As a point of reference, a number of past cases were mentioned, by lawyers and judges, to guide the court. The cases mentioned included Harris vs. County of Riverside, Landon vs. Denver, Gorret vs. City of Riverside, and the Arnel Development vs. City of Costa Mesa.

The head judge, Tony Cline, noted that the case was complex. At the close of argument, the court took the case under submission for consideration. A written decision is expected to be issued sometime this summer.

AUTHOR'S VIEWPOINT:

If City Attorney Brian Crossman's assertion is true that Proposition M has no ability to influence building policy today, then what about Proposition B, passed by voters in the last election, which concerns building height along the waterfront? Does Crossman's logic imply that Proposition B also has no more standing than the momentary whim of the Planning Commission or the Board of Supervisors?

It is unfortunate that a court case that will dramatically affect the lives of all San Franciscans was not attended by the corporate media. If this case is decided upon unfavorably, Highway One (19th Avenue) will become a construction zone for years into the future, while a troubled MUNI will attempt to design and implement a plan to transport an additional 17,000 Parkmerced residents. Doesn't anyone else think this is important news?

Lastly, it is worth noting, this case comes at a critical time for San Francisco, when pressure for development is at its greatest, when working class families are fleeing San Francisco in large numbers, and when San Francisco is becoming increasingly less affordable.

Glenn Rogers, PLA, Landscape Architect, License 3223, Aaron Goodman



Supervisor Chiu: Rezone Residential Housing to Commercial Housing

By George Wooding

Strike two for Board of Supervisors president David Chiu. Chiu and his downtown allies are once again trying to pass legislation to rezone all of San Francisco.

Many homeowners will remember that Chiu rezoned the entire city in a poorly written and ineffective legislative attempt to regulate secondary housing units. Thanks to Chiu, San Francisco's in-law units became legalized throughout the City last April.

Neighborhoods that did not want legalized secondary units were not listened to and are being forced to relinquish their neighborhood character by adding density, permanent rent controlled units, increased traffic, less parking, higher building permit fees, larger housing footprints, and the destruction of neighborhood association bylaws.

Chiu's pending legislation to "*Regulate Short term Rentals and Protect Residential Housing*" — otherwise known as Airbnb legislation — would regulate a resident's ability to rent their principal place of housing on a short-term basis. Currently, residential apartments cannot be rented for fewer than 30 days under San Francisco's Administrative and Planning Codes.

Chiu's new legislation is weak and designed to favor the wealthy Internet companies that rent housing to tourists — not to favor San Francisco neighborhoods, or to preserve housing and rental stock.

Chiu took over a year to develop his Airbnb legislation by working with tenant organizations, developers, and tourist rental groups such as Airbnb. Chiu ignored



the neighborhoods' input when he developed his secondary unit legislation and it looks like he will again be ignoring the neighborhoods with his Airbnb legislation.

Why can't David Chiu let the neighborhoods decide what is best for each individual neighborhood, housing type, or zone?

"The proposed Airbnb legislation would rezone the entire city from residential zoning to commercial zoning in one fell swoop," said John Bardis, former President of the Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods and former San Francisco Supervisor. "We hear complaints from almost every neighborhood about the detrimental effects of short-term rentals on the quality of life of tenants and residents," Bardis adds.

.....
Property owners and tenants alike have to understand how Supervisor David Chiu's weak Airbnb legislation will reduce housing, hurt San Francisco's hotel industry, displace hotel worker jobs, and impact neighborhoods in the long-term."

When Chiu passed his secondary unit legislation, he was supposedly trying to create two-unit homes throughout the City. Now, his Airbnb legislation could fill those units with tourists.

The Airbnb trend has led to evictions, lease violations, and landlord-tenant disputes. Neighbors are concerned about security linked to ever-changing overnight visitors. Policymakers say San Francisco's tight housing

market will be pressured more if units are held back for tourist stays.

Supervisor David Campos, Chiu's opponent in the November race for the Assembly District 17, has documented lobbying reports showing 61 contacts between representatives of Airbnb — including former City Hall insiders David Owen and Alex Tourk — and Chiu's office.

The Tail That Wags the Dog

How much of Chiu's Airbnb legislation was influenced by Ron Conway, the billionaire high-tech investor who is a partial owner of Airbnb? Not only is Conway Mayor Lee's biggest financial backer, he is heavily involved in Chiu's District 17 Assembly race.

In mid-May Reid Hoffman — another billionaire who invests in Airbnb — announced a \$200,000 donation against David Campos to an independent expenditure group called the *Committee to Hold David Campos Accountable*, a group whose only other named donor is Gayle Conway, wife of tech investor Ron Conway.

Filings with the California Secretary of State confirm Gayle Conway also donated \$49,000 to the independent expenditure fund. As the District 17 Assembly race between Chiu and Campos narrows, the Committee to Hold David Campos Accountable has started mailing out hit pieces against David Campos.

Chiu's politically compromised version of Airbnb legislation has led a group of concerned citizens to try and place the "*City and County of San Francisco Ordinance Regulating Illegal Use of Housing for Tourist Accommodations*" on the November ballot.

This new proposal is much tougher than the Airbnb legislation proposed by Supervisor Chiu.

Although San Francisco is facing its most severe housing shortage in more than 100 years, an increasing

Perp-Walk At Laguna Honda

By Dr. Maria Rivero and Dr. Derek Kerr

A flurry of anxious-joyful messages from Laguna Honda Hospital (LHH) insiders pinged our cell-phones last month. On Friday May 30th, Laguna Honda's Chief Operating Officer (COO) Mike Llewellyn was escorted out of his office by Human Resources officials and CEO Mivic Hirose. We were told that his computer hard-drive was seized – perhaps by “the Feds”, and that the institutional police perp-walked him out of the building. Sources who insist on anonymity for fear of retaliation whispered that the computers of his deputies, Diana Kenyon and John Lee were also seized. However, these two were temporarily assigned his duties. A week later, LHH blocked Llewellyn's access to every door of the buildings he had overseen. Another Laguna Honda scandal?

Our e-mail to Llewellyn on 6/4/14 automatic “out of office for an unspecified length of time” response. We contacted CEO Hirose, whose representative confirmed that Llewellyn had been placed on Administrative Leave on 6/2/14, but denied a raid by the Feds. We then requested any notice sent by Hirose to her staff about Llewellyn's departure. LHH replied “no responsive records” and wouldn't provide answers about a personnel matter. Tellingly, LHH referred further inquiries to the Department of Public Health information Officer. Taking damage-control out of the hands of LHH's bumbling CEO is a sure sign of an erupting scandal.

What about the computer seizures? Did Llewellyn resign? Was he fired? Who replaced him? To these questions, the DPH responded on 6/11/14, “any current personnel actions would be confidential.” At the same time, the FBI denied any interven-



Mike Llewellyn



Mivic Hirose

received an e m e r g e d from the bowels of SFGH where he had toiled as an undistinguished but bossy engineer since 1991. He reached the pinnacle of his SFGH career as Maintenance Supervisor in 2006. In 2008, he was hauled into LHH as Facilities Director by a then-struggling CEO, John Kanaley, and former Health Director Mitch Katz, who wanted to stuff LHH with SFGH loyalists.

Katz had previously dispatched Kanaley, another lackluster SFGH engineer, to “kick some ass” during Laguna Honda's revolt against the 2004 Flow Project. Predictably, CEO Kanaley found himself over his head, then felled by a stress-related heart attack in March 2009 at age 51. Katz then fingered an obeisant Mivic Hirose, an LHH Nursing Director with the requisite SFGH pedigree, to fill

“...turmoil at Laguna Honda ... is related to the replacement of competent managers with apparatchiks. Llewellyn's implosion exposes the fault-lines under Laguna Honda's occupation - and Hirose's tenure.”

tions at LHH. Finally on 6/20/14, Human Resources confirmed that Llewellyn had resigned, while the DPH divulged that CEO Hirose was “currently assuming the COO responsibilities.” Oddly, there were no documents announcing this important development.

Although LHH is abuzz with gossip and rumors about Llewellyn's downfall, informants tell us that their department managers have been tight-lipped, evasive, misleading or feigning ignorance. They seem scared. Since the ouster of the pug-nacious Communications Director Marc Slavin in June 2013, and the mysterious leave of his successor, Judith Klain, a former Project Homeless Connect director, hospital communications have deteriorated under Hirose. For example, Laguna Honda's website stagnates with bogus photos, portraits of long-gone residents and staff, and Community Events from 2011-12. The hospital's *Grapevine* newsletter is gone. Even the patient newsletter, *The Voice*, is silent. Inarticulate in person, furtive and prone to flee when questioned by journalists, Hirose's public statements are scripted confessions. Questions about her management are viewed as threats. That's why *l'affaire Llewellyn* is clamped under a cone of silence. It prompts questions about how much Hirose knew, and when, and if she didn't know - why not?

Absent a coherent explanation for the departure of Laguna's COO, rumors are running amok. Repeatedly however, we hear that contract bids had been leaked to a favored contractor beginning in 2010. In October 2013, the Controller's Office investigated complaints about contracting procedures at SFGH and LHH. As of 6/16/14, however, “no restrictions have been imposed on vendors doing business at Laguna Honda” per Deputy Controller Monique Zmuda. Llewellyn's forced resignation on 6/20/14 may be a first step.

Subordinates who describe Llewellyn as a bully, devious, and arrogant view his downfall as Karma. Still, it's an ignominious finale for Laguna's #2 official who earned \$173,742 in 2012-13. Llewellyn

Kanaley's boots. That would enable Katz to plant another SFGH acolyte - with Kanaley's Big Daddy demeanor - within Laguna Honda's inner circle.

In November 2009, an under-qualified Mike Llewellyn snagged the COO position “because Mitch Katz said so” according to former LHH managers. The job qualifications were reportedly shrunk to fit Llewellyn's abilities, despite the misgivings of Selection Committee members. With Hirose's OK, Llewellyn replaced former COO Gayling Gee, who had been forced out for protesting the closure of LHH's Adult Day Health Care program. Before Llewellyn was installed, Hirose and Katz temporarily foisted SFGH's clueless COO upon Laguna Honda. That fellow brashly proclaimed a “Soda Free Summer at Laguna Honda” - a paternalism that sparked outrage and an unprecedented rejection by the Residents' Council.

Intolerant of managers who questioned his decisions, Katz boosted obsequious ones regardless of their capabilities. That's why John Kanaley replaced Larry Funk as CEO, and why Mivic Hirose supplanted Mary Louise Fleming as Director of Nursing in late 2004. Hirose's servile adulation of Katz was the key to the CEO office after Kanaley's demise, but she lacked his overbearing presence. By flanking Hirose with Mike Llewellyn as COO and Marc Slavin as Communications Director, Katz had the centurions to quell opposition to his Flow Project and cronyism.

Management turmoil at Laguna Honda since the 2004 Flow Project is related to the replacement of competent managers with *apparatchiks*. Llewellyn's implosion exposes the fault-lines under Laguna Honda's occupation - and Hirose's tenure.

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

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Questions? Call Juan Gonzales at 415-239-3446

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Chiu Rezoning (Cont. from p. 5)

number of apartments, condominiums, houses, and portions thereof are offered and advertised as short-term rentals on websites such as Airbnb and VRBO. In recent months, the number of such listings has exceeded 9,000. These listings contribute greatly to the disappearance of affordable housing in San Francisco.

A single-day sample commissioned by the *San Francisco Chronicle* showed 4,798 rental listings posted by Airbnb, the biggest online source. Chiu's proposed legislation would legalize casual rentals, require payment of a 14 percent bed tax, and limit the number of nights that can be rented. In April, Airbnb pledged to collect the bed tax to meet criticism here and in other cities.

Chiu's pending Airbnb legislation would regulate a resident's ability to rent his housing. Whereas Chiu's legislation would legalize short-term rentals city-wide, a ballot initiative gathering signatures to qualify for the November ballot will restrict temporary, short-term rentals only in neighborhoods currently zoned as commercial districts. The ballot measure was initiated by former San Francisco Planning Commissioner Doug Engmann, housing advocate Calvin Welch, and public relations executive Dale Carlson.

“It is a backdoor rezoning of every residential neighborhood in San Francisco, and it undermines years of housing advocacy work in San Francisco and shows an arrogant disregard of established land use procedure,” said well known housing advocate Calvin Welch.

Among other things, the proposed ballot measure will prohibit four types of residential units from being offered as short-term rental:

- Any unit that has received affordable housing funds from any state, local, or federal agency, including down payment loan assistance;
- Any unit that has been the subject

of an Ellis Act eviction (where the owner takes the unit out of the rental market);

- Any in-law unit; and
- Any affordable housing unit.

Property owners and tenants alike have to understand how Supervisor David Chiu's weak Airbnb legislation will reduce housing, hurt San Francisco's hotel industry, displace hotel worker jobs, and impact neighborhoods in the long-term.

Chiu fooled the neighborhoods once with his citywide secondary unit housing legislation and now he is on the verge of rezoning the entire city from residential to commercial zoning.

Does David Chiu represent a couple of billionaires, or the people of San Francisco? Voters — whether homeowners or renters — must decide two key issues at the ballot box: First, whether to allow Chiu's Airbnb legislative ordinance regulating short-term rentals to stand unchallenged, or to support the Engmann-Welch-Carlson ballot measure to reign in Chiu's wild rezoning of the entire City.

And second, whether to elect Chiu or Campos to become the next Assemblyperson for District 17.

To the extent the November 2013 defeat of the 8 Washington development project and the June 2014 victory requiring voter approval of height-limit exemptions along the waterfront were both referendums against decisions approved by the Board of Supervisors, the November 2014 ballot measure to overturn Chiu's Airbnb legislation will be another referendum against Chiu himself. Is Chiu really who you want representing San Francisco in the State Assembly?

Please support the signature gathering process for the “*San Francisco Ordinance Regulating Illegal Use of Housing for Tourist Accommodations*.”

George Wooding, Midtown Terrace Homeowners Association

WEST OF TWIN PEAKS CENTRAL COUNCIL *By Mitch Bull*

It was a tale of two meetings...it was the best of times, it was the ...you get the point. It was a time of elections and of planning for the November election with groups trying to square off with the Metropolitan Transportation Authority; the Airbnb situation; secondary units; Children and Families, and the MTA pushing their own initiative. Add in a pinch of burglary, some open space dialogue, and a board election and voila, a recipe for the final two WOTPCC meetings of their year.

In the first WOTPCC meeting on June 2, **President Matt Chamberlain** asked the delegates to go back to their respective associations to see if the organizations are willing to help the WOTPCC pay for the costs of a **lawsuit over the secondary unit legislation** that was recently passed by the SF Board of Supervisors. The council feels that the legislation effectively guts the concept of neighborhood R-1 zoning, and countermands existing CCRs established to promote neighborhoods over the last 60+ years.

George Wooding reported on the efforts that Supervisor Mark Farrell is undertaking to try and get **Laura's Law on the November ballot**. The law would compel those who need psychological treatment and medications to receive them, with some semi-forceful assistance from the City. Wooding also noted that over the years the City has reduced the number of psych beds in hospitals by 80+%, so there is little space to fully implement the law.

Doug Engmann then spoke about the effort he is spearheading to put a ballot initiative together that would mandate a registration system for short-term rentals, where you would have to have insurance coverage and also have permission from the landlord to allow **short term rentals**. This ballot initiative would not legalize short-term rentals citywide. If people want Airbnb or VRBO in their neighborhood, they can go to the Planning Department and have the area rezoned for this. Rezoning should be done on a neighborhood-by-neighborhood basis, not by the citywide legislation that **Board President David Chiu** championed.

Currently, in SF, it is illegal to rent a unit for less than 30 days, but there are 14000 listings on Craigslist that match up with the internet sites. Sadly, the City is doing nothing about these types of rentals. Of course there are the horror stories that accompany this policy: landlords making money on short term rental units after evicting long-term tenants, etc.

Another ballot measure proposal was brought forth by **Jason Clark** and **Chris Bowman** to allow customers to give the MTA feedback on their policies, which tend to favor open space and non-drivers. The Mayor appoints the members of the SFMTA and they cannot be removed until their term is up. Currently, no one on the MTA board is a driver; all are MUNI riders. Not one is disabled. In addition, the MTA's budget cannot be amended with a line-item veto; the Board of Supervisors can only approve or reject the *entire budget*. The budget measure would call on the SFMTA to adhere to the following items: 1) **Free Sunday, holiday and after hours parking**; 2) **Freeze parking rates** for five years, then increase at

the rate for the cost of living; 3) A portion of new bond money would have to go towards **off-street parking garages**; and 4) **Equal enforcement of traffic laws** for cars, bikes and pedestrians. They are in the process of gathering signatures for the November ballot. It should be noted that the measure could win with 50% + 1 vote, but it is not binding and cannot force the SFMTA to make these changes; however it does let the people have their voices heard. The WOTPCC passed the motion to support the initiative by a 9-0 vote with 2 abstentions.

The meeting on June 23 featured much discussion and dialogue about **crime statistics** in the area, and the causes of why the D.A.'s office has not brought charges against an alleged burglar who was caught coming out of a second story window of a home on Murrieta Drive in Miraloma Park. **Asst. D.A. Rani Singh** explained that the neighbors and police did their jobs well, and the person was caught coming out of the window, but was not in possession of stolen goods. The D.A.'s office is continuing the investigation and wants to have all the facts in line before deciding to charge the individual. Obviously, this did not sit particularly well with the neighbors in attendance.

Ingleside Station Captain Tim Falvey addressed the gathering and stated that **crime is down about 28%** from last year. In addressing property crimes such as burglary, he said that although arrests for burglaries are down about 40%, once investigators gather other evidence, the number of search warrants are up, and arrests for stolen property have gone up by 60%. The Captain stated that many burglaries are committed by a few individuals, and when a pattern is detected and warrants are issued, in many cases when stolen property is recovered it is from several different homes.

Serial thieves are also responsible for auto thefts, where the Ingleside District ranks #1 in San Francisco. The Captain told the group to be diligent on not leaving laptops, phones and other valuables in plain site, and to remove the **garage door openers** when leaving the car. Burglars break into cars, take the openers and walk around trying the opener until they find a match and the garage opens.

Supervisor Norman Yee is also working on a November ballot initiative relating to school infrastructure entitled the **Children and Families First Initiative**.

SFMTA Chief Ed Reiskin was on hand to speak on the **Transportation 2030 Bond Initiative** and explained that the city



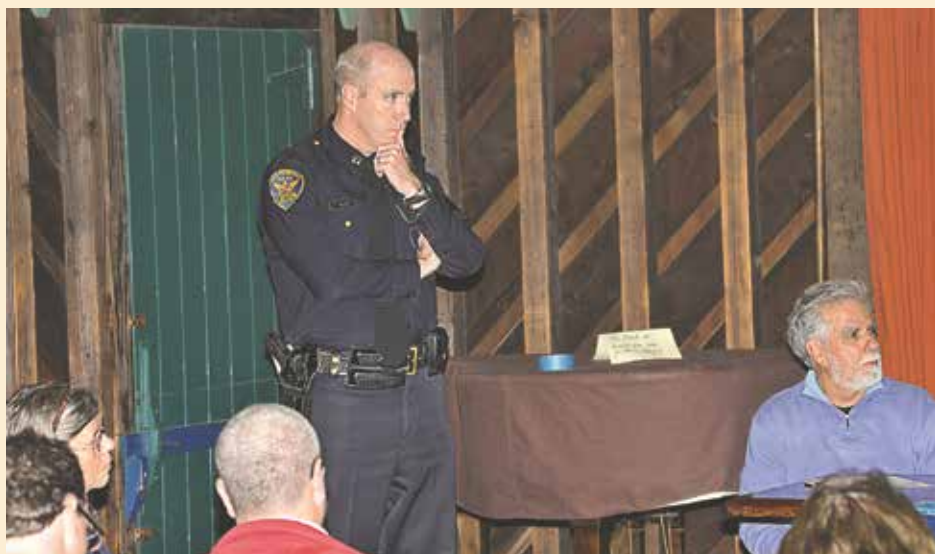
New Officers: President Roger Ritter, Treasurer, Carolyn Squeiri, Vice-President Sally Stephens, Secretary David Golden

has neglected investing in transportation infrastructure for several decades. Over the next 15 years, they estimate a need for \$10,000,000,000 to be invested, but the city has only \$3,500,000,000 committed dollars. This initiative, also on the November ballot, will be comprised of three measures that would create two funding sources for transportation projects; 1) A General Obligation Bond of \$500,000,000 to fund urgent projects and improve the infrastructure, without raising the property tax rates (but extending rates that are already in place); and 2) The restoration of the Vehicle License Fee to 2% to create a long-term project for funding transportation infrastructure projects in SF.

On a more local level, the WOTPCC elected **new Board officers for 2014-2015**. The council leadership will consist of the following members: **President: Roger Ritter; Vice President: Sally Stephens; Secretary: David Golden; and Carolyn Squeri** has agreed to continue as **Treasurer**.

In the final piece of business for the 2014 organizational year, the WOTPCC passed a motion to send a letter to the Board of Supervisors imploring them to vote NO on the ROSE (Recreational Open Space Elements) plan. Section 4.2 of the plan is considered to be very overreaching and effectively supports a "land grab" of private lands by the native plant activists, such as those taking private land for the Franciscan Manzanita ruse.

The next meeting of the WOTPCC will be on Monday, September 22nd at 7:30 PM at the historic Forest Hills Clubhouse. Summer break: there will be no meetings in July or August. www.westoftwinpeaks.org



Ingleside Station Captain Tim Falvey addressed the WOTPCC

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Money Matters • By Brandon Miller and Joanne Jordan

If You're in the Homestretch Before Retirement, It's Time to 'Floor it'

As people enter their 50s and early 60s, earnings from work or other income sources often begin to reach a peak. In many instances, this also happens at the same time some expenses decrease – people might not need to worry about college tuition costs for kids, or perhaps they paid off the home mortgage.

Based on all of these factors, people may have more discretionary money available during this period than at any other time in life. You may or may not find yourself in this exact situation, but one thing is clear – the last decade or two you spend working is a great opportunity to build financial security for retirement.

This fact seems to hit home as individuals reach their 50th birthday. There is a greater sense of urgency about finding ways to stash more money away for retirement savings – either in workplace plans like a 401(k) or other accounts such as an IRA. Whatever savings vehicle you use, it makes sense to set aside as much money as possible to protect the ability to enjoy your desired lifestyle in retirement.

“Once you reach age 50 you have more flexibility. Provisions in the tax code allow for “catch-up” contributions to these types of tax-advantaged savings plans.

Those nearing retirement have a chance to ‘catch up’

While tax laws may restrict how much money you can direct to a workplace savings plan or IRA on an annual basis, once you reach age 50 you have more flexibility. Provisions in the tax code allow for “catch-up” contributions to these types of tax-advantaged savings plans. Assuming you’ve earned sufficient income, in 2014 those who will reach age 50 and older can contribute:

- Up to \$23,000 to a traditional 401(k), 403(b) or most 457 plans. By comparison those under age 50 are limited to contributions of no more than \$17,500 per year.
- Up to \$14,500 to a SIMPLE 401(k) plan (compared to the standard limit of \$12,000).
- As much as \$6,500 per year to an IRA (either traditional or Roth IRA or a combination of the two). That’s \$1,000 more than is allowed for those under age 50.

The extra several thousand dollars you are allowed to invest in tax-deferred accounts can make a big difference if you take advantage of it year-after-year.

Making the most of your closing years of work

Maximizing retirement plan contributions and other savings targeted for retirement funding is critical as your working life winds down. It represents the last best chance for you to accumulate wealth to achieve your financial goals for your post-working years. Here are some things you might want to consider doing:

- Contribute as much as you can to your workplace savings plan. If your employer offers a matching contribution, you’ll want to at least contribute enough to fully capitalize on the match. If possible, contribute the maximum amount allowed.
- Add money to your IRA, and if possible, try to build some money in a Roth IRA to take advantage of the potential of tax-free withdrawals later in life.
- Set additional dollars aside in savings or brokerage accounts if you’ve maximized contributions to retirement accounts.

There are many variables to think about when it comes to planning for retirement. Consider talking with a financial professional to help make sure you’re on track for your specific retirement goals.

Brandon Miller, CFP and Joanne Jordan, CFP are financial consultants at Jordan Miller & Associates, 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.



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

with mayoral appointments. The last real Assessor was Sam Duca, who retired in 1988. I knew Sam and had the opportunity to work with him on several Assessor’s budgets when I worked for the Budget Analyst Office.

The City will receive a substantial increase in property tax revenue due to new construction going on all over the City, and due to transfer tax revenue from increased sales. But those who know the business know these positive increases in tax revenue over the years were made by Assessor staff in spite of these political Assessors. Based on my own experience and on discussions with former and current staff members, the office would do a much better job and increase revenues more if there was a qualified Assessor. In fact, the City would bring in tens and potentially hundreds of millions more in additional tax revenue annually if there was a professional, experienced and independent Assessor, not a politician.

The Assessor’s Office has been backlogged in New Construction for over ten years, as well as in Assessment Appeals, among many. Due to the substantial backlog in new construction, the State Board of Equalization (SBE) noted in their Report on the San Francisco City and County Practices Survey, dated June 2013, that there are lengthy delays in processing building permits and adding value due to the new construction, in numerous cases up to four years after the date of completion, resulting in delayed property tax bills for taxpayers, and delay in collection of tax revenue.

The Assessor’s job is to appraise in-progress new construction as of Jan 1. The SBE found ongoing projects over several years where the Assessor did not enroll any value, even though there was evidence of partially completed projects. The SBE noted that “the Assessor’s failure to assess new construction as of Jan 1st is contrary to statutory provisions and results in a loss in revenue and inaccurate assessments.”

Based on a small sample, the SBE also found many procedural deficiencies, and

noted “We found a number of parcels that were not assessed even though the Assessor was aware of the transfer.” Just think if they took a larger sample.

Over the past year I have written articles identifying close to \$200 million in tax revenue to the City that is not currently being appraised by the Assessor’s Office, such as the unconstitutional loophole in the Presidio Trust that tax exempts tenants; the non assessment of naming rights at AT&T Ballpark; the PG&E franchise fee by the SBE; and the appalling appeal by the Giants to the reduce its Ballpark value to \$140 million after building it in 2000 for over \$350 million, to name a few. If these high profile properties are not being assessed appropriately, than what about other properties in the city?

Where is the *Chronicle*? Where is the *Examiner*? Where is Harvey Rose? How can a Mayor approve a budget knowing there is this excessive backlog, and that property tax revenues are not being accounted for fairly and equitably? And by the way, we are only talking about the Assessor’s Office, and not taking into consideration other revenue generating departments.

Since the two term limit, the Assessor position has never been taken seriously, and has been considered a place where someone would be politically rewarded and retire at a high pension. However, since Phil Ting became an Assemblyman, it is now looked at as a stepping stone for higher office. I hope the current Assessor will take this opportunity to provide a professional environment, and not just use the position like her predecessors as a place to go for the termed out.

Keep in mind, a professional, qualified and independent Assessor means at least \$100 million more annually in tax revenue to the City.

Everyone should pay their fare share.

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

War on Motorists (Cont. from p. 1)

“car-less” San Francisco. These holier-than-thou know-it-alls have declared war on motorists by reengineering our streets, removing traffic lanes, eliminating off street and on street parking, raising meter and garage rates and ticket fines in the naïve belief that motorists will “see the light” and stop driving (or sell their cars out of the County), and take MUNI, bike, or walk to every destination within the City.

Not only are motorists and their passengers under attack, but also the City’s War on Motorists has caused collateral damage, adversely affecting a broad cross section of San Franciscans, for example, first responders such as police, fire and medical services, whose response times have increased due to difficulty navigating the City’s re-engineered and narrowed streets. Seniors and disabled who depend upon automobile transportation are finding it increasingly difficult to get around the City and have lost hundreds of white and blue curbs and the ability to get curb to curb service because of bike lanes. Small businesses and merchants operating on a 1% to 3% profit margin are losing money because their customers can’t find nearby parking, and instead shop in Daly City or Tanforan. Families can’t drive their kids to school on a timely basis because of the City’s re-engineered streets, traffic calming obstacles, increased traffic congestion and slower commute times. Even members of the Faith Based Community have to look at their watches repeatedly rather than worship unimpeded for fear that their cars may be ticketed or towed.

A good example of this lopsided policy making, or should I say politically motivated policy making, is the fact that

the SFMTA Board has approved a plan to remove all street parking on Polk Street from Market to California and install two bike lanes, and a tow-away zone from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. on the east side of Polk between California and Broadway, so bicyclists can continue unimpeded to the unknown destinations to the north. Two years from now, bicyclists (who largely don’t patronize the stores on Polk Street in the first place but are passersby), will be able to peddle safely and quickly up and down Polk, against the backdrop of boarded up storefronts. Additionally, there is talk of a proposal on the ballot to treble the Vehicle License Fee (which means that if your car is worth \$25,000, instead of paying \$162.50 a year, you will be paying \$500, all for the benefit of creating more bike lanes and making motorists lives all that much more difficult. Oh, and just in case I forget, there is being proposed a yet to be specified \$500,000,000 transportation general obligation bond measure, which is unlikely to provide any benefit to motorists.

Motorists already pay the majority of SF’s portion of the SFMTA Budget -- 23.82% versus 22.42% for riders, with 80% of the balance paid for by the Feds, State, and Regional Government through gas taxes. The people at City Hall can’t quite determine whether they want to continue to milk motorists for very nickel and dime that they can — or to draw and quarter them by making it impossible for them to drive in the City. In either account, the War on Motorists needs to come to a screeching halt.

The Restoring Transportation Balance Initiative proposes that it be City policy to:

Cont. p. 11

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Stroke Survival: Stroke Aftercare

By Anise J. Matteson

When I decided to write an issue of the 2011 Caring Boomers Newsletter addressing stroke, one of the topics included was the SaeboFlex®. Saint Francis Memorial Hospital conducted a seminar and candidate screening on August 8, 2011 offering a “revolutionary” new therapy to stroke patients—The SaeboFlex® device. At this time, they were the first and only hospital to offer the therapy. Saint Francis Memorial Hospital has had great success with this splint and expanded its outpatient program; therefore, I thought this topic would be of significant interest to readers. Shanna Humphrey, OT wrote the following article telling the readers what they need to know to make an informed decision for qualifying as a candidate for use of the SAEBO in occupational therapy sessions.

A Revolutionary New Therapy: The “Saebo Reach” Splint

Cerebral vascular accidents, or strokes, affect over 700,000 Americans each year. Many stroke survivors have a long-term loss of hand function and a resulting loss of independence. The Saebo Reach splint was designed by occupational therapists to address this type of injury.

Occupational therapists, similar to physical therapists, address arm weakness in stroke survivors. Occupational therapists focus on functional activities during therapy with the end goal of increasing a patient’s independence in daily activities. Prior to the Saebo splint, therapists had difficulty incorporating the affected hand and arm into treatment during stroke rehabilitation. This splint allows the patient to immediately incorporate the arm into therapeutic activities. Occupational therapists at Saint Fran-

Cerebral vascular accidents, or strokes, affect over 700,000 Americans each year. Many stroke survivors have a long-term loss of hand function and a resulting loss of independence. The Saebo Reach splint was designed by occupational therapists to address this type of injury.

cis have had specialized training to fit patients with the Saebo splint and to progress the patient using this splint as a therapeutic tool. Patients cannot order the splint on their own without assist from a trained therapist and can only receive this therapy from trained therapists.

The splint is based on documented research of the brain’s remarkable ability to “re-program” itself following a stroke. Saebo splints have been effective for patients up to 20 years after their stroke. The splint is custom fit for each person, and works on a

mechanical spring system. The splint opens the affected hand after the patient grasps, allowing the patient to incorporate the affected arm into functional activities. Repetitive practice of task-oriented, grasp and release activities can forge new pathways in the brain and result in increased hand and arm strength, control, and range of motion. The patient

wears the splint during therapy sessions and also during daily practice sessions at home.

Stroke survivors need to have some function in their affected side to be a candidate for this therapy. The person needs to be able to lift his arm at the shoulder joint at least 15 degrees, bend his elbow at least 15 degrees, and close his hand. The candidate does not need to be able to actively open the affected hand. The candidate will need a caregiver to assist them to put on the splint for the therapy at home. Medicare and some commercial insurances pay for 80-100% of the splint and the occupational therapy. Medi-Cal and Healthy San Francisco do not pay for the splint. The splint costs \$1600 without insurance coverage.

For the Saebo program, occupational therapy sessions usually last 1 hour, 2 times a week, for 3-6 months. To start O.T. at Saint Francis, a person needs a physician’s referral for “occupational therapy evaluation for Saebo splint.” Prior to calling, please verify from your insurance company if you are covered for occupational therapy and for the Saebo splint. Call (415) 353-6275 for an appointment.

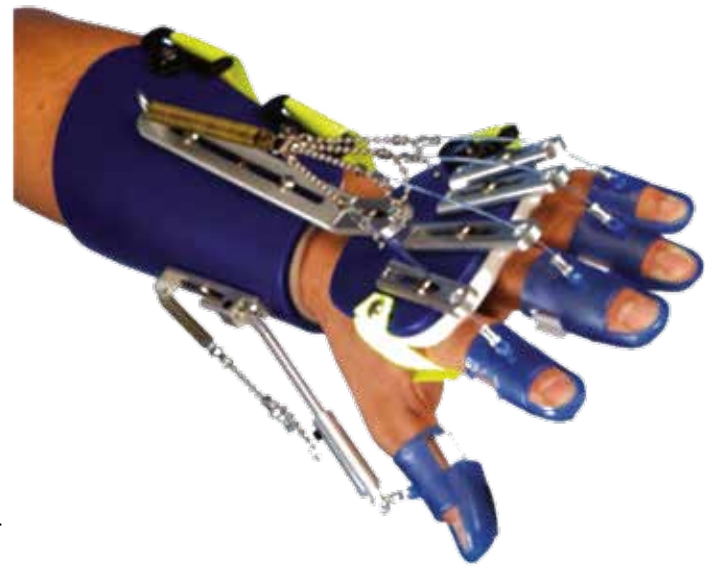
Please visit the Saebo company’s website for more information, research, and videos: www.saebo.com

©Information courtesy of Shanna Humphrey, Occupational Therapist.

Next Month: Stroke Survival Part III: Adaptive Clothing

Anise Matteson is an elder care consultant, retired Registered Health Information Technician, writer of reference books for seniors and Caring Boomers Newsletter ©2011, “Saint Francis Memorial Hospital the First to Offer A Revolutionary New Therapy.” Email: cfaalo@yahoo.com.

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War on Motorists (Cont. from p. 1)

- 1) Restore free street parking on all Sundays, Holidays, and between 6:00 p.m. and 9:00 a.m. daily.
- 2) Freeze meter and parking rates, tickets, and fines for five years (to make up for the 40% across the board increase the SFMTA Board imposed in 2009.
- 3) Not impose meters and the so-called "demand-responsive pricing" (\$.25 to \$.60/hr.) in neighborhoods where they don't currently exist except upon petition of the majority of households and merchants in the neighborhood.
- 4) Allocate a portion of new parking/vehicle fees and new bond monies to construct and operate new parking garages in

- our commercial districts.
- 5) Assure that any reengineering of the City's streets be based on providing greater safety and improving the flow of traffic.
 - 6) Enforce all the traffic laws for everyone using our streets and sidewalks, and
 - 7) Require the Mayor appoint a broad spectrum of transportation stakeholders to the SFMTA Board, which include motorists, rather than just Muni and bicyclist advocates, and create a Motorists Citizens Advisory Committee, where none exists currently.
- Tony Hall served twice as Supervisor for District 7

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Have you seen Waldo??? ... BookShop West Portal has teamed with 23 other merchants to have a "Where's Waldo" scavenger hunt. Waldo, of "Where's Waldo" fame is hiding in stores on the Avenue and it's up to you to find him and his dog WOOF. Visit BookShop West Portal, pick up a passport, and start looking for the elusive pair. At each store have your passport signed. The BookShop is holding a party on July 31st with lots of prizes to be given away. Get your passport, get the rules, and go find Waldo.



Hello Walter Adams Framing ... the folks at Walter Adams Framing will be packing and moving across the street sometime in August. Work is about to start on their new location (formerly Andy's Jewelers). The full-service frame shop is moving from 239 to 348 West Portal Avenue next month. Best wishes on their move and a successful re-launch in the new space.

Adios Village Grill - the "Avenue" continues to evolve...a shout out to the folks at the Village Grill. Thanks for all of the years of good food, great service and a welcoming hub of the community. "Toast SF" will be moving into the space. Things change and the Avenue continues to evolve. Storefronts change and new opportunities await. It's a positive sign that many businesses have chosen to stake their claim in West Portal. It could be the city's best-kept secret. (How about some signage "West Portal Commercial and Historic District? -MTA, anyone...)



Barbagelata's "Touch Screen" ... technology never ceases to amaze us. We were walking down West Portal the other night when we came across the new interactive screen at the Barbagelata Real Estate office. An interactive touch screen that shows off the inventory and details of properties. Much cooler than looking at photos in the windows, but don't tarry while the parking meter ticks down...

Public Servant's Pay ... I ran across this tidbit recently. A city on the Peninsula recently hired a new City Manager and ran a budget related story in their local weekly detailing the CM's salary and benefits. It was necessary to include a \$2000 monthly housing bonus in the salary package because the \$190,000 annual salary was still the lowest of any city on the Peninsula. I remember when the President of the United States had a salary of \$200,000 (albeit a very favorable housing arrangement). No wonder cities have budget issues...

The City that Knows How (NOT) ... so when did San Francisco officially become the city of NIMBYs and officials who can't close the really important deals? They are the first ones to jump on the bandwagon touting the great economy and show up at every photo op. Who's going to show up at the photo op for the new George Lucas Museum? Not our bunch, they are too busy pointing fingers and trying to decide who they can shift the blame to for losing the opportunity to have another world-class facility. The Mayor's office, the folks at the Presidio Trust, and everyone else involved should be ashamed of their inability to close this deal. Neighbors who complain of increased traffic, would-be architectural dilutants that scoff at any design that is deemed too bold, and officials who fiddle while Rome's infrastructure continues to burn are blaming everyone else. Does anyone really think the old commissary (now a "Sports Authority") is iconic? I guess they do. Of course no one is really blameless in this, even Luke Skywalker himself (Lucas) who comes off as more than a little egotistical. (I'll take my ball and go to my wife's hometown.) The city declines to port the USS Iowa (too militaristic...); bungles the 49ers deal; touts the wonderfulness of the America's Cup, but doesn't rush in to secure the next one; announces a legacy that corresponds with the building of the Warriors arena on Piers 30 and 32, (not so fast); and now we wave bye-bye to a museum that never should have been allowed to end up in Chicago. Of course, everyone over there will just shrug and act like it doesn't matter, "we're too cool to care about that." It does matter. San Francisco officials and leaders used to get things done; now they just ask everyone's opinion and let things die on the vine. Could the Transamerica pyramid get built today? It's doubtful. I just hope Beach Blanket Babylon isn't soon moving to Dallas. The lack of leadership and commitment is glaring. Where were our local elected officials in Washington while all of this was going on? Probably having more fund raising dinners for whatever election is next. Make no mistake — It's a huge loss for the city. Somewhere Chewbacca is crying..the sand people have won again.

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

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77TH STERN GROVE FESTIVAL • JUN 22 - AUG 24 • 2PM - 19TH AVE AT SLOAT BLVD. FREE ADMISSION

Stern Grove was purchased by Rosalie M. Stern and given as a gift to the City in 1931, in memory of her husband Sigmund, a prominent civic leader. George Greene originally homesteaded the Grove - a tract of sand dunes and marshes - in the 1840's. The Greene family planted the first eucalyptus trees in the Grove and built the Trocadero Inn, a popular recreation spot until its closure in 1916.

Mrs. Stern determined that the site would be preserved as a park in which the public could enjoy admission-free music, dance, and theater performances. On June 4, 1932, Stern Grove was dedicated. Two weeks later, the San Francisco Symphony played the first concert in the Grove. Mrs. Stern, then President of the San Francisco Recreation Commission, formed the non-profit Stern Grove Festival Association in 1938, stipulating that all concerts were to be free to the public and designed for everyone's enjoyment. The organization's mission guides the Festival to this day:

- Provide high quality performances, free of charge, for all Bay Area residents and visitors
- Provide paid performance opportunities for professional artists and performers
- Serve diverse audiences by presenting a season of varied genres and artists
- Enhance San Francisco's renown as a cultural center

Mrs. Stern chaired the Festival until her death in 1956. In 1996Dr. Douglas E. Goldman, became Festival Chairman.

Today Stern Grove, a natural amphitheater surrounded by giant eucalyptus, redwood, and fir trees, is one of Northern California's favorite concert sites. Every summer Sunday for over seven decades, family and friends gather to relax, picnic, and enjoy performances by some of the world's greatest artists.

Individual donors, volunteers, foundations, government agencies, and businesses provide the generous support that makes it all possible -admission-free - to the people of the Bay Area.



July/August

CALENDAR

EVERY SUNDAY • FARMERS MARKET

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

EVERY MON & TUE • JOB SEEKERS LAB

Mon 11 am–2pm & Tue 10 am–1 pm Internet-ready computers are available for independent work such as resume, preparing job applications and/or searching for jobs. Some staff assistance. Bring a flash drive. Main Library, 100 Larkin, 6th Fl.

EVERY TUE • COMPUTER SKILLS

Tue | 1:15-2 pm | Come get help with setting up email accounts, word processing and other basic computer related tasks. Most Tuesdays at this time. Ask questions and learn the basics of using a computer! Main Library, 100 Larkin St.

EVERY TUES • QUE SYRAH HAPPY HOUR

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

EVERY THURS – NIGHTLIFE

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

FRIDAY NIGHTS @ THE DEYOUNG

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

FRIDAYS @ OFF THE GRID/FT. MASON

Every Fri | DJs 5-7:30 - Live Bands 7:30-10:30 pm | Off the GridOver 32 food trucks and street food carts in a huge circle with a full bar and bands in the middle? Now that's a party. Ft. Mason Ctr. Marina Blvd.

SUN • ASIAN ART MUSEUM FREE DAY

Sun Jun 1 | 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.

EVERY WED • FREE E-BOOKS

Wed | 1:30-2:30 pm | Do you have an eReader? You can check out more than 40,000 electronic books for free. Bring your Kindle, Nook, iPad or other eReader — we will show you how to use it to download books and other materials from the Library website. West Portal Branch Library, 190 Lenox Wy.

TUE • LAKE MERCED BOATHOUSE OPENS

Tue Jul 8 | 10 am-12 pm | Please join the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission and SF Rec and Park

in celebrating the opening of the newly renovated Lake Merced Boathouse,1 Harding Road. Coffee, tea and light breakfast will be served.

THU • DIST COALITION MEETING

Thu Jul 10 | 7-9 pm | Meets 2nd Thu each month. Info: 586.8103 or ssuval@sbcglobal.net Taraval Station, 2345 24th Ave.

SAT • SF LIBRARY FILM FESTIVAL

Sat Jul 12 | 2-4:30 pm | Library film festival showing movies set in and/or filmed in San Francisco: Princess Diaries -A shy SF teenager (Anne Hathaway) gets astonishing news that she's a real-life princess! Then her strict and formidable grandmother Clarisse (Julie Andrews) shows up to give her "princess lessons." Ingleside Mtg. Rm., 1298 Ocean Ave & Plymouth FREE

SUN • FUNKY METERS- STERN GROVE

Sun Jul 13 | 2 pm | Sugar Pie DeSanto opens with Funky Meters unique sound. Stern Grove, 19th Ave at Sloat Blvd.

TUE • COMMUNITY SAFETY MEETING

Tue Jul 15 | 7 pm | Meet with Captain Curtis Lum. 3rd Tue of the month. Minnie & Lovie Room, 650 Capitol Ave. 759-3100.

THU • FACEBOOK FOR JOB-SEEKERS

Thu Jun 19 | 1:30-4 pm | Learn to create a Facebook page, or update the one you've got! Join us for a hands-on class where you can learn the basics for a standout page. 1:30-2: Create an account; 2-4 Upgrade your page. Main Library, 100 Larkin St.

SUN • 'PUPY' PEDROSO - STERN GROVE

Sun Jul 20 | 2 pm | Cesar "Pupy" Pedroso, pianist and composer and the Los Van Van dance orchestra's Cuban beat. Stern Grove, 19th Ave at Sloat Blvd.

THU • AUTHOR JACQUELINE WINSPEAR

Thu Jul 24 | 7 pm | *The Care and Management of Lies* "In this dazzling novel Jacqueline Winspear writes irresistibly about the First World War. . .as we fight with them, farm with them, cook with them. I devoured this book." - Margot Livesey, author of *The Flight of Gemma Hardy*. Bookshop West Portal, 80 W Portal Ave. 564-8080

SUN • WAINWRIGHT - STERN GROVE

Sun Jul 27 | 2 pm | Singer, songwriter Rufus Wainwright performs solo and Quartet San Francisco opens with a contemporary instrumental sound. Stern Grove, 19th Ave at Sloat Blvd.

THU • HOPS & HISTORY II

Thu Jul 24 | 6:30 pm | Tastings from over ten Bay Area craft breweries, historical talks, a panel discussion, home brewing demonstrations, local food vendors, giveaways, docent tours of the Old Mint, and an expanded exhibit of rarely seen historical West Coast brewing memorabilia. \$30. (\$10 members) The Old Mint, 88 Fifth Street.

SAT • THE BACKYARD APOTHECARY^{Sat}

July 26 | 1 pm - 3 pm | Dr. Jenny Mann, naturopathic doctor at SF Preventive Medical Group; Elisa Baier, Small Spot Gardens; and Julie Birdsong, Nurse Practitioner, herbal medicine maker. Garden for the Environment, 7th Ave/Lawton \$35 or \$25 members

SUN • ANDREW BIRD - STERN GROVE

Sun Aug 3 | 2 pm | Andrew Bird, innovative instrumentalist, songwriter and the Hands of Blory blend jazz, country blues and gypsy music. Stern Grove, 19th Ave at Sloat Blvd.

SAT • SHARP

Mon Jul 28 | 7 pm | Sunset Heights Assoc. of Responsible People. Last Mon of each month - sharpsf.com for details. 1736 9th Ave @ Moraga..

TUE • SF LIBRARY FILM FESTIVAL

Tue Jul 29 | 6:30-8 pm | Library film festival showing movies set in and/or filmed in San Francisco: Dark Passage (1947) Humphrey Bogart, escaping from San Quentin to prove he was framed for the murder of his wife, is rescued by a gorgeous painter (Lauren Bacall). The City of San Francisco is liberally and vividly employed as the realistic setting complete with stunning panoramas from the hills. West Portal Branch Library, 190 Lenox Way. FREE

MON • CENTRAL COUNCIL

No July or Aug Mtg | West of Twin Peaks Central Council meets to discuss topics of interest to Westside residents. Usually meets the last Monday each month. but there are no meetings in July and August.

THU • OMI NEIGHBORS IN ACTION

Thu Jul 31 | 7 pm | Meets last Thu each month. SF State Warriors and Recology are invited. This meeting is at Temple UMC 65 Beverly/Sheilds Street.

FRI -SAT - SUN CRAFTS SHOW

Aug 8-10 | 10 am -5 pm | American Craft Council, Fort Mason, Marina Blvd.at Buchanan. Shuttles from Marina Greene to the show on a regular basis. \$14 1-day pass \$30 3-day pass. Friday: \$5 after 5 p.m. craftcouncil.org/sf)

SUN • DARLENE LOVE - STERN GROVE

Sun Aug 10 | 2 pm | Vocalist Darlene Love's classic Motown sound and the Monophonics psychedelic soul. Stern Grove, 19th Ave at Sloat Blvd.

SUN • SERGIO MENDEZ - STERN GROVE

Sun Aug 17 | 2 pm | Brazilian Mendes' brassy bossa nova sound with fiery SF band LoCura bring rumba to rock and flamenco. Stern Grove, 19th Ave at Sloat Blvd.

TUE • COMMUNITY SAFETY MEETING

Tue Aug 19 | 7 pm | Meet with Captain Curtis Lum. 3rd Tue of the month. Taraval Community Room, located at 2345 - 24th Ave. 759-3100.

SUN • ZOMBIES - STERN GROVE

Sun Aug 10 | 2 pm | The Zombies, 60's psychedelic rock and indie folk group Vetiver are the season finale. Stern Grove, 19th Ave at Sloat Blvd.

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



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- Friday Night Jazz in the Balcony Lounge
- Sunday Champagne Brunch Buffet

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

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At the Movies / By Don Lee Miller

EDGE OF TOMORROW - IMAX 3-D

Major William Cane: Tom Cruise reports to Gen. Brigham: Brendan Gleeson only to learn that his cushy job as TV commentator has ended. His attempt to black-mail the general backfires and he wakes up stripped of the brass from his uniform, with no training and on the front lines fighting hand-to-"hand" with deadly VW-sized alien spiders called Mimics from outer space. On the battlefield, he meets Rita Vrataski, the Special Forces "Angel from Verdun": Emily Blunt, who is practically a one-woman army. She takes a liking to the handsome guy and starts providing him training. That he is killed only minutes into the battle doesn't matter, because he relives the events day after day, improving his odds for survival as he learns rapidly what's needed from her previous experience with a similar time loop. Groundhog Day meets Terminator! Master Sgt. Farell: Bill Paxton is his short-tempered immediate superior. The tagline: *Live, Die, Repeat* is an accurate summation. The nonstop violent action from director Doug Limon is recognizable from his past outings (*The Bourne Identity*, *Mr. and Mrs. Smith*). Sci-fi action/violence. Profanity. Brief suggestive material.

THE FAULT IN OUR STARS

Hazel: Shailene Woodley and Gus: Ansel Elgort play young lovers who know their clock is ticking ... rapidly. She has TB and is attached to an inhaler; he has recently lost a leg and wears an artificial limb. His cancer could spread at any time. His best bud is Isaac: Nat Wolff. Her parents, Frannie: Laura Dern and Michael: Sam Trammell provide support for Hazel, with caution. Gus reads a great book by Dutch author, Van Houten: Willem Dafoe, whom they set out to visit after e-mail encouragement. He turns out to be an SOB, but his wife follows them as they leave the upscale home to offer her own sympathy. Woodley and Elgort have chemistry together and both should have great careers. Dern delivers in her most mature role. Dafoe is excellent as an unlikeable writer. Four handkerchiefs! Profanity. Some sexual content. Brief nudity.

HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON 2 - 3-D

This is one animated sequel that is as entertaining as the original. Hiccup: voice of Jay Baruchel and Astrid:

v.o. America Ferrera explore new worlds and unmapped territories. They accidentally find the ice cave where the villainous Dragon Rider: v.o. Djimon Hounsou is raising hundreds of wild dragons to conquer the Norseland. On one exploration, Hiccup and his dragon Toothless discover his mother Valka: v.o. Cate Blanchett is alive. Ivan the Stoick: v.o. Gerald Butler tries to get Hiccup to succeed him ruling their Viking clan, but the youth is hesitant. How could he know that war is imminent? Director Dean DeBlois also co-wrote with Cressida Cowell, author of the book series. Adventure action. Mild rude humor.

JERSEY BOYS

New Jersey youths Frankie Valli: John Lloyd Young, Tommy: Vincent Piazza, Bob: Erich Bergen, and Nick: Michael Lomenda after several name changes, false starts and a couple of six-month prison terms form a singing quartet, eventually named the Four Seasons. Frankie's godfather is gangster Gyp DeCarlo: Christopher Walken (perhaps the only recognizable star name in the cast). The gritty behind-the-scenes tale is perhaps even more interesting than seeing the performances of Valli and the Four Seasons as they rise to fame, with appearances on Sullivan's Toast of the Town. Tommy's gambling debts are a major obstacle to the survival of the group. Directed by Clint Eastwood, he employed writers of the screenplay and musical book, Marshall Brickman and Rick Elice. Profanity throughout. Moderate sexual content. Mild violence.

MALEFICENT - 3D

This is the animated Cinderella story with the central character now the woman wronged. After young love develops between Maleficent and Prince Stefan, he clips her wings and marries another. Stefan: Sharlto Copley becomes king upon the death of his father. Grown Maleficent: Anjelina Jolie shows up at the christening of his first born, Aurora, and bestows a curse to occur on Aurora's 16th birthday. Three fairies: Flittle: Lesley Manville, Knotgrass: Imelda Staunton, and Thistlewit: Juno Temple raise Aurora in a cabin in the woods. Maleficent has a bird assistant who turns into a hunk, Diaval: Sam Riley. Adult Aurora: Elle Fanning is a lovely naive princess. When Stefan sends his army against Maleficent, she has a few tricks

to her advantage. The animation provides an attractive backdrop and great special effects. Director Robert Stromberg uses 11 writers! Fantasy action/violence. Frightening images.

A MILLION WAYS TO DIE IN THE WEST

In Arizona in 1882, farmer Albert: Seth MacFarlane is dumped by stick-in-the-mud Louise: Amanda Siedfried. He rescues from a barroom brawl a new arrival in town, hot Anna: Charlize Theron, who neglects to mention that she's married to dangerous gun slinger Clinch: Liam Neeson. Albert's best friend Edward: Giovanni Ribisi has a between-customers arrangement with prostitute Ruth: Sarah Silverman whom he plans to marry. Seth's rival for Louise, businessman Foy: Neil Patrick Harris proves to be an amusing guy. Some of the comedy gets pretty raunchy; look for the daisy. Mild language. Some sexual content. Directed and co-written by Seth MacFarlane with Alec Sulkin and Wellsley Wild. Pervasive profanity. Strong crude and sexual content. Graphic nudity. Some violence. Drug use throughout.

22 JUMP STREET

Schmidt: Jonah Hill and Jenko: Channing Tatum star in this funny bromance sequel. The Ghost: Peter Stormare is the villain of the drug ring they are to crack. On their undercover assignment on a college campus to find drug usage, they report to Capt. Dickson: Ice-Cube. Jenko is invited to a frat where Zook: Wyatt Russell (son of Kurt Russell and Goldie Hawn) is a member. The frat shuns Schmidt who gets into an art student circle with Maya. When Maya: Amber Stevens sleeps with Schmidt she gets the disapproval of her roommate, Mercedes: Jillian Bell. The deeper they get into their appointment, the funnier it gets. Co-directors Phil Lord and Christopher Miller keep things moving fast. Michael Bacall who co-wrote the screenplay with Oren Uziel plus 5 supplies a hilarious treat at the end worth waiting for: the next 40 undercover assignments for S&J, including a women's hair salon and a library. Profanity throughout. Sexual content. Drug material. Brief nudity. Some violence.

At the Theater / Flora Lynn Isaacson and Linda Ayres-Frederick

2014 SPRING FRINGE OF MARIN—PROGRAM II

The Fringe of Marin now celebrates its 33rd season with some of the most innovative work of San Francisco Bay Area playwrights, directors and actors.

The Festival was established by Dr. Annette Lust in 1995, Professor Emerita at Dominican University. She ran the Festival until her death in February, 2013. Last spring, Gina Pandiani, a 1985 Dominican graduate, stepped in as Managing Director with Production Manager, Pamela Rand—and so the Festival continues on.

Program II, consisting of four plays and one solo performance, opened with *Tuesdays in the Park with River Apple* by C.J. Erlich and directed by Robin Schild, who has a flair for comedy in this satirical look at motherhood as four young mothers meet while watching their toddlers.

Claudia Rosa gives an amazing performance as Zsuzsanna, who is new to the city and the mother of 4-year-old River Apple. New to full-time motherhood, she tries to juggle her various roles. Ms. Rosa uses very expressive body language throughout. She is ably supported by three other young mothers. Gigi Benson (Jessica) gives a very animated performance. Colette Gunn plays Abby, a sympathetic role and Victoria Vann is Isham, who is very shy. Micah Coate makes a sexy entrance as Lark, a nanny to the children.

The Next Big Thing by Robert Wanderman and directed by Pamela Rand is "vulture capitalism." When the owner's hands are in the crapper, vulture sweeps in and swallows and turns it about. Jeffrey Schmidt as Abe knows how to take the stage and gives a convincing performance along with Victoria Vann as Casey and Duncan Maddox as Bill.

Let Me Go, written by Shai Regan is very sensitively directed by Gary Green. In this amazing play, Amelia, played by Micah Coate, learns how to deal with posttraumatic stress with the help of her fiancée Jason played by Ricky Montes, after she sees him attacked.

The second half of the program opens with *Jinshin Jiko* written by Bridgette Dutta Portman, directed by Amy Crumpacker with Sheila Devitt as Assistant Director. This play takes place on a train. The expressions and body language of the passengers are brilliantly choreographed. Morgan, an uptight businesswoman (Chelsea Zephyr) is hysterical when the train is stalled (she has a presentation to make). She imagines a Japanese Woman, Yurei (Mimu Tsujimura) is attacking her. The other people on the train are Sheila Devitt, a Dutch woman, Vonn Scott Bair, a Dutch man, RJ Castaneda, a Japanese man and Sam Tillis as Kenneth.

The final play is a full-scale production, *Little Moscow*

written by Aleks Merilo and directed by Greg Young starring Rick Roitinger as the Tailor. Employing a complete set of a tailor's shop, with projections on the back wall. A real tour de force for Rick Roitinger as an aging Russian immigrant tailor whose recollections of man's crimes against humanity and love for his country conflict with his love for his daughter.

What a wealth of talent in Program II! The only fly in the ointment was the poor acoustics of Angelico Concert Hall at Dominican University. This could be improved with a sound system or the actors could have mikes as much of the dialog was lost. *Flora Lynn Isaacson*

FAILURE: A LOVE STORY

1928 is the last year of each of the Fail sisters' lives. Nelly (Kathryn Zdan) was the first of the Fail girls to die, followed soon after by her sisters Jenny June (Liz Sklar) and Gerty (Megan Pearl Smith). As with so many things in life—blunt objects, disappearances and consumption—they never saw death coming.

A magical, musical fable that traces the sisters' triumphs and defeats in the rickety two-story building by the Chicago River that was the family home and clock shop. This funny, and profoundly wise play by Philip Dawkins, reminds us that in the end, all that remains is love.

Notwithstanding the premature demise of the Fail sisters, it's a lighthearted production. Only the two men survive into old age. John N. Fail (Patrick Kelly Jones) is washed up on shore as a baby and adopted by the Fails, and Mortimer Mortimer (Brian Herndon), the earnest gentleman caller who loves each of the sisters in turn.

The play opens with the cast inviting the audience to sing-along *In the Good Old Summertime* and *Let Me Call*

You Sweetheart. A marvelous cast briskly directed by Jasson Minadakis, who doubles as narrator. The stories include Mortimer's bittersweet, fruitless search for love, the loneliness of his "almost" brother-in-law, John N. Fail, Nelly's silly but fetching girlishness and Jenny June's goal of swimming across the rough waters.

The actors also accompany themselves on a variety of instruments, e.g. ukulele, trombone, stand up bass, drums, piano, as they sing hits of the 1920's, arranged by

Cont. p. 15



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The Ride Share: It's Wild in the West

By Brian Browne

Lyft, SideCar, Uber and Tickengo

Without a real socio-economic input analysis, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), allowed Transportation Network Carriers (TNC), so called ride-share vehicles, access to California intraurban markets.

Many Californian cities and local governments have existing systems for regulating taxis. These changes came at the apex of handheld computer applications (apps) that could be used to fetch a cab, bill the passenger by credit card, and pay the driver. Computer software developers were quick to jump into this market, and in many instances provide services that well regulated local companies were willing to provide, but more often than not were restrained by inept and politicized regulators.

Anyone browsing the newspapers of the world will see that there has been acceptance and rejection of these software-cum-ride-sharers. From New York, Paris,

normal fleet-operating expenses should fall directly on the app developer, who has full responsibility for the ride transaction. Avoidance or possibly evasion of this

“... it has ... complete vehicle coverage for all expected incidents, driver-checks, vehicle-checks, drug-testing, driver-training opportunities ...”

London, Sydney, San Francisco, and LA, the barricades are being manned as traditional livelihoods are being threatened by these app makers. The rejecters (mainly traditional cab companies and their drivers) are pushing back through street demonstrations, lobbying, and finally forcing legislators to write legislation that protects the traditional cab systems as to market share and comparative costs.

For example, Uber recently capitalized at \$17 billion (*Epoch Times*, June 17) and is being pushed to be fully risk-responsible for all vehicles for which it contracts to assign ridership. This will require Uber have an umbrella insurance over all its contracted vehicles and must cover the operation of this vehicle at all times. This insurance must be comparable to the insurance required by traditional taxi-cabs in the district(s) in which they operate.

Probabilities are not additive or deductive. Each time a passenger uses a ride share vehicle (TNC) with fragile or zero insurance, the risk of an accident and failure to be fully compensated remains the same for each incident. This is the same, especially for San Francisco taxi cabs, except that the risk of an accident (certified, trained drivers, and fully maintained and inspected vehicles) and failure to be fully compensated is significantly less per incident, in that coverage for traditional cabs is established by law. Public safety demands that the CPUC and other over-arching regulators address this insurance issue immediately. Insurance and safety requirements must be required for TNC vehicles at the same level that most local municipalities require for their historic taxi systems.

While not praising the SFMTA, San Francisco's current taxi regulator, it has in place stringent rules that guarantee public safety and convenience, including but not limited to complete vehicle coverage for all expected incidents, driver-checks, vehicle-checks, drug-testing, driver-training opportunities, knowledge of the market area, and so forth. The complete list is readily available from most urban regulators. These safety stops seem hit and miss with the proliferation of app TNCs.

The legal morass surrounding who should pay for insurance and other

responsibility must be regulated by the CPUC. To do anything else would be to endanger/harm (probabilistically) riders and put local cab systems at a comparative cost disadvantage.

Comprehensive insurance is only one aspect of the required regulations that the CPUC must impose on these ride-share vehicles. TNC vehicles must have the background and safety checks that local municipalities require of cab systems operating in California jurisdictions.

Uber and other app operators instigate and facilitate rides, and as such they must ensure their app-contracted vehicles are fully insured by their coverage. This marginal insurance cost must be directly incident (where the levy falls) on the app provider. The impact (who pays) could be decided between the app-facilitator and its TNC affiliates. The ultimate responsibility for deep insurance must be placed on the app vendor, especially if the app vendor has \$17 billion in his war chest. This way any temptation by the app provider to distance themselves from accidents resulting from their business endeavors will be avoided and the full cost of the app operation internalized.

The supply of cabs is the sum of their marginal costs tempered by local and often illogical barriers to entry and by a system of fiat pricing that does muddy up market signals. Nevertheless these market hiccups have been in place for a long time and the industry has subsumed their existence. The sudden deregulation by the CPUC of intercity and intracity transport changed the economic environment of the existing cab systems in California. These changes negatively impacted most cab systems with attendant wealth loss for those involved.

This app insurance must not negate any current insurance requirements by a private owner in the state of California who may choose to become app-contracted.

The CPUC was at the forefront of airline deregulation. The more market permissive scheduling and rate making by the CPUC for intrastate airlines led to the 1978 Kennedy-Kelly Act, which deregulated U.S. Interstate carriers, and the demise of the Civil Aeronautics Board

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WE'RE MOVING



348
~~239~~

West Portal

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F R A M I N G



Do you have a pinched nerve? We can help.

Dear friend,

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

Let me start by explaining the photo in this letter. You know when I meet people in town they usually say, "Oh yeah, I know you, you are Doctor Meakim. You have been on the corner of Beach and Jones for years....." Well, that's me. I'm also the woman hugging her niece at the jersey shore in the picture.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Here is what some of your neighbors have said:

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

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

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

Now...Find out for yourself and benefit from an AMAZING OFFER- Look, It should not cost you an arm and a leg to correct your health. You are going to write a check to someone for your health expenses, you may as well write a lesser one for chiropractic. AniI know you're smart. You want to get to the cause of the problem, and not just cover it up with drugs. When you are one of the first 20 people to call and schedule a new patient exam (by October 24th) you will receive that entire exam for \$37. That's with a consultation with the doctor, examination and x-rays... the whole ball of wax, and there are no hidden fees. But call right away because we expect to be flooded with calls as this exam costs \$317. Again there are only 20 of these slots so don't miss out. I hope that there's no misunderstanding about the quality of care just because I have a lower exam fee. You'll get great care at a great fee. I just offer that low exam fee to help more people who need care.

My qualifications:

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

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

P.S. When accompanied by the first, 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.

Second Thoughts / By Jack Kaye



Finding the Right Name

Names have meaning and value. Parents try hard to find the perfect name for their beloved offspring. Pet owners challenge themselves to find a name for their pets that expresses their affection for them and the attributes that make them so lovable.

Athletic teams also choose their names carefully. Now, a team whose team name has been the same for more than 81 years is being asked, urged, demanded to change its name for fear it might offend some members of a group that has been identified with the name.

The team was the Boston Braves but changed it to the Redskins to honor its beloved coach who was part American Indian. They are the Washington Redskins and are now being asked to find a less offensive name.

There is no doubt that the American Indian has been mistreated since the 16th century by Europeans who migrated here hoping to start new lives in a new world. The settlers stole Indian land, killed their people and forced the survivors to live in substandard conditions on Indian reservations. When some of the reservations were found to have oil, the government withheld billions of dollars owed for access to the black gold.

The name "redskin" is not one that American Indians enjoy or with which they identify. To some it is racist and should have never been used for a team name. It should be changed, some say. A number are also offended by the name "Indian" or "Brave" preferring to be called Native Americans, not to be confused with the term "native Americans" which refers to anyone born here.

But what about other team names? Are some of them also possibly offensive and needing to be changed?

The Cleveland Indians should probably now be the Cleveland Native Americans. The Atlanta Braves could be the Atlanta Courageous. The Cleveland Browns should have a color-blind name, not one that could upset Latin Americans or East Indians. The Cincinnati Reds should have a less communist sounding name that might also upset Native Americans. The New York Yankees' name might offend Southerners still remembering what the Yankees did in the 1860s. And what's with the Red Sox, White Sox, Blue Jays and Blackhawks? Shouldn't all team names be colorblind? And what other color of hawks and jays are there? And what are sox? Is Sox just socks misspelled? Is misspelling now OK?

Should the Golden State Warriors be the Peacemakers, since they don't usually put up much of a fight? And why do the Clippers have a name used for NFL players who make illegal tackles or for people who live by clipping coupons? And there are two teams called the Giants. How does that make short people feel? Does size really matter? Then there's the 49ers. So

people 50 and over should feel old? Isn't that offensive?

What about the Dodgers? Are they tax dodgers, artful dodgers or do they dodge all rules? Is this what we want our children emulating? Aren't parents upset? The Chicago Cubs seems like an OK name until you talk to some Boy Scouts. Why not the Chicago Scouts, instead? Chicago also has the Bears. The name sounds like people are naked or are tolerating something difficult. Shouldn't some decent folk find this objectionable? And don't the Baltimore Orioles sound too much like Oreos, a term also used to question a person's racial soul as well as the name for America's favorite cookie? The Oakland Raiders should change their name so as not to offend corporate raiders or those who raid their refrigerators late at night and wonder why they are gaining weight. They should be able to watch the game without feeling guilty.

And the two teams that call themselves the Cardinals probably should change their name so as not to offend the many Catholic families who saw their cardinals cover up sexual abuses by priests in their charge to protect the good name of the church. This team name could also upset Protestants whose forefathers revolted against church hierarchy or non-Christians or atheists who might feel excluded by this team name and all those who believe in the separation of church and team. The Kings should find a new name for their team, too. America is, after all, a democratic republic. We revolted against the King in 1776. How would DAR members, whose ancestors lost their lives fighting the King's team, feel about people here cheering for his namesake? The Jets' name might offend many Puerto Rican Americans who still feel unfairly stereotyped by the "Westside Story" anti-Puerto Rican gang by that name. They don't want to hear "Here come the Jets..." anymore.

We must be much more sensitive to the possible past, current or future feelings of all of our people, and even of some people who aren't.

What if we only used the name of the city in which the team plays? If a city has more than one team, as is the case in New York, Chicago, Boston, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Seattle, the name could be followed by the team specifics such as the San Francisco Baseball Team for the Giants or the San Francisco Football Team, instead of the 49ers.

We must ensure that no one is offended or hurt by any team name.

Let's hope this doesn't offend anyone. If it does, it should also be changed.

Feedback: kaye@westsideobserver.com

Theater (Cont. from p. 13)vv

Sound Designer, Composer, and Music Director Chris Houston.

Other important inanimate characters occupy this household as well—a few birds, a snake named Moses, and a dog called Pete. Since the passage of time is the recurrent theme, clocks and timepieces abound with Nina Ball's effective set design. The lighting by York Kennedy and costumes by Jacqueline Firkins contribute to a memorable evening whose theme, storytelling, is a key to surviving human tragedy resonates long after the play ends.

Failure: A Love Story, Marin Theatre Company, 397 Miller Ave., Mill Valley. Tickets 415-388-5208 or www.marintheatre.org. Coming up next will be Fetch Clay, Make Man by Will Power, directed by Derrick Sanders (Fences) Aug. 14-Sep. 7, Flora Lynn Isaacson

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277 Marietta Dr	Miraloma Park	3	2	2	899,000	820,000	102.63
372 Marietta Dr	Miraloma Park	3	2	2	895,000	1,045,000	116.76
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AND YOU'LL WIN A PRIZE!

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STATES of MATTER

BRAIN FUD

You are given a group of eight elements that share a common characteristic. You are also given a pool of sixteen elements. Eight of the elements in the pool have the characteristic that allows them to be added to the group. The remaining eight elements in the pool do not have that characteristic and can not be added.

Group: argon, flerovium, gallium, lanthanum, manganese, meitnerium, protactinium, scandium.

Pool: aluminum, bohrium, calcium, cobalt, gold, helium, indium, mendelevium, mercury, molybdenum, neodymium, neon, platinum, titanium, xenon, zinc.

The elements in the group have chemical symbols that are also the postal abbreviations of states of the United States.

argan = Ar = Arkansas
flerovium = Fl = Florida
gallium = Ga = Georgia
lanthanum = La = Louisiana
manganese = Mn = Minnesota
meitnerium = Mt = Montana
molybdenum = Mo = Missouri
mendelevium = Md = Maryland
indium = In = Indiana
calcium = Ca = California
aluminum = Al = Alabama
bohrium = Bh = helium
gold (Au), bohrium (Bh), helium (He), mercury (Hg), platinum (Pt), titanium (Ti), xenon (Xe), zinc (Zn)

neodymium = Nd = North
molybdenum = Mo = Missouri
mendelevium = Md = Maryland
indium = In = Indiana
calcium = Ca = California
aluminum = Al = Alabama
bohrium = Bh = helium
gold (Au), bohrium (Bh), helium (He), mercury (Hg), platinum (Pt), titanium (Ti), xenon (Xe), zinc (Zn)

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

Sudoku-fun!

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

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

Answer:
The answer appears below.

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

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LHH Dumping Seniors (Cont. from p. 1) 75 have become minorities in LHH. In 1999, when voters approved the bonds to rebuild LHH for our “Old Friends,” fully 56% of LHH’s residents were female. By 2013, female patients dropped by 15% to just 41%, while the percentage of male patients increased 15%, from 44% to 59%. The percentage of patients over the age of 65 dropped 20% between 1999 and 2013, from 67% to just 47%. In 1999, those over the age of 75 was 52%. Not any more, due to a variety of changes at LHH.

In January, the Department of Public Health finally announced that it would begin providing data on the number of Laguna Honda patients being discharged out of county beginning in 2014 and going forward. DPH reported in January that

when it was her department that had contracted for the DCIP component and continues to pay annual maintenance fees is not known, but she may have deliberately and intentionally mislead Campos.

Mere Trickle of Data

On April 29 Campos legislative aide Carolyn Goossen submitted a list of seven explicit question on behalf of Supervisor Campos to Hinton and Garcia seeking data on both discharges from LHH and diversion from LHH admission data between 2007 and May 2014.

Kelly Hiramoto, the Acting Director of Transitions for DPH’s SF Health Network, finally responded 30 days later to Campos on behalf of DPH on May 29.

Hiramoto claimed “The data that was

“... when voters approved the bonds to rebuild LHH for our “Old Friends,” ... patients over the age of 65 dropped 20% between 1999 and 2013, from 67% to just 47%. In 1999, those over the age of 75 was 52%. Not any more...”

12% of discharges from LHH between September and December 2013 were to out-of-county locations.

It has adamantly refused to provide data on the number of patients discharged from, or diverted from admission to LHH that were subsequently discharged or diverted out-of-county since 2003.

Just two weeks after Kerr’s article in the March *Observer*, DPH and the Department of Aging and Adult (DAAS) services made a pitch before the Board of Supervisors Neighborhood Services and Safety Committee, requesting an increase to funding for the so-called Community Living Fund that was established to provide community-based “supports” to prevent placement in long-term care skilled nursing facilities.

Admirably, Supervisor David Campos peppered Director of Public Health Barbara Garcia and DAAS’ Executive Director Anne Hinton on discharge location data in an effort to learn whether patients are being “integrated” into SF communities, or whether they are being “integrated” in out-of-county communities.

First Hinton asserted, during Campos’ hearing, that she had no way of knowing any discharge or diversion data, until this reporter testified during Campos’ hearing that under the *Chambers* settlement agreement, a Diversion and Community Integration Program (DCIP) was required by the U.S. Department of Justice.

Indeed, it turns out that it was DAAS that had contracted with a company named RTZ Associates to develop a database for the DCIP component. Since 2007, RTZ has been paid at least \$5.6 million to develop 10 to 12 different components of the *SF GetCare* database. How Hinton claimed to Supervisor Campos that she would have no way of knowing this data

collected is incomplete. The software program designed to capture the data did not work as designed.” When pressed for details, Nancy Sarieh, DPH’s public information officer, admitted on June 9 that the software that didn’t work as designed was the *SF GetCare* database RTZ Associates has been paid \$5.6 million to develop and maintain between 2003 and 2014.

Concerned about the potential for reputational harm to RTZ, I contacted RTZ’s founder, Dr. Rick Zawadski — who is a nationally-recognized authority on long-term care policy — for comment. Zawadski said on June 23, “RTZ Associates stands behind the functionality and integrity of the software we have developed for the City of San Francisco. Any data fields related to LHH Diversions requested by the City of San Francisco are fully functional and work as designed.”

So much for DPH’s nonsense that the software doesn’t work.

The hardcopy printouts supplied to Campos shows that between January 2006 and May 2009 there had been at least 143 TCM clients discharged from LHH and an untold number of non-TCM program discharges. Luckily, historical trend-line graphs embedded in the limited reports provided to Campos do show that between March 2004 and May 2009 there were a total of 671 TCM admissions and a total of 262 TCM discharges. And the reports show that in just the two-year period between February 2007 and January 2009 there were another 188 SFGH patients diverted from admission to LHH.

As Kerr and Rivero asked, where did these patients go?

Broad Service Reductions at LHH

Service reductions at Laguna Honda have been underway for at least a decade,



BookShop West Portal Challenges Kids to FIND WALDO

24 local west portal merchants host a scavenger hunt

Find waldo, of “where’s waldo” fame, hiding in stores along west portal avenue.

Pick up a passport at bookshop west portal and find where waldo and his dog woof are hiding in the store. Get your passport signed and then go to as many of the remaining participating 23 stores along west portal avenue as you can. Find waldo in each store and ask each merchant to sign your passport.

The scavenger hunt runs from July 1, 2014 through July 31, 2014. There will be a party at bookshop west portal on July 31, 2014. Lots of prizes! Stop by to pick up your passport and get all of the rules.

when the hospital began focusing on short-term care, rather than on long-term care. Since moving into its replacement facility in December 2010, LHH’s focus on short-term care has accelerated.

As Ombudsman Benson Nadell testified to Supervisor Campos last March 20:

“There is a crisis. We don’t have enough nursing home beds. They are gone. Most of the nursing home beds now specialize in short-term rehabilitation, including San Francisco’s Jewish Home and Laguna Honda. The push is to get the people out.”

Short-Term 60-Day Rehabilitation

Data presented to the Health Commission on January 28, 2014 illuminates LHH’s focus on short-term care. Commissioners were informed that LHH has just 49 short-stay skilled nursing facility (SNF) physical medicine rehabilitation beds.

Across fiscal year 2012–2013 to fiscal year 2013–2014, acute rehabilitation admissions to LHH’s Rehab Services Department dropped from 40 to just 26.

No data was presented to the Health Commission indicating what becomes of patients who require long-term rehabilitation longer than 60 days, and whether those rehab patients are diverted to the few remaining facilities that provide longer-term rehabilitation. Where did patients who suffered traumatic brain injuries and needed 90-day rehab care go?

Maintenance Program Moved to Nursing

Leading up to 1999, the U.S. Department of Justice’s Civil Rights Division investigated reports of neglect and premature functional decline of patients on LHH’s long-term care wards.

As a result, LHH hired three rehabilitation therapists, one each in Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, and Speech Pathology, who were charged with developing a “functional maintenance program” (also known as “restorative care”) to address the DOJ’s concerns.

After a year developing a staffing proposal, four Rehabilitation Therapy Aides were hired in 2000 for a Restorative Care Level I program in the Rehabilitation Services Dept. and supervised by licensed rehabilitation therapists. A separate, but companion, Restorative Care Level II program was created in the Nursing Department to provide unit-based daily therapeutic modalities supervised by nurses.

The restorative care program implemented was successful, and the DOJ closed its Civil Rights investigation. The Restorative Care Level I program was expanded over the years, and currently has seven

Rehabilitation Therapy Aides.

But that’s suddenly about to change on July 1, 2014, when the Therapy Aides are transferred from the centralized Rehab Services Department to the Nursing Department, and will be based on the wards (“neighborhood” units”).

It is not yet clear whether the aides will continue providing Level I rehab treatments as a ward-based program under the supervision of licensed physical medicine clinicians, whether Nursing staff will provide the Level I supervision possibly in violation of State law, or whether those Level I rehab treatment modalities will be eliminated, potentially angering the DOJ’s Civil Rights Division and bringing on a new investigation of LHH.

Health Commission’s SNF-Bed Crisis

Across the past decade-and-a-half, the Health Commission has held several hearings to consider the negative impacts on the reduction of skilled nursing beds by private hospitals in San Francisco. Yet the Health Commission has never adopted resolutions asserting that the loss of those beds *will* have, and already has had, detrimental impacts on the health of San Franciscans. Of course there have been negative impacts, including an untold number of out-of-county discharges.

Now six years later, DPH’s Deputy Director and Director of Policy and Planning, Colleen Chawla, presented the Health Commission with an analysis of CPMC’s newest proposed reduction of skilled nursing beds *after* its Cathedral Hill Hospital project was approved and a deal cut to preserve St. Luke’s Hospital.

Chawla presented a compelling analysis dated June 12, 2014 that projects a shortage of 700 skilled nursing facility (SNF) beds in San Francisco just over 30 years from now, and the detrimental impact the closure of CPMC’s SNF beds will have on San Franciscans.

Chawla astutely notes that a 2012 report issued by SF’s Dept. of Aging:

“... affirms concern regarding San Francisco’s ability to meet the long-term care needs of seniors and adults with disabilities. ... The number of Medi-Cal funded beds in the City’s SNF’s has dropped dramatically. As a result, many seniors and persons with disabilities who require long-term care are forced to move outside the city, away from family and friends, becoming socially and culturally isolated in the later years of their lives.

Despite the focus on increasing
Cont. p. 19

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Happy Summer Reading

By Carol Kocivar ©2014



It is that perfect summer evening in San Francisco.

You sit by the fireplace—warmed by faux fire (well... real fire, faux logs) and you are:

Catching up on current events on your ipad. (AKA watching the latest cat, dog, dolphin perform impossible feats on YouTube. How about that woman singing lullabies to an elephant?)

or

Engrossed in your favorite book.

What a choice!

When I have not chosen that animal option, I love finding out what other people have on the bookstand--especially those who appear to have absolutely no time whatsoever to read.

Count me as a bit of a book voyeur. Book TV was made for me. And Book TV on YouTube...heaven.

So what are folks reading?

I just read that Hillary Clinton thinks *The Hare With Amber Eyes* by Edmund de Waal is one of the best books she has read. All I can say is "great minds"... that was my absolute favorite book this year.

Just for political balance, let me add that I just finished Elizabeth Warren's *A Fighting Chance*. It was worth every penny I paid for it at the West Portal Book Store.

Barack Obama's favorites include *Song of Solomon* by Toni Morrison, *Moby Dick*, *Gilead* and *Self-Reliance* (Emerson.) In his spare time he also reads the Bible, Shakespeare's tragedies, and Lincoln's collected writings. So much for light reading.

Rand Paul seems to favor Ayn Rand's *Atlas Shrugged*. That was the book so many of my college friends read... how many years ago... and I, of course, just shrugged and never opened it.

I know your next question. Forget about what those politicians are reading, what is on your bookstand?

This is for real. I just spent hours cleaning out old books, donating them to the library,

and here is what really is on my bookstand:

Dave Barry's Greatest Hits (Note: The funniest book I have ever read is *Dave Barry Does Japan*.)

National Geographic Expeditions – pictures of thousands of places I may never see.

Months of *Real Simple* with 34 time saving tips if your hair takes too long.

Oprah helping me de-clutter my life. (She could start with my bookstand.)

A Guide to England through a Cat's Eyes by Pat Albeck

Poems about Cats—a very special book given to me by my son.

If you would like just a few more choices of a more substantive nature, the best is yet to come.

Ta Daa. Here are some samples from The Lowell High School summer reading list:

Graceling

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time

Middlesex

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest

Little Brother

The Road

The Iliad

The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao

Native Speaker

Oedipus Rex

A Prayer for Owen Meany

The Reluctant Fundamentalist

Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close

Happy Summer Reading....

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

Ride Share (Cont. from p. 14)

(CAB). The demise of the CAB did not happen in a vacuum. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), National Transportation Safety Board, ET AL remained as watchdogs to ensure safety in the over arch of public convenience and necessity (PC&N).

The CPUC actions in making ordinary (household) vehicles "cabs" happened in a near vacuum as a function of immediate acceptance of this new app technology. The CPUC just opened the entry gates to any and all comers who had a relatively new vehicle and appeared to initiate an Oklahoma Land Rush - type situation. It ignored the many community cab systems that have for years established safe and sound taxi systems reflecting local conditions. There were no backup systems put in place, such as the FAA or NTSB, to protect the impacted communities and guarantee a continuation of expected high-quality taxi-type services.

One main service that community members expect from their taxi, albeit ride-share, sector is safety and security. The security being that in the event of an accident the vehicle is well insured to adequately protect passengers, drivers,

and bystanders. Recent history shows reluctance by the TNC-apps to accept this responsibility. This failure means drivers and riders must share all down-side risks while the app vendor skims off the profits. This type financial arms-length distancing by the app operators is unfair and unacceptable, and gives these opportunistic operators an unfair advantage over the well-regulated cab systems.

The open entry phenomenon has also negatively affected the value of existing medallions. Many medallions have been transferred at values based on industry economic conditions existing prior to the CPUC decision to deregulate, albeit destabilize, the taxi industry in California. These medallion values have dropped as capitalized net incomes in the face of TNC competition. This has created unexpected losses to members of the cab industry who currently hold purchased medallions. This and many other socio-economic effects should have been thoroughly analyzed before the CPUC took this precipitous action in handing over a large part of the California transit system to app operators.

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



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Coffee, tea and light breakfast will be served.



Real Travel By Sergio Nibbi



The Graduate

From the 25th floor of our hotel room Mr. Trump provided us with a panoramic view of downtown Chicago, the Chicago River and an endless view of a clear and calm Lake Michigan with its limitless supply of water that eventually runs through its sister lakes emptying out in the Atlantic. For the first time in recent memory we could treat ourselves to a nice, long, hot shower and not feel a tinge of guilt. If only we could take some back home!

Traveling to Chicago is always a treat but this time it's extra special as we head to Milwaukee for our granddaughter Kristen's graduation from Marquette University. Having arrived on Monday and staying for four days gave us plenty of time to see the cousins

“...a glass of wine at Rebar, the hotel's casual dining area. Karen's \$24.00 glass of Jordan's cabernet was a bargain compared to my \$28.00 glass of Chianti. Welcome to the Trump Tower.”

and grab some delicious food along the way with a few casual stops at the beautifully manicured shops along Michigan Avenue's Miracle Mile. A late afternoon treat left little room for a large dinner so we settled for a snack and a glass of wine at Rebar, the hotel's casual dining area. Karen's \$24.00 glass of Jordan's cabernet was a bargain compared to my \$28.00 glass of Chianti. Welcome to the Trump Tower.

Our good friend Jack O'Donnell, who lives about an hour out of Chicago, had made arrangements to join us for lunch on Tuesday at Shaw's Crab House which fortunately for us was just a short block from the hotel. No sooner had we finished our visit than it was time to head to the Broadway Playhouse for the evening performance of “Buyer and Cellar”, a one man show starring Michael Urie, who tells the story of working in Barbra Streisand's cellar mall. Without an intermission the play was over in time to get to



Mario Batali's Eataly, a two story building sporting fresh produce, 6 restaurants, endless displays of wine, cookies, dessert and its very own Nutella bar. We settled for an appetizer and a pizza and a couple of glasses of wine that didn't set us back an arm and a leg. A couple of bucks to the homeless guy on the corner got us directions to our hotel without incident.

We spent Wednesday morning with my cousin Geri and her husband Ron Lenzi as they showed us around Chicago and the neighboring suburbs finally ending up at their beautiful home on the shore of Lake Michigan. That evening we met with another set of cousins at Ron's well know restaurant, The Erie Café. My Veal al Limone was out of this world.

After a quick stop at Nordstrom's to look at some new pants (no I had not outgrown mine in just a few days) we headed to my cousin Joe and Theresa's house for another family gathering. Getting out of Chicago in the late afternoon is challenging so at the suggestion of our dear friend Ellis Rhoades we took his advice and took the Metra train to Arlington Heights. Now I can't remember the last time I rode a train in this country



but the 40 minute ride was a real blast. One would think that Mussolini had taken over the Chicago rail system. On time and clean trains. What a treat.

Our daughter Kathy and her husband Mark arrived late Thursday night and by Friday morning it was time to pack it up and head to the Pfister Hotel in Milwaukee. Kristen joined us for the three night stay and we got a chance to visit with her as she

prepared for Sunday's graduation festivities. Friday night we ate at Capital Grill and Saturday at Bacchus, both beautiful restaurants where beef is king and where the wine lists would put the best of Napa's gourmet restaurants to shame. This is beer country but wine seems to have taken over.

The graduation ceremony was held at the BMO Harris Bradley Center, the home of the Milwaukee Bucks basketball team. By the time the ceremony started every seat in the house was taken. Fortunately we arrived early and after the usual introductions, prayers and pledges the crowd was enthralled by the keynote address given by the Rev. James Martin, S.J. My only disappointment was that I had not recorded his comments but I later found out that they are available online. Here's the link and I guarantee you it's

worth your time to listen to it¹. Not mushy, just great. After the main ceremony with over 2,700 graduates in attendance we moved to a smaller location for the presentation of the individual diplomas awarded to the students from the different departments. Kristen graduated from the College of Communication having majored in marketing and advertising. So many great young kids starting out their new professions not knowing what the future will hold for them. What a great adventure.

Sometimes the simplest moments leave the most lasting impressions. After all the great recommendations for the hotels, restaurants and sites, we headed for our celebratory dinner after graduation to what we expected to be another great dining experience. With a name like Chez Jacques one would expect a bistro reminiscent of a Paris eatery know only to the locals, hidden on a side street, right off the Seine, music waffling through the doors. As it happened Chez Jacques in Milwaukee left a little to be desired. More like a diner on the edge of the industrial district, it is best known for its Sunday brunch but by dinner it had run out of steam. The food was ok, the wine very French and the service very accommodating but unfortunately it was no Bacchus. As great as all the other restaurants were we'll probably remember Chez Jacques for its funkiness for the rest of our lives.

So now it's back home, back to work and helping Kristen look for that special opportunity that will propel her forward after 4 amazing years at Marquette. Congratulations on a job well done and from the proud grandparents, thanks for all the great memories of these past few days

1. www.marquette.edu/commencement/commencement-address.php

LHH Dumping (Cont. from p. 17)

community-based long-term care as an alternative to institutional care, data from the Health Care Services Master Plan indicates a clear and increasing need for SNF beds in San Francisco. ... the industry trend toward conversion of long-term beds to short-term beds means that any reduction of SNF beds, regardless of type, creates an overall capacity risk for San Francisco and is likely to have a detrimental impact on health care service in the community.”

Consider your own potential community dysintegration. Ask yourself: “Where will I, or a family member, go?”

Unless you have the resources to afford \$10,000 monthly for long-term skilled nursing care at high-end private facilities such as the San Francisco Towers, The Sequoias in San Francisco, or The Heritage,

you should probably plan to begin your search of at out-of-county facilities.

Then pray for the best.

[Editor's Note: An expanded version of this article — which explores CPMC's plans for St. Luke's Hospital and the Health Commission's consideration of whether reducing SNF beds in CPMC's facilities will have a detrimental effect on the health of San Franciscans — will be posted on the Westside Observer's web site.]

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:** <mailto:monette-shaw@westsideobserver.com>.

Sea Rise Plan (Cont. from p. 1)

development, dredging and fill. “2050 is not that far off,” she said. By 2100, BCDC says the sea level in the Bay Area is expected to rise 55 inches.

“Flood damage from rising sea levels can be especially severe when combined with storm surges and high tides,” the report says. “It took the Loma Prieta Earthquake to awaken San Francisco to the necessity of intensified seismic retrofitting. Let's not wait for a major flooding disaster, like Hurricane Sandy on the east coast, to start addressing the serious threat of rising sea levels.”

The grand jury published the report June 25, 2014. Agencies identified in the report must respond in 60 days. If the mayor asks the agencies to submit a consolidated response, the agencies have 90 days to report back. And the Board of Supervisors will conduct a public hearing on the report, which is likely to

occur after the board's August recess.

The juries overall recommendations include amending City and County building codes to “ensure that future development is sustainable and resilient.” Schmid said officials need to talk about how construction will be done amid rising sea levels — if they want buildings to last.

In addition, the jury recommends the Port of San Francisco place a surcharge on property leases and the City establish a reserve fund, as well as seeking money from other sources. Lastly, the jury suggests City officials establish a working group with officials from other Bay Area cities and jurisdictions.

“Awareness is the beginning,” the report says. “Consistent plans, integrated into City policy, are vital.”

Keith Burbank is a local journalist.

Free Sunday Parking Begins in July

Starting on Sunday, July 6, parking meters will no longer operate on Sundays throughout most of San Francisco. This change is the result of the approval of the SFMTA's fiscal year 2015-2016 (July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2016) budget, which repealed operating meters on Sundays throughout the city. Citywide Sunday meter operation began January 2013.

As a result of the change, most parking meters in San Francisco will only operate Monday through Saturday, reverting to their pre-January 2013 operating schedule.

Prior to 2013, some meters in the city operated on Sundays and will continue to do so. These include meters within the Port's jurisdiction, including the Fisherman's Wharf area, and meters near Clement (8th & 9th), Geary (18th & 21st Ave.), Irving St. (8th), Lombard & Chestnut St., Felton St. (San Bruno Ave). When in doubt, check the parking meter for days and hours of operation.

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