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# WESTSIDE OBSERVER

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## Make City College Free

By George Wooding

**D**istrict 6 Supervisor Jane Kim is a fierce advocate for saving City College of San Francisco (CCSF). Prior to her election to the Board of Supervisors, Kim served as member, and then president, of the San Francisco Board of Education. Kim is an expert at rehabilitating schools that have problems.

Kim has developed a “Free For Students CCSF Proposal” to help fix the damage caused by CCSF’s own bad management of the college, the worse management of the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) in California, and the State of California. The ACCJC placed CCSF on “Show Cause,” the most severe sanction that can be imposed on an institution short of revoking its accreditation.

In 2014, decisions made by the ACCJC led to a takeover of CCSF and imposition of a special State of California trustee with dictatorial powers over all of CCSF’s 11 college sites throughout the City. The appointment of the lone State of California trustee turned out to be a disaster for admissions and faculty.

For years, CCSF lived on the revenue financials generated by 80,000 to 90,000 students, many of whom were immigrants and/or came to CCSF because of the college’s excellent reputation for teaching, student services, job skills, adult education, and/or transfer opportunities to the UC’s, CSU’s, and other colleges and universities.

Most of CCSF’s 11 sites are in poor condition, and face serious maintenance and building problems. There is little money, if any, for repair and maintenance. A majority of the properties are owned by City College, and were needed and supported by the 80,000 to 90,000 students. With a drop of 60,000 to 70,000 students over the last decade, 11 sites may no longer be needed.

Worse yet, some CCSF sites could be sold to developers.

The fear of lost accreditation by the State had a huge impact on CCSF’s enrollment. In 2012 total enrollment was 19,289. In 2013 total enrollment was only 15,288. By February 2016, 32,966 students were attending CCSF — 9,711 full-time students and 23,255 part-time students.

Supervisor Kim is proposing

placing on the November ballot a measure entitled the “**Mansion Tax**” that will increase the transfer tax in San Francisco by one-quarter of one percent for all property sales, commercial or residential, valued at \$5 million and over, and creating an entirely new bracket of 3% for property sales valued at \$25 million and over. This is projected to generate approximately \$29 million annually in new General Fund dollars.

Kim’s “Robin Hood approach” of taking funds from

“For years, CCSF lived on the revenue financials generated by 80,000 to 90,000 students ... because of the college’s excellent reputation for teaching, student services, job skills, adult education, and/or transfer opportunities to the UC’s, CSU’s, and other colleges and universities.”

as the City’s transfer tax being priority sources of funding.v

Kim’s plan would eliminate enrollment fees for all San Francisco residents and workers who work at least half-time in San Francisco. Additionally, her plan would help students whose fees are already covered by financial aid. These students will be eligible for up to \$1,000 in grants for educational expenses such as textbooks, transportation, and childcare.

CCSF enrollment currently also includes a \$17 Health Fee (\$34 per year) and an optional Student Activities Fee (\$5/semester, \$10/year). These fees could be covered in this proposal as eligible uses for the up to \$1,000 in educational support funds for low-income students whose enrollment fees are covered by alternative federal and/or state financial aid.

Kim’s proposal will have a major impact on increasing CCSF enrollment since it will support current California Community College enrollment fees (“tuition”). For-credit courses are \$46 per unit; students attending full-time for a year (two semesters at 12 units per semester) pay

Cont. p. 9

## District 7 Election for Supervisor Draws Challengers

While the final date for candidates for supervisor to file nomination papers is June 14th, these candidates for District 7 have responded to our inquiries.



### Joel Engardio

San Francisco is changing fast. In District 7, we face unprecedented challenges. But what do we get from City Hall? Complacency. We need a new supervisor – a bold, responsive and independent leader.

If we want our kids and grandkids to stay in San Francisco, we need a forward-looking vision. I want to revitalize our commercial districts, stop the west-side crime wave and be an advocate for homeowners and middle-income families.

Norman Yee, our current supervisor, voted against more police officers as crime spiked. He supported a proposed transfer tax on properties – a tax that would have hurt families. On most issues, it isn’t clear where he stands.

When the *San Francisco Chronicle* endorsed me

in 2012, it said: “Norman Yee is a low-key politician whose campaign platform is a roster of tame ideas that show none of the boldness or specificity offered by Joel Engardio.”

The choice is clear in 2016.

The *Chronicle* also said “Joel Engardio is rich with ideas” and “would be a worthy successor to Supervisor Sean Elsbernd, City Hall’s astute fiscal hawk.”

I’m a homeowner near Lowell High School. I’ve lived in San Francisco 18 years of my adult life. I work for a tech company that makes health care more accessible and affordable. And I have a Masters in Public Administration from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government.

Learn more at [www.engardio.com](http://www.engardio.com) and read my award-winning *Examiner* column. Your #1 vote for Joel Engardio will let me put those words into action at City Hall.

415-577-6251 | [info@engardio.com](mailto:info@engardio.com)



### John Farrell

I am running for District 7 Supervisor because I have the qualifications, experience, and dedication to make a difference. D7 is at a crossroads as our City population is projected to increase to 1 million. I will be a leader that stands up for our neighborhood val-

ues to ensure they are being addressed, values such as safety, affordability, preserving the character of our neighborhoods, and planning for future generations. Our current supervisor voted against an increase in police staffing as crime goes up. Further, City Hall must be made accountable. I know the workings of City Hall and that business as usual has got to change.

City Experience:

- Financial Director for Treasure Island Development Authority
- Assistant Assessor, Budget and Special Projects
- Senior Management Assistant for Port

- Mayor’s Budget Analyst
- Senior Analyst for Harvey Rose, Budget Analyst for Board of Supervisors
- Park Director, Recreation and Parks
- Specialized in streamlining and identifying new revenue sources. Track record of generating millions to the City.
- 5th Generation San Franciscan. Grew up and raised family in D7. My family has been in public service for nearly a century. My grandfather was a Muni driver. My father is the retired Controller appointed by Joe Alioto. My uncle was a SFPD Sergeant.
- Neighborhood activist
- Small business owner/Real Estate Broker. Help families with affordable housing, in foreclosure, and displaced tenants.
- Education: St. Ignatius ‘77 | USF ‘81 B.S. Finance | GGU ‘86 MBA
- Endorsements: Judge Quentin Kopp (ret.), Former D7 Supervisor Tony Hall

Contact info: (415)218-6337 | [johnfarrell4supervisor@gmail.com](mailto:johnfarrell4supervisor@gmail.com) | [www.johnfarrell4supervisor.com](http://www.johnfarrell4supervisor.com)



### Mike Lee

I’m a native son of San Francisco, a product of our public school system, and a Park Merced resident.

My education at Roosevelt Junior High and Lowell prepared me for degrees at U.C. Berkeley and Harvard. I served two years in the San Francisco Mayor’s Budget Office, 10 years as an officer in the U.S. Army Reserve, and 10 years as a U.S. diplomat in South Korea, Afghanistan, Vietnam, and Pakistan.

I believe in San Francisco, and believe I can serve our neighbors with strength and empathy at City Hall.

San Francisco seems at a crossroads. The stresses from success as a world-class city have

resulted in increased crime and congestion. District 7 residents experience car break-ins and burglaries; traffic on our streets grows more crowded and dangerous, affecting adversely the quality of our lives.

As Supervisor, I will ensure we have adequate police protection in our district and that growth doesn’t occur at the expense of neighbors in San Francisco’s historic Westside, while enforcing fiscal discipline on our City’s already swollen budget. I will be as close as a phone call or email away from everyone in our district. You’ll find a real person, not a voicemail, in my office.

I will serve you with honesty, integrity, and compassion. I ask voters to grant me the opportunity to represent District 7 at City Hall and enhance the great history of San Francisco for the benefit of our neighborhoods, country, and future generations.

Thank you. 415-866-6470 | [mike@votemike.org](mailto:mike@votemike.org)

### Ben Matraga

I am Ben Matraga, a West Portal homeowner running for Supervisor to prioritize and address public safety and quality of life issues in our neighborhoods.

As a fifth generation San Franciscan born and raised in District 7 who met my wife in high school at Saint Ignatius College Preparatory, I want to

keep our City livable for generations to come.

My priorities include:

Fighting to make sure San Francisco has enough police officers to meet the demands of our growing City.

Ensuring that our officers have the tools, training and equipment they need.

Cont. p. 2



Supporting the active enforcement of quality of life laws that prevent camping on sidewalks and prohibit aggressive panhandling.

Using my experience in finance to root out waste, fraud and abuse to ensure that vital City services are funded.

Opposing tax and fee increases that squeeze working families out of the middle class.

Demanding that senior Planning staff meet on a regular basis with neighborhood leaders, not just developers.



**Norman Yee**

I am honored to serve in the City where I was born, raised and have worked on behalf of, to represent the District 7 community I have lived in for 30 years. Becoming a grandfather this year, I am more aware than ever of the multi-generational needs of our residents, from seniors to families and young professionals. To start, we need to ensure that we are safe at home and when we're out in the neighborhood. Although more measures are needed, I have secured 12 additional police officers for District 7 precincts and added beat cops on West Portal and Ocean Avenue, and have been a leader on our City's Vision Zero initiative, particularly around pedestrian safety. I have

Requiring, as a matter of law, that the Planning Department inform neighborhood organizations before introducing significant rezoning proposals.

Strengthening City Ethics laws by banning lobbyists from making campaign contributions.

Requiring reporting of special interest spending to influence City decisions.

Please join Fiona Ma, Barbara Kaufman, Angela Alioto and the San Francisco Building and Construction Trades Council (#2) in supporting our campaign.

You can learn more at [benmatranga.com](http://benmatranga.com) or by calling me at 415-484-5870.

been a champion of children and families' issues, and in a second term I will focus on improving our parks, increasing access to child care, and increasing senior services.

I have ensured that District 7 received its fair share of city funding and have consistently dedicated funds for a Participatory Budgeting process for District 7 residents, allocating more than \$1 million over 3 years for neighborhood improvement projects. I have, and will continue, to be your voice at City Hall to keep our neighborhood characteristics and support reasonable growth. I believe that my career working to improve the lives of San Francisco families, including the past four years as your Supervisor, will make me an effective representative for District 7. I hope I can count on your support this November.

[contact@normanyee.com](mailto:contact@normanyee.com) and [www.normanyee.com](http://www.normanyee.com)

If more candidates file, we will make sure to give them equal time, if they contact us with their information. We have asked for a 250 word statement of intent, a photo and some contact information.

This election will take place on November 7th.

The June 7 Primary Election is not a part of the election for supervisors. The candidates in the Primary Election are for Judge and County Central Committees, as well as the initial election for State Senator. Ballots for this election are currently being cast at City Hall and by absentee. Please remember to vote.

*By the Numbers*

**Say It Ain't So, Joe**

**By Lou Barberini, CPA**



*"I have spoken to Mr. Barberini in the past. They keep raising up issues, its not a matter of misinformation, even when we give them the correct information, its just they don't seem to want to understand. That's number 1. Number 2, Members can buy annuities if they want, but we do not offer tax-sheltered annuities. I am very familiar with the investment inferiority of that product. To defend something we don't do seems a very odd use of time."*

*Commissioner Joe Driscoll, Chairman, Deferred Compensation Plan Committee, San Francisco Employees' Retirement System, Retirement Board meeting April 13, 2016 at 2:41.<sup>1</sup>*

**T**his is Commissioner Joe Driscoll's response to my March *Westside Observer* article in which I questioned why the Department of Labor has upgraded the standards of service requirements for private sector employees' 401k plans, while leaving public employees' similar retirement plans virtually unprotected.

Commissioner Driscoll's statement is an apparent contradiction. He states that he knows annuities are "inferior products;" yet over the past 30 years, he has voted in favor of SF's employees Deferred Comp (DC) Plan being limited to annuities from Hartford Insurance, Aetna Insurance, ING Insurance, Great West Insurance, and Prudential Insurance's insurance product. In terms of offering investments, an insurance company can basically only offer life insurance or annuities. Thus, either Driscoll has voted for a product he opines is "inferior," or he should explain how Prudential's insurance product differs from an annuity.

To reconcile Driscoll's board meeting comments with my understanding of Shakespeare's paraphrase, "An annuity, by any other name, is still an annuity;" on May 3rd, I emailed, and hand-delivered via SFERS, the following four questions to Commissioner Driscoll:

If this is not an annuity, why is it distributed through Prudential's "Retirement and Annuity Company?"

Considering that Prudential's Fact Sheet states these investments are not mutual funds or separate accounts, what precisely is this product?

With regards to my not understanding Joe's answers, from our meeting at 800 Bryant Street, I asked Joe again: "Over the past 35 years, can you name a single city employee that has received a life insurance payout from our DC life insurance product?"

Why is there a disparity between Prudential claiming that the ending April price

on the Vanguard S&P 500 fund (VFIIX) was \$23.86, while Vanguard states that the actual closing price was \$188.85? Is this a bait-and-switch?

Commissioner Driscoll has not acknowledged receipt of or responded to my questions. And while he may believe that this is "an odd use of time," participants in SF's DC plan should be extremely concerned about these unanswered questions for three reasons:

First, why would anyone generate the extra work and headache of subdividing Vanguard and the other funds, into two different share prices and two sets of books?

Second, Prudential Insurance has gone to great lengths to disclose they are merely record-keepers and "participants' accounts are not separated." The implication is that Prudential does not take possession of any of the underlying fund shares. So which company actually holds

*Cont. p. 6*



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## West Of Twin Peaks Central Council By Mitch Bull

### NEWS AND VIEWS...

**P**ublic Safety ruled the day at the April 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the West of Twin Peaks Central Council. **President Roger Ritter** kicked off the meeting at 7:35 in front of a large crowd and following the roll call, he opened with the first of the “public safety” speakers, **SF Public Defender Jeff Adachi**.

Adachi, whose office is responsible for ensuring that his department’s clients (people charged with criminal behavior) are treated fairly by the judicial system with a fair and unprejudiced outcome, started by defining crime and criminal activity as a behavior, a moral judgment. He used the example of the **drop of cell phone thefts**, now that “kill” switches have eliminated the sale on the secondary market; a move opposed by the cell phone manufacturers due to the profit they were making by selling new phones to those who had been victimized by cell phone theft.

He then described a program designed to change the behavior of 16 and 17 year olds, called the “Pathways Program.” It is a **jail diversion program** that requires the teens to participate in the program weekly for 1 year. The program instructs them on how their (criminal) behavior impacts them, their victims and others, as well as other behaviors, to avoid continuing on the same path. The one-year old program appears to have **changed behavior in up to 85% of the participants**.

When looking at adult thieves, he said that the crimes are from the “need” to have whatever they are stealing, either from envy, or a need to fence the item for money. Statistically approximately 12% of SF residents live below the poverty limit of \$12,000 per year for individuals, or \$25,000/yr. for a family, although he made sure to remind people that not all of those living below the poverty line are doing criminal activity. A large percentage (25%) of the clients of the Public Defender’s office are **mentally ill**, with another large group addicted to drugs and/or alcohol.

When asked about ways to reduce crime, Adachi voiced his support for making **household-mounted video camera (e.g. GoPro) videos** admissible as evidence, and said that the sighting of a camera would help to deter those looking for places to rob. He also advised to not leave items in plain sight in your vehicle, as these are prime targets for “smash and grab” auto burglaries. There were **26,000 auto burglaries** in SF last year, with a “**solve rate**” of only 4%.

Taraval Police Station **Captain Denise Flaherty** started her presentation by reminding the attendees that “Nothing is too big or too small to report,” and that citizen involvement is a big help to the SFPD in trying to prevent or solve crimes. The Captain spoke about the high rate of auto burglaries, citing 200 in December, but that there have been only 33 reported so far in May. The station has undertaken efforts to combat this type of crime by having **more undercover units** on the streets, and also having a **higher visible level of police officers** on the street. She also discussed crimes where 3-4 organized members working as a “gang” are breaking into houses. She also reiterated how having **cameras on the front and back of a house** can be not only a deterrent, but also a resource for video footage that can help the SFPD catch



Public Defender Jeff Adachi



Captain Denise Flaherty



Captain Joe McFadden

Flaherty stressed the point that it is important to be a good neighbor by listening to your “little voice,” in that if something looks suspicious, it probably is, and to not hesitate to call the local SFPD station to report it. Another way to combat crime is to take **photos of your valuables** that can be used to help solve cases.

She also spoke of how a **typical burglar** may commit 2-3 home burglaries per day. An example was given about a burglar who committed “Hot Prowl” types of burglaries, where residents would be present in the home when he would burglarize it. Through police work this burglar was caught and the number of these types of break-ins **dropped from 73 in March to 15 in May**.

The last speaker on Public Safety, Ingleside Station **Captain Joe McFadden**, also touted the use of video evidence as a great way to catch and convict suspected felons. He also spoke of making a call to 911 or the non-emergency number (415-553-0123) to **report suspicious activities**. If reporting a need for an officer to “drive by” and no one is seen after 20 minutes, Mc Fadden told the attendees to call the station and ask for the PC (Platoon Commander on duty).

He next addressed the problems with leaving an **electric garage door opener** in your car, installing a garage door sliding lock bar on the mechanism, or a switch so that power to the door can be turned off. He also reported that the SFPD had recently **busted 3 burglary rings** operating in Glen Park, Bernal Heights, and Monterey Boulevard.

Following the public safety discussion, a resolution was initiated to acknowledge that **Lee Hsu** was nominated by Mayor Lee to serve on the SFMTA, and requesting that the Board of Supervisors approve the nomination. The resolution was passed unanimously.

The WOTPCC select nominating committee (**Dave Bisho, Paul Conroy, and Denise La Pointe**) reported on the officer nominations for WOTPCC officers for the 2016-2017 year. Bisho reported that the nominating committee is nominating the current slate of officers to continue again for the 2016-17 year: **President Roger Ritter, Vice President Sally Stephens, Secretary David Goldman and Treasurer Carolyn Squeri**. Floor nominations for Board officers may also be brought forth at the June meeting prior to the election.

Next, President Ritter and **Matt Chamberlain** discussed the **WOTPCC/District 7 Supervisorial Candidates Forum**. The date of Saturday, September 10 was confirmed with the forum being held inside the Forest Hills Clubhouse, with refreshments being served outside.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15. The next regular meeting of the WOTPCC will be on **Monday, June 27th** at 7:30 PM at the **Forest Hill Clubhouse**. For more information see the WOTPCC website ([www.westoftwinpeaks.org](http://www.westoftwinpeaks.org)).

## Ruminations From a Former Supervisor By Quentin Kopp



**V**on Bismarck, the German unifier of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, supposedly stated, “If you like laws and sausages, you should never watch either one being made.” Not knowing the results of the June 7<sup>th</sup> election as I write, I can only surmise, based upon hundreds of thousands of dollars of campaign spending by so-called “independent expenditure committees” originating from corporations like Airbnb, Uber, PG&E, and other tax dodgers, they will secure ballot approval for an annual earmark for the Recreation and Parks Department in the yearly San Francisco budget, together with a parcel tax on homeowners to benefit giant corporate property owners (Measure AA). The Board of Supervisors, however, isn’t through. Instead of forcefully regulating and preventing Airbnb from overwhelming our neighborhoods with tourist property rentals and facilitating federal enforcement of laws against illegal immigration in favor of law-abiding immigrants, the Board of Supervisors has already embarked upon further city government arrangements which will cost taxpayers even more money, create more bureaucracy, and encourage more direct campaign contributions to politicians and “independent expenditure” committees for purposes designed to win corporate affection from incumbent Supervisors. One example is a charter amendment to create an Office of the Public Advocate. He (or she) would allegedly review administration of city programs, effectiveness of certain city agencies, responsiveness of city agencies to requests for data or information, management and employment processes of city officers and departments, and contracting procedures and practices. It would put the Public Advocate in charge of the Office of Labor Standards Enforcement, Office of Citizens Complaints and the alleged Whistleblower Program. The Public Advocate could directly introduce legislation at the Board of Supervisors, with a salary set as the average of salaries of the Mayor, City Attorney, District Attorney, Public Defender, Assessor-Recorder, Treasurer, Sheriff, and Board of Supervisors. Note that Supervisors, at over \$113,850 per year, are the lowest paid of the aforementioned City officials. The Mayor is the highest at about \$265,000 (without counting benefits). The Public Advocate’s salary will exceed \$150,000 annually. This proposal is disgorged by Supervisors David Campos, John Avalos, Jane Kim, and Eric Mar. The measure would also earmark a 0.3% minimum of the City’s total budget for the new bureaucracy and require appropriation of an amount equal to the annual budget of the Office of Citizen Complaints, or the Office of Labor Standards Enforcement, or the Whistleblower Program, whichever amount is *largest* by fiscal year for each of those three entities.

Nice piece of work for supervisors elected by districts on the theory they would be better able to act as advocates for district residents and businesses. They could take the rest of the day off; as it is, you can’t find them at City Hall on non-meeting days. Avalos, Campos, and Mar are lame ducks; they’ll need new jobs (surely not in private business) on January 8, 2017. If this depraved charter amendment passes, guess who would try to become the Public Advocate? Not just former Assemblyman Tom Ammiano, who proudly participated in drafting this insulting-to-taxpayers measure, but Avalos, Campos, and Mar (Kim, running for State Senate, has two more years before saying good bye). Every district supervisor is now elected to perform the same responsibilities they would impose on a new bureaucrat who could also introduce legislation as if he or she were a Supervisor! That’s like creating a twelfth Supervisor. The estimated annual cost of the new bureaucracy will exceed \$13,000,000 without cutting Supervisors’ salaries or the aforementioned departmental budgets. But then, with an annual budget over \$9,600,000,000 that’s chicken feed.

Speaking of Supervisors, Mark Farrell, fined \$191,000 in December 2014 by an unanimous Ethics Commission for illegally coordinating election activity with an “independent expenditure” committee during his 2010 campaign, filed suit against the Ethics Commission and City and County taxpayers last month to stop, by court order, collection of the fine. First, the fine should have been \$225,000 based upon the financial wrongdoing by Farrell and his “independent expenditure” committee to win election. Secondly, Farrell’s campaign consultant received two donations (in the total amount of \$141,000) and was fined by the Fair Political Practices Commission in Sacramento for managing the “independent expenditure” committee for Farrell’s benefit. (Note that City law on illegal intercourse between a candidate’s campaign and an “independent expenditure” committee is tougher than State law; the candidate may be held personally

viable for such illegal communication and transactions whether the candidate knew about it or not under our law.) That’s not all. Farrell is currently Chairman of the Budget Committee of the Board of Supervisors, which will vote on the Ethics Commission’s budget this month. The Commission’s proposed budget request is higher than this fiscal year because finally, with a new and competent Executive Director, it now possesses motivation for investigating city government corruption. Farrell must be recused from participating in any vote on the Ethics Commission’s requested budget. If he doesn’t and votes to reduce the requested amount, that could result in yet another complaint to the Ethics Commission and/or a Superior Court suit requesting the Court to bar Farrell from participating under State and City conflict of interest laws.

Speaking of the Ethics Commission, note that last month it also fined District Attorney George Gascon, his Chief of Staff and an Assistant District Attorney for soliciting donations from City employees for his campaign in 2014. That’s illegal, and the fighting Gascon had attended ethics training classes confirming it. This is the same District Attorney who’s never tried a criminal or civil case in his life and who appoints, without benefit of law, a biased trio of judges lacking power to administer oaths or issue subpoenas, dubs them a “blue-ribbon panel,” presents unsworn testimony to them, and then proclaims the integrity of their report that our Police Department is a failure.

I register disappointment with Sheriff Vicki Hennessey, who after five months in office purports to reverse the crazed policy of her predecessor prohibiting the Sheriff’s Department employees from notifying the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (I.C.E.) of scheduled release of illegal aliens wanted for deportation. For months, Sheriff Hennessey represented that she had drafted a new policy that was under review by the City Attorney, which would abolish her predecessor’s policy of not informing I.C.E. no matter its desire

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Another Bait-and-Switch

How the Mayor’s Affordable Housing Bond Snookered Voters

By Patrick Monette-Shaw

As I wrote in May’s Westside Observer, voters were snookered on last November’s \$310 million housing bond measure: Only recently has the City finally admitted that fully 20% of that bond — possibly up to \$62 million, or a smaller \$20 million chunk — is being set aside for housing for the homeless, something voters were never informed about prior to the November 2015 election.

The legal text of Prop A in the November 2015 voter guide defined on page 157 that the bond measure would put the question to voters whether the bond should prioritize “vulnerable” populations as including folks “such as” working families, veterans, seniors and disabled persons, but made no mention of homeless people or “transitional youth” in the legal text.

Add in the \$20 million for homeless shelters in the June 2016 bond, and we’re up to \$42 million to \$82 million in bond financing plus interest for homeless projects, as in “when pigs fly.” That \$82 million is on top of the Mayor’s first-year budget for the new Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing under newly-appointed department head Jeff Kositsky, who fittingly has a tattoo on his right calf featuring a flying pig.

Shortly after last November’s election, legislation started circulating at City Hall to issue up to \$95 million in Certificates of Participation (COPs) for Affordable Housing Projects above and beyond the \$310 million Affordable Housing bond measure voters had just approved.

Drunken Sailor’s \$1.5 Billion in New Debt

As I also wrote last month, between last November’s \$310 million Affordable Housing bond measure and June’s \$350 million Public Health and Safety bond measure that voters will probably pass, taxpayers are footing \$1.13 billion in principal and interest for two bonds. Add in the two COP’s nearing approval — the housing RAD project and the Animal Care and Control project — that total another \$323.3 million, and we’re up to a combined \$1.45 billion in principal and interest debt service in a short seven-month period since last November for just four additional projects.

City Hall’s drunken sailors have clearly been on a spending spree.

Laguna Honda Hospital Mortgaged to the Max

In May 2009 I reported in “Mortgaging Laguna Honda Hospital’s Future” that the City was leveraging the “residual rental value” of Laguna Honda Hospital’s (LHH) property to issue a COP as long-term debt for doing street improvement projects, and had issued another COP to help pay for the cost overruns of building the new LHH replacement facilities.

I noted in 2009 that the City had issued the two COPs based on LHH having \$575 million in market value. Fast forward seven years to 2016, and the City has already issued a second COP for streets improvement and is poised to issue in the next month a fourth COP for the Affordable Housing RAD program, as reported by the City Controller’s Office:

Principal and Interest Debt Mortgaged Against LHH’s Market				
Mortgaged	Purpose	Principal	Interest	Total
	1999 General Obligation Bonds	\$296,083,671	\$64,624,814	\$360,708,485
2009A	First COP’s to Fund Construction	\$163,335,000	\$111,135,183	\$274,470,183
2009B	Second COP’s to Fund Road Repairs	\$37,885,000	\$28,754,821	\$66,639,821
2012A	Third COP’s to Fund Road Repairs	\$42,835,000	\$23,709,163	\$66,544,163
2017	Affordable Housing (RAD) COP’s	\$83,440,000	\$129,795,199	\$213,235,199
	Total	\$623,578,671	\$358,019,180	\$981,597,851
	COP’s Only Subtotal	\$327,495,000	\$293,394,366	\$620,889,366

Given LHH’s \$575 million market value, reasonable people are concerned that the nearly \$1 billion in long-term debt financing already leveraged against LHH’s property market value is precariously out of sync, and alarming. And there’s no guarantee that the Animal Care and Control Facility COPs that will be issued by November 2016 will not also name LHH

as the lease “asset,” since the City is capgily claiming that they don’t currently know which City asset will be “leveraged” for the Animal Care COPs.

Where’s the Tobacco Settlement Revenue?

Back in 1996, then Board of Supervisors president Angela Alioto authored legislation to sue Big Tobacco, won her lawsuit, and succeeded in creating the Tobacco Settlement Revenue (TSR) account.

Data first provided in December 2007 by then-City Controller Ed Harrington indicated \$149.4 million had been received in the TSR account by then, and the City projected it would earn an additional \$790 million through the year 2060, for a combined total of \$939.4 million.

Updated data provided on April 20, 2016 reported actual TSRs received to date climbed to \$303 million, and lowered the projected revenue for future years to just \$206.8 million, reducing the projected revenue to just through the year 2030, for a combined total of \$509.8 million, not the \$1.115 billion in data updated in June 2010.

Future TSR revenue projections not only shrank by 30 years, but also shrank by \$743,685,039 from data previously provided this author in July 2010. In response to a records request about the 30-year period, the Controller’s lame partial response on May 23 was that projections now only go “through 2030 due to the fact that the City does not have debt outstanding past 2030,” which of course is complete nonsense, since the November 2015 Prop A Affordable Housing bond incurs debt through at least the year 2039.

Incredibly Shrinking Interest on the TSR

Former City Controller Harrington indicated that as of December 2007, the City had already earned \$32.387 million in interest on the TSR revenue received. On July 9, 2010, Nadia Feeser, the Controller’s Acting Budget Manager, provided an Excel file showing that interest earned on the TSRs as of June 30, 2010 had surged over a three-year period to a total of \$40.9 million in interest earned.

On April 20, 2016 the Controller’s Office claimed the interest earned to date on the TSR account had plummeted to just \$14.5 million, representing a loss of \$28.2 million in interest earned that had been reported in July 2010. What happened to the previously reported interest of \$40.9million? Couldn’t those millions have been used towards funding the June 2016 Public Health Facilities bond?

Other TSR Anomalies

On May 4, the Controller’s Office provided another Excel file prepared by Hiu Ching “Cherie” Wan, an accountant for



Guest Editorial

Thank you Chief!

By John Farrell

First off, I do not personally know Police Chief Greg Suhr and was disheartened to read that he resigned. He was a year ahead of me at St. Ignatius but we never crossed each other’s paths over the years to really get to know each other. I know people close to him, and know a lot of the rank and file. I have read about his career over the years through the newspapers and have always rooted for him.

As a native you grow up competing against other schools like Riordan, Sacred Heart, Lowell, Lincoln, to name a few, but as you get older you root for them as fellow San Franciscans, and wish them all the best because the City is the common bond we all have.

In my opinion, he is the first Police Chief hired over the last 20 years based on qualifications and not based primarily on race or gender. The prior chief was selected by our previous Mayor who was running for governor and needed the Hispanic vote. Do I have anything personal against this man? No. Was he qualified? Probably yes. Was he hired for the right reason? No. He wasn’t hired for the best interest of the City but for the best interest of a political campaign. But what else is new.

That’s why Chief Suhr was different. Whether you liked the Chief or not, which I do, I can tell you one thing, Greg Suhr would never sell out the City. And as Al Pacino said in the movie Scent of a



Woman, “That is called integrity.”

There are over 1700 police officers who protect our City every day. I thank you all for that. Just because a handful make bad judgment calls shouldn’t overshadow all the positives. Keep in mind that we all have our differences, but we all bleed red, and we are all in this together. There isn’t one organization in the world without a couple of bad eggs.

I will continue to root for Greg since I know his heart is in the right place. And that heart is in San Francisco.

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

He’s Back

By John Farrell

Per the article “Lucas S.F. museum sequel,” in the May 15th Chronicle, “After a lobbying campaign by Mayor Ed Lee, Stars Wars creator George Lucas is again looking to San Francisco as a possible home for a museum housing his collection of illustrative art and Hollywood memorabilia — this time on a site already approved for development on Treasure Island.”



When I read this article it reminded me of the movie Poltergeist where the little blonde girl is sitting in front of the TV and looks at the camera and says, “They’re back.” Well, in the case of Mr. Lucas, “He’s back.”

First off, let me say this. I am a big George Lucas fan and remember being one of the first in line to see Star Wars at the Coronet in 1977. I’ve watched all six episodes, as well as all Indiana Jones and American Graffiti movies. I know there are 7 episodes in the Star Wars saga but episode 7 The Force Awakens (which is fabulous), is from Disney, who bought Lucasfilm in 2012.

This time let’s not blow it like the Presidio Trust. I appreciate creativity and would enjoy this type of collection provided by Mr. Lucas as much as a Rembrandt. If we are given a second chance to be the home of this creative and revolutionary genius who is from the Bay Area, then let’s do it right this time.

Per the Chronicle article, “Lucas has renewed his interest in the city because his latest museum proposal – for a futuristic structure on the shores of Lake Michigan in Chicago-is on life support. Open space advocates like those who helped spike his earlier plans for a Beaux Arts-style monument near Presidio’s Crissy Field have Lucas’ plan hopelessly entangled, legally and politically.” Since no decision has been made by Mr. Lucas on where his museum will be, Mayor Lee plans to send a letter formally inviting him to build his museum on Treasure Island.

Wilson Meany and Lennar Corp have already completed the environmental review by the City, and have entitlements to build 8000 homes, 400,000 sq ft of commercial space and 2 hotels on Treasure Island. The City approvals also provide for the construction of a museum or community center on the island.

The current access plans to the island are by ferry, motor vehicle or bike. In my opinion, as I have told representatives of the last two Mayoral administrations, if this development is to be viable then I recommended working with BART in putting a station on Yerba Buena Island. When BART was constructing the tunnel under the Bay, which goes right by the island, the Navy at the time did not want a station for security reasons. If this development is to be a success than access is crucial. This station would provide residents and visitors of Treasure Island access to all the BART arteries around the Bay Area including SFO and Oakland.

Of course it will cost, but what project has the City been part of that hasn’t. This development will benefit the whole Bay Area in the future so why limit access. If Mr. Lucas decides to build his museum on Treasure Island, he might even help defray the cost for this station, since he would want the best accessibility possible for his legacy.

Good Luck Mr. Lucas! May the force be with you.

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

Cont. p. 8



Commentary

Green Head

About five years ago SFPUC (water, sewer, power) opened its splashy new headquarters building, 525 Golden Gate Avenue in the Civic Center. The \$200 million edifice came with much-heralded green bling, helping to make the building a prize winner, proudly certified LEED Platinum. How thrilling! How do the green machines perform?



In 2002 SFPUC obtained relief from having to get voter approval for going into debt. That enabled expansion of the agency... An expanding agency wanted new digs, and green credentials. Its headquarters is glamorous ... It's all part of what you pay for when you pay your water and sewer bill, or your rent.

Not so well. Solar panels did okay, but an "inverter" is needed to produce usable electricity. That overheated. Air conditioning had to be installed. The inverter's provider went bankrupt; parts are unavailable.

Wind turbines on the side of the building make a flashy addition. These did spin, for a year. However, they were "not operated for meters" (sic); this portion of power generation was not installed. Just what this means is uncertain, but one gathers these fancy turbines did not actually generate electricity. It was discovered that engineers cannot safely access the turbines. And, the internal memo setting forth findings concludes that urban wind is just not a viable generation source. All show, no glow.

The Living Machine recycles waste water for use on plants, and for reuse in toilets. It is said to have worked pretty well, and been a leading example of how other buildings can use non-potable water. The Living Machine is said to have offset 2.3 million gallons of potable water. But, fixtures and fittings have corroded throughout the building. Many have been replaced. Also, access to the machine's equipment turned out to be difficult, requiring improvement. And there were problems with odor. An air intake pulled bad odors back into the building, necessitating the raising of piping. Too, redundant pumps were not installed (as is usual practice in wastewater treatment), and when one went out of order the whole show closed. Backup pumps have been purchased and stored.

In 2002 SFPUC obtained relief from having to get voter approval for going into debt. That enabled expansion of the agency, which provides water, wastewater treatment, and power for municipal use, and now for a portion of the city's private uses under the newly launched Clean-PowerSF. An expanding agency wanted new digs, and green credentials. Its headquarters is glamorous. When in the Civic Center, visit the cafe, the building's art-work (appointment required for that), and observe the green machines. It's all part of what you pay for when you pay your water and sewer bill, or your rent.

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Drought update. By mid-July our water storage system is likely to top at about 80% full; if weather and snow melt is favorable, perhaps 90%, or more. The system can store 293 billion gallons (not including the water bank at Don Pedro). Recently the system uses about 77 billion gallons per year. (Note: Not all stored water can be drained without serious harm to fish and perhaps facilities. The timing of snow melt can affect how much water is San Francisco's, and how much belongs to irrigation districts. Don Pedro is owned by irrigation districts; SF can bank up to 176 billion gallons there.)

WSIP update. The Water Supply Improvement Program was again revised. SFPUC began in 2003 intending to finish in 2015. The program underwent a major revision in 2005, when it intended to finish up in 2014. Since then the program has undergone a series of revisions, the latest of which has the program finishing about 2020. Cost is up again as well. Cost went from \$3.4 billion in 2003 to about \$4.8 billion now. Scope of work has both increased and decreased; in terms of the amount of water the system can carry, it has decreased about 15%; environmental work and more has been added to the program.

BAWSCA, the agency that is sort of a union of the water system's wholesale customers, is watching carefully. It plainly does not like the latest revisions, which however are necessary and at this point unavoidable. It seems to distrust SFPUC to act in its best interests. (SFPUC has what amounts to a trust relationship with its wholesale customers.) In particular, BAWSCA fears collapse of the Mountain Tunnel, which would cut them and us in SF off from Hetchy water. BAWSCA insists on an adequate emergency plan for how to act should the vulnerable tunnel go down. Fixing Mountain Tunnel was once in WSIP, but the project was removed in the major 2005 revision.

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Unaffordable housing. Your correspondent has spent inordinate time untying the Gordian Knot of SF unaffordable housing. Finally, light! Eric Fischer has done amazing yeoman's work and statistical analysis, and has made sense of and shed real light on the city's housing situation. What causes high rents? Is it the NIMBYs? Rent control? Red tape? What? Frustratingly, especially after such impressive work, no path forward clearly appears.

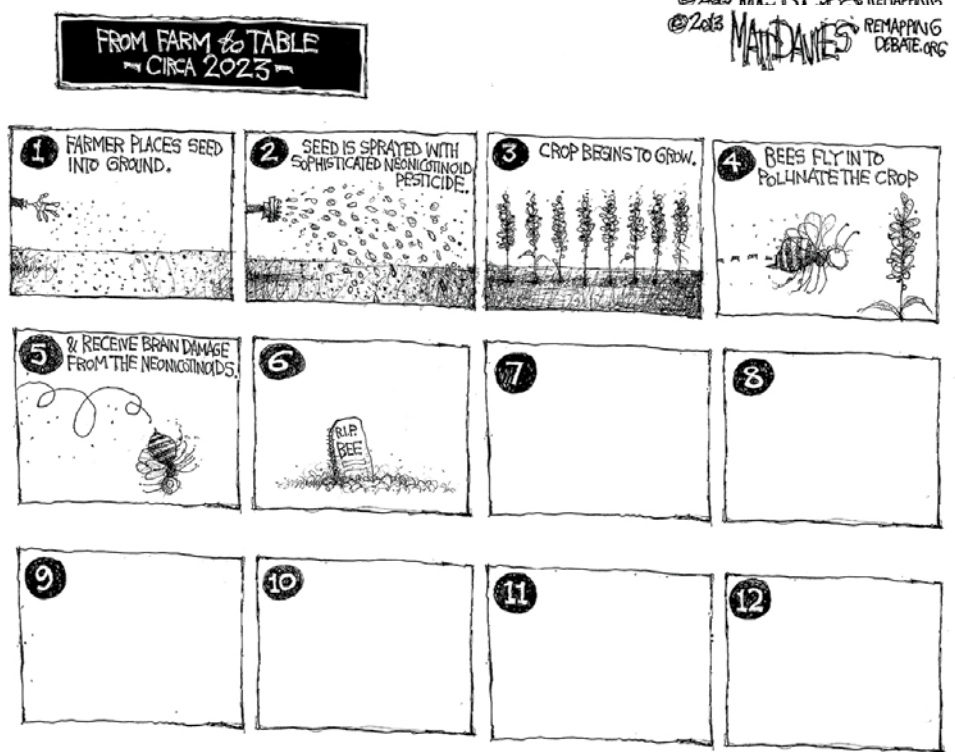
Perhaps the path we've been on, hard as it is for me to say this (with my market bias), is the best available. One commentator discussing Fischer suggests that focus on techies (high earners) explains much. He ends up suggesting housing for each "class" (my term, not his): Housing for the poor; housing protection for middle income; housing for techies, i.e., market-rate housing. It's a brave new world.

(Fischer concludes that three factors predict rents in SF, number of housing units, gross salary of workers, and number of jobs. Rents rise at a surprisingly consistent 6.6% per year, considerably higher than overall inflation. Since 1960 rents are four times higher. The trend seems inexorable, and to reduce rents back to one-third of what they were—to mostly return to the good old days—would require what no one wants—fewer jobs, lower pay, or a huge increase in units.)

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

Letters to the Editor

I wish to comment on a statement in Marco Siler-Gonzales' article "City College Strike Underscores Troubles." The author says, "April 27's faculty-led strike marked the first ever in City College's 80 years of existence." This is not correct. I was a Humanities and English instructor at City College of San Francisco from 1966 to 1999. During my tenure there were several faculty-led strikes. April 27's strike was the first one in many years, but not the first ever. *John Caris*



My 2¢ • Will Durst © 2016



We, Who Are About To Be Beaten With the Ugly Stick, Salute You.

Oh dear. Not pretty. Yes. Already. The upcoming presidential campaign is ugly now and destined to ratchet up to epic uglier as soon as Bernie Sanders decides to bow out. Which is imminent. Not soon enough for Hillary Clinton, but not long.

And conversely, it should be fairly easy to uncover evidence of the Donald's extra-marital shenanigans and voluminous shady deals ...with Trump's supporters, that's not necessarily a negative.

The Vermont Senator has turned into that drunken cousin who hasn't noticed he's been the last guest for over an hour, cracking open another beer threatening to put his cigarette out in the kids' wading pool. Starting to channel Hotel California. "You can check in any time you like, but you can never leave."

How ugly will the race get? Think randomly-shaved, rat terrier with a fourth premolar infection, mange and a lazy eye... ugly. Naked Sumo mud-wrestling ugly. If this campaign were a baby, you'd have to tie pork chops to its ears to get the dog to play with it. Even the rat terrier of which earlier we spoke.

The hard part is the timing. On both sides. Has the public had its fill of Hillary bashing? She's been taking the hits and shaking them off since first becoming a mote in the national public eye back in 1991.

You remember what Republicans said when she was First Lady. "She's a liar, a thief, a lesbian. She cheated widows and orphans and murdered Vince Foster. With her bare hands. And then ate him." That's when she was First Lady.

Now, as opposition nominee, the kid gloves are coming off. "Alien Space Queen Vampire: here to suck dry our precious bodily fluids. Originally the Clintons had 3 children but sold two to a Bangkok brothel. To which Bill makes twice yearly visits."

On the other side, if you don't think the Clinton Machine has had at least a dozen investigators devoted to opposition research for months, you are probably extremely confused by the dampness on days when it rains. They undoubtedly have dug so deep, they know which way

Trump's small intestine turns, 30 feet in.

In his patented gracious style, Trump christened his upcoming opponent, "Crooked Hillary," and that's the tame end of the ugly stick. He calls it counter punching, but flick him with a fly swatter and he'll drop you with an elephant gun. Ask any elephant.

The Aerodynamic Coif responded to accusations of his own randy behavior by calling Hillary an enabler of Bill's infidelities. But he needs to tread carefully or risk sharing a crying towel with her 2000 US Senate opponent, Rick Lazio. Who? Exactly.

There's two ways of looking at it. Either Hillary Diane Rodham Clinton has more baggage than the first United flight out of O'Hare after a freak spring blizzard, or there's no meat left on her scandal bone. Like a single sardine tossed over a stone wall into a cat sanctuary.

And conversely, it should be fairly easy to uncover evidence of the Donald's extra-marital shenanigans and voluminous shady deals and suspicious deaths of folks who opposed him. Oh, come on. We've all seen Law & Order: there's a New York developer knocking off enemies and depositing them in the foundations of soon-to-be-erected condominiums every other episode. The only difference is, with Trump's supporters, that's not necessarily a negative. Be afraid. Be very afraid.

Copyright © 2016, Will Durst. Will Durst is an award-winning, nationally acclaimed columnist, comedian and former rickshaw driver at Fisherman's Wharf. For sample videos and a calendar of appearances including his new one-man show, Elect to Laugh: 2016, every Tuesday at the SF Marsh. Go to willdurst.com.

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**Quentin Kopp** (Cont. from p. 3)  
to deport the convicted criminal. Let us never forget Kathryn Steinle, who was killed by an illegal alien last July, after the lawbreaker's release from jail by the Sheriff although wanted for deportation based on a prior criminal record. Instead of a new policy simply notifying I.C.E. and honoring its request, the new Sheriff compromised with the Board of Supervisors to allow notification only with illegal aliens who have committed violent or serious felonies in the past five years, have been booked into County jail on a felony and only when authorized by a Superior Court judge on a "probable cause" finding. Can you imagine that plethora of obstacles to I.C.E. deportation proceedings? It's a policy that would not even have prevented the murder of Kathryn Steinle, whose family last month sued the preceding Sheriff personally and City and County taxpayers for the wrongful death of their daughter.

**Barbarini** (Cont. from p. 2)  
these mysteriously-priced shares?  
Third, if San Francisco employees' shares are not held separately, then does that translate into all of the firefighters in Driscoll's department having their DC's investments comingled into one big account? And if there are "no separate accounts," does that mean that firefighters from other cities have had their accounts merged with SFFD's investments? And finally, since we don't know where the unsegregated shares are, then what assurance does Driscoll have that Prudential Insurance does not carry every U.S. firefighter's investments as a Prudential asset on Prudential's own balance sheet? In that manner, Prudential can borrow against the nation's firefighters' assets; which of course makes Joe's coworkers' vulnerable to Prudential's creditor's claims.

There is a solid reason why there are two sets of books, SF employees have been limited to insurance annuities, and the city's contract with the outside consultant alleviates them from putting the San Francisco employees' interests before their own. It is called: slipping into the shadows of weak insurance regulation to avoid SEC oversight. But don't worry SFFD, when AIG Insurance recently teetered on bankruptcy, the government bailed them out.

The intention of this article is not to discount Commissioner Driscoll, but to address his direct refutation, as chairman of the Deferred Comp Committee, to the issues I have raised. A distinction should be made between our respect for Driscoll's 40+ years of service as a firefighter, and his role as an elected fiduciary. A similar distinction must also be made between reading about finance, and the development of a professional skepticism that comes from "street smarts" earned by actually working opposite the Wall Street wolves. Overconfidence, an absence of curiosity, and a lack of appreciation for minute details can dilute a novice's analysis.

As an example, I initially tried to contact Driscoll, via his campaign flyer email address: joeretirementboard@gmail.com. Except, that email address has never been activated. I also notice that his campaign flyer, which was recently mailed to solicit the votes of 20,000+ SF employees, had a quote from "Institutional Investing"

That'll cost the taxpayers a million dollars or more.  
On November 8, 2016, voters in District 7 elect a supervisor. There is an incumbent, although he's rarely seen and seldom acts as a public advocate for voters. I've endorsed and unreservedly recommend Michael Young, a Parkmerced resident for the office. He's a graduate of Roosevelt Junior High, Lowell, Cal, and Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. He was in the Foreign Service for 10 years, U.S. Army Reserve as a paratrooper captain and three years as a budget analyst in the Mayor's office. He's terrific. I also endorse John Farrell, Jr., son of my 45-year friend, ex-City Controller John Farrell, who just decided to run and who possesses ample credentials. I'll discuss it more in the fall, but be receptive to those candidates now.  
*Retired former Supervisor, State Senator and Judge Quentin Kopp lives in District 7*

magazine. But there is no such magazine. It is Institutional Investor. Driscoll's flyer, quotes "Joe Driscoll (is) 'a driving force' behind the success of San Francisco's retirement system." Yet the article actually states that Driscoll's role was significantly smaller and he was merely a "force behind investment innovation." Even more egregious, and thanks to the campaign flyer's link to the August 8, 2005 article, it forebodes: "Driscoll also pushed for the plan's new currency-overlay program." Had Institutional Investor waited eight years to revisit the program, which only Joe received Institutional Investor credit for pushing, the journalists would have been able to report that the currency-overlay program went on to lose approximately \$60 million (\$2,000+ loss per city employee.)

Last month, MetLife was fined over \$25 million because numerous agents received overly generous commissions for churning annuities, but couldn't justify a significant benefit to their investors. In 2014, city employees' DC Plan was switched from Great West Insurance to Prudential Insurance with a savings of about \$20 on a firefighters' \$100,000 DC investment. The average insurance commission on that size account is \$5,000. Would you believe a salesman who advised you to trade your car in to get 20 more feet, (not miles) per gallon? It makes you wonder how much some insurance agent pocketed to switch the \$2 billion SF account, just to save a couple more "feet" for our firefighters?

For these schemes, Prudential has no liability and the City Attorney has contractually relieved the outside consultant's fiduciary responsibility. Thus, as a Retirement Board commissioner, Joe Driscoll is required to operate in a fiduciary capacity, is civilly liable, and is the last line of defense against salesmen whose interests, by their very nature, are on the opposite side of the negotiating table from city employees. I, for one, do not believe the aforementioned issues are an odd use of time of any person entrusted with the fiduciary responsibility for his fellow firefighters.

*Lou Barberini, CPA, Lou.barberini@gmail.com*  
*1. [http://sanfrancisco.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view\\_id=175&clip\\_id=25150](http://sanfrancisco.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=175&clip_id=25150)*

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June Programs

Adult Programs

West Portal Book Club

Thursday, June 16 · 2 – 3:30 p.m.

The club meets the 3rd Thursday of every month. Reading choices alternate between fiction and nonfiction. New members welcome. Want to know what we're reading next? Call (415) 355-2886.



Artistry and Craft Club

Thursday, June 16


6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Join us on the 3rd Thursday of each month for a fun and creative craft project! Space limited, please register (415) 355-2886 or email: [wpomgr@sfpl.org](mailto:wpomgr@sfpl.org)

Great Books Discussion Group

Wednesday, June 22 · 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

This month: *Equality, Value and Merit* (19 pgs.) by Friedrich Hayek and *Liberalism* (11 pgs.) by Robald Dworkin. Great Books meets regularly at West Portal the fourth Wednesday of most months, holidays and vacations excepted. Call (415) 355-2886 for more information.




Opera for the People

George Bizet's *Carmen*

Thursday, June 30 · 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

A classic story of fatal attractions. Exciting video excerpts feature the acclaimed mezzo-soprano Elina Garanča as Carmen—the fiery gypsy girl who describes love as 'a rebellious bird that nobody can tame.'

Opera for the People is a lecture series by Larry Oppenheim designed for both the opera novice and the experienced opera lover. In less than an hour, you enjoy a guided tour of an opera which combines concise commentary with exciting video excerpts.



Children's Programs

Baby Rhyme Time & Playtime

Tues. · 10:30 – 11:30 am

Rollicking rhymes, songs, and books for infants to 15 months and their caregivers.

Rock Steady Juggling with Doug Nolan

Thur, June 9, 1 – 2 pm

Doug Nolan's unique "Eco-tainment" blends juggling, comedy and audience participation so well that learning about compost and green waste was never more fun. For all ages.

Green Arts Workshop

Sat, June 11 | 11 am – 12:30 pm

Picture yourself doing a summer activity. Then turn that scene into a haiku book by collaging found text and imagery. Ages 5 and up (5-8 years olds with a caregiver). Limited space; call (415) 355-5791 to reserve your spot.

Family Film Night

*Monkey Kingdom*

Thur, June 23 | 6:30 – 8 pm

Narrated by Tina Fey, watch this spectacular tale set among ancient ruins in the storied jungles of South Asia. Maya, a clever and resourceful monkey, finds her world forever changed when she welcomes her son Kip into her family. (Disneyature, 2015, G, 81 mins.) Popcorn will be served!

Toddler Tales & Playtime

Thur. 10:30 – 11:30 am

Rhymes, songs, and books. For ages 16 months to 2 years and their caregivers.

Family LEGO Night

Wed, June 1 | 6:30 – 8 pm

Build whatever your imagination can dream up! Family participation encouraged. Cookies served! Ages 5 and older.

Family Fun Crafternoon

Sat, June 18 | 2 – 3:30 pm

Bring family, friends, and creativity, and join us for a fun-filled afternoon of crafting! Materials provided.

Summer Stride Films

*Minions*

Wed, June 29 | 6:30 – 8 pm

Scarlet Overkill recruits Minions Stuart, Kevin and Bob in a plot to take over the world! (Animated, PG, 91 mins., 2015) Popcorn!

The Lizard Lady

Thur, June 30, 4:30 – 5:30 pm

Cozy up to some cool cold-blooded critters. The Lizard Lady will show us snakes, lizards, tortoises, and other reptiles. For children ages 3 and older and their caregivers.

Teen/Tween Programs

Great Teen Book Swap

Fri, June 3, 10, 17 | 3:30 – 5:30 pm

FREE book! Just swap us a review. On Fridays, the Teen Librarian will bring out several books (new, old, and ones that have not been published yet) and allow teens the chance to browse through them for one that you'd like to keep. You will, in turn, swap us a review of the book by the end of the month. For ages 12-18

Summer Teen Book Trailers

Sat, June 4 | 3 – 4 pm

Find out what's new, what's coming out, and something to read. Watch the latest teen book trailers, author interviews, and more. We'll have snacks. For ages 12-18.

Self Healing Series

Laughter Yoga

Tues, June 7 | 6:30 – 7:30 pm

Laughter Yoga Leader Anne Jones coaxes giggles and chortles out of the group, guaranteed to stimulate mind, body, and spirit for well being. No asanas required. This is yoga without mats or postures—a yoga class that is mostly fun in community. No advanced signup required, come early to assure a seat.

Pelican Dreams

Tues, June 14 | 6:30 – 8 pm

Directed by Judy Irving, this film follows a wayward California brown pelican from her "arrest" on the Golden Gate Bridge into care at a wildlife rehabilitation facility. Those interested in self healing may find parallels with their own healing journeys! (2104, G, Documentary, 80 mins.) Popcorn!

Just Eat It!

Tues, June 14 | 6:30 – 8 pm

*Just Eat It: A Food Waste Story* traces waste from farm, through retail, all the way to the back of the fridge. Imperfect Produce will conduct a Q&A after the film and bring samples of "ugly" items that often go to waste on farms. Documentary, 2014, 75 min., 40 minute Q&A follows.

It Just Makes Scents!

Tues, June 28 | 6:30 – 8 pm


In this hands-on family workshop, we will learn why certain scents bring back specific memories, the history of scents for healing stress, and then we will create our own fragrant oils to take home! Author and life coach KJ Landis works with clients in a holistic manner, and scent therapy is part of the toolbox. Register by calling (415) 355-2886.

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# Loss of Trust: The Human Services Agency

By Dr. Maria Rivero & Dr. Derek Kerr

Last month's *Westside Observer* covered employee protests against "favoritism, cronyism and nepotism" within the Human Services Agency (HSA). These complaints have rocked the Civil Service Commission since November 2015. To its credit, the HSA expedited an All Staff Survey in mid-2015, right before simmering tensions erupted publicly.

**HSA's All Staff Survey:** An impressive 82% of 1,986 active employees responded, almost half being direct client service providers. Most employees embraced HSA's mission and values. However, according to Director Trent Rhorer, two shortcomings emerged: communication throughout the agency is poor, and employee morale is low. But there's more. The survey also indicated; *"There appears to be a mistrust of management, especially among line staff...many did not respond to more sensitive questions in the survey (i.e. trust in executive staff management)."* Worried about the confidentiality of their responses, 13% declined to identify their programs. Overall, just 43% expressed a "high level of trust and confidence" in Rhorer and his deputies. But among direct client service providers, a dismal 37% trusted top executives.

No survey questions addressed unfair hiring and promotion, yet 15% of 601 submitted comments touched upon hiring, promotions, and staff development. Only 51% of respondents felt that staff members were held accountable for their performance. Current and former employees told us that complaints were inhibited by fears of retaliation. Nevertheless, the report noted; *"As with previous surveys, many employees felt that hiring and promotion were unfair. With no opportunities to be promoted, some employees felt less motivated to excel. Some respondents complained that programs were not hiring internally and new employees were unqualified or lacked*

*program knowledge."* It recommended; *"a succession plan that seeks to develop staff and promote from within (thus) saving considerable time and cost...in hiring and inducting new candidates."* HSA data support this idea, as well as the employee grievances behind it. Before the Civil Service Reforms of 2005, promotions from within comprised 63% of HSA job appointments. Since then, they've fallen to 50%. Meanwhile, new hires swelled from 26% to 43% of job appointments.

Despite staff discontent, managers are happy. For example, 86% of managers reported "reasonable work evaluations" compared to 37% of line staff. Being recognized for good work garnered 86% from managers compared to 41% for line staff. And, 92% of managers felt their opinions counted versus just 40% of workers. While 82% of managers trusted top executives, merely 37% of line staff did so. According to 95% of managers, their programs implemented best practices, but only 57% of line staff agreed. Similarly, 94% of managers believed that clients were treated fairly versus 68% of direct service workers.



The survey confirmed that the "Service Center Model" programs, namely the merger of Medi-Cal and CalFresh (food stamps), and the redesigned CalWORKS (welfare-to-work), are troubled. Only 35% of 360 CalFresh and Medi-Cal workers rated their workload as manageable. Their trust ratings for HSA executives were 26% and 48%, respectively, and minimally higher for their program managers. At CalWORKS, trust ratings were 43% for top executives and 54% for program managers. While undergoing taxing reorganizations, these programs rated below average for worker input in decision-making.

**HSA's Response:** Records show that executives carefully studied survey responses and scrambled action plans to address the negative feedback before releasing the survey results. Deputy Directors met with managers "to discuss what the survey means for their programs." Attention was directed to the ailing Service Center Model programs. Once again, HSA's Innovation Office was mustered to "break out ideas for improvement." Dubbed Service Center Improvement Plan 2.0, it aimed at "helping each other rather than blaming" –

a positive psychology approach that can mute legitimate criticism while herding workers down designated paths. Indeed, in 2014 the Innovation Office had defined itself "to meet the vision of our HSA Executive Director Trent Rhorer...and...to advance HSA's mission and values."

Rhorer heeded the survey's recommendations, particularly the call to

*"develop a communication plan to ensure the agency's messaging is consistent and is reaching employees while also valuing their input."* In a memo to all staff, he promised more "leading and managing by walking around." To his Executive Committee on 3/7/16, he announced the need to focus on *"communication, employee morale, physical space and hiring and promotion. Multi-year effort. Want to start this year on communication ... because it relates to all other areas."*

True, but poor communication had surfaced in every Staff Survey, Strategic Review, and Efficiency Plan during his long tenure. Importantly, it doesn't explain the recent outcry against cronyism, or the chasm between satisfied managers and devalued workers. Confidence in management has stagnated around 42% since HSA's 2008 Strategic Review. What's ominously different in HSA's 2016 Strategic Review is the omission of Staff Survey findings and the paucity of staff concerns. It's a skeletal and formulaic version of the comprehensive and introspective Strategic Reviews issued in 2000 and 2008. Like a two-legged stool, it is program-centric and service-focused, leaving employees as machine parts calibrated for ever-increasing efficiencies. Witness the tone of its Human Resources section; *"Redesign HR to increase productivity, improve employee morale and reduce the need for physical space."* Once again, HSA plans to *"Improve speed and quality of hiring process"* – without addressing the influx of new hires and complaints of favoritism. Similarly, HSA's insightful Efficiency Plans were replaced in 2012 by technocratic Performance Reports that exclude employee relations. That's when HSA's strategic planning seemingly commodified employees and disposed of trust as a core value. The casualties are employee morale, loyalty, and productivity.

Cont. p. 8



My life here

Judy Houghteling, resident since 2011

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Money Matters By Brandon Miller

A Checklist for Retiring Abroad

Do you dream about retiring in another country? It is an intriguing option for some who feel like they are ready for a new experience to go with the freedom of retirement. Whether you're looking for a favorable climate, less expensive living costs, or specific cultural or recreational opportunities, retiring abroad could be for you.

No matter what the inspiration may be, it is not a matter to be taken lightly. Do your homework and become as familiar as you can with your dream environment before making a final decision. Read on for a few things you'll want to consider.

Get a true feel of what it will be like to live in a new country

It is easy to become infatuated with a particular location as your future home when you visit on vacation. But there is a big difference between being a tourist and a resident. Think about how your day-to-day routine would change and what elements you'd like to stay the same, such as going to the gym or volunteering. If you know others who have retired abroad, ask them about their experience making the transition overseas.

Determine what's required to gain residency

If you are seeking to become a full-time resident overseas, you will have to determine the requirements. Alternately, understand the laws of the country (and they vary) to be an American resident living in that country on a fulltime basis.

Consider your living options

Will you want to buy a home or will renting be a better option? Renting may be wiser if you want to take some time to better acquaint yourself with your new surroundings before locking yourself into a purchase. Consider what happens as well if you purchase a home and then plans don't work out and you decide to move back to the U.S.

Learn about medical services

As we grow older, the need for health care services tends to rise. While many countries have nationalized health care

systems that cover residents, you may or may not be eligible to participate. Medicare won't cover treatment overseas, so a separate insurance plan may be required. If you think you may return to live in the U.S. one day, you may want to keep paying Medicare premiums to maintain future eligibility for the program. Also check on the quality of health care services in your intended new home to determine if medical capabilities meet your expectations.

Review financial matters

Determine how the currency exchange rate will affect your expenses. Keep in mind that your expenses may vary, particularly if you want to travel within your new region or rely on public transportation. You may want to transfer some money to a bank account in your new country, although electronic banking services today make it easy to access funds when you are outside the U.S. At the very least, you will need to continue filing a tax return in the U.S. and potentially paying U.S. taxes as well, though this can vary depending on your country of choice.

Choosing where to retire is a big decision. While thinking through the items above is a good place to start, consult the U.S. State Department's website for more considerations. Visit [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov) and search for the topic "retirement abroad."

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





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**Human Services** (Cont. from p. 7)

HSA executives should ponder whether discretionary hiring and "flexible staffing" are sabotaging merit-based competition. Why are dedicated employees outraged over nepotism, cronyism, and favoritism? Are "business-like" practices devaluing the very workers who are expected to serve challenging clients with compassion and respect? Building trust requires introspection – then, honest communication. The recommended "consistent messaging" won't enhance trust if used as a mechanism to preserve privileges and push agendas. Instead, HSA needs authentic bottom-to-top communication

- like performance appraisals of managers by employees, and staff surveys that ask about unfair hiring and promotion. Meanwhile, communication is precarious. Complainants are terrified of reprisals. Hiring concerns aren't aired before HSA's own Commission. HSA executives haven't talked to union activists. Reluctantly, Mayor Ed Lee's Civil Service Commission assesses whether its mission is being subverted.

*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: [watchdogs@westsideobserver.com](mailto:watchdogs@westsideobserver.com)*



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**Snookered** (Cont. from p. 4)

Ms. Wan's file shows that the Controller transferred \$52.95 million from the TSR account to the General Fund for the Department of Public Health, possibly for DPH's operating expenses, and has expended another \$3 million for the City's "Community Living Fund" (CLF). Between the two expenditures, the Controller appears to have diverted \$56 million from the TSR fund for what should have been General Fund appropriations, and that \$56 million could also have been used towards funding the June 2016 Public Health Facilities bond measure.

**Conclusion**

Now more than ever San Franciscans deserve a Charter amendment creating a Board or a Commission having oversight over MOHCD. Until that happens, we'll still be getting screwy reporting about, and screwy spending of, scarce Affordable Housing funds, further snookering voters.

An expanded version of this article is available on [www.stopLHHdownsize.com](http://www.stopLHHdownsize.com).

*Monette-Shaw received a James Madison Freedom of Information Award from the Society of Professional Journalists-Northern California Chapter in 2012. He can be contacted at [monette-shaw@westsideobserver.com](mailto:monette-shaw@westsideobserver.com).*

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# GOLDEN GATE DOG WALKING



Wooding / Jane Kim (Cont. from p. 1)

\$1,104 annually. CCSF's 2015-16 Student Expense Budget, or Cost of Attendance report, found that students spend approximately \$3,033 per year for education-related costs, not including childcare or room and board: \$1,700 for books and supplies, \$1,300 for transportation, to be determined for childcare. For these low-income students, educational support up to \$1,000 per year would eliminate the need for them to choose between buying food and buying textbooks, or between paying rent and paying transit and childcare costs, to allow them to physically reach and attend classes.

"Many of our low-income communities have been decimated by the exploding cost of living and housing. They have been displaced out of San Francisco but they still commute to work here and attend CCSF as one of the last affordable opportunities to attain higher education, or finish earning a degree, or obtain needed certification for upwards job mobility and opportunities," Kim says.

Programs that guarantee free college tuition for residents of a community or state are a proven and powerful tool to simultaneously improve high school and college performance among all income and ethnic groups. When young students learn that their educational aspirations need not be limited by the financial circumstances of their family, their desire to succeed increases and the institutions that support them also step up their game to assure student success.

States across the country such as Oregon, Tennessee, and Minnesota, and local efforts in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Illinois, and 11 other states have all started programs for students to have free access to community colleges.

CCSF Trustee John Rizzo states, "We [CCSF] have no significant management problems since the elected Board of Trustees was put back in power starting last year. (We regained complete control this past January.) The current financial audit had no findings, which is the first time this

has happened since I've been on the Board." Rizzo added, "The recent Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team (FCMAT) report give the college a clean bill of health. When they came to give an oral version of their report at a Board meeting last month, they said 'CCSF implements effective fiscal controls and systems,' and 'CCSF has adopted prudent fiscal policies and practices.'"

Rizzo further states, "Jane's plan should work if it is adopted as written. It would add some extra cost at CCSF in terms of processing, but we believe it will make up for it by increasing enrollment. But if the Board of Supervisors were to change the measure by adding extra requirements, it would raise those costs and make it more complicated for the students."

Supervisor Kim's CCSF proposal not only has administrative support, but also has support from the CCSF union — the American Federation of Teachers, ATF Local 2121. Union president Timothy Killikelly states, "We believe Jane Kim's proposal for a free community college for City College of San Francisco will create more educational opportunities for all San Franciscans. We enthusiastically support this idea."

Even democratic hopeful Bernie Sanders recognized Kim's expertise in college management and funding by endorsing her candidacy for District 11 State Senator. According to a May 25<sup>th</sup> *Chronicle* article, "The pair connected (Sanders and Kim) over the issue of free community college for all, which Jane has worked for."

CCSF is a local treasure that cannot be allowed to be dismantled. Although the road has sometime been rocky for CCSF, think of the past, present, and future educational benefits this college has brought to San Francisco. Please support CCSF by supporting and adopting Supervisor Kim's "Mansion Tax" leading up to the November election.

George Wooding, Midtown Terrace Homeowner's Association



Supervisor Jane Kim

“They ... attend CCSF as one of the last affordable opportunities to attain higher education, or finish earning a degree, or obtain needed certification for upwards job mobility and opportunities

## Unveiling a Flawed and Enigmatic Tax System

By Brian Browne

San Francisco regularly ignores or morphs federal, state, and local laws that might impinge on the self-serving wishes and dictates of the ruling elite. They are now trying to ignore the laws of supply and demand (S&D). The latest and most dangerous assumption (embedded in the SFPUC rate model) is that water rates may be increased near indefinitely (at least through 2023) and that SFPUC retail customers will not significantly decrease demand. Consumers do react to price increases, especially large rate increases as San Francisco retail water customers are experiencing. This is not the first time, and I suspect will not be the last time, that combined Team Controller & SFPUC have invoked and misused a spurious elasticity coefficient to justify misguided public policies and associated expenditures.

“This may give comfort to the bond markets as to the ability of the SFPUC to adequately service debt from present and future enterprise revenues, but such an assumption is highly debatable, and unreasonable based on economic theory. It must be revisited.”

The SFPUC has a somewhat enigmatic three-part charge for residential water customers.

1. Fixed or meter charge (service) based on the meter size. There are 12 different meter sizes range from 5/8 inch to 16 inch. The charge for a 5/8 inch meter, effective July 1, 2016 is \$10.86. The charge for a 16 inch meter \$1,215.46 effective the same date is \$2,116.11. Meter sizes represent the potential volumetric demand on the system and are a proxy for recovering fixed costs.
2. Variable or commodity charges are divided into two-ascending tiers. As of July 1, 2016 a retail water customer pays \$6.00 for the first 4 units (748 gallons) of water used per dwelling unit and then \$8.05 per unit of

Cont. p. 13

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## 49% Burglary Increase: Don't Be a Target



As captain, it's my job to present more in-depth information as to details of the crimes we are seeing and most importantly, convey what my plan is to address crime. An example of this, the citywide trend for burglaries is showing an increase of 2% since the last reporting period but unfortunately, the Taraval district has seen a 49% increase. This type of increase is shocking and lets me know that the criminals have found their way into the Taraval district, which has proven to be a target rich environment. The best way to deter criminals is to work in partnership with the SFPD and our community, with other department resources and city agencies as well.

Because of the increase in home and auto burglaries, and robberies, I have decided to evolve the **Taraval Neighborhood Team** into a plainclothes unit. High visibility is one of the best ways to deter crime, but now TNT is able to conduct surveillance, identify and apprehend the suspects. Under the leadership of Lt Ed DelCarlo and Sgt Ryan Crosby, they can make the difference we need. Working closely with other plainclothes units from neighboring districts, we share resources to have a greater impact. Recently, TNT while working in a plainclothes capacity, were confronted by proactive neighbors. Please if you see someone that you feel is suspicious, call 911! One, it's a matter of safety for you as the resident but, two, when officers are working in plainclothes, the dispatcher will be able to determine quickly if they are in the area and if they are who you have identified as suspicious.

the citywide trend for burglaries is showing an increase of 2% since the last reporting period but unfortunately, the Taraval district has seen a 49% increase."

**So how can you, as a resident, make your home less appealing to criminals?**

First, never leave a door unlocked. My experience has shown me, there are burglars who will enter your home while you are present. Most won't, but some will. They will take advantage of an unlocked door even when you are home.

Please ensure when you are not home, your windows are closed and locked. I know with warmer days on the way, many of us enjoy opening our windows for the cool breeze and fresh air. Please, when you leave your residence or you go to sleep at night, remember to close and lock the windows. Burglary is a crime of opportunity, so take the opportunity away and make your home the least attractive as possible as a target.

For those of you who have front gates, please check your locking mechanism on your gates. When a gate's locking mechanism has a lot of play in it, a burglar will use a simple tool and wedge it in the lock to open it and have an easy entry through your gate. If you have a mesh material lining your gate that is not sturdy, replace it with a more durable material. Burglars will cut through the mesh to reach in and unlock your gate.

Security alarms, motion-sensor flood lighting and cameras are good tools as well when attempting to harden your home as a target. I cannot express enough how valuable SFSAFE can be to you when trying to answer the question, "What can I do to make my home more secure?" Please reach out to them, they will come out to your home and give you an evaluation and recommendations on what you can do.

PLEASE do not leave items in your car. Even if you think, "Oh no one will want that!" They may, and then you are left to deal with not only the theft but a damaged window as well. Theft from Vehicle cases are incidents of opportunity. Take away the opportunity and I know we will see less cases of Theft from Vehicle. I encourage

all of you to organize your neighborhoods. Get to know your neighbors so you can all watch out for each other. It's true, the police officers of Taraval Station cannot be everywhere, but you can. You can be the eyes and ears of your neighborhood to assist us in fighting crime but also in addressing any quality of life issues.

Finally, Congratulations to our Taraval SIT for their **arrest of two subjects who are suspected of possessing stolen property** and utilizing EBay to profit from those items. The case began with an auto break-in where an expensive piece of medical equipment was stolen. Sgt. Scott Hom was assigned the investigation and thanks

to the assistance of the victim, who found her item on EBay, two subjects were arrested and numerous items of stolen property were recovered, including the medical equipment and a \$6,000 dollar bicycle which belonged to a music teacher in Berkeley. Channel 7 News Reporter, Vic Lee, did a great story highlighting this case which we hope will assist us in identifying more victims of the stolen property. Please check out the story at abc7news.com as well as our website for photos of the recovered stolen property.

Recently we had **two collisions** in the district. One left a bicyclist seriously injured and the other took the life of a pedestrian. As many of you know, the officers of Taraval Station conducted numerous traffic enforcement operations every week in an effort to change the behavior of drivers traveling through our neighborhoods.

**The first collision involving the bicyclist** occurred at 7:17 pm on the Great Highway just south of Vicente. In an effort to address community concerns, we have conducted targeted enforcement in the area to stop those who are traveling above the speed limit. Both officers of Taraval Station and the Traffic Company responded to the area and issued numerous citations. We will continue our efforts on a daily basis in hopes to eliminate traffic collisions on this corridor.

**The second collision involving the tragic loss of life occurred on Brotherhood Way and Junipero Serra.** In this case, the pedestrian was struck by a driver of a motorcycle while trying to cross the roadway. The collision occurred on the onramp to Brotherhood Way from Junipero Serra. Based on observations of the scene, it appears a crosswalk was not painted on the roadway but there is a marked handicap access ramp from the sidewalk into the roadway. This leads me to believe it is intended to accommodate pedestrian traffic. Clearly, this roadway needs immediate improvement with a marked crosswalk that should be enhanced with reflectors and signage. One of my sergeants photographed the area of concern and I have forwarded these photos to SFMTA so they can look into the proper engineering of

this crosswalk. I know, from hearing from the community, this pedestrian crossing area has been of concern for a long time. I will be sure to follow up with SFMTA and Supervisors Yee's Office so we can see that the necessary improvements are completed. On our end, our Traffic Company officers conducted a speeding enforcement operation on Brotherhood Way between Summit Way and Lake Merced Blvd which resulted in 12 citations for 22350 CVC-Speeding. In partnership, officers from Taraval Station and Traffic Company will conduct pedestrian enforcement operations at this location. These operations will focus enforcement on drivers who do not yield to pedestrians.

We also heard the concerns of citizens regarding drivers who are **failing to yield to pedestrians** in the area of Ocean Ave. and Santa Ana. A pedestrian enforcement operation was conducted which resulted in 25 citations of drivers in violation of 21950 CVC-Yield to pedestrian in crosswalk. We will continue to conduct traffic enforcement operations to change the behavior of drivers.

**Residential Burglaries and Theft from Vehicle incidents** continue to be the topic of conversations I have had with many of you. In March, we saw a total number of 73 burglaries in the district. Of the 73 burglaries, 25 were hot prowls burglaries which means that resident was home when the suspect entered the home. With the data analysis, we were able to pin point not only where the incidents were occurring, but we were also able to see on which days of the weeks they were more frequent and the times of those days when they were occurring. In order to address the number of burglaries, we deployed uniformed officers to the impacted neighborhoods for higher visibility and worked in partnership with TNT officers assigned

### Friday - May 1

#### Under the Influence Inflicting Physical or Mental Suffering on a Child

11:49 pm | Ocean Ave & Aptos Ave  
A male was reported with a child walking up the street. The witness saw the male fall into the bushes and was unable to get back up. The suspect told the officer that he was walking home with his child but he never fell. During the conversation with the suspect, the officer smelled alcoholic beverages and observed signs of intoxication. The suspect they had no right stopping them and started to walk away. As the

to plain clothes as well as stellar investigations by the Taraval SIT team. Our efforts have proven effective as in the month of April we saw in decrease in burglaries from 73 to 29 with only 10 of the 29 being hot prowls. I must add, I believe this decrease is not only the result of station efforts but rather the efforts of both officers and units citywide who are working very hard to identify prolific burglars and conduct investigations that result in arrests and offer strong cases for the District Attorney's office to prosecute.

I think it's important to convey to the community that we continue to communicate with the **District Attorney's** regarding criminal investigations and the prosecution of the criminals. Based on many discussions that have occurred, I am growing increasingly confident that the District Attorney's office is looking at these cases on a case to case basis and are moving forward to prosecute these criminals.

For cases of Theft from Vehicle, we have seen our biggest decrease since January. In January we saw 200 cases, in February there were 157, in March 154 and in April we have seen our lowest number at 117 cases. In my opinion, I attribute this to not only our efforts but the efforts of the community as well. Last week, we had two incidents in which uniformed officers made arrests for Theft from Vehicle suspects based on calls from the community. Thank you to everyone who is taking an active role in their neighborhood safety. Thank you to all of you who are looking out for your neighbors and for being the eyes and ears for the officers of Taraval Station. We could not be as successful without your partnership.

**Editor's Note:** Captain's remarks and Police Reports are shortened for space. Please go to [taraval.org](http://taraval.org) for complete articles.

suspect reached to take his child's hand, the child turned away and told the suspect he wanted to go home to his mother. Officers contacted the mother and released the child to her. The suspect was arrested for intoxication in public and not being able to care for his child.

#### Robbery

8:25 pm | 1600 15th Ave  
The victim said that he and some friends were walking down the stairs when three suspects approached him. One of the suspects punched him in the mouth and took his camera. The suspect got into their

Cont. p. 14

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Next Neighborhood Safety Community Meeting has not yet been announced, check with [taraval.org](http://taraval.org) for time and location.





**A series to remember...** As we go to print the Warriors are just starting the NBA finals against the Cleveland Cavaliers in a rematch from last year. A week ago they were pronounced “all but dead” by most fans after getting shellacked in back to back games in Oklahoma City. Down 3 games to 1 they completed a most improbable comeback with wins in games 5,6 and 7 that will be spoken of forever. Congratulations to everyone associated with the team — they set another record in game 7, scoring the highest rating of any telecast EVER on TNT. Not just any game, but any show ever. Over 20 Million viewers were tuned in for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. It was also announced that TNT’s game 7 post game show “Inside the NBA” also had the highest rating ever for that program. Conversely, the opening game of the Stanley Cup finals between the SJ Sharks and the Pittsburgh Penguins had a very low rating as it was telecast at the same time. You would think the NHL could have seen that one coming and started the series a day later...

**“The Big One” remembered, “100 years” later...** last month, I reported that “San Francisco celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of “The Big One,” the devastating 1906 earthquake and fire that destroyed much of the city.” Obviously my math skills failed me, as it is really 110 years since the quake. I mentioned the last known survivor, William Del Monte, who was months old at the time of the quake, had passed away earlier this year at the age of 100. Mr. Del Monte was actually 110 years old. A reader caught my error, and I apologize for the oversight.



**Public Safety tidbits...**this tidbit comes to us via our friends over at the SFPD. As reported at the WOTPCC meeting by SFPD Captains Denise Flaherty (Taraval) and Joe McFadden (Ingleside), the best way to avoid being a victim of auto theft is to not leave valuables and other items in plain sight when parking and leaving your car. It’s a crime of opportunity with a 4% capture rate. Also, don’t leave your garage door opener in your car. It gets taken, now the thieves have a free pass into your garage and possibly your home. For home security the SFPD suggest installing a camera to record those at the front (and rear, if possible) of your home. Small “go-pro” types of camera are fairly inexpensive and video footage is a great tool for catching and charging a burglar. If you need a SFPD to respond to an issue in your neighborhood that is not an emergency, call 415-553-0123 (the non-emergency police number) to

report what you are seeing. For emergencies, dial 911.

**Why do we need...** An “Office of the Public Advocate?” Columnist Quentin Kopp has written this month about a proposed charter amendment to create an “Office of the Public Advocate” to oversee that things are working as intended. He has estimated the budget to be about \$13,000,000 annually, and the “advocate” could even propose legislation to the Board of Supervisors (as a non-elected position.) Really?? I may be mistaken, but aren’t there enough departments already? Could it be (as Kopp infers) that this legislation creates another “position” to give “termed out” politicians a place to land, pick up a paycheck (and let’s not forget – a big pension) and just expand the city’s bureaucracy? If the former judge is correct, and the new department budget is \$13,000,000, couldn’t the money be used for something really worthwhile; like homeless services, or affordable housing? Maybe it should be called the “Office of Pork Barrel –Pension Grabbing Advocacy by former politicians...” (Hey, can I design my own future job at \$150,000 per year? Where do I sign up? As they say...”Only in San Francisco.” Kinda sounds like Chicago to me...)

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

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THE 79TH ANNUAL STERN GROVE FESTIVAL

**See Next Page for Summary of Events.**

Concerts start promptly at 2 pm, and end between 4:30 and 5:30 pm. Stern Grove is located at 19th Avenue and Sloat Blvd. Seating is on a first come, first served basis. Arrive early for best seating. Benches are reserved for seniors and disabled patrons and seats are first come, first served. Share the Space!

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

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

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



SF JAZZ FESTIVAL | JUNE 7-19

The Festival will kick off with a free admission celebration at the outdoor Proxy space in Hayes Valley on Tue, June 7 from 5 pm to 10 pm. with music from Brass Band Mission and Beso Negro, plus a beer garden, videos, and food trucks. The SF Jazz Festival will present 43 concerts over 13 days with legendary performers and up-and-coming artists from around the world. At the SFJazz Center, Davies Symphony Hall, & Herbst Theatre. sfjazz.org



46TH ANNUAL S.F. PRIDE CELEBRATION

**Celebration: Sat Jun 25 | noon–6 pm | Civic Center**  
**Parade: Sun Jun 26 | 10:30 am | Civic Center & Market St.** | With over 200 parade contingents, 300 exhibitors, and 20 stages and venues, it's the largest LGBT gathering in the nation. \$5–\$10 donation (celebration), free (parade); 415-864-0831. sfpride.org



SF OPERA SUMMER SEASON 2016

**Various Days Jun 7 - Jul 5** | The season includes Bizet's *Carmen* - the ultimate femme fatal (11 performances 5/27 - 7/3). The inquisition comes to life with Verdi's *Don Carlo* (6 performances 6/12 - 6/29) Janáček's *Jenůfa* portrays a stepmother's concern for her unwed stepdaughter's pregnancy. (6 performances 6/14 - 7/01) sfopera.com

CACTUS & SUCCULENT SHOW & SALE

**Sat - Sun Jun 11-12 | 9 am-5 pm** | The 29th Annual Show and Sale of the SF Succulent and Cactus Society will be held in the Gallery at the SF County Fair Building, 1199-9th Ave (at Lincoln Way). This year's theme is "50 Shades of Blue," featuring a wide variety of colorful drought-tolerant succulent plants that are awash in hues of blue and go on to dazzle the senses in pinks, purples, reds and oranges. Admission is free. Bring your own box to carry away plants.



June Calendar

EVERY SUNDAY • FARMERS MARKET

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

EVERY SUNDAY • VICTORIAN TOUR

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

EVERY TUE/THU /SAT • GET IN SHAPE!

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

EVERY TUES • QUE SYRAH HAPPY HOUR

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

EVERY THURS – NIGHTLIFE

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

JAZZ FRIDAYS @ THE CLIFF HOUSE

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

FRIDAY NIGHTS @ THE DEYOUNG

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

FRIDAYS @ OFF THE GRID/FT. MASON

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

SATURDAYS • FREE YOGA IN THE PARK

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

DAILY • BOOK-A-LIBRARIAN

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

DAILY • ART OF PINOCCHIO

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

masterpiece Pinocchio. Walt Disney Family Museum, 104 Montgomery, Presidio. Closed Tuesdays.

DAILY • RED VELVET/SF PLAYHOUSE

**Thru 6/25 | 7 pm** | London, 1833. No black man has ever starred on a British stage—not even as Othello—until tonight. Ira Aldridge, a young black American, breaks more than the color barrier as he battles the entrenched social and theatrical norms of his day. SF Playhouse, 450 Post. sfplayhouse.org

SAT • AUTHOR CARA BLACK

**Sat Jun 11 | 7 pm** | Aimee Leduc, heroine of 15 mysteries in this NY Times bestselling series—now, *Murder on the Quai*, reveals how Aimee first became a detective. Bookshop West Portal, 80 W Portal.

ESCAPE TO ALCATRAZ

**Sun-Jun 12 | 7:30 am – 2:30 pm** | The world's top athletes from over 40 countries in the streets and waters of SF to compete in the Triathlon. It begins with a 1.5 mile swim from Alcatraz, then an 18 mile bike ride and an 8 mile run through GG Park and back.

**Sat-Jun 11 | 11 am-6 pm | Sun Jun 12 | 6:30 am-2:30 pm** | Located at the finish line—the free Fitness Festival & Expo on the Marina Green. Latest products and services from the health and fitness industry to entertain the 20,000 spectators.

SAT-SUN • WEST COAST CRAFTS

**Sat - Sun Jun 11-12 | 10 am-6 pm** | A juried exhibition of artist and designer craftsmen and women inspired by the mood and aesthetics of the West Coast lifestyle. Festival Pavilion at Fort Mason Center. Free

SUN • SUNSET SUNDAY STREETS

**Sun Jun 12 | 11 am-4 pm** | Traveling through Golden Gate Park and along the Great Highway from Lindy in the Park, to the Skatin' Place, to Ocean Beach! Because this route is so long, we encourage you to bring your bike or skates. If you don't have wheels, be sure to put on those walking shoes! sundaystreetsf.com

TUE • EAT UGLY FRUIT AND VEGGIES!

**Tue Jun 14 | 6:30 - 8:30** | Just Eat It: A Food Waste Story traces waste from farm, retail & the fridge. The filmmakers pledge to survive on foods usually thrown away at a cost of billions. After the film Imperfect Produce brings samples of "ugly" items that often go to waste on farms. West Portal Branch, 190 Lenox Wy.

TUE • PARK RANGER STORIES

**Tue Jun 14 | 2-3 pm** | All ages will delight in learning about the flora, fauna, and tales of SF through masterful storytelling from your local Park Service Ranger Merced Branch, 155 Winston Dr.

FRI • SELTZER ROCKETS!

**Fri Jun 17 | 4-5:30** | Create rockets that really fly! Simple ingredients: film canisters, water and Alka Seltzer! So much fun that you'll never even suspect that it's educational! Merced Branch, 155 Winston Dr.

FATHER'S DAY BIKEABOUT

**Sun Jun 19 | 8:30–11 am S.F. Zoo** | Take Dad on this leisurely, docent-led cycling tour, which concludes with a continental breakfast. Enjoy the zoo before the crowds and to watch the animals start their day. Participants must bring a bike. \$25–\$30 (includes parking and zoo admission) 753-7080, sfzoo.org

SUN • NATIVE CONTEMPORARY ART FEST

**Sun Jun 19 | 12 - 3 pm** | A beloved Father's Day tradition celebrating the creativity of North America's indigenous peoples, the 19th Annual Festival showcases Native music, dance, spoken words and crafts. Esplanade, Yerba Buena Gardens, 733 Mission St.

TUE • PELICAN DREAMS

**Tue Jun 21 | 6:30-8 pm** | Directed by Judy Irving (*Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill*) follows a California pelican from her "arrest" on the GG Bridge into care at wildlife rehabilitation. Explores pelicans' nesting grounds, coast migration and survival challenges. West Portal Branch, 190 Lenox Wy.

WED • VIETNAMESE SPRING ROLLS

**Wed Jun 22 | 7-8:30 pm** | Want to create a healthy, easy-to-make, delicious delicacy? Khanh Lu will give make fresh Vietnamese spring rolls. Space limited. Register: 355-2825 Merced Branch, 155 Winston Dr.

THU • AUTHOR THAD CARHART

**Thu Jun 23 | 7 pm** | In *Finding Fontainebleau: An American Boy in France*, Carhart revisits his childhood and a variety of places. He lives in Paris today. Bookshop West Portal, 80 W Portal.

THU • MONKEY KINGDOM

**Thu Jun 23 | 6:30-8 pm** | *Monkey Kingdom* is set among ancient ruins in the jungles of Asia. Maya, a clever monkey, is forever changed when her son Kip is born. Amazing footage. Popcorn! West Portal Branch, 190 Lenox Wy.

FRI • TIAKO DRUMMING

**Fri Jun 24 | 4-5:30 pm** | Learn about the Japanese art of taiko! Feel the thunderous sounds of the drums vibrating through your body as language, culture, and history combine into an exciting educational experience. Merced Branch, 155 Winston Dr.

SAT • HIKE FOR HOPE

**Sat Jun 25** | The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention's Greater SF Bay Area Chapter hosts the 1st Napa Valley Hike for Hope at Skyline Wilderness Park. \$15 and includes light breakfast, trail snacks, guest speakers, interactive activities, community resources, and more. Info: www.afsp.org.

SUN • JAPAN DAY FESTIVAL

**Sun Jun 26 | 1 - 5 pm** | Celebrate the cultural heritage of Japantown with a special 110th Year Performance from Japanese artists from Tokyo, Chicago, and Bay Area. Taiko, Japanese Classical & folk dance, Japanese dolls, Okiya Style Shamisen music, and more. Japantown Peace Plaza.

MON • CENTRAL COUNCIL

**Mon Jun 27 | 7:30 pm** | West of Twin Peaks Central Council meets to discuss local topics. Meets the 4th Mon each month. Forest Hills Clubhouse, 381 Magellan Ave. westoftwinpeaks.org

MON • S.H.A.R.P. /EARTHQUAKE SHAKE

**Mon Jun 27 | 7 pm** | UCSF cardiology professor by day, modern-day Paul Revere by night, Matt Springer tells you pretty much all you need to know about earthquake preparedness in about an hour. He answers questions afterward. 1736 Ninth Avenue.

TUE • AUTHOR MARY ROACH

**Tue Jun 28 | 7 pm** | In *Grunt: The Curious Science of Humans at War*, Roach tackles the science behind some of a soldier's most challenging adversaries: panic, exhaustion, heat, noise and introduces us to the scientists who seek to conquer them. Bookshop West Portal, 80 W Portal Ave.

WED • MINIONS

**Wed Jun 29 | 6:30-8 pm** | Scarlet Overkill recruits Minions Stuart, Kevin and Bob in a plot to take over the world! The Minions *Despicable Me* spinoff at West Portal Branch, 190 Lenox Wy.

THU • NATURAL DYES

**Thu Jun 30 | 4-5:30 pm** | Use the world's most ancient technique and simplest tools to transform white cotton fabric into colored, right before your eyes! Whether you go random or planned, you are weaving together history, science, math, and folk art to make your own wall hanging to take home.

THU • OMI NEIGHBORS IN ACTION

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

SUN • ASIAN ART MUSEUM FREE DAY

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

TUE • CONSERVATORY FREE DAY

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

TUE • DE YOUNG FREE DAY

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

TUE • LEGION OF HONOR FREE DAY

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

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



Stern Grove — Admission-Free Concerts

Sundays at 2 p.m. | Sigmund Stern Grove | 19th Avenue and Sloat Blvd.

June 19 | JANELLE MONÁE Midtown Social

Stylish and soulful, GRAMMY-nominated singer/songwriter Janelle Monáe is a dynamic performer, producer, avant-garde funkstress, and a creative visionary. Local nine-piece soul and funk band Midtown Social opens the show with danceable grooves.

The fabulous Janelle Monáe brings her futuristic funky sound to kick off Stern Grove Festival's 79th Season at The Big Picnic. A true performer, Monáe is recognized for her powerhouse R&B tunes, commanding stage presence, and a dynamic fashion sense defined by black and white power suits.

June 26 | GEORGE CLINTON & PARLIAMENT FUNKADELIC | Bayonics

P-funk originals and Rock and Roll Hall of Famers George Clinton and Parliament Funkadelic bring their eclectic funk, soul and R&B sound to the Grove.

Opening the show is San Francisco's own "house band," Bayonics, with a danceable blend of hip-hop, reggae, Latin, and funk music.

George Clinton was a major player in the evolution of R&B in the 1970s with his bands Parliament and Funkadelic. Met with the Disco Degradation of the early 80s and a series of royalty battles, Clinton's iconic soul-turned-funk sound lives on today as George Clinton & Parliament Funkadelic, with influences from the likes of Jimi Hendrix and Sly Stone.

July 3 | HIEROGLYPHICS | Mix'd Ingrdnts, Golden State Breakers

Oakland's own underground hip-hop collective, Hieroglyphics, takes the stage with their signature battle rhyming and freestyling over funky and jazzy beats.

Opening the afternoon will be Oakland-based dance crew Mix'd Ingrdnts and the B-boys of the Golden State Breakers.

Since 1997, Hieroglyphics has established themselves as a driving force in modern day hip-hop. The Hieroglyphics collective is made up of Del The Funky Homosapien, Casual, Pep Love, Domino, and the Souls of Mischief (A-Plus, Opio, Phesto and Tajai). The Hieroglyphics sound is primarily lyric-driven with jazzy or funky beats and samples and a rap-battle-like set up of songs.

July 10 | SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY | Edwin Outwater, Conductor

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

Entry is free, but please check our summary of the conditions for seating and entry on the previous page. This listing is for June and part of July. Check the July Observer for more.

Tax System (Cont. from p. 9)

water thereafter. All single-family dwelling units have one dwelling unit.

Ascending tier pricing may cut off demand, but is it legal and is it economically efficient. It is only legal if the ascending tiers exactly mirror the cost of producing the services. The probability of these fiat- developed steps mirroring real marginal costs is close to zero. Therefore its legality must be questioned and proved. If the SFPUC cannot do this they must cease and go to a marginal cost approach to ratemaking. The high priced tiers do decrease demand. This approach is analogous to slamming on the brakes on I-280 at 100 MPH. The vehicle will stop, but the potential damage to the vehicle, its occupants, and other travelers on the freeway is greatly increased and the outcomes are uncertain. This is analogous to the panic approach of fiat-developed tier pricing to ration water during droughts.

Marginal cost pricing, when applied properly, is effective in rationing water, and optimizing social welfare during both drought and non-drought cycles. A special "feel good" theory starring increasing tier-developing bureaucrats is not required.

The SFPUC's overly complex, confusing, and seat-of-the-pants approach only achieves bureaucratic make-work outcomes. A simple dollar per unit (\$/unit x use) charge based on revenues required (numerator) divided by volumetric output (denominator) would be less confusing and more consistent with state law (1996 Proposition 218 amending the state constitution). Joint products with common costs are best valued by equating marginal costs with marginal revenues. Using a normative intertemporal approach to rate-making (revenue requirements approach) will be less gimmicky, more transparent, less costly, complement macroeconomic growth, and be in conformity with the state constitution, none of which may be attributed to the current ascending block tariff system. The SFPUC approach to allocating costs is similar to an accountant arbitrarily allocating costs to different parts of a sheep producing both mutton and wool. Impossible, but bureaucrats proceed undaunted.

The SFPUC under Brown Act/Sunshine (FOI) provided its Excel model. It has no explanatory text (like a cake recipe) explaining the steps and assumptions used. These type explanations are required to fully understand how they calculate your utility rates. Most independent regulators call for transparent and concisely written "model specifications" to accompany any such public algorithm. A model specification is the same as having a recipe for a cake. In this case the public owns the cake and deserves to know what is in this very expensive cake. Water, wastewater, and garbage services are taxes when provided by local governments in California, and this heightens the need to know why you are being taxed and where your tax monies are going.

Since 2000, as a member of the Mayor's Infrastructure Taskforce (2000-2002) and then as a member of the hijacked Revenue Bond Oversight Committee (RBOC 0003-2012), I have sought access to this recipe, so I might understand what is embedded in these taxes to better understand their correlation with state laws and economic efficiency. The worksheet (multiple spreadsheets) housing their rate model was confusing and less organized than I suspected. The Excel code was relatively sophisticated.

Through the smokescreen of poorly documented Excel sheets, I did immediately find two major weaknesses (I am still analyzing). 1. Their stated method for capitalizing major investments via revenue bond expenditures and amortization of these funds for blending into the rate structure, and 2) the misuse of the important economic concept of price elasticity of demand. I have spoken of the former in prior essays.

The SFPUC rate-model assumes for the period 2013 through 2023 that the price elasticity of price demand for retail water will remain at -0.25. This means that for every 1 percent increase in rates or prices consumers will only cut back physical demand by .25 percent. This will ensure SFPUC total-revenues will always increase at a like proportion after every rate increase, regardless of the amount of

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

Dancing at Lughnasa

*Dancing at Lughnasa* is utterly brilliant because the inspired writing of **Brian Friel** shines throughout the entire production. Five unmarried women live in Donegal Homestead, 2 miles outside the town of Ballybeg in 1936. The eldest, Kate Mundy (**Kristine Ann Lowry**) is a school teacher. The youngest Christine Mundy (**Lily Jackson**) has had a child out of wedlock with her sweetheart Gerry Evans, engagingly performed by **Mark Ian Schwartz**. Maggy Mundy (**Shannon VeonKase**) is the house joker, and Agnes Mundy (**Siobhan O'Brien**) is the sad and serious one, who takes special care of Rose Mundy (**Isabelle Grimm**) who is simple.

Their Uncle Jack (**Jim McFadden**) is a priest who has been sent home ill from the African Missions, having lost touch with reality.

The action is narrated by a grown up Michael Evans (**John J. Hanlon**), Christine's son, from his perspective as a 7-year-old during the events of the play. Hanlon plays Michael as cheerfully reminiscent.

One of the tensions, challenges, and of staging of the play, is the *pull* between the women's reality and the processing of their lives through the prism of Michael's memory. Director **Patricia Miller**, in this Novato production, favors the memory-play aspect. She states in the program "The narrator Michael, now middle-aged, returns to a moment in childhood and weaves a *spell* for the audience. The unreliability of memory makes space to play with the possibilities of narrative, where poetry, music, and movement are as real and embodied in fact."

Thus, the staging is fluid. **Mark Clark** has designed a wonderful set with a cottage on stage left and the outdoor clothes line for the family's wash is stage right. The Lighting Design by **Bill Weinberg** is excellent, and so are the authentic costumes by Misha Murphy, assisted by Janice Deneau, and Mary Weinberg.

The entire production has a choreographed feel – not just the dance sequences. The whole point of the dancing in the play is to represent an escape from the repression of 1960's Ireland. Because the women

Flora Lynn Isaacson

Linda Ayres-Frederick

Photography: **Mark Clark**

**Dancing at Lughnasa began May 20 and will run through June 12** at Novato Theater Company Playhouse, 5420 Nave Drive, Suite C, Novato 94949.

Performances are Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00 p.m. and Sundays at 2:00 p.m. Order tickets **online up to two hours before performance times** at [www.NovatoTheaterCompany.org](http://www.NovatoTheaterCompany.org) (print out your ticket from the confirmation email). If you are unable to print out your ticket, your name will be on a list at the Box Office at your scheduled time. The Box Office opens at 7:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday; and at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday.

This was the final production of the 2015-2016 Season. Opening NTC's 2016-2017 Season will be **Streetcar Named Desire** by Tennessee Williams from September 9 through October 2, 2016, directed by **Michael Barr**.

**Flora Lynn Isaacson**

Now At the Movies • By Don Lee Miller

Don Lee Miller will be back with us next month.

the price hike. This may give comfort to the bond markets as to the ability of the SFPUC to adequately service debt from present and future enterprise revenues, but such an assumption is highly debatable, and unreasonable based on economic theory. It must be revisited.

The derivation of the price elasticity of demand coefficient used for this analysis does not support this near-infinitum type extrapolation. Using this static elasticity number is also contrary to history experiences. San Francisco water users during the price increases and mandated restrictions of the 1970s and 1980s droughts made many permanent cutbacks in their water-use. Similar cutbacks will most probably occur as a result of the current drought with its rate hikes, and like moral

and mandated rationing.

Postscript – Just in case the City folks take offense at my economics, let me quote from two outstanding economists - William R. Allen and Armen A. Alchian from their *Exchange & Production...* Text book (3<sup>rd</sup> Ed.) "First law of demand: At any given price there is some higher price at which less of a good is demanded. & Second law of demand: In the long-run, demand is more elastic for any given good as substitutes for that good become more readily apparent."

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









Second Thoughts • By Jack Kaye

The Revolt of the American Underdogs -

The Working Class and Poor

The twin political surprises of the year have been the success of businessman and entertainer, Donald Trump against 16 professional politicians and that of Bernie Sanders, a socialist Independent against the person already chosen to represent her party and our country. How could these two people seemingly on opposite ends of the political spectrum, be doing so well against impossible odds? What could they possibly have in common?

The revolt of the American underdogs - working class and the poor.

The working class is also known as the blue collar or the lower-middle class. They, along with the poor or lower class, make up the bottom 40% of U.S. household income earners. Most do not earn enough to pay any federal income tax with tens of millions of them getting federal transfer benefits like the Earned Income Credit, food stamps and Medicaid. Most have no more than a high school diploma.

These two presidential hopefuls have several things in common that appeal to both of these groups of Americans.

expedite their path to citizenship. These moves would only bring more people here without invitation making the lives of those in our lowest two socio-economic classes even worse.

While we suffered high unemployment rates during our recent recession, the groups impacted most severely were those without college educations and especially those who did not complete high school. While the U.S. population as a whole reached a high of 10% unemployment, black and Latino youth were seeing rates as high as 30%. It is these groups who must compete with foreign workers abroad as

“Both Bernie and Trump seem genuine. They seem to be saying how they feel ... It seems that Bernie and Donald talk like working class people do.”

Both Bernie and Trump seem genuine. They seem to be saying what they think and showing how they feel. Most professional politicians are too well conditioned to say what they really feel or think for fear of alienating part of their constituency. It seems that Bernie and Donald talk like working class people do. They are not inhibited by attempts at being politically correct, something that regular folk can't stand already. But that means that they might say something that might offend some defensive group.

Neither has been using a super-PAC or depending on corporate donations. (*Trump might begin having a super PAC.*)

Both are against illegal immigration while only Trump has promised to try to end it. Bernie, like past farm labor leader Cesar Chavez, believes that illegal immigration hurts the working class and the poor, while Americans with college education and good paying careers have no problem with illegal immigration. Undocumented workers provide services that the middle class needs and enjoys including house-cleaning, child care, gardening, food service, construction, farming, and furniture moving at very reasonable rates. Those here uninvited will not be competition for any white collar job. They will not be competing to be partners in a law firm or for residency in a hospital. They will not be teachers or politicians, nurses or social workers. So what is their problem with people coming to our country to seek a better life for themselves and their loved ones?

But if you are a person without a college education, you might be competing with people here illegally who would be willing to work for less.

Both Bernie and the Donald are against many of our foreign trade treaties like NAFTA and the current one, the Trans Pacific Trade Pact. Both are against outsourcing American manufacturing jobs to Mexico and Far East countries like China and Vietnam. People in the working class are directly affected by these job losses while those in the middle and upper classes enjoy lower costs and a greater variety of offerings from this globalization.

But the irony is that minority voters who are most likely to be in the bottom two socio-economic classes (lower and lower middle) and are therefore most impacted by these two major policy issues, prefer Hillary to both candidates.

Black and Latino Americans are disproportionately less educated and more in need of entry level jobs from which they can promote. Hillary claims to be for open borders; has promised people living here illegally that she would let them stay so as not to break up families and that she would

well as illegal immigrants at home.

If Bernie and the Donald can make this point clear, they could win over more minority voters and defeat Hillary who would offer more transfer payments instead of jobs for these impacted American workers and needy poor.

Both Mr. Sanders and Mr. Trump were against our invasion of Iraq and our involvement in the overthrow of several Middle East dictators. Both are against our nation's past efforts at nation building. The two also agree that we are spending too much defending our allies, especially in NATO. Trump says that we are being taken advantage of in NATO with the U.S. paying the lion's share. The NATO defenders say that America is paying in proportion to its GNP and so pays more than any other country or 22% of all related costs. The problem is we are paying to defend our allies, not the U.S. Both candidates seem to feel that the host countries should pay for their own defense. Hillary seems content to let us have more than 700 military bases on foreign lands protecting only the host countries and their friendly neighbors.

This also affects people in the working and poor classes. They are most likely to be the ones fighting for our country to protect another. They were in Iraq protecting Iraqis from Iraqis. They were in Afghanistan protecting Afghans from the Taliban. They are now in Syria, Iraq and Libya protecting the innocent from the violent terrorist groups that seem to be metastasizing across the region.

Both candidates have said that the hundreds of billions we are squandering abroad being the world's 911 could be better spent on our infrastructure - physical and intellectual. We could be fixing our highways, bridges, schools, and healthcare centers. Most Americans won't be involved in armed conflicts, mainly just people who have few other opportunities. As Shakespeare's Falstaff said, "the poor die as well as the rich."

Some Democrats are saying that Bernie Sanders is not really a Democrat. He isn't. He's an Independent and a socialist. But Democratic and Independent voters, especially the young and the socio-economic underdogs, love him.

Some GOP leaders say the Trump is not a real conservative or even a real Republican. That is probably also true. But maybe the voters are tired of the traditional political alternatives They want someone different.

I think that we are in for a very interesting six months. Keep your eyes on the underdogs - the working class and poor - in revolt.

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

Do you have a pinched nerve?  
We can help.

Dear friend,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Here is what some of your neighbors have said:

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

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

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

My qualifications:

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

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

Thank you. — Dr. Christina Meakim D.C.

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

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

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





# WEST OF TWIN PEAKS PROPERTIES SOLD SINCE 2/1/16

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

ADDRESS	TYPE	BEDS	BATHS	PK	ASKING	SOLD	%OF ASKING
17 San Andreas Way	St. Francis Wood	5	4.5	6	3,750,000	3,750,000	100
120 Ulloa St	Forest Hill Extension	3	2.5	1	1,495,000	1,700,000	113.71
587 Mangels Ave	Sunnyside	3	2	2	995,000	1,010,000	101.51
155 Monterey Blvd	Sunnyside	2	1	2	879,000	1,255,000	142.78
269 Joost Ave	Sunnyside	3	2	2	998,000	1,430,000	143.29
2455 14th Ave	West Portal	4	3.75	2	1,525,000	1,525,000	100
45 Ardenwood Way	West Portal	2	2	3	1,295,000	1,630,000	125.87

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19th Avenue and Ortega • April 10, 1934 • Infant shelter on east side of 19th Avenue, south of Ortega. By permission San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library:

### Crime Report (Cont. from p. 14)

suspect was transferred to county jail for his arrest.

#### Sunday - May 22

##### Assault

12:56 pm | Font Blvd & Cambon Dr  
Responding to a report of a fight of approximately 80 people but the crowd dispersed as officers arrived. A victim appeared intoxicated and had blood trickling down his face. Medical personnel checked the injuries and found a stab wound in the victim's back. The victim had conflicting stories about what happened and said that he

was hit on the head by an unknown person but did not know he was stabbed also.

#### Monday - May 23

##### Theft From Vehicle – Possession of Burglary Tools

11:37 am | 2300 44th Ave  
Officers responding to a break-in arrived observed two suspects next to the vehicle. One of the suspects was trying to unlock a vehicle while a second suspect was looking in the window and assisting the first suspect. The officers detained the suspects who said the vehicle belonged an Aunt who had locked the keys in the vehicle.

However, a check revealed it was stolen out of Watsonville. The check also revealed that one suspect had a warrant for his arrest. The suspects were arrested.

#### Wednesday - May 25

##### Search Warrant – Burglary – Stolen Property

11:09 am | Undisclosed  
Taraval SIT members, along with a detective from San Mateo, conducted a search warrant for a suspect and for stolen property related to a burglary incident in the Taraval district as well as San Mateo. The officers and detective executed the search

warrant and located both the suspect and stolen property. The suspect was arrested.

#### Friday- May 27

##### DUI – Arrested

1:56 am | 19th Ave & Crespi Dr  
Officers observed a vehicle drifting between two lanes on an empty street. At one point, the officers slowed down to approximately 5 mph on the empty street and observed the suspect doing the same before passing them, still at a very slow speed. Officer conducted a traffic stop and determined the driver was intoxicated. The driver, however, refused to allow them to conduct a field sobriety test but agreed to have a blood test. When the officers attempted to conduct the blood test, the driver again refused to cooperate. A search warrant was obtained, the driver's blood was taken and the driver was arrested.

#### Saturday - May 28

##### Trespassing – Warrant Arrest – Arrested

10:09 pm | 700 Taraval St  
Officers responded to a report of a trespasser asleep inside a laundromat. Officer arrived on scene, which was posted with “no trespassing” signs and located the suspect who was sleeping on top of a table. Officers determined that the suspect was not using the laundromat for the purpose of washing clothes and a computer check revealed that the suspect had a warrant out of Burlingame. The suspect was arrested.

**Editor's Note:** This is an incomplete sampling of the Crime Report, for a more complete report go to: taraval.org.



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

## Sudoku-fun!

**Rules:**  
Each puzzle is a 9 by 9 grid of squares divided into nine 3 by 3 square blocks, with some of the numbers filled in for you.  
**The Object:**  
Fill in the blank squares so that each of the numbers 1 to 9 appears exactly once in each row, column and block.  
**Answer:**  
The answer appears below.

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

## BRAIN FUD

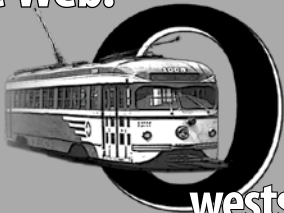
### Delete A Letter

Each pair of definitions is for two words, where the second word is the first word with a letter deleted (example: brand & band). The length of the first word in each pair is provided, along with the position of the deleted letter to obtain the second word.

- 1) a person of small stature (4 letters) & (delete 3rd letter) a track worn by a wheel
- 2) unmistakably evident(5 letters) & (delete 1st letter) having a strong unpleasant smell
- 3) of or relating to the universe (6 letters) & (delete 3rd letter) causing laughter or amusement
- 4) animal skin that is prepared for use (7 letters) & (delete 2nd letter) a foam formed when soap is agitated in water

Answer  
1) runt & rut  
2) frank & rank  
3) cosmic & comic  
4) leather & lather

We're On The Web!



westsideobserver.com



Senior Smarts By Anise J. Matteson

# Weather Forecast Preparedness: Rain, Lightning and Thunderstorm

By Anise J. Matteson

As I am writing this article, the weather is 65° and sunny. The forecast for later in the week is for a chance of rain in the North Bay. (Then, it likely will rain in San Francisco.)

I decided on the weather for a series of articles after my experience with the force of the “gusty winds” of 45 miles per hour announced in weather forecasts on Sunday, April 24, felt as if they would blow in the side of the house.

San Francisco focuses its attention on earthquake preparedness, since the city is prone to earthquakes. Rainstorms are just as disastrous. They cause flooding, property damage, uprooted trees, and death.

This article will address the issues from a health care professional’s perspective for concerned boomers and seniors managing self-care, or who have an aging loved one. In Part 2, weather-related issues will be addressed by weather forecaster Spencer Christian.

Warm weather brings an increase in tornados and lightning—the Atlantic hurricane season officially begins June 1. Weather events that draw the most media coverage and evoke our deepest fears, hurricanes and tornadoses.<sup>22</sup>

## BE PREPARED

In March and April, I focused on advance care planning and the importance of an Advance Directive if you are unable to speak for yourself. A change in the weather is a reason to have an Advance Directive.

When there is little time to evacuate you will need to grab important papers, wallet with ID, keys, medications and eyeglasses. A valuable RESOURCE—“grab & go binder” (health and other important information)—Elder Diary: Starter Kit, Matteson, ©2007, addresses organizing important documents.

For more information, see resource list. A list of emergency supplies organized by J. Matteson is available upon request.

When heavy rain is expected, *precautionary measures* should include sandbags, keeping extra food and water, and a relocation plan.<sup>1</sup>

Please contact me if you would be interested in my offering a seminar on how to use a fire extinguisher.

## PREVENTIVE MEASURES <sup>2</sup>

A *rainstorm* is a type of extreme weather which can produce heavy rain, poor visibility, and sometimes thunder and lightning. Rainstorms are formed sometimes from large weather systems (hurricanes, cyclones, etc.). As the weather systems move inland and start dissipating, they lose energy. Then they turn into ordinary thunderstorms, then rainstorms.<sup>3</sup>

A *thunderstorm* is a storm accompanied by lightning and thunder.<sup>4</sup>

For your safety, preparedness instructions insist adhering to the following preventive measures: Check drainage systems regularly. Secure objects that can be blown by **severe wind** (i.e., lawn furniture, outdoor decorations, trash cans, hanging plants).<sup>5</sup> Do not leave home unless absolutely necessary; follow weather forecasts. Do not allow children to play outside. Stay away from windows and metal doors; stay off porches.<sup>6</sup> Do not lie on concrete floors and do not lean on concrete walls.<sup>7</sup> **Lightning** may cause fire. Have a fire extinguisher—A-B-C type accessible. Keep emergency and first aid bags ready. Keep

flashlights available for backup lighting. If there is a **call for evacuation**, comply.

**During a thunderstorm:** Unplug the power supply for home appliances to protect them from the passage of a thunderbolt through the electric current. Move immediately to the nearest building, or to your car. Avoid standing under trees and electricity poles. Construction workers should avoid working or standing in upland areas or on the roofs of buildings under construction. Avoid contact with anything metal—motorcycles, golf carts, golf clubs, and bicycles.<sup>8</sup>

**To avoid electrical accidents at home:**<sup>9</sup> Never touch anything electrical with wet hands or bare feet. Use caution when operating electrical appliances near water sources and always switch off after use. Appliances must be discarded immediately if they have been immersed in water. Always keep clear of overhead power lines.

**When driving:** Check information on the latest road conditions and closures due to high water.<sup>10</sup> Be aware of the changes that could occur to the roads as a result of changing weather conditions. Heavy rain can produce slippery road surfaces. Stopping quickly on wet pavement is more difficult. Pavement markings will be harder to see.<sup>11</sup> Turn on low-beam headlights. Do not use the car to navigate in the flooded areas, (turn around and go another way<sup>12</sup>). Drive with extreme caution—potential for landslides or limited visibility. If you are in the car and **strong winds** are blowing, leave the car and head to the nearest safe place.

## HOLIDAYS DURING THE RAINY SEASON

If you are caring for an elderly loved one, the following suggestions are excerpts from *Elder Caregiver’s Newsletter*, ©October 2003:

**Mobility:** Make sure the tips of assistive devices are well-maintained and in good condition. Have someone with you for transferring to car and buildings. Wear

good, safe shoes. Get plenty of rest before and after the event so that you will not become fatigued. Have a wheelchair when needed. Use safety ramps and access, if possible. Watch floors for wet spots. Choose a time that is not peak hours for shopping. Have an emergency system to call for help. (e.g., cellphone). Keep oxygen safe, transportable; check the equipment; make sure you have enough oxygen.

**Traveling:** Call ahead for airline assistance on and off plane. Let public transportation services know that they will have an individual that needs special assistance. Use an alternative to public transportation. ©Suggestions provided by Sharol, Physical Therapist.

Writer’s comments: Wear shoes that are: appropriate for weather conditions; comfortable and with the appropriate heel height, if doing a lot of walking. Remember rain gear: raincoat and rain boots in lieu of an umbrella; protective wheelchair cover. Consider a fanny pack or backpack to carry the necessary items so that your hands are free if pushing a wheelchair or providing ambulatory assistance.

## FIRE EXTINGUISHER

A *fire extinguisher* is a metal container filled with water or chemicals used to put out fires. The kind used depends on the type of fire involved.<sup>13</sup> The extinguisher tells you for what class of fire it can be used.

There are four types of fire extinguishers: dry chemical, water, carbon dioxide and halon.

Classification labels include **A** – wood, paper, and ordinary flammables; **B** – liquid flammables, such as greases, gasoline and oils; **C** – electrical fires; **D** – flammable metals; **K** – commercial restaurants and cooking fires. Some extinguishers may have multiple label ratings. (e.g., ABC Kidde Dry Chemical Extinguisher uses include: **A** – Trash, Wood, Paper; **B** – Liquid, Grease; **C** – Electrical Equipment.)

**Maintenance instructions:** check the pressure indicator and inspect

Cont. p. 18



# The great outdoors and the great indoors, all in one.

Have you ever noticed that folks always say *the great outdoors*? Well, what about *the great indoors*? Can’t they be great, too?

They sure can. And Peninsula Del Rey is a perfect example. Some would say it’s about as cozy as a retirement community can be.

But here’s the best part. Peninsula Del Rey is located smack-dab in the middle of the Bay Area. And you can take advantage of it all by joining one (or several) of our many active clubs like the Walking Club, Zumba Gold®, and the Gardening Club.

Come experience the great indoors AND outdoors for yourself at Peninsula Del Rey. Please call 650.468.2854 to schedule your complimentary lunch and tour.

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Senior Smarts (Cont. from p. 17)

**extinguisher monthly**, or more frequently if exposed to weather or vandalism; indicator pointer **must** be in the **green** area. If indicator is not in green area, extinguisher will not work properly and **must be discarded**.<sup>14</sup>

**NOTE:** A fire extinguisher feels heavy even when empty [per indicator].

**Disposal:** All fire extinguishers that are made entirely of metal can be refilled or recharged if necessary. Contact the fire department for fire extinguisher recharging companies.<sup>15</sup>

If the extinguisher is empty, take the canister to any recycling facility that processes steel. If the extinguisher is full, or partially full, the local fire company can safely discharge it for you. Afterwards, take it to a recycling center. Some fire companies even recycle the extinguisher for you.

Check with the local waste management facility to verify that it accepts discharged fire extinguishers with household trash. Dry chemical and halon extinguisher may be considered hazardous—if so, you will have to take them to a local hazardous waste center for disposal.

Extinguishers made prior to 1960 can be very dangerous. These extinguishers may contain carbon tetrachloride—a known carcinogen. Use extreme caution when handling older extinguishers and contact the fire department for guidance on how to transport and dispose of them safely.

STATISTICS

**Flood:** In the past 5 years all 50 states have experienced floods or flash floods.<sup>16</sup> Flash flooding is responsible for more fatalities—more than 140 annually—than any other thunderstorm-associated hazard.<sup>17</sup>

El Nino (February 2, 1998) – DR 1203. Severe and widespread landslides triggered by intense rain all winter occurred in many counties including San Francisco, which was declared a federal disaster area. Overall, resulted in 17 deaths and \$550 million in damage.<sup>18</sup>

*Conditions resulting in a flood:* Hurricanes, overtopped levees, outdated or clogged drainage systems and rapid accumulation of rainfall, winter storms and snowmelt.<sup>19</sup>

**Lightning:** Is one of the top three storm-related killers in the United States. On average in the U.S., lightning kills 51 people and injures hundreds more. People struck by lightning often report a variety of long-term debilitating symptoms. Most lightning deaths and injuries occur when people are caught outdoors in the summer months during the afternoon and evening.<sup>20</sup>

Lightning Fatalities by State, 2005-2014: California.<sup>7</sup> Rank: 11-20. Source: Storm Data. ([lightningsafety.noaa.gov](http://lightningsafety.noaa.gov))

U.S. Lightning Fatalities, 2016: Five so far this year. Female. <sup>1</sup> Male. <sup>4</sup> (National Weather Service. [www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov/fatalities](http://www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov/fatalities))

NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM

In 1968, Congress created the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) to help provide a means for property owners to financially protect themselves. Participating communities agreed to adopt and reinforce ordinances that meet or exceed FEMA requirements to reduce the risk of flooding. Congress mandated federally regulated or insured lenders to require flood insurance on properties that are located in areas at high risk of flooding.<sup>21</sup>

PROTECTIVE CLOTHING (WHEELCHAIR USERS)

Your loved one, too, needs to be protected from the rain. There are numerous protective clothing on the Internet for wheelchair users: capes and ponchos that cover for the top half of the body with extra length at the front for knee protection. You may want to visit Amazon.com and Pinterest to select your preference. The Silvert's Unisex Lined Wheelchair Poncho, a winter poncho with zipper is water repellent is available at [www.1800wheelchair.com](http://www.1800wheelchair.com). (800) 387-7088. Do not forget rain boots and gloves.

RESOURCES

**National Flood Insurance Program.** (800) 427-2354. Offers flood insurance to homeowners, renters and business owners, if their community participates in the NFIP. To find out if your community is a NFIP partner, check the Community Status Book at [https://www.floodsmart.gov/gloodsmart/pages/flood\\_facts.isp](https://www.floodsmart.gov/gloodsmart/pages/flood_facts.isp).

**California Driver Handbook.** See: Special Driving Situations: Driving Hazards: Water on the Road; Slippery Roads; High Winds; Driving in Rain or Snow. **Department of Motor Vehicles.** (800) 777-0133. (Copy subject to availability at San Francisco Public Library.)

**Department of Public Works.** Provides residents up to 10 free sandbags leading up to and during severe rainstorms for properties prone to flooding. Hours: Monday – Saturday, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Marin-Street/ Kansas Street gate. Proof of address required or call 311.

**Elder Diary: Starter Kit. Anise J. Matteson.** 2007. An instructional guide designed to help non-medical persons better manage the care of their loved one. Includes sample forms for recording medical and other important information. Inquire: [mattesonecs@yahoo.com](mailto:mattesonecs@yahoo.com).

**National Weather Service.** Provides active alerts, current conditions, forecasts, weather safety, education. [www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov). Recorded weather: (831) 656-1725.

**Outdoor Public Warning System (OPWS) Siren Information.** San Francisco Outdoor Public Warning System alerts residents and Visitors of the Bay Area about possible danger. In times of a disaster, the 15 second alert tone will sound repeatedly for 5 minutes. [www.sfdem.org](http://www.sfdem.org).

**Travelers with Disabilities.** (800) 455-2700. Defines the airlines policy for planning reservations for travelers with special needs: airport assistance, aircraft accessibility and in-flight assistance. [www.delta.com/content/www/en\\_US/traveling-with-us/special-travel-needs/disabilities.html](http://www.delta.com/content/www/en_US/traveling-with-us/special-travel-needs/disabilities.html).

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Education  
Helping Our Youngest Children

By Carol Kocivar © 2016



One of the great challenges in education is “How can we close the achievement gap?” But let’s ask a different and probably more important question: “Can we avoid the gap in the first place?”

There have been amazing advances in neuroscience, molecular biology, and genomics that now give us a much better understanding of how early experiences are built into our bodies and brains. Early learning goes way beyond Pre-K.

There are never magic answers in education... but based on research, early learning comes pretty close. An ounce of prevention is worth about half a pound of cure. It appears the public is starting to understand this.

**Public Support for Early Education**  
A recent poll from the Public Policy Institute of California indicates an overwhelming majority (68%) of Californians see pre-school as important to K-12 success.

Despite this base of public support, we are not meeting the needs of many low-income children.

During the deep recession, about 110,000 child care and early care education slots—25 percent of the services previously available—were eliminated. While some funding has been restored, a new policy brief, *Unmet Need for Preschool Services in California: Statewide and Local Analysis*, finds that many children still do not have access to early childhood education programs.

More than 33,000 California 4 year olds from low-income families are not enrolled in any of the publicly funded school-readiness programs for which they are eligible.

Approximately 137,000 3 year olds are not enrolled.

**Birth to Three: The Critical years**  
There have been amazing advances in neuroscience, molecular biology, and genomics that now give us a much better understanding of how early experiences

are built into our bodies and brains. Early learning goes way beyond Pre-K.

New Efforts to Support Early Learning

The Right Start Commission’s new report, *Rebuilding the California Dream*, is part of a high-powered advocacy effort to create a child-centered system that nurtures every child from the beginning of life.

Governor Brown is proposing a block grant (to be revised based on community input) for early childhood education, but without new funding.)

The California Legislative Analyst recommends full-day preschool for all low-income working families.

The Assembly Education Committee passed the Quality Early Education and Development Act (AB 2660 – McCarty), which requires the California Department of Education to develop a multi-year plan for a pre-kindergarten system.

The Learning Policy Institute just published *The Building Blocks of High-Quality Early Childhood Education Programs*, which identifies 10 important elements of high-quality early childhood education programs.

The rub, of course, in all these discussions is linking good research, public will, and additional resources.

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# Libertarian Party of San Francisco

June 7, 2016 Election Recommendations

## Local Measures

Proposition A - NO!	Voters already passed \$812 million in earthquake safety bonds in 2010 and 2014. SF's 3rd-highest-per-capita-in-the-U.S. budget is sufficient to cover further needs.
Proposition B - NO!	Violates voter-adopted policy on set-asides, automatically putting general fund money in Rec & Park's hands for the next 30 years with no real accountability.
Proposition C - NO!	Forcing builders of large housing projects to sell more units at below-market rates will discourage such projects, meaning fewer units built and higher prices overall.
Proposition D - YES!	Right now, SFPD officers who shoot and kill people are only investigated by the SFPD itself. We know how that's been working! Independent review is needed.
Proposition E - NO	Could simplify record-keeping, but adds a new requirement for local employers to offer paid sick leave to new employees during their first 91 days on the job.

## Regional Measure

Proposition AA - NO!	A regressive new parcel tax to fund an unelected regional committee, with no cost estimates for specific work and no way to measure wetlands restoration.
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## Statewide Measure

Proposition 50 - NO	A wolf in sheep's clothing; gives state Senators and Assemblymembers an option to suspend indicted or convicted members without pay instead of expelling them.
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You're invited to attend our meetings on the 2nd Saturday each month from 3-5 pm at the SF main library, Larkin and Grove, 4th floor community meeting room, and/or join us for dinner afterward! You can also visit us online at [LPSF.org](http://LPSF.org) to learn more about libertarian ideas or subscribe to our local email lists. And don't forget to connect with us on Facebook and Meetup!



Real Travel By Sergio Nibbi

## Running a Marathon

The endless line around security wove around like a demonized serpent with its fiery head spitting out commands, “take off your belt”, “remove your shoes”, “raise your arms”. Can there really be that many would-be terrorists on the loose? With pot bellies and baseball caps the most harm they could do is to burp in your face. Next stop was at United’s over-crowded lounge where a Diet Coke soaked up 20 minutes before boarding our flight to Boston for our granddaughter’s graduation from Boston University.

After the usual greetings at least half of the carry-on luggage was removed and placed below. So much for flying in a 737!! Airline food is, well, airline food. We obediently ate our kale and helped save the world one green leaf at a time. Maybe we should have accepted those complementary drinks after all, especially when the seat belt signs kept coming on with the pilot instructing the crew to go to their jump seats and buckle up....another broken promise for that smooth flight that had been previously announced. At least our ride to the Lenox hotel went smoothly, and while our driver Mohammed unloaded our suitcases I had the chance to check out the Dunkin Donuts across the street. At that point life was good.

Boston is a beautiful city and often compared to San Francisco. So where are the homeless? Easy, they’re all in San Francisco!! The most offensive thing we saw was a couple of guys sitting on a street bench holding out a paper cup.

Our room, the Judy Garland suite, came with a red slipper and a white orchid, and from the picture window we could see Pizzeria Uno right next door to Dunkin Donuts; at that point life was really good.

On Thursday we walked along Newbury Street admiring all the beautiful shops, boutique’s, restaurants, and a handful of old churches. For dinner we returned to Clink at the Liberty Hotel where we had stayed last time, and managed to finish our dinner before the fire alarms went off and emptied out the entire hotel and restaurants.....never a dull moment.

By morning the rest of our group had arrived and we took advantage of the beautiful day and headed to the Mapparium, where we stood inside a huge 3-story glass dome while perched on a 30 foot glass bridge where we could see the entire planet in living color, all the continents created in stained glass dating back to 1935. Right next door is The First Church of Christ, Scientist, which was built after Mary Baker Eddy discovered and founded Christian Science. The church boasts one of the world’s largest pipe organs and is often played by visiting organists. The music can be enjoyed on their website, [www.christianscience.com](http://www.christianscience.com).

Dinner for our group of 11 was enjoyed at Lucca Restaurant on Hanover



First Church of Christ Scientist, Boston



it was graduation week we felt very fortunate to have found this very accommodating restaurant.

The next day we did a good deal of window shopping, and stopped in at the newly- opened Apple Store and just down the line, at a very glitzy Microsoft Store displaying a variety of competing laptops and tablets. The most exciting visit of all was at the new, shiny Tesla showroom, where most of the gawkers had never heard of a Tesla. The Falcon Wing model was certainly a major attraction, and not wanting to act snobbish we took it all in stride.

On Saturday we switched our allegiance from our granddaughter Katrina to our grandson Michael Strem, who is finishing his junior year at Boston College and is a star baseball player. The game was at BC and they handily won, pushing them closer to a college World Series playoff. Surprisingly, even without a reservation for the 11 of us we did find a nice restaurant in The Shops at Chestnut Hill named Tokyo Japanese Steakhouse. We all gathered around the steel cooktop as the chef flipped his forks and knives, lit the onion cone, squirted sake in our unsuspecting mouths while filling our dishes with delicious steak, chicken, rice and mushrooms. We ate dinner in a shopping center? Yes, and it was great. This was more than a lesson in humility; it was a chance to enjoy our family in less demanding circumstances. Once we get back home we’re definitely going to Benihana to relive the adventure.

Sunday was graduation day and we all started with an early breakfast, a larger Uber sedan, and cameras to go all around. Katrina received her degree in Political Science and the group of about 200 young men and woman proudly found their way to the stage to receive that bright red diploma followed by hugs and handshakes from the administrators. With the playing of Pomp and Circumstance we all filed into the dining hall next door and feasted on cakes, cookies and beverages. The afternoon ceremony was held in the football stadium, where over 4,000 graduates listened to a variety of speakers as we all shivered in the 43 degree weather.

Dinner that evening was at Toscano at 47 Charles Street in Beacon Hill. Although

we had never eaten there before, we knew from previous visits where it was, that it was a great choice, and certainly worthy of a return visit. We especially enjoyed eating in the Grotto, a private room on the lower level which gave us privacy and shielded us from the usual restaurant noise.

Dinner, dessert, fine wine and a lovely family, what else can one ask for? How about a nice smooth flight back to San Francisco?

After being dropped off at Logan International Airport we weaved our way through security, and it appeared that that the serpent had taken a break so we next headed to United’s lounge. After scanning our boarding passes we were informed that this lounge is only for international customers. The place was empty! What’s the worst we could do, eat a banana!!



The westward winds were with us and we did manage a smooth flight and even arrived 20 minutes early. On the way back I had 6 hours to think, I wonder if Amtrak goes to Boston. With one more graduate next year that’s something that we’ll definitely look into.....



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

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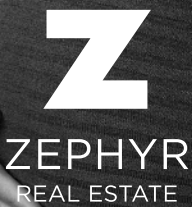


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