

A Giants Appeal

By John Farrell

We all love our 2010 and 2012 World Champion Giants and wish them all the best in 2014. But I also want to see the team do right by San Franciscans.



“When a taxpayer files an appeal for a reduction in property value ... it is generally due to a decrease in value as the result of a stagnant economy ... (Giants) revenues continue to grow...”

The 2012 property assessment of the ballpark was approximately \$196.8 million, at least \$200 million under value in my opinion, resulting in a property tax loss to the city of over \$2.3 million annually. Yet the Giants are appealing even this \$196.8 million assessment, seeking to reduce the value to \$140 million, an additional revenue loss to the city of over \$650,000 annually. Per the Assessment Appeals Board, this appeal has been postponed and will not be heard until late September at the earliest, as well as the 2013 assessment appeal.

When I worked in the San Francisco Assessor’s Office years ago, one of my assignments was to value the Giants ballpark. After construction was completed in 2000, a principle appraiser, a senior manager, and I met with Giants management in 2003 to finalize the ballpark value. I have worked with the Giants management numerous times in the past on their assessments at Candlestick and they have always been professional, courteous, and fair.

Both parties agreed that a cost approach would be the preferred method of valuation and agreed on costs of approximately \$350 million up to that point. The only difference in the final valuation being challenged was a marketing cost of \$7 million in assessed value, reflecting \$80,000 in tax revenue. The Giants agreed to a middle ground to increase the assessment by \$4 million. I advised the senior manager to accept this middle ground since it was reasonable and since the Giants already agreed to the approximate \$350 million construction cost. It was a win-win for both the Giants and the city.

The senior manager refused and would not budge

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New Law Distresses Owners of Single Family Homes

By Keith Burbank

Despite support for making in-law units legal in San Francisco, some owners of single family homes are disappointed the mayor signed the legislation into law.

“It’s always been a family town,” said Dave Bisho, whose family lives in Westwood Highlands. He said the new law effectively removes what’s left of single family housing in the City.

The covenants, conditions and restrictions (CCRs) of the Westwood Highlands Association, a set of rules for neighborhood homeowners, has limited lots to one house. But City ordinances usually trump CCRs, meaning residents of Westwood Highlands probably have an opportunity to add a second unit to their lot.

“It’s put us in a difficult position,” Bisho said, of the neighborhood. Neighbors may consider fighting the legislation in court.

Board of Supervisors President David Chiu, who also serves as supervisor for District 3, sponsored the legislation. Chiu is currently running for



California State Assembly. The objective of the legislation is to provide additional low-cost housing in San Francisco, which is suffering from a housing crisis.

In mid-April, Mayor Ed Lee signed the ordinance after the Board of Supervisors past the legislation earlier in the month. The law will take effect this month.

Only two supervisors voted against the law, and similar legislation specific to the Castro neighborhood was also recently passed. But Bisho said residents of his neighborhood

and of the Sunset didn’t want it.

“The Sunset has millions of them,” Bisho said, referring to the large number of illegal secondary units that will be legal when the law takes effect. He said the question is whether to pursue a solution in court. Bisho thinks many supporters of the law are people who do not live in the City.

But groups such as the Housing Rights Committee of San Francisco and other tenant advocacy groups supported the legislation. Director of

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El Toreador Makes a Statement With Color

By Keith Burbank

Pink, blue, red and yellow: the colors draw people in. Hung from the ceiling are miniature winged chairs, parrots, bird cages, beer bottles and miniature houses. On the walls are collections of dolls from Mexico and Columbia, South America, photos of movie stars, hats and a mural by students of the Mission Cultural Center. On the tables lie laminated pages of books.

For more than 35 years the Mahan family has been operating El Toreador, a Mexican restaurant on West Portal Avenue. And during those years, the family has decorated the entry, walls, and ceiling with the eyes of a designer.

“It’s fun,” said Tyler O., who with Vanessa Khamisa was dining at the restaurant last month. The color drew them in, but their appetites helped. Tyler said the restaurant reminds him of a toy store, and Khamisa called the décor “very eclectic.” When they heard the music, they knew it was a Mexican restaurant.

“If it fits the décor of the restaurant, ... we’ll put it up,” said Sheldon, the owner’s son. Since 1957, El Toreador has been at 50 West Portal Avenue. Sheldon’s father took it over from his brother-in-law, who wanted to move to Seattle. “He was very artistic,” said Esperanza Mahan, of her husband, who was once a graphic designer.

But who does the dusting?

“We do the general upkeep in the dining room,” Sheldon said of himself and his brother, Aaron. From 8 a.m. to about 2:30 p.m. each Monday, when the restaurant is closed, the brothers, and perhaps a couple of other employees, clean the kitchen and the dining room from floor to novelty. That’s in addition to daily cleaning.

“They keep it pretty clean,” said Michelle Nann, who was visiting with her husband, Frank, and daughter, Holly. The restaurant brought Jimmy Buffet to Frank’s mind, and the three agreed it has a balance of color and vibrancy.

The novelty collection comes from local and distant places, both things the family picked up on its travels and items donated by customers. None of the decor is for sale, and there’s no room for any more. “There’s no place to put them,” Sheldon said.

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Obamacare Meets DPH

By Dr. Maria Rivero & Dr. Derek Kerr

The Department of Public Health (DPH), the City’s leviathan with 6,138 full-time positions and a \$1.93 billion budget, is mating with the Affordable Care Act (ACA, Obamacare), the largest healthcare coverage program since Medicare and Medicaid in 1965. The strains and spawn of this coupling are depicted in a March 2014 Controller’s Office report titled *Summary of Health Reform Readiness*.

Enacted by Congress in 2010 and implemented this year, the ACA will provide health insurance for some 30 million Americans - and billions of public dollars for the commercial insurance industry. Reimbursement to hospitals, nursing homes, home care and hospice agencies will drop by \$716 billion over 10 years. Instead of a single-payer system like Medicare, the ACA promises more-for-less in a corporate marketplace. While expanding

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Soccer Attack Meets Renewed Opposition

The Coalition to Protect Golden Gate Park has submitted language for a ballot Initiative to the City, and is now collecting signatures to qualify for the November ballot. The goal of the initiative is to maintain all athletic fields in Golden Gate Park that are west of Crossover Drive as natural grass, and to not permit nighttime sports field lighting in those areas. The Coalition has asked anyone interested in participating to contact them - either to sign a petition or to help gather signatures.

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(Top) -Sheldon Mahan, one of the owner's sons, talks with customers (Right) Javier Chel heads back toward the kitchen after clearing at table

The kitchen staff: Marlene Mena Sanchez, Middle Lucrecia, and Francisca Santos

El Toreador (Cont. from p. 1)

Besides the decorations, people visit for the more than 100 beers on sale. El Toreador sells Mexican brands, San Francisco microbrews, non-alcoholic beers and standards such as Budweiser and Miller Light. Chimay and Samuel Smith are popular.

The décor wasn't always so colorful, but it started changing when the Mahans took over and it took on a Mexican fiesta theme. El Toreador means The Bullfighter in English. The previous owners were Mexican, and the Mahans kept the name and the cuisine, which is traditional Mexican.

That means enchiladas and moles,

made with recipes inherited from the first owners. The Mahans have added recipes over the years, and kept up with trends such as fajitas and burritos. Esperanza asserted that burritos are really an American food.

Liam Campbell, a Parkside resident, said it's nice to have something different in the neighborhood besides Chinese and Italian food. He said the décor is interesting to look at.

"My heart is saying three and a half hours," said his dining partner, Ben Bayard, of the time it takes to do the dusting.

Keith Burbank is a local journalist.

City Hall Insiders Encouraged As Appellate Court Denies Friend-of-the-Court Brief City Attorney's War on Sunshine Escalates

By Patrick Monette-Shaw

In a surprising development in the *Allen Grossman v. John St. Croix and Ethics Commission* case languishing in the Appellate Court. On April 16, the Appellate Court denied the request of the First Amendment Coalition [FAC] for permission to file a brief as amicus curiae. The Appellate justices offered no explanation.

Grossman's lawsuit against the Ethics Commission and its Executive Director, John St. Croix, involves the public's right to know what advice City Attorney Dennis Herrera has been providing to the Ethics Commission regarding access to public records.

Essentially, Grossman's case involves whether a voter-approved ballot initiative in 1999 to strengthen our local open records law — the Sunshine Ordinance can require release of public records that the City Attorney considers confidential attorney-client communications. "The Sunshine Ordinance stipulates that such communications are public records when they deal with sunshine or ethics-related matters," says Richard Knee, a current member of the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force.

Alternatively, the First Amendment Coalition has indicated that at issue in Grossman's case is "whether San Francisco's experiment in [public records] transparency will be cut short by restoration of secrecy for its lawyers." As the *Westside Observer* reported last March, the Superior Court initially ruled in Grossman's favor on October 25.

In stark contrast, as the *Observer* has reported, Deputy City Attorney Andrew Shen has filed on behalf of the City and St. Croix — but not on behalf of the Ethics Commission, since it never formally approved to appeal Grossman's Superior Court victory.

Six days after the Appellate Court rejected FAC's request, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled on April 22 in *Schuetz vs.*

Coalition to Defend Affirmative Action, a case involving Michigan's voter-approved initiative banning race-based college-admission preferential treatment. Justice Anthony Kennedy wrote: "Courts may not disempower the voters from which path to follow," declining to overturn the voter initiative on a 6-2 vote of the Supreme Court. "Courts lack authority to interfere with political decisions made by voters," Justice Kennedy noted.

Application Denied The First Amendment Coalition (FAC) applied to the Appellate Court for permission to file an *Amicus curiae* — friend-of-the-court — brief in support of Allen Grossman. FAC is a California-based non-profit organization dedicated to freedom of speech and public access. FAC assisted in drafting SF's Sunshine Ordinance in 1999, and has both a keen interest in, and expert-witness knowledge of, the subject matter.

In its three-page application, FAC noted that when voters adopted the Sunshine Ordinance in 1999, it reflected public dissatisfaction with the California Public Records Act (CPRA) that, in some instances, gives local agencies considerable discretion in deciding whether to disclose requested public records.

FAC's application noted that although the City wants the section that deters City agencies from seeking the City Attorney's advice on how to circumvent state and local open records laws. That section included a provision that requires SF agencies and officials to disclose — notwithstanding other attorney-client

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Ruminations From A Former Supervisor By Quentin Kopp



Remember the elevated Embarcadero Freeway? It annoyed hundreds of thousands of San Franciscans and Bay Area residents and visitors for over 25 years, obstructing views of San Francisco Bay. On October 17, 1989, the Loma Prieta earthquake damaged the environmental monstrosity, thus leading within two years to its demolition and the 1990 voter-adopted height limits upon Embarcadero buildings. Those range from zero to 130 feet. For example, the San Francisco Giants’ intended project of five high-rise buildings, at least one of which would rise about 370 feet high, is presently zoned for park use with a zero height limit. Recognizing their dismal chance of violating those height limits, the Golden State Warriors last month abandoned their notion of blocking the Bay at Piers 30-32 in favor of purchasing private property in Mission Bay from Salesforce Inc. and constructing a new arena and the usual conglomeration of fancy shops and similar accoutrements to attract “the Yankee dollar,” to paraphrase a popular World War II song. The Warriors promise to eschew taxpayer money. Let’s ensure that our Mayor, whose “legacy” has vanished, and pliant supervisors, enforce such promise, because the Warriors’ plan, with Mayor Lee’s embrace, at Piers 30 - 32 would have included about \$250,000,000 from taxpayers, including annual interest on a loan to city government at 13 percent per year. (In any private transaction not involving a public entity, such usury would be illegal in California.)

SPUR’s policy positions are conspicuously guided by contributors and current law doesn’t require developers, contractors, engineers or lawyers to disclose donations to that organization.”

That decision underscores the importance of enactment of **Proposition B** at the June 3 election. Proposition B, as voters increasingly know, simply requires that any project on the waterfront which would exceed the 1990 voter-adopted height limits must be presented to San Francisco voters for majority approval. Developers with justifiable waterfront projects, like Forest City Enterprises at Pier 70, have nothing to fear from voters, and thus, don’t oppose Proposition B. Other parties, like those who tried unsuccessfully to obtain a court order eliminating Proposition B from the ballot, will show their stripes this month with encouragement from the *Chronicle’s* fatuous columnist, C.W. Nevius, who makes arrogance a fine art. **Proposition B warrants strong support.** I recommend it unqualifiedly. Also on the Municipal ballot is **Proposition A**, a \$400,000,000 General Obligation Bond issue for cisterns, pipes, tunnels, other earthquake safety measures and police stations. It requires a super majority two-thirds approval. I intend to vote for it.

A noteworthy race involves the 17th Assembly District, geographically relevant to voters in Forest Knolls, Twin Peaks, and Miraloma Park. Two contestants, **Supervisor David Campos** and Supervisor David Chiu, are the favorites because of their name recognition and campaign funds. Under current law, if neither obtains 50% of the votes on June 3, the two top candidates must run again on November 4, 2014. For those interested voters within ambit of the *Westside Observer*, **I recommend Campos**, despite his leftist philosophy and one glaring hypocritical act. Campos rightly condemns the property tax exemption for Twitter and other technological businesses located in the mid-Market area, engineered by the superficial Mayor. (Who can, or should, forget his promise not to stand for Mayor if he were appointed Acting Mayor after Gavin “Hair Boy” Newsom’s departure for Sacramento?) Property tax favoritism to one local business and not another represents an erroneous public policy, which eventually causes ill feelings from unfavored businesses. Throughout our history, however, facile politicians have subsidized chosen businesses with taxpayer dollars. Campos now declares opposition to it. Campos, however, sponsored in 2011 an ordinance to exempt from San Francisco’s one-time payroll tax the stock options conferred upon technology “hotshots” by their employers, usually as part of a public stock offering. Chiu, on the other hand, has developed a reputation in his several years of Board of Supervisors membership as unreliable and untrustworthy. (See below) Both candidates are “politically correct” politicians; I find Campos more dependable. He is my choice.

More important is electing to the **Superior Court Daniel Flores**, a tested, experienced civil and criminal trial lawyer.

A Marine Corps reservist, Mr. Flores is endorsed by 29 other local judges besides me, and even the Democratic County Central Committee and the Republican County Central Committee! He’s a “straight arrow” who works hard and stays late. Vote for him.

In July 2013, almost one year ago, City Attorney Dennis Herrera requested from Chiu, as president of the Board of Supervisors, introduction of an ordinance to amend the San Francisco Campaign and Governmental Conduct Code in significant respects. Herrera’s sponsored legislation requires so called “permit consultants” and “expeditors” to register with the Ethics Commission and file regular reports about their consequent contacts with officers or employees in the Department of Building Inspection, the Entertainment Commission, the Planning Department and the Department of Public Works. It would also require major developers to disclose donations to non-profit organizations. It would limit the attorney exemption to communications regarding potential or actual litigation, thus compelling attorneys who lobby city supervisors, officials and employees to report quarterly all communications to and from those supervisors, officers and employees. Permit expeditors at the Building Inspection Division are infamous for their stealthy, concealed exercise of “influence.” At the request of a former Board of Supervisors’ president, I testified at a hearing on the proposed ordinance on February 28. So did Herrera, whose ordinance would also require project developers for which the Planning Commission has certified an environmental impact report to disclose the identity of any non-profit corporations to which a developer has transmitted cumulative donations of \$5,000 or more in the one year before application for environmental review was filed with the Planning Department. Instead of acting on the ordinance promptly, Chiu caused the committee to postpone action indefinitely, claiming amendments proposed by ordinance opponents needed analysis and discussion. It’s now May, and Chiu refuses to set the ordinance for action in a committee which he chairs. The reason is influence of non-profit organizations like the San Francisco Planning and Urban Research Association (SPUR), the Chinatown Community Development Center and the San Francisco Housing Action Coalition which exist principally because of financial contributions from developers, contractors, engineers, public relations “consultants”, lawyers and others for whom the ordinance represents a threat of public exposure. City Attorney Herrera is powerless to advance the salutary, needed law. Only Chiu, its author, can do so. SPUR’s policy positions are conspicuously guided by contributors, and current law doesn’t require developers, contractors, engineers or lawyers to disclose donations to that organization. Other City

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In-laws Hit the Neighborhoods

By Roger Ritter

On April 18, 2014, Mayor Lee signed into law Supervisor Chiu’s legislation legalizing “existing” secondary units in every neighborhood in San Francisco, regardless of whether those neighborhoods were zoned for multiple dwelling use, or as single-family residential neighborhoods. Thus, with one stroke of his pen, the mayor allowed almost 100 years of zoning laws and residential development policies to be overturned, with no environmental impact report.

To make matters even worse, the legislation is drafted so as to allow existing units to be legalized, whether or not there are actually tenants in those units. Thus, the argument made by the proponents of the legislation that all it does is to bring current tenants “out of the shadows” is simply not accurate. Rather, it allows developers and speculators to buy up homes in single-family neighborhoods, remodel existing units, bring them up to code, and then rent them out to new tenants, thereby increasing neighborhood density, parking problems, traffic, and congestion. The legislation will allow speculators to target the small amount of family-sized housing remaining in the City for subdivision into smaller multi-unit housing, reaping huge profits, and driving more families out of the City.

Our District 7 Supervisor Norman Yee worked hard to craft a compromise by which neighborhoods that are zoned RH-1-D (single-family residential-detached) would be exempt from the legislation. His amendment would have protected most of the neighborhoods West of Twin Peaks. However, it failed on a 5-5 tie vote, with Supervisors Yee, Tang, Breed, Farrell, and Wiener voting for it, and Supervisors Avalos, Campos, Chiu, Cohen and Kim voting against it. (Supervisor Mar was absent.) After the amendment failed to pass, the Board of Supervisors approved the legislation by a vote of nine to two. Only Supervisors Yee and Tang voted against the measure. They deserve our thanks for trying to preserve the single-family residential character of our western neighborhoods.

Why does this all matter? Balboa Terrace was developed during the 1920’s as a single-family neighborhood and has remained one ever since. Along with Monterey Heights, St. Francis Wood, Westwood Highlands, and many other residential neighborhoods West of Twin Peaks, it was designed so that people could raise their children in the City, but at the same time enjoy their own homes, with lawns and gardens. Single-family neighborhoods are an important part of the total housing mix of San Francisco and are part of the “density diversity” of San Francisco. They help to preserve the City’s unique urban character, and also prevent the “Manhattanization” of San Francisco; without them nothing would be left in town except cookie-cutter neighborhoods with high-density housing units.

Contrary to the proponents’ arguments, this legislation is not about “granny” or the “in-laws” having a place to live. In fact, the legalization of secondary units is not necessary in order to allow an extended family to live together under the same roof. Secondary living units that do not have their own kitchens or separate entrances are already allowed under current zoning laws. Elderly relatives and adult children can and often do live with their families. Balboa Terrace already welcomes extended families of parents, children and grandparents living together.

Moreover, this legislation will not increase the number of affordable housing units in San Francisco. Rather, it will

have many unintended consequences, e.g., increased congestion, the permanent removal of family-sized housing from our housing stock, and the very real possibility that developers and speculators will use the law to create new secondary units and then claim they already existed at the time the law was passed. When homeowners realize that legalizing their currently illegal units removes their control over the footprint of their homes, thereby devaluing their property on the open market, the number of units that actually enter the program will fall well short of expectations. Why would anyone put an offer on a home with an already-occupied legal secondary unit, intending to use that unit as a bedroom for an elderly parent or an adult child, only to learn that such family use would not be permitted, or could only be permitted after an expensive eviction proceeding?

This legislation constitutes a complete rezoning of the entire City, drastically altering the RH-1 and RH-1-D residential zones, and therefore merits a thorough discussion and a full environmental impact report. If the City wants to change almost 100 years of zoning law, it should say so, and do so honestly, after a full and fair debate, and after consultation with the various neighborhood groups that will be affected, not just with a few advocacy groups.

The proponents of this legislation did not approach the West of Twin Peaks Central Council, an umbrella group of 20 neighborhood organizations founded in 1936, during the drafting of this legislation, nor did they attempt to limit the legalization of secondary units to neighborhoods that are already zoned for multiple use so that neighborhood character on the West Side of the City would not be jeopardized. In contrast, Supervisor Wiener’s own legislation to allow legalization of secondary units in part of District 8 is a narrowly-tailored measure that applies only to one neighborhood, not the entire City.

Now it is up to the West of Twin Peaks Central Council and its member organizations, working with homeowners’ associations and with neighborhood groups across the City, to do everything we can to mitigate the damage that this legislation will do, perhaps by filing a lawsuit, or by putting an initiative on the ballot to overturn it at the polls, or by working for its amendment or outright repeal when the composition of the current Board of Supervisors changes. Meanwhile, we should insist that the City vigorously monitor the applications for permits to make sure that only units which actually existed on the date provided for in the legislation are allowed to be legalized. We should also educate homeowners who might be tempted to legalize their secondary units, and remind them of the unintended consequences of such legalization: losing control of their property, deteriorating the quality of their neighborhoods, and shackling subsequent owners with secondary rental units, whether they want them or not.

Roger Ritter is President of the Balboa Terrace Homes Association and VP of the West of Twin Peaks Central Council.

After the Bells and Whistles – the Bill

CleanPowerSF has been resurrected. With pressure coming on many fronts, the General Manager of SFPUC agreed to assign one employee to continue work on dreams that will not die. LAFCO members, progressive members of the Board of Supervisors, and the SFPUC's Citizens Advisory Committee all are pushing for getting into the business of supplying greener electricity. In San Francisco public power is a holy grail.

The SFPUC employee is to work up an RFP (request for proposals) for a consultant-magician, who is to conjure up what SFPUC employees have been unable to achieve.

Selling "100% renewable" energy for about what PG&E power costs is just not possible unless the City pays or takes plenty of risk. It's long been a pipe dream. The rabbit hole in which the City finds itself got deeper with the Mountain Tunnel troubles that have developed. Mountain Tunnel has added about half a billion dollars to the power budget. That budget was so out of balance that

already use less than 50 gallons a day on average. If half of residential water in use could be saved, the savings would not rise to double digits of what California uses. To accomplish the single-digit savings, your home's plumbing would need to be changed—very substantially changed. What would that cost? You would need to pay constant attention to which way this valve and that are turned. Shall this water drain to the gray cistern? Shall water be pumped in from the gray cistern? Is cleaning or maintenance needed yet?

Imagine, too, the effect on sewers.

Staff is mostly keen to do what environmentalists wish: greens are not only most vocal, but also what they advocate means work and jobs. The first job of any public servant is job protection. Will the squeaky wheel get the grease?"

the Commission refused to accept staff's proposed budget earlier this year. But some Supes are addicted to their pipes. SFPUC employees must be sick and tired of re-working numbers that won't add up, no matter what new math is used or how the numbers are smoked.

If a consultant is engaged, the firm will be hired to work magic. What can it do? It must come up with something. Razzle-dazzle distracts undecideds, and wins applause from those determined that the program go forward, no matter the cost or risk. Expect razzle-dazzle.

Germany leads the world in renewable energy. Close to one-quarter of its electricity is generated renewably. For an average household the cost for the subsidies is \$355 a year. In Germany the risk of power outage is high. To minimize the risk, Germany is burning more unclean brown coal than it has since 1990. Ironically, its *energiawende* has increased, not decreased, emission of greenhouse gases. One in six of its factories is generating its own electricity to avoid paying the public rate for electricity. And it's kowtowing to the Kremlin.

Holy grail? Consultant's magic tricks? Who needs 'em. If words were water no drought would we have. Recently the press has been awash. How will we survive drought? Life as we know it must change! It's a crescendoing cascade of awfuls.

Gray water is the answer, say greens. Gray water is once-used washing machine water, or sink or shower water, but not toilet or food contaminated. Fifty percent of residential water could be saved, crow the proponents.

Really? Let's put this in perspective. Four out of every five gallons of water used in California is used by agriculture. Even in densely populated San Francisco, residences use about sixty percent; business, parks, fire department and others use plenty. San Franciscan residents

Today sewage stink is caused by wastewater that fails to move along. As less water is used it will slow further. The city has budgeted \$6.9 billion to modernize sewers. More?

In no small measure modern life is longer, healthier, and far more pleasant because of ready access to clean water. Turn back the clock?

Maybe. The only citizen voice heard consistently by the SFPUC Commission, which oversees San Francisco's water, sewer and power department, is that of a strident environmentalist. (Recently even the Bayview folk have been scarce.) Staff is mostly keen to do what environmentalists wish: greens are not only most vocal, but also what they advocate means work and jobs. The first job of any public servant is job protection. Will the squeaky wheel get the grease?

With no ratepayer advocate appearing before the Commission, will you be required to re-plumb for gray water?

Water and sewer bills are rising. Over the next four years combined water and sewer bills are to rise 38%, or at an annual rate of 8.4%. That's about three times the expected rate of inflation. Modest use is assumed. If you use more than average, then you buy more at the higher (tier) rate.

Bills are rising to pay for improving the water and sewer systems, but also to pay for ever more bells and whistles, proliferating programs designed to do good or please some constituency. Programs include give-aways to encourage conservation, GoSolar, neighborhood improvements steering stormwater away from sewers, habitat projects, summer hires of poor young adults, and much more. Rates increases do not include your cost to re-plumb, to unclog, or to re-landscape.

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

Letters to the Editor

This image was posted to the website in March 2013. (See page 10). I've been



researching a project nearby and found the house in the foreground on Google Earth! The address of that house with the steep roof is 559 Ortega Street, and this is a view east from the lot above, probably from 880 Pacheco or one of its neighbors. If you tilt your view in Google Maps then almost the same view of the west side of Mount Sutro

becomes quite apparent. That property was built in 1928 and the lot to its left was built up in 1950, so the photo is between those dates, but I'd say much closer to 1928 than 1950. Hope that helps a bit!

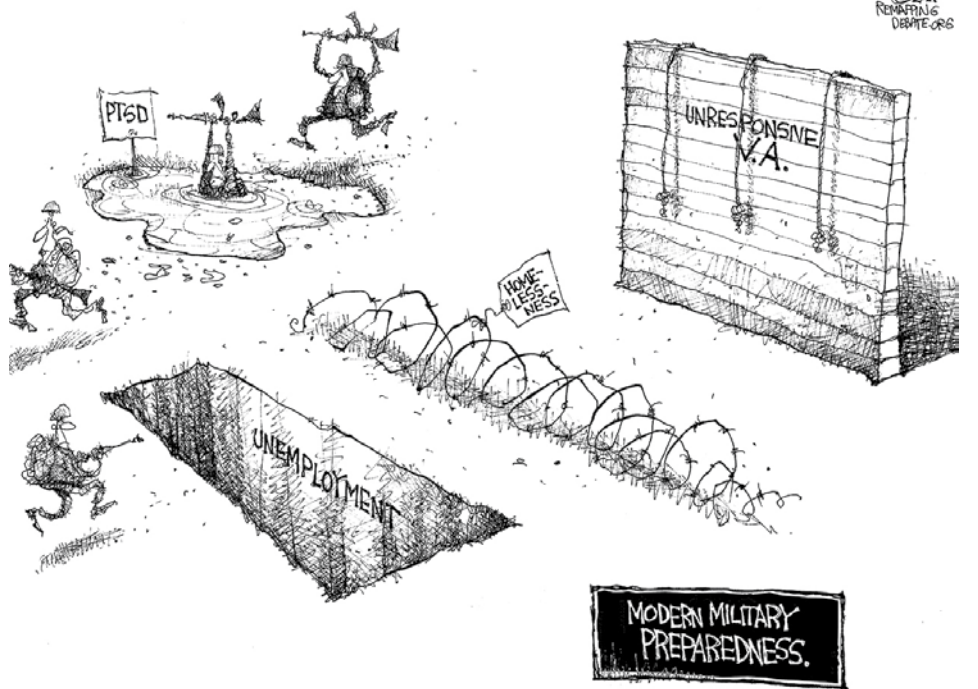
Alena Klompus, Page & Turnbull

Gold may still be found on the streets of West Portal as dropped and lost jewelry, but it seems that the gold rush is over. Two West Portal jewelry stores have closed shop

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Veterans Benefits



My 2¢ • Will Durst

GLASSWIPEs.

A tsunami of tech is engulfing our nation, and in the process, redecorating communities like a family of grizzly bears locked in a Volkswagen Van. A family of obscenely paid bespectacled grizzly bears with a taste for artisanal toast.

Remember back in high school when the freaks and geeks and nerds were ostracized and used as objects of scorn and derision? Well, pull out the yearbooks, pom poms and letter sweaters because those halcyon days are back. Although a lot of us will be skipping gym class. Atomic wedgies all around.

The nerds have come full circle, shedding their recently acquired soft fuzzy status as lovable underdogs to once again be reviled, this time as hipster locusts laying waste to traditional neighborhoods with their voracious appetite for kale, quinoa and six-dollar cups of aged Sumatran egg-nog macchiatos. With a free trade, shade grown cinnamon rinse, of course.

Here in the Bay Area, Google has become the early adopter of cascading contempt through such high profile projects as Google Glass, the eyeglass computer only available to the precious invited few, and Google Buses, reserved for the precious fewer. These luxury roach coaches hijack and misuse municipal infrastructures to ferry the pork pied Masters of the Universe 2.0 from deep dark cities central to idyllic oases in Silicon Valley. Where they are fed free gum and candy.

Stretching their motto of "don't be evil" into elastic threads, Google recently constructed a large barge in the middle of San Francisco Bay, refusing to tell the public or government officials its intended use. Facing an ultimatum to reveal the purpose or move, the barge was floated under the cover of darkness to Stockton. Another is moored in Portland Maine; both suspiciously equidistant from Omaha, Nebraska. Doesn't bode well for Warren Buffett.

Known simply as Glass, the computerized spectacles look like something out of

the Borg accessory catalogue, and double down on those blue tooth earpieces that make it difficult to distinguish between investment bankers and the crazed homeless. Like there's a difference.

All men are created equal, but some are more equal than others and those desiring to appear most equal are shelling out 1500 dollars for this strap-on symbol of techie privilege. Ostensibly still in beta phase, the hype, however, is overwhelming anticipation,

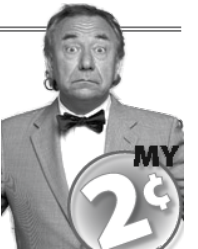
...who are the real Glass-wipes here? The insular entitled techie menace...or the rest of us desperate supplicants, poised to wipe their tiny wind-screens clean with our miniature squeegees?

running the risk of Glass turning obsolete before its general release- the laser disc of wearable computers. Betamax Glass. Besides, most everybody is waiting for Apple to make them user friendly, anyway.

Meanwhile, irrevocable damage is being done through permanent alterations to the landscapes onto which the ravaging techsters have descended. This October, the shares of Twitter employees are fully vested and 2,000 millionaires will hit the streets of San Francisco. And people will speak dreamily of the good old days when a studio in the Mission with no parking and the smell of old men embedded into the walls, only cost \$3500. OK, Glass, evict.

Because of the vast monies being bandied about, all of us will be forced to cater to these concentrated hordes, raising the question, who are the real Glasswipes here? The insular entitled techie menace, blissfully traipsing down sidewalks bemusedly contemplating cat videos on their face-borne computers, or the rest of us desperate supplicants, poised to wipe their tiny windcreens clean with our miniature squeegees? There's an app for that.

Copyright ©2014, Will Durst. Go to will-durst.com to find about more about his new CD, "Elect to Laugh,."



WESTSIDE OBSERVER

San Francisco's Award Winning News for the Neighborhood

— Society of Professional Journalists



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Contributors:

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

Affirmative Action in Admissions: One Perspective

By John Lum

Recent articles and letters-to-the-editor in Bay Area newspapers concerning race as a factor in admissions to the University of California have lacked perceptive and depth. The major inference has been that most Asians, particularly Chinese, are against affirmative action.

It should be clarified from the start that racial consideration is only one kind of affirmative action. Asians have long borne the brunt of all other affirmative action tactics. They have complied with bus-ing and diversity measures that have placed them away from their nearby schools into under-performing schools. They have endured much non-Asian on Asian violence dur-ing, traveling to and returning from those underperforming schools. They have complied with school assignment practices which required them to have higher grades and test scores to get into the schools of their choices, when that was a legal school district tactic. And now, they are meeting additional affirmative action admissions criteria developed by the University of California.

Proposition 209 forbids race as a factor in college admissions, among other places. In compliance, the University of California has instituted a number of affirmative action admissions initiatives that have given all races and ethnicities more equal footing in competing for acceptance. These initiatives have been staffed by well-trained diverse staff members at all levels of leadership who are sensitive to, and aware of, all the unique issues that students face at the schools they come from, public or private, performing or underperforming.

“Ideal” students are no longer those only with high grade point averages and test scores. Consideration is now given to how well students perform and rank within their individual schools relative to

resources available there and in their communities. Consideration is given to those who take advantage of challenging courses and activities, both within their schools and outside of their schools. Consideration is given to those who have made great strides in overcoming adversities in their homes, schools, and communities. Consideration is given to those who demonstrate sustained participation and meaningful leadership. In a word, consideration is given to all those factors that impact upon students’ backgrounds, regardless of their ethnicities and schools, factors that they need to have resolved if they are to enter prepared at a university system that emphasizes research, the creating of new ideas, and social responsibility. Just getting a high GPA and scoring highly on standardized tests alone are no longer sufficient. Every student admitted must demonstrate a real potential to fulfill the high purposes of the University of California. By using the holistic considerations mentioned here, there is a leveling of the playing field without resorting to one’s skin color, which of itself reflects nothing. All of these considerations apply, regardless of the type of school one attends.

If race were to be authorized as a consideration for UC admissions, Asians and others, for once, cannot adjust, as they have done at all other times before. They cannot change their skin colors. Indeed, it is not far-fetched to say, in the case of

SCA5 (Senate Constitutional Amendment 5), that using racial or ethnic preference for any one group is, at the same time, using it as anti-affirmative action against other groups.

We do not hear that the emergency unit of a public hospital has to stop serving emergency patients because it has reached, say, 10% of a particular racial group, and can therefore accept no more of that group until a parity of 90% of other racial groups are admitted. The qualification for acceptance is specialized medical need, not race or ethnicity.

We do not hear that a public library has to stop loaning out more than 10% of its books to that same particular racial group until 90% of other racial groups take out books. The qualification for loaning out books is the desire to read, not race or ethnicity.

We do not hear that Asians can qualify for welfare benefits if they have no income, but Hispanics cannot unless they have

earned income of at least \$10,000 first. The qualification for welfare type benefits is economic need, not race or ethnicity.

Similarly, the qualifications for entry into the University of California are well-defined levels of competencies and preparedness that all racial and ethnic groups, regardless of their backgrounds, can compete on a level playing field. All racial and ethnic groups have resources and opportunities, academic and social, within their own schools, homes, and communities of which they can take advantage to improve their standings in the eyes of the University of California.

The University of California continues to find and to address the debilitating conditions that different people face. Asians have and will continue to comply with UC’s affirmative action practices. To infer otherwise is a disservice to all.

John Lum is a concerned citizen.

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San Francisco Public Library

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Money Matters • By Brandon Miller and Joanne Jordan

Topics to Discuss Before Marriage

When couples tie the knot, they make a commitment to stand by one another, for richer or poorer. Despite this earnest vow, money is a common source of marital strife at all economic levels. Money is so central to our daily lives that conflicting financial beliefs and behaviors can spill into all areas of married life.

Communication is key to avoiding surprises, promoting cooperation and creating harmony in your new financial life together. Before reciting your marriage vows, take time to understand the state of your pending economic union. A joint household will fare better when both of you are open and honest about all of your money matters. As you learn more about yourself and one another, you'll be better able to manage your own expectations and respect the choices of your new spouse.

Here are three money topics that deserve discussion before you walk down the aisle:

What does money mean to you? This is a big, broad question, but it can uncover what's at the heart of many financial disagreements. Examining closely held beliefs about money is a healthy part of personal development. You can assess your financial values by answering smaller questions like these: Do you equate money with success? Is your bank account a measure of your mood or self-worth? Do you prefer to spend or save? Is it ever okay to borrow money? What's your philosophy about giving?

Sit down often to review income, savings and spending and make time to talk about your financial hopes and dreams.

Explore where your thinking differs and try to find common ground. The value you each attach to money will affect how much time you dedicate to earning, how much you set aside for the future and how you approach spending. In a similar way, what you believe about gender roles and responsibilities can influence your financial behavior and what you expect from your partner.

Different personal beliefs about money can cause rifts between couples because they are so deeply ingrained and personal. It may help to realize how your earliest experiences shaped your money mindset. For example, if you grew up poor, you may be anxious about even small expenditures. Acknowledging this concern can diminish its power to overtake common sense. Likewise, if you grew up in a wealthy home, you may spend without a care in the world, even when your bank account does not match your lifestyle. Recognizing this trait in yourself might compel you to adopt a more disciplined approach to spending. Try to be more self-aware of how your attitudes and beliefs affect your actions and remain open to fresh perspectives that foster rewarding financial behaviors.

What's your financial history:

Quentin Kopp (Cont. from p. 3)

Hall influence exerts like the San Francisco Human Services Network, the HIV/AIDS Providers Network and the Council of Community Housing Organizations oppose the ordinance. All of them regularly seek taxpayer money, lobbying without public disclosure. Maybe Chiu can be shamed into scheduling the ordinance for hearing and action forthwith. Those of you in the 17th Assembly District can send him that message before June 3 – or on June 3 by voting for Campos.

Finally, I note one of the most inexcusable expenditures of public money this year. Using ratepayers money, the Mayor authorized the Public Utilities Commission to pay a Yale University and Harvard Law School graduate \$310,000 over three years to analyze and report the cause of declining African-American population in San Francisco. Theodore B. Miller, who

Income, savings, debt and credit rating?

It's important to know what the other person will bring to the marriage. Both parties should fully disclose any obligations that will affect your household's creditworthiness or interfere with your financial goals. Even modest debt or a substandard credit rating can affect your ability to purchase a house or obtain a car loan.

The revelation of adverse credit or a ballooning college loan can be a deal breaker for some, but more commonly it provides the opportunity for couples to work together to correct past mistakes and move forward. By rolling up your sleeves and tackling debt together, you can start your married life with a renewed commitment to financial responsibility.

What are your financial hopes and dreams? Entering into a lifelong relationship is exciting, but also a little frightening. Soon you will be accountable not only to yourself, but also to your spouse. Do you both want the same kind of future? Big questions such as whether to have a family, where to live and the type of work you pursue will affect your financial goals. Smaller questions about things such as how much

you spend on your hobbies or what kinds of vacations you take can reveal gaps. Again, ongoing conversations about your financial aspirations will go a long way toward helping you achieve your goals. While it's important to have small and large goals, it's equally important to be flexible. Strong relationships endure when people are able to compromise and adapt to changing circumstances.

Remain committed to financial honesty. Keep the lines of communication open to prevent financial matters from derailing your marriage. Sit down often to review income, savings and spending, and make time to talk about your financial hopes and dreams. Meet with a financial advisor who can help you create a plan for your financial future. Annual or more frequent meetings with your advisor can help you stay on track over the years as your needs and goals evolve. The more collaborative and mindful you can be about your money, the stronger your relationship will be.

Brandon Miller, CFP and Joanne Jordan, CFP are financial consultants at Jordan Miller & Associates, A Private Wealth Advisory Practice of Ameriprise Financial Inc. in San Francisco, helping individuals and families plan and achieve their financial goals.

uses "Theo" as a first name, receives taxpayer money as Senior Advisor on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in the Office of the Mayor, and as Manager for Policy and Government Affairs in the PUC. Maybe the Mayor and the PUC should hire a Hibernian to explain the reasons San Francisco's Irish-American population has declined. (In the late 19th century, approximately one-third of our residents were Irish. Now it's about 5%.) Perhaps the Mayor and PUC can waste money on the decline in Italian-Americans, Jewish-Americans and German-Americans the past 60 years. It's appalling, but that's the way of City Hall wastrels.

P.S. On June 3, I also intend to vote for **Propositions 41 and 42** on the Statewide ballot, and for **Pete Peterson for Secretary of State** and **Betty Yee for Controller**.

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



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In-Law Legislation (Cont. from p. 1)

Counseling Programs at the Housing Rights Committee, Tommi Avicoli Mecca called the current housing market “brutal.”

Still, he’s not so sure the change will bring down rents. He’s not sure how much supply is needed to bring down rents. One thing the new law will do is allow tenants to ask for repairs without the fear of being evicted. Before, a call to the Department of Building Inspection would have resulted in an eviction because the tenant was occupying an illegal apartment. “I think it’s a good thing,” Mecca said of the law.

Opposing the law were Supervisors Norman Yee and Katy Tang. Tang represents District 4, which includes the Sunset neighborhood, and Yee represents District 7, which includes Mt. Sutro in the northeast, the West Portal neighborhood and the area around Lake Merced and Olympic Golf Club in the district’s southwest.

Both legislators said they were opposed to the one-size-fits-all approach to the ordinance. Tang said owners of single family homes should have flexibility in deciding about uses of their property. “They have every right to.” The new law will make owners’ decisions subject to any one of their neighbors, she said.

She doesn’t disagree with the need for additional housing in the City, and she was initially interested in supporting the legislation. But in the end Supervisor Chiu could not address her concerns, and she voted “no.”

Matthias Mormino, a legislative aide for Supervisor Yee, said the City has spent time perfecting zoning laws, and the new law throws all that out in areas like the Sunset with numerous single family homes.

And Mormino added that the City is rewarding “bad actors,” people who were renting illegal apartments. He asked what the law’s unintended consequences will be.

Keith Burbank is a local journalist.

West of Twin Peaks Central Council By Mitch Bull

The April 28 meeting featured presentations by Sheriff Ross Mirkarimi and District 2 Supervisor Mark Farrell on the workings of the Sheriff’s Department and a peek into the current budget status.

President Matt Chamberlain opened the meeting at 7:30 with a discussion of the on-going legislation that is designed to rein in the short-term rental marketplace using services such as AirBnb and VRBO. Although SF City law currently bans people from renting units for less than 30 days, there are over 14000 listings in SF for rentals using the aforementioned services. Supervisor David Chiu has written legislation that would amend the current law to allow some rentals, but would ban “non-resident owners” from renting in an effort to stop apartment owners from evicting tenants to create a “hotel” type of property.

Sally Stephens updated the group on the “SF Plaza Program” that would allow groups to sponsor and underwrite public plazas that are currently under maintained. In a tradeoff, these groups would be able to take over up to one-third of the public space for essentially any purpose that they choose (including building retail facilities). The “plan” would also allow the “contributors” to completely close the plaza for up to 8 days annually for “private” functions. Seems like another “sell-off” of public space by a City Hall not willing to take care of what is their responsibility.

WOTPCC delegate (and former Deputy Sheriff) Bill Chionsini introduced Sheriff Ross Mirkarimi who detailed current operations and successes that the Sheriff’s Department has had in working to reduce inmate congestion in the jail and their efforts to provide educational opportunities to the current inmate population.

Mirkarimi opened by detailing how the SF jail is now “under crowded” by 48% and that progress is being seen in a drop in recidivism rates. Of the 57 California counties, SF is best poised to handle the “push down” of inmates from the State prison system to local jurisdictions. Mirkarimi gave credit to his current staff as well as two of his predecessors, Mike Hennessey and Richard Hongisto.

The SF Sheriff’s Department’s first

Charter High School within a jail in the US concept is being implemented in LA. Mirkarimi also is working with City College of SF to provide educational opportunities to inmates. These efforts are aimed at further reducing the recidivism rate.

With a staff of 1100 sworn and civilian staff, the Sheriff’s Department is trying to ensure that people are fairly treated during an eviction process, which is one of the main tasks of the department. The Sheriff cited the need for more clinicians in these high stress situations and has even used plainclothes sheriffs to help mitigate the stress levels during an eviction. When asked about inmates and those on the streets with mental health challenges, Mirkarimi said that he does not believe that jail should be a substitute for mental health hospitals or asylums, and that the jail system cannot solve this problem alone.

District 2 Supervisor Mark Farrell followed the Sheriff and the discussion



turned to budget considerations at City Hall. Farrell cited the improved economy and the fact that unemployment in the city has dropped from 10% 3 years ago to 4.8% currently and that the city and county are #1 in the country for job growth. He also cautioned that even though the economy has improved and corporations are doing better, this turnaround does not mean that City Hall’s coffers are flush with cash. Although the budget snapshot is much better than 3 years ago, the city is still faced with a \$66,000,000 shortfall for 2014, and that as the city government is working on the new budget, which starts in July 26 of the 28 city-related labor unions are in negotiations with the city. As negotiations go and are possibly headed to arbitration, the result will be increased costs.

Of San Francisco’s \$7,900,000,000 annual budget, 50% is dedicated to the PUC, the Airport and the Sheriff’s Department, all departments that most cities do not have to fund.

Other discussion focused on a severe backlog in the City Assessor’s office, which new Assessor Carmen Chu is trying to get under control. A reduction in the backlog would address much of the shortfall. Another budget item mentioned is the \$165,000,000 spent annually by the city on services benefitting the homeless. Farrell asked, “Are we spending this wisely?”

Chamberlain closed the meeting with a short discussion of a ballot measure being formulated by Christopher Bowman that would restrict the ability of MUNI/MTA to levy fees and meter rates as they do today. More on this in future.

The meeting was adjourned shortly after 9:00 PM.

The next meeting of the WOTPCC will be on Monday, June 2nd at 7:30 PM at the historic Forest Hills Clubhouse. Due to the Memorial Day holiday.

More info: www.westoftwinpeaks.org

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AROUND THE TOWN
COMINGS AND GOINGS • By Mitch Bull

Hot Weather, Hot Basketball, Great Baseball, and Hockey (well, not so much)... the end of April and the beginning of May turned out some of the hottest weather recently seen in these parts. How about 80 in the Sunset? Normally “layered” folks are peeling down to the coolest garb possible, as houses with a/c are as scarce around here as open parking spaces. At least we know that the ubiquitous “cooling trend” can’t be too far behind. **The Giants** just finished a great home stand and the (soon to be) **San Francisco Warriors** are giving their LA opponents as much as they can handle. (As I write this the series is headed to LA for a deciding game 7) **The Sharks**, well not so hot as they coughed up a 3-0 series lead to lose 4 in a row to the LA Kings.

Speaking of hot weather, as the mercury rises, it seems that everyone wants to go to the coast, so the parking lots, highways, trails and restaurants are all super jam packed with people gazing at the waves. (Most of these visitors will not be seen in July when it is 57 degrees and fogged in, but no matter.) We experienced a great meal, and great value, on the coast at the iconic **Cliff House**. They are currently running specials in the upstairs Bistro on Wednesday nights and the quality of the three-course dinner is superb. Even busy with the warm weather, the food and views were wonderful.

A well lived life, but far too short... The City lost a good guy last week, as **John Legnitto** lost his battle with pancreatic cancer. John grew up in North Beach, attended USF, became a CPA and worked in the accounting and insurance industries before joining Recology 20 years ago. He emphasized customer service and was well known for working in the neighborhoods to inform and teach residents about the “new-fangled” recycling bins and containers. He also was active in the SF Chamber of Commerce, serving as its Board Chairman and working tirelessly to promote the Chamber, Recology and San Francisco. I met him through my work with a local chamber and respected him greatly. Condolences go out to his family and to his colleagues and associates at Recology and the SF Chamber. He will be missed by many.

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

Recent Listings



Mount Davidson Manor • 57 Westgate Dr
 Large 4 br, 3 bath, remodeled, ocean views, floor to ceiling stone fireplace, gourmet kitchen, high end appliances, abundant light, jetted tub, extensive retrofitting, landscaped back yard, large patio, accommodates 3 cars.

\$ 1,599,000

Eureka Valley/Dolores • 451-A Sanchez St
 Exceptionally light, bright & spacious remodel (down to the studs), wide windows, high ceilings, period details, large closets, gourmet kitchen, Thermador appliances, solid oak floors, 2 large bedrooms, 2 new bathrooms, back yard professionally landscaped with a beautiful garden.

\$ 1,075,000



Outer Richmond • 799 La Playa St #3
 Amazing Views, upper level condo one block from Ocean Beach, 1,600 sf, modern building, bay windows, 4 br, and 2 bath, garage parking, near Land End, Ocean beach, Golden Gate Park

\$ 725,000



Midtown Terrace • 80 Dellbrook Ave
 Spacious fully detached family home, 3 br & 2 updated bath, living room, family/media room plus office, nice kitchen, solid oak flooring, wide redwood deck, terraced garden, wooded landscape.

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A professional headshot of John Kirkpatrick, a middle-aged man with short dark hair, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and a red patterned tie. He is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera. The background is a soft-focus outdoor scene with green foliage.



TUE MAY 27 • 7PM • MARITIME WPA MURALS

The art and artists who — in just two years (1937–1938) — created the wonderful undersea murals, statues, and terrazzo floors of the Aquatic Park Bathhouse known today as the Maritime Museum of SF and other Federal Art Projects. Richard Everett, Maritime Museum curator, but will focus primarily on the works of Hilaire Hiler, Richard Ayer, and Beniamino Bufano. St. Philip's Catholic Church, 24th & Diamond.

May

CALENDAR

EVERY SUNDAY • FARMERS MARKET

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

EVERY MON & TUE • JOB SEEKERS LAB

Mon 11 am–2pm & Tue 10 am–1 pm Internet-ready computers are available for independent work such as resume, preparing job applications and/or searching for jobs. Some staff assistance. Bring a flash drive. Main Library, 100 Larkin, 5th Fl.

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 is transformed with live music, provocative 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. cliffhouse.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

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THU • PEOPLE OF PARKSIDE/SUNSET

Thu May 1 | 7 pm | Formerly Taraval Parkside Merchants Assn. Taraval Station, 2345 24th Ave. 1st Thu each month, 269-7080 - www.sf-pops.com/

THU • AUTHOR GARY KAMIYA

Sat May 3 | 7 pm | A very special event featuring the author of *Cool Gray City of Love: 49 Views of San Francisco*. The lifelong Bay Area resident and co-founder of Salon has created a kaleidoscopic love letter to one of the world's great cities. Bookshop West Portal, 80 W Portal Ave. 564-8080

SUN • ASIAN ART MUSEUM FREE DAY

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

TUE • LEARN COMPUTER SKILLS

Tue May 6, 13, 20, 27 | 1:15-2 pm | Come get help with setting up email accounts, word processing and other basic computer related tasks. Most Tuesdays at this time. Ask questions and learn the basics of using a computer! Main Library, 100 Larkin St.

TUE • RISE OF SF COUISINE

Tue May 6 | 7:30 pm | Erica Peters lecture, Mining Wealth and the Rise of SF's Cosmopolitan Cuisine, 1849-99. During the Gold Rush, those unable to mine for gold "mined" the miners instead by catering to their desire to conspicuously consume. Restaurants were the ideal setting to show off, treat friends generously, and snub one's rivals. First came Chinese immigrants, but French arrivals soon prospected on France's fine culinary reputation rather than panning for gold. At the Old Mint, 88 Fifth St. at Mission.

WED • ANTIQUE APPRAISAL

Wed May 7 | 6-8:30 pm | Search through your closets and drawers, and bring your "treasures" to the Old Mint for "An Appraisal Affaire." Co-sponsored by the SF Museum and Historical Society and the renowned Clars Auction Gallery. A unique opportunity to receive expert appraisals (and receive fair market value) for fine art, furniture and decorative arts, books and manuscripts, Asian and Native American items, jewelry and timepieces—up to 3 pieces. Old Mint, 88 Fifth St. Tickets \$30-www.sfhistorical.org/537-1105x111.

WED • GWPNA

Wed May 7 | 7-9 pm | Greater West Portal Neighborhood Assn, West Portal Playground Clubhouse, 131 Lenox Way, 1st Wed each month.

THU • AUTHOR JULIA GLASS

Thu May 8 | 7 pm | The author will discuss *And the Dark Sacred Night*, her new novel, the award-winning author of *Three Junes* weaves together the lives of four unforgettable characters - including Fenno McLeod, the beloved *Three Junes* protagonist - in a story about family secrets, the choices that shape our destinies, the need for forgiveness, and the surprisingly changeable meaning of family. Bookshop West Portal, 80 W Portal Ave. 564-8080

THU • DIST COALITION MEETING

Thu May 8 | 7-9 pm | Meets 2nd Thu each month. Info: 586.8103 or ssuval@sbcglobal.net Taraval Station, 2345 24th Ave.

SAT • PLANNING AN ORGANIC GARDEN

Sat May 10 | 10 am -12 pm | Black thumb? This class will teach you to evaluate your sun, shade and soil conditions to choose plants that will thrive in your space. Also focuses on sustainable plant care to help save money and conserve our natural resources. FREE! GFE, 7th Ave at Lawton St. To pre-register or info: www.gardenfortheenvironment.org

WED • ROT ON! COMPOSTING CLASS

Sat May 17 | 10 am -12 pm | Start a new compost pile — discover how to turn those leftovers, either from the garden or the kitchen, into "black gold". This fun, hands-on workshop is FREE! To pre-register or info www.gardenfortheenvironment.org GFE, 7th Ave at Lawton.

TUE • COMMUNITY SAFETY MEETING

Tue May 20 | 7 pm | Meet with Captain Curtis Lum. 3rd Tue of the month. Taraval Community Room, located at 2345 - 24th Ave. 759-3100.

THU • AUTHOR DAVID DOWNING

Thu May 22 | 7 pm | *Jack of Spies* by the British author of six books in the John Russell espionage series, including *Zoo Station* and *Silesian Station*, Downing's new espionage novel takes readers back across oceans

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and continents, steamliners and cross-country trains, to the dawn of that most fascinating of 20th century characters - the spy. Bookshop West Portal, 80 W Portal Ave. 564-8080

SAT • SHARP

Mon May 26 | 7 pm | Sunset Heights Assoc. of Responsible People. Last Mon of each month - sharpsf.com for details. 1736 9th Ave @ Moraga.

THU • OMI NEIGHBORS IN ACTION

Thu May 29 | 7 pm | Meets last Thu each month. SF State Warriors and Recology are invited. This meeting is at Temple UMC 65 Beverly/Sheilds Street.

MON • CENTRAL COUNCIL

Mon Jun 2 | 7:30 pm | West of Twin Peaks Central Council meets to discuss topics of interest to Westside residents. Usually the last Monday each month, moved for Memorial Day. Forest Hills Clubhouse, 381 Magellan Ave.

Local event? editor@westsideobserver.com

Priority: Westside Events

57th Annual SF International Film Festival

By Tom Mayer

The SF Film Society will present the Peter J. Owens Award to actor Jeremy Irons on Thursday, May 1 at the Regency Center at 1290 Sutter at Van Ness. During the festival, which runs from April 24 to May 8, the SFFS will present awards to director Richard Linklater, the recipient of the Founder's Directing Award; Stephen Gaghan, recipient of the Kanbar Screenwriting Award; and John Lasseter, the recipient of the George Gund III Craft of Cinema Award. Jeremy Irons won the Academy Award for Best Actor for his performance as Claus von Bulow in *Reversal of Fortune*. He is also a winner of the Golden Globe, Primetime Emmy, Tony Award, and SAG Award.

For more info, see the SF Film Society website at <http://www.sffs.org/festival-home>.

At the Movies / By Don Lee Miller

BRICK MANSIONS

In his final role, Paul Walker plays an undercover Detroit cop, Damien. He fits the part like a glove as he infiltrates a gang holed up in the walled-in area known as Brick Mansions. His partner, after a rocky start, is ex-con Lino: David Belle, the founder of the martial art, Parkour. The crime lord who runs B.M., Tremaine: RZA is holding the city hostage with a nuclear bomb set to go off in hours unless he gets \$150-million ransom. He also holds prisoner Damien's g.f., Lola: Catalina Denis, being guarded by a lesbian witch from hell, Rayzah: Ayisha Issa. This action thriller has a lot of bone-crunching gymnastics when the guys never know who's going to be around the next corner as they progress toward the bomb. Frenetic gunplay. Violence and action throughout. Profanity. Sexual menace. Drug material.

CAPTAIN AMERICA: THE WINTER SOLDIER IMAX

Captain America: Chris Evans, following a deep freeze for decades, is now 95 years old but hasn't aged a bit. Anger-fueled Nick Fury: Samuel L. Jackson with eye-patch now reports to Alexander Pierce: Robert Redford. The fight for right frenetic hand-to-hand combat involves Natasha/the Black Widow: Scarlett Johansson, Captain A, Bucky Barnes/Winter Soldier: Sebastian Stan, Sam Wilson/Falcon: Anthony Mackie, and Brock Rumlow: Frank Grillo. Look for a Smithsonian Guard: Stan Lee, the Marvel creator. Should Loud!! be bothersome, make sure to take earplugs. *Avengers: Age of Ultron* arrives next May. Intense violence and action! Some profanity, sensuality and drug references.

DRAFT DAY

General Manager Sonny Weaver Jr.: Kevin Costner on the NFL Draft Day, must decide what it's worth to the Cleveland Browns team to have the No. 1 Pick. Too much time is devoted to the machinations re the Browns' pick with the team's owner Molina: Frank Langella and new Coach Penn: Denis Leary putting in their thoughts about the pick. Sonny also has to deal with his pregnant girlfriend Ali: Jennifer Garner and his interfering mom, Barb: Ellen Burstyn; add Vivi Delay: Amber Heard to the mix. In the final moments, they finally get around to the draft pick. Some sexual references. Brief profanity.

THE GRAND BUDAPEST HOTEL

As the legendary concierge, Monsieur Gustave H., Ralph Fiennes leads a large cast of players in cameos through a fast-paced romp hurtling across a mythical European country, Zubrowka, between the world wars. He explains that he actually prefers sex with the elderly women who patronize the Grand Budapest Hotel for their spas. The owner of the hotel is ancient Madame D.: Tilda Swinton, barely recognizable as the 84-year old countess in all the old age make-up, who wills it to her lover, Gustave H, in the event of her demise. Many relatives fight over her will, led by Dmitri: Adrien Brody. Gustave takes a painting, *Boy with Apple*, of incredible value and hops a train with his protégé, Zero: Tony Revolori. They are chased by

hit-man Jopling: Willem Dafoe, but are aided by Zero's girl friend, Agatha, their bakery girl: Saoirse Ronan. Gustave's naughty use of profanity is jarring. Fiennes' florid gigolo scoundrel is the first Oscar-worthy performance of 2014. A blink or a nod-off could make one miss any of the dozen quirky guest appearances. In older years Zero is portrayed by F. Murray Abraham. Director Wes Anderson wrote the screenplay and co-wrote with Hugo Guinness the story inspired by the works of Stefan Zweig. Alexandre Desplat's score provides the momentum he did in *Fantastic Mr. Fox* for Anderson. Profanity. Sexual content. Some violence.

NOAH

Noah: Russell Crowe is chosen to build a huge multi-story ark to house male-female pairs of all the world's animals before forty days of rain flood and cleanse the wicked from the world. Giant black rock monsters are tasked with controlling the animalistic populace who want to board the ark. His wife Naameh: Jennifer Connelly and adult sons, Ham: Logan Lerman and Shem: Douglas Booth, stepdaughter Ila: Emma Watson are tasked with repopulating the world after the storm. Tubal-Cain: Ray Winstone, Shamyaza: Nick Nolte and Noah's dad, Methusala: Anthony Hopkins round out the supporting cast. The rain seems endless. Director/co-writer Darren Aronofsky can take credit/blame for this Bible-inspired tale. Violence. Disturbing images. Brief suggestive content.

THE OTHER WOMAN

Successful NYC attorney Carly: Cameron Diaz has a hot affair for two months with Mark King: Nicolaj Coster-Waldau before seeing he's married to insecure Kate: Leslie Mann. The gals learn they have a lot in common and bond together plotting revenge on the lying, cheating SOB. Kate's Shetland-sized pet dog supplies its share of scatological laughs. In their spying on Mark, they discover the sexy 44DD bimbo he's now bedding is Amber: Kate Upton, a model-turned-actress. Her initial beach run is a steal from Blake Edwards' 1979 comedy, *10* with Bo Derek. The trio determines to make Mark's life hell with shampoo laced with hair remover, estrogen and laxatives, etc. This hilarious comedy gets even funnier, thanks in no small part to the fine supporting cast: there's Carly's dad Frank: Don Johnson; Kate's affable brother Phil: Taylor Kinney (to prove not all men are heels); and Carly's wisecracking secretary Lydia: Nicki Minaj, rapper-turned-actress. Kate finds that the papers Mark has had her sign have put a Bahamas bank account in the millions solely in her name. This is Mann's most diverse role ever and could put Mrs. Judd Apatow in the running for Supporting Actress awards at year end. Director Nick Cassavetes and writer Melissa Stack have a hit on their hands. Mature thematic material. Sexual references. Profanity.

THE RAILWAY MAN

Brit Eric Lomax: Jeremy Irvine is captured during WWII by Japanese occupation forces in Thailand and forced to help build the Burma bridge on the River Kwai.

Tortured after confessing to building a contraband radio to give his fellow prisoners a glimmer of hope, Lomax is introduced to the WWII version of water boarding and severe beatings. He blames the Japanese translator, Takashi: Tanroh Ishida, as probably the active instigator. Years later in England, middle-aged Lomax: Colin Firth with damaged psyche and jumpy, is obsessed with train schedules. On a train ride he meets his wife-to-be, Patti: Nicole Kidman who admits he's a mess. His POW buddy, Finlay: Stellan Skarsgard, wears his duck feathers well with nothing affecting him until a sudden turn. When Patti learns Eric's tormentor is alive, she faces the decision of having Eric confront him or not. Will it cure Eric of his demons? The ending comes as disappointing and anticlimactic. Director Jonathan Teplitzky and writers Frank Cottrell Boyce and Andy Paterson do strive and adapt Lomax's book fairly faithfully. Disturbing prisoner of war violence.

RIO 2 3D

Blu: voice of Jesse Eisenberg and Jewel: v.o. Anne Hathaway and their three kids go from Rio to the Amazon jungle. Linda: v.o. Leslie Mann and Tulio: v.o. Rodrigo Santoro lead the fight against the loggers, destroying the rain forest where the blue birds habitat, led by Big Boss: v.o. Miguel Ferrer, who must be stopped.. New characters to the musical franchise are: Gabi: v.o. Kristin Chenoweth; Blu's father-in-law, Eduardo: v.o. Andy Garcia; Aunt Mimi: v.o. Rita Moreno; and Jewel's childhood friend, Roberto: v.o. Bruno Mars. Returning characters from *Rio* include Nico: v.o. Jaime Foxx; a non-flying father bird, Rafael: v.o. George Lopez; bulldog Luiz: v.o. Tracy Morgan; and the antagonist cockatoo, Nigel: v.o. Jemaine Clement. Director Carlos Saldanha also co-wrote the story and created the characters; Don Rhymer co-wrote the story while the screenplay credit is shared by Jenny Bicks, Yoni Brenner and Carlos Kotkin. Colorfully filmed and well worth seeing. The musical score is enchanting.

TRANSCENDENCE IMAX

Berkeley's foremost scientist of Artificial Intelligence, Will Caster: Johnny Depp is experimenting with keeping the brain alive after death. His intelligent wife Evelyn Caster: Rebecca Hall, the love of his life, and his best friend Max Waters: Paul Bettany are fellow researchers. Agent Buchanan: Cillian Murphy, Bree: Kate Mara, Col. Stevens: Cole Hauser, and Joseph: Morgan Freeman head the supporting cast. When Will is shot by a rioter, his theories are put to the test. Evelyn rallies the troops to keep Will from dying in vain. Soon they have more opposition from anti-technology extremists and social unrest. The unique tale is directed by Wally Pfister with writer Jack Paglen providing unexpected twists with special effects constantly surprising. Sci-fi action and violence. Some bloody images. Brief profanity. Sensuality.



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

Triumphant Trio Scores in *Fences* at MTC

Bay Area veteran actors Carl Lumbly, Margo Hall and Steven Anthony Jones give moving performances in *Fences* by August Wilson and brilliantly directed by Derrick Sanders.

Fences is a 1983 play by American playwright August Wilson set in 1957 in the yard of the Maxson's home in the Hill District of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. *Fences* is the sixth in Wilson's ten-part "Pittsburgh Cycle." Like all of the Pittsburgh plays, *Fences* explores the evolving African-American experience and examines race relations, among other themes. This play won the 1987 Pulitzer for Drama and the 1987 Tony Award for Best Play.

The focus of Wilson's attention in *Fences* is Troy Maxson (Carl Lumbly), a 53-year-old head of household who struggles with providing for his family. Troy was a great baseball player in his younger years, but then spent time in prison for an accidental murder he committed during a robbery. Because the color barrier had not yet been broken in Major League baseball, Troy was unable to make much money or save for the future. He now lives a menial, though respectable life of trash collecting, remarkably crossing the race barrier and becoming a driver instead of just a barrel lifter. He lives with his wife Rose (Margo Hall), his son Cory (Eddie Ray Jackson) and Troy's younger brother Gabriel (Adrian Roberts)—an ex-soldier. Lyons (Tyee Tilghman) is Troy's son from a previous marriage and lives outside the home. Jim Bono (Steven Anthony Jones) is Troy's best friend who has recently moved out and rented a room elsewhere, but is still in the

neighborhood. Makaelah Bashir injects a possible ray of future hope in her role as Troy's illegitimate daughter, Raynell.

Derrick Sanders stages *Fences* with excellent attention to realistic detail, and evokes solid performances from his very talented cast. The fence referred to in the title is revealed in the final set of the play. It is not immediately known why Troy wants to build it, but a monologue in the second act shows how he wants to keep the Grim Reaper away. Rose also wanted to build the fence and forced her husband to start it as a means of securing what was her own—keeping what belonged inside in and what should stay outside, out.

Fences plays at Marin Theatre Company April 10-May 11, 2014 with performances Tuesday and Thursday-Saturday at 8 p.m., Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 7 p.m. Matinee performances will be held at 2 p.m. on Sundays and also Thursday April 24 and Saturday, May 3 and 10. Performances are held at Marin Theatre Company, 397 Miller Avenue, Mill Valley. For tickets, call the box office at 415-388-5208 or go online at www.marintheatre.org.

Next at MTC will be the West Coast Premiere of *Failure: A Love Story* by Philip Dawkins directed by Jasson Minadakis, June 5- June 29.

Flora Lynn Isaacson



Linda Ayres-Frederick



Flora Lynn Isaacson

Letters (Cont. from p. 4)

this year. However West Portal still has one remaining jewelry store, and gold jewelry can be purchased at the Gold Store, the Antique store, Curiosity, Good Will, Walgreens and several dress stores.

Gold may have been formed in a collision between a giant star and a neutron star, come up to the surface of Earth via erupting volcanos, and found as placer gold in California rivers, however half of all gold that has been found worldwide, over 84,200 tons, is now found today in jew-

24,248.3 tons; over one third of that is controlled by the United States. Recently, China and India are the largest purchasers of gold, but are not in the top 10 countries that control the most gold.

Because of the weight and softness of pure gold, most of the Egyptian burial masks, etc, were made of wood, and gilded with gold. Much of gold jewelry is made with sterling silver and electroplated, due the high cost of gold. Gold jewelry does not require polishing since it does not corrode like silver.

Frank Norton, West Portal District.

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74 Agua Way	Miraloma Park	2	1	1	1,050,000	1,300,000	123.81
265 Kensington Way	Forest Hill Extensio	4	2	2	1,199,000	1,310,000	109.26
1420 Monterey Blvd	Monterey Heights	5	3	2	1,795,000	1,915,000	106.69
755 Mangels Ave	Westwood Highlands	5	3	1	959,000	1,315,000	137.12
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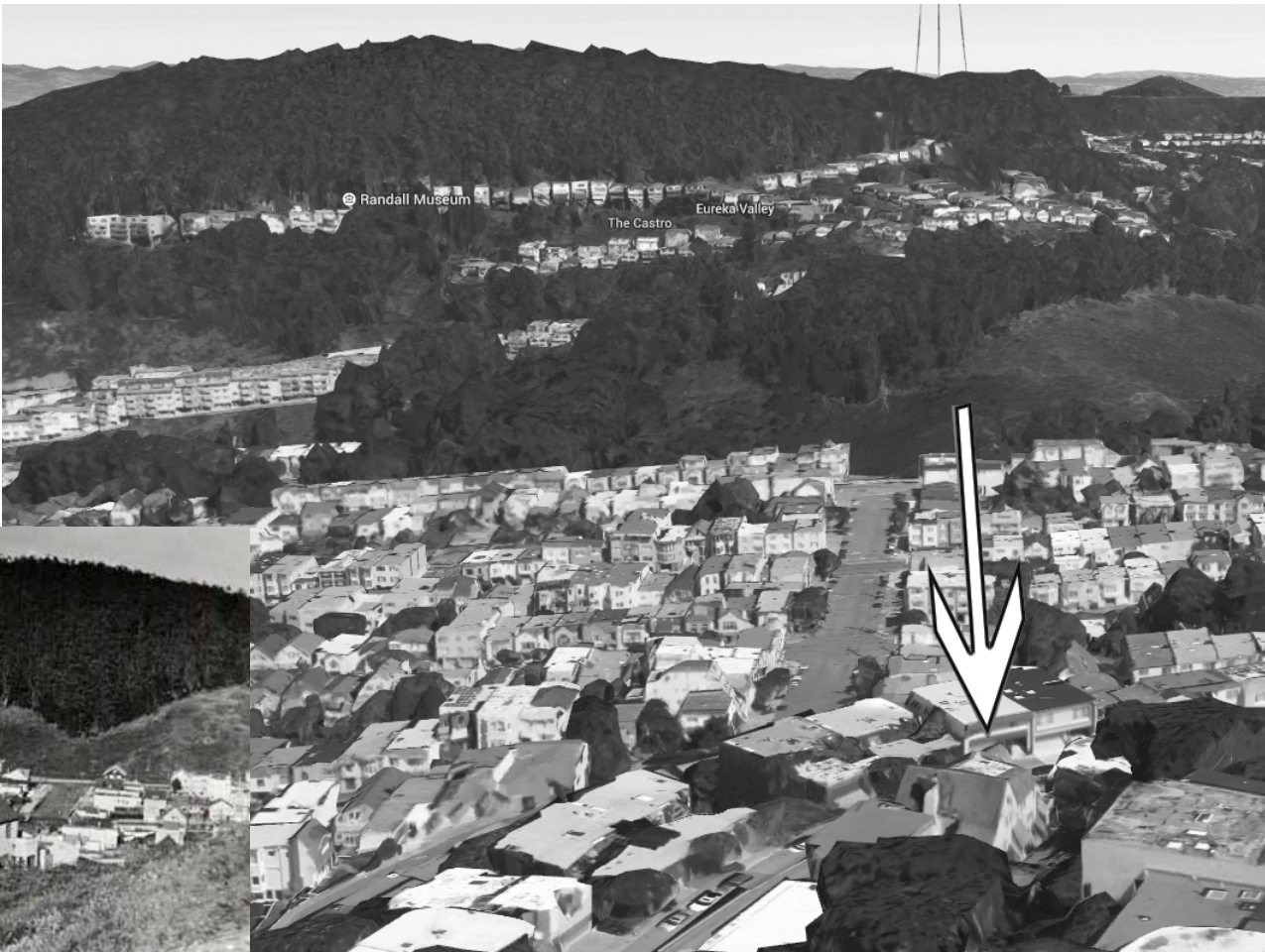
Identify the location of one of our Remember When photos and win a prize! Prizes to be announced

REMEMBER This old photo published in March 2013? Its location was identified by Alena Klompus (see Letters P 4.)

Send your observations about the date or perspective and a corresponding photo of the present of any of our published old photos (www.westsideobserver.com/remember.html). We'll choose the most useful entry and share the info with the SF History Center — AND YOU'LL WIN A PRIZE!

Send to editor@westsideobserver.com

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PLANETS...

Find the names of 5 planets hidden in the following sentences:

1. "What hurts?" asked the doctor. "It's my ear," the patient cried.
2. "Steven, use the screwdriver to build those shelves."
3. Everyone takes a turn during

Monopoly.

4. "Cassie, you ran us over with your bicycle!"
5. "Sam, arsenic is poisonous. I read the definition in the dictionary."

Answers:

1. Earth
2. Venus
3. Saturn
4. Uranus
5. Mars

BRAIN FUD

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:

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

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

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By Julie Casson



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Do you have a pinched nerve? We can help.

Dear friend,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Here is what some of your neighbors have said:

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

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

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

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

My qualifications:

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

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

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

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

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



Obamacare/DPH (Cont. from p. 1)

MediCal coverage, the ACA mandates that individuals buy health insurance or pay tax penalties, provides subsidies to insurers, and requires businesses to cover their employees.

In order to control costs, Obamacare uses a "capitation system": a fixed sum of money is provided for the care of each patient, regardless of the frequency or intensity of services. Currently, reimbursement is largely "fee for service" whereby payment is made for each service provided, with little incentive to reduce costs. Importantly, insured patients can choose where they want to receive their health care, thereby introducing competition.

As of January 2014, 56,000 of 84,000 uninsured San Franciscans have signed up. The big challenge for the DPH is to persuade these newly insured persons to choose DPH instead of private or non-profit providers. To do this, we are told that DPH must transform itself from the "provider of last resort" to a "provider of choice." If patients opt to get care elsewhere, the DPH will lose money. Another challenge is to stem losses from serving a safety-net population with multiple medical and psycho-social ailments, once fee-for-service payments stop. To do this, DPH must recruit many more healthy and therefore low-cost patients. Also, it must better manage the rest - like the 5% who account for 50% of urgent/emergent care costs at San Francisco General Hospital (SFGH).

San Francisco anticipated Obamacare with its 2006 Health Care Security Ordinance that made 4,200 employers set aside \$1.9 billion to cover health care expenses for 265,000 workers. And since 2007, Healthy San Francisco, a health care access program, has covered 116,000 persons who didn't qualify for insurance programs. Despite these exploits, and its sizable resources, the DPH has outsourced expertise to adapt to Obamacare. Health Management Associates (HMA), a for-profit Michigan-based corporation, is getting \$2.5 million to tutor DPH managers. We reviewed 615 pages of original HMA reports upon which the Controller's 51 page Summary is based. HMA principals have been embedded

in DPH policy circles since being hired to salvage the notorious "Flow Project" of 2004. HMA advised against a 2006 Ballot Initiative aimed at preventing violent patients from being dumped into Laguna Honda Hospital (LHH). Asked to reform Laguna Honda's medical services model, they recommended subordinating LHH under SFGH's license. HMA previously collected some \$700,000 as DPH consultants, and then paid then-DPH Director Mitch Katz \$30,000 to work as an HMA consultant. No such cozy arrangement currently exists between HMA and DPH Director Barbara Garcia.

As in 2004, HMA and DPH want "a fully integrated delivery system" and "culture change" and this time, Obamacare is the excuse. Accordingly, in October 2013, DPH organized its San Francisco Health Network to enroll more people, speed patient flow from SFGH to LHH, rein in costs and become a provider of choice. As in 2004, this integration is largely driven by San Francisco General's operating costs, which gobble up one-third of DPH's annual General Fund subsidy, and more than 50% of DPH's expenses. HMA warns: "SFGH's ability to manage costs is imperative to the overall financial sustainability of the Network." SFGH is too big to fail.

There's more. Although DPH is considered a revenue-generating enterprise fund, it has run a deficit for years. And under Obamacare, DPH projects losing \$131 million or 16% of its State and Federal safety-net dollars over the next 5 years. While revenues from the MediCal expansion may partially offset this loss, DPH's operating budget is expected to rise by 8% next year. To stay afloat, DPH would need 50% more than the \$337 million General Fund bail-out provided in 2012-13. That's "an unsustainable scenario" per the Controller's Report. Such alarming projections could be used to prop up SFGH at the expense of long-term care for elders - as we will explore next month.

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



Kevin Birmingham

Jack Kaye

Sergio Nibbi

They'll Be Back

Our popular columnists will be back soon to entertain and educate us again in future issues of the Westside Observer. Stay tuned!

SF BUSINESS
VOTES
2014

2014 Voting Guide
Vote for an economically stronger
San Francisco on June 3

VOTE YES

Proposition A: Earthquake Safety and Emergency Response Bond

- Help ensure San Francisco's firehouses, police stations and emergency water systems are able to function after a major earthquake, without raising taxes.

VOTE NO

Proposition B: Waterfront Height Limit Initiative

- Prop. B means losing the chance to build vitally needed new housing for middle and low income San Franciscans
- Prop. B destroys the maritime infrastructure of the Port of San Francisco
- Prop. B takes away from the Port, Planning Commission, State agencies, community leaders and our elected officials the ability to approve well thought out and critically important waterfront projects



SF Forward is the Political Action Committee (PAC) of the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce

SF Forward is comprised of local business owners and residents who support sound economic policy and exceptional quality of life in San Francisco. The PAC is dedicated to insuring that political reforms strengthen the local economy, improve the business climate, and streamline the operation of government.

Ed100– How The Education System REALLY Works.

By Carol Kocivar

For the past few months, my husband has asked me late in the evening, “Are you still working on that new web site?” And the answer was always, “Yes. Still more to do.”

Well...at last, it is ready for launch and I want to share it with you.

It is www.Ed100.org.

And it is a little bit of a labor of love written to help people make sense of the complex world of education. We are living in a time of rapidly changing education policy. From new tests to new standards to new funding. It is a world where lots of people claim to have the silver bullet that will help improve our schools.

Ed100 tries to pull all of this together in short lessons. It gives you an overview of the major issues and also takes you to the research on many sides of issues—left, right and center.

This new free online instructional course is for parents (and anyone else) who want to help improve our local schools. It is designed to help you learn how the education system really works so you can make a difference.

The lessons include links to deeper explanations, resources, research and organizations.

To help reinforce the fact that these ideas are connected, they are organized into ten chapters unified by this sentence:

- 1 Education is...
- 2 ...Students...
- 3 ...and Teachers...
- 4 ...spending Time...
- 5 ...in Places for Learning
- 6 ...with the Right Stuff...
- 7 ...in a System...
- 8 ...with Resources...
- 9 ...for Success...
- 10 (...So Now What?)

Here are some highlights:

Plainly-Worded Lessons. No jargon. No partisan slant. It is written by education experts who know Sacramento and local schools (including yours truly.)

Learn At Your Own Pace. Read at any

Sunshine (Cont. from p. 2)

privilege protections — only a very narrow category of communications: Advice from the City Attorney’s Office on how to circumvent CPRA and the Sunshine Ordinance.

FAC noted in its application to the Court that voters are entitled to adopt such a limitation.

The City Attorney has suddenly raised a new claim, never raised at the Superior Court level, or in multiple briefs he filed to the Appellate Court, claiming it is the City itself, not the City Attorney, who is permitted to invoke attorney-client privilege. In fact, that privilege rests solely with clients, and in this case rests solely with citizens, not their attorneys. Voters, Grossman maintains, are the ultimate “clients” of the

City Attorney. The City Charter wastes not one word — either explicitly, or implicitly — on any definition or assignment of, attorney-client privilege to any City officers, or on the City itself.

Courts are bound to uphold municipal ordinances and bylaws, unless they manifestly transcend powers conferred on enacting bodies. The City Attorney continues to argue that the duty of “confidentiality” is expressly conferred, or “inferred” by in the language as “additional powers and duties prescribed by State law.”

This is a summary of an article posted on the www.westsideobserver.com

Monette-Shaw open-government accountability advocate, James Madison Freedom of Information Award recipient from the Society of Professional Journalists in 2012
monette-shaw@westsideobserver.com.

time...even at 2 am in your pajamas. Get the information you need when you need it.

Dig Deeper. Each lesson includes links to more information and introduces you to informed commentators with varying perspectives.

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LCAP Parent Checklist template. A great tool to help you discover what your school really needs so you can give informed input on your LCAP.

Strengthen Your PTA. Create informed leaders. Use Ed100 at a PTA meeting to discuss critical education issues. Email lessons to your members. Create a PTA Ed100 book club.

The Writers

Jeff Camp, who chairs Full Circle Fund’s Education Circle, is the major

writer. Camp is a parent, a philanthropist, and a former manager with Microsoft Corporation in the US and Japan. He served on the California Governor’s Committee on Education Excellence. He is also a songwriter and an astrocytoma survivor.

Also contributing to the development are Mary Perry, education consultant and former deputy director of EdSource for nearly 20 years, and Carol Kocivar, (hey, that’s me), past president of the California State PTA.

Now if this is the first time you have heard of ED100, don’t worry that somehow you missed the memo. You, my friends, are among the first to learn about this. It just went live this month.

Please take a test drive on Ed100.org. Share information with friends. Take part in the conversation to help all of us work together to improve our schools.
www.Ed100.org

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Giants Appeal (Cont. from p. 1)

on the \$7 million assessed figure, reflecting a difference of only \$35,000 in tax revenue. Giant’s management left the office very upset. I looked at the principle appraiser and he also couldn’t get over that we wouldn’t work with the Giants. I had worked closely with this principal appraiser over the years and we always got the best and fairest value for the city. I left the office a year later and the Giants subsequently appealed and received a reduction of \$200 million in assessed value and have been receiving a reduced assessment ever since.

When a taxpayer files an appeal for a reduction in property value under Proposition 8, it is generally due to a decrease in value as the result of a stagnant economy. I can understand the Giants asking for a reduction if their revenues were going down and justify it. Without the ballpark, the Giants would not receive its revenues from the tickets, vendors, restaurants, advertising, cable TV, etc. Its revenues continue to grow, which is wonderful. But in my opinion and experience, the Giants should have never received such a reduction in assessment.

The proposed reduction to \$140 million makes no sense. The land assessment alone is at least \$40 million from the capitalization of lease payments to the Port leaving the balance of \$100 million for the improvements. This doesn’t even take into consideration fair market value of the land.

GG Park Soccer (Cont. from p. 1)

During Earthweek, a second group, the Golden Gate Park Preservation Alliance (GGPPA), kicked-off an online celebration of the beauty of the western end of Golden Gate Park and Ocean Beach. It’s asking that everyone submit original works for posting on a website, where submittals can be viewed and enjoyed by people all over the world. GGPPA welcomes original photos, essays, poetry, artwork - even

What are 12.5 acres worth in San Francisco in one of the most coveted neighborhoods like South Beach?

Naming rights were never assessed. Pacific Bell paid \$45 million for naming rights in 2000 over 25 years, which was subsequently transferred to AT&T. What are these naming rights worth today? Keep in mind that the 49ers/York and Levi Strauss & Co recently entered into a naming rights agreement for a 20-year, \$220 million deal at \$11 million annually. Are you telling me the Giants naming rights are not worth at least half this amount when its contract with AT&T expires?

If a high profile assessment like the ballpark is not being valued appropriately, than what about other properties in the city. If the Giants are getting a tax break what are the Warriors expecting.

I appeal to the Giants owners and management to withdraw all their assessment appeals, which are insulting to the taxpayers of San Francisco, and continue to be the class act that they are. This appeal is from a fifth generation San Franciscan who has been a Giants fan since I can remember and had the privilege to see the two Wil- lies, Juan, the Clarks, the Bonds and other Giants greats along the way.

Everyone should pay their fair share.

John Farrell Broker/Realtor – Farrell Real Estate, MBA, Former City Assistant Assessor-Budget and Special Projects, 5th Generation San Franciscan, Westside resident*

songs and tweets! GGPPA suggests that the public go out to the west end of Golden Gate Park NOW and start taking pictures, before the habitat and beauty in that area are destroyed by construction.

To reach each of these groups, go to the following websites:

Ballot Initiative - www.protectggp.org
Celebration of the Beauty of Golden Gate Park and Ocean Beach -- beachchannelfields.jimdo.com



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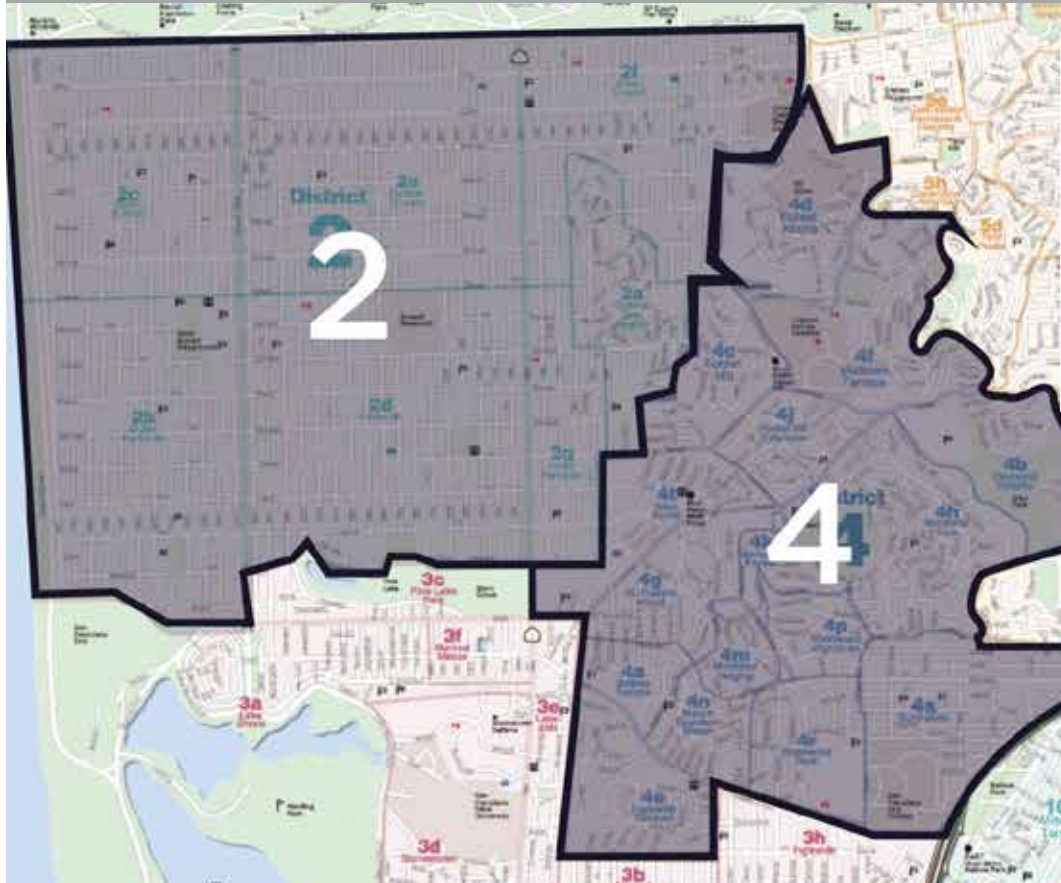
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