

### Let the Farce Be With You!

By John Farrell



I have been to Paris, London, Rome, Stockholm and many other amazing places around the world. I have to admit that New York City is exciting and gives you one helluva adrenalin rush. But to me the most beautiful City in the world is my forever home, San Francisco. Even though I am a fifth generation San Franciscan, every time I cross the Golden Gate Bridge and see that beautiful city landscape I am in awe. It touches me deeply, like I'm watching William Wallace in 'Braveheart' fight to the end for the freedom he believes in and never sways from his dream. I am a sentimental fool.

Over the last few years we lost the 49ers. We lost the Lucas Museum that should have never been allowed to leave this City. We lost America's Cup. In my opinion, we have lost out direction on where we are heading.

How can such a wealthy City be in such poor condition. Muni needs \$10 billion. The homeless program is mediocre. The Planning Department is understaffed and backlogged. The ambulance crisis. The Assessor is losing hundreds of millions annually. We are in drastic need of affordable housing. Panhandling is an epidemic. Buildings are going up like crazy but our infrastructure and water are at risk. What the hell is going on! The answer is quite simple. No leadership or vision.

We are known as the City that knows how, but are becoming the City that knew how. Over the last few years we lost the 49ers. We lost the Lucas Museum that should have never been allowed to leave this City. We lost America's Cup. In my opinion, we have lost out direction on where we are heading. But I will never lose hope since I am an extreme optimist. As Steve Perry says, "Don't Stop Believing."

We all get wrapped up in our worlds, whether it is making our mortgage or rent payments. Putting food on the table and roof over our heads. Raising our children or taking care of an elderly family member. Taking care of the sick, needy and those less fortunate. Helping in our neighborhoods. Donating to the charities and programs that are close to our hearts. I believe in President Kennedy's words, "Ask not what your country can do for you. Ask what you can do for your country."

We count on our elected officials, but it is time people start realizing they are not getting the job done. In private industry if you do not do the job you are fired or demoted. In government you become Lt Governor, or become a member of the Assembly. San Francisco deserves a Mayor to lead the City with a vision which

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### Erosion Spurs Planning at Ocean Beach

By Doug Comstock

Severe erosion, the result of surging sea levels, has forced the closure and reduced access to parking areas as well as some of the right lane of the Great Highway in what is referred to as "managed retreat."

The highway, once touted as the "widest stretch of pavement over 3000 feet long," and the Esplanade, "of enduring concrete which will render for all time the beach safe from the destructive effects of the ocean's activities," will need major armoring to assure their future. Both will undoubtedly be revised by new proposals for the popular seaside destination.

The "Great Highway" was built over several decades, beginning with fenced dune stabilization efforts; it has been widened, straightened and "improved" by dumping fill since the 1890s. The Great Highway, Ocean Beach Esplanade and O'Shaughnessy Seawall were dedicated in 1929 by Mayor James Rolph, Jr. The \$1,000,000 project was financed through a \$9,380,000 highway bond issue voted by the people as "the finest stretch of highway ever constructed." The colossal Sunday, June 9, celebration featured a band of over 1000 musicians, while more than 50,000 people swarmed the connection at Lincoln Way as thousands of motorists tooted their horns to add to the din marking the occasion.

Almost a century later, much of Mayor Rolph's "magnificent municipal improvement" will get a major diet. San Francisco Planning and Urban Research Association (SPUR) has led the planning and advocacy, over a decade,



This poses a very real threat to a very critical sewage-treatment complex that is essential to protect coastal water quality in San Francisco. The environmental consequences of a rupture and sewage spill would be severe."



Construction of the Ocean Beach Seawall, Nov. 1921

through five major public workshops and many more community and stakeholder meetings, as well as exhibitions, forums and online surveys, to find solutions to the ongoing and unsustainable project. SPUR, through two community-led task forces (the Ocean Beach Task Force and the Ocean Beach Vision Council) has expended considerable energy to address the erosion encroaching the highway, which is likely to worsen. The Ocean Beach Master Plan (OBMP), though not an officially sanctioned document, is the most thorough study of the situation to date.

According to Ben Grant, SPUR Project Manager for the OBMP, one of the plan's most pressing priorities is "closing a short, severely eroded section of the highway south of Sloat Boulevard, and replacing it with a walking and biking trail." Car traffic would be re-routed onto Sloat and Skyline Boulevards, state-of-the-art highway designs

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### City Attorney's Sewer Stand-Off Needs Sunshine

By Dr. Maria Rivero and Dr. Derek Kerr

City Attorney Dennis Herrera is facing a whistleblower retaliation lawsuit from his former Chief Trial Attorney, Joanne Hoeper. After the September Westside Observer went to press, Herrera rebutted Hoeper's claim that she was reassigned and fired for exposing a multi-million dollar scheme to replace private sewers - at taxpayer expense. Now Hoeper has refuted Herrera's rebuttal, thus escalating the conflicting pre-litigation narratives.

Pursuing a 2011 FBI tip about shady sewer claims, Hoeper had Herrera's blessing - until her digging implicated the heads of his Claims Bureau; Michael Haase and Matthew Rothschild. In May 2012, Hoeper told Herrera where the investigation was headed. One month later, the Claims Bureau ceased paying for private sewers, and stopped issuing no-bid contracts. Yet, Hoeper kept delving into thousands of claims that had already been paid.

In July 2012, months before launching his reelection campaign, Herrera directed his Chief Deputy, Therese Stewart, to wrap up Hoeper's investigation. Undaunted, Hoeper delivered a 27-page "Draft Report of Investigation" (Report) on 7/18/12. Shortly thereafter,

Hoeper says Herrera green-lighted her continued probing.

Hoeper briefed Stewart about a plumbing company that had filed 84 claims for \$850,000, most of which had been inflated by \$3,000. These \$3,000 premiums reportedly ended after a citizen

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Chief Trial Attorney Joanne Hoeper



City Attorney Dennis Herrera

The next morning, Herrera replaced her as Chief Trial Attorney...Herrera then covered up her fraud allegations and failed to seek an independent audit of the Claims Bureau. In November 2013, two days after being re-elected, Herrera told Hoeper that she would be terminated. In January 2014, he kept his word."

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Election 2014

### SF Voters' Choices

San Franciscans went to the polls to provide direction to the city on many different topics, from taxes, on sodas and turf on playing fields to raising the minimum wage and a large transportation bond. With the uncertified results in, here is what the electoral landscape looks like.

In the five, even-numbered districts where supervisors were up for reelection, all five current supervisors (Farrell, Tang, Kim, Weiner and Cohen) won their contests handily, with only the District 10 race moving to a round 2 of ranked-choice voting.

On a statewide basis, Propositions 1 and 2, the Water Bond and Rainy Day fund propositions won easily, as did the Proposition to reduce certain criminal acts to misdemeanors (Prop 47). The propositions dealing with Healthcare (Prop 45), Drug Testing for Doctors (Prop 46) and Indian Casino Gaming (Prop 48) all were defeated handily.

In the District 17 Assembly race, a very tight race

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# Running Wild at Rec and Park

By Anmarie Mabbutt

Recreation and Parks General Manager Phil Ginsburg and Permits and Reservations Manager Dana Ketcham together control access to more than 11% of all land within the City and County of Francisco (3,400 out of 30,016 acres) including 220 neighborhood parks, 179 playgrounds, 25 recreation centers and 59 soccer/playfields. Dana Ketcham began working as RPD Permits & Reservations Manager in February 2009. This was a newly created position within RPD, the final funding for which was subject to the approval of the Mayor's Office. Prior to her hiring, Dana Ketcham, an original member of the City Fields Foundation Steering Committee, had spent more than a year volunteering on behalf of City Fields with the RPD to modernize its permits and reservations system. Phil Ginsburg began working as RPD General Manager in July 2009. During their tenure, the Recreation and Parks Department use of excessive fees and a "pay to play" ideology has resulted in such unequal access to public park land some local leaders are now viewing it as a civil rights issue.

These youth were simply standing up for their right to access the public park space. They were objecting and rightly so to the commercialization of the historically informal neighborhood soccer field at Mission Playground.

The "Mission Playground is not for Sale" YouTube video that sparked a massive community rally before last month's Recreation and Park Commission meeting is a graphic example of the divisive and misguided revenue driven policies implemented under Phil Ginsburg and Dana Ketcham. At the October 16, 2014 RPC meeting, Latino Democratic Club Vice President of Political Affairs Gabriel Medina likened the Mission Youth featured in the video to Rosa Parks. These youth were simply standing up for their right to access the public park space. They were objecting and rightly so to the commercialization of the historically informal neighborhood soccer field at Mission Playground.

Established by the Recreation and Park Commission more than thirty years ago, Park Code Appendix 7.6 lists 41 locations available for permitted athletic play in San Francisco. Mission Playground is not on that list and has never been approved by the Commission for permitted play. Yet current RPD management rents out Mission Playground, as well as 23 other sites that have never been approved by the Recreation and Park Commission. Permits and Reservations Manager, a former Viking Youth Soccer League President, and City Fields' Steering Committee member, Dana Ketcham appears a driving force behind the new "anything is for sale" attitude at Pioneer Log Cabin. According to the May 2008 CYSA Newsletter, Dana Ketcham personally walked every playing field in San Francisco. (about 100) as part of her volunteer work on behalf of the City Fields Foundation. Several of RPD's current unauthorized permitted areas are sites that have been renovated with artificial turf by the City Fields Foundation, including Mission Playground, Garfield Square, and Minnie and Lovie Ward. The lower income minority populations of these neighborhoods have literally had their neighborhood fields ripped right out from under their feet.

As for the Beach Chalet Fields, the crown jewel of the City Fields/RPD partnership and the subject of Propositions H and I on the November 2014 ballot, this site has also never been approved for permitted athletic play by the Recreation and Park Commission. Presumably out of deference to the pastoral nature of Golden Gate Park's Western end, and respect for the historic military use of the Fields during World War II, the San Francisco Recreation and Park Commission never approved the site for formal permitted play. During World War II, the Beach Chalet Fields were the site of a U.S. Coastal Signal Defense Station. I found photographs of the 30<sup>th</sup> Infantry camped on the Fields in March 1941. The failure to include any mention of this historic military use in the Beach Chalet Field's EIR Historical Background and Cultural Resources Sections is

shameful.

The last time the Recreation and Park Commission added to the list of permitted athletic fields was back on April 15, 1999. At this meeting, the Commission, per Resolution #9904-074, voted to add four new locations to the City's inventory of permitted athletic fields – Chalmers, Cayuga, St. Mary's, and Sunset. In making its decision, the Recreation and Park Commission took account of the appropriateness of these locations as formal athletic fields and their historical use. In determining which sites should be available for permitted play, the Commission was exercising its authority under City Charter Section 4.113.3 which reads, "The Commission shall have the power to lease or rent any stadium or recreation field under its jurisdiction for athletic contests, exhibitions and other special events and may permit the lessee to charge an admission fee." It is the authority and responsibility of the Commission, not RPD management, to determine which fields are available for rent.

The "anything is for sale" ideology of the San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department extends all the way from the public athletic fields to Candlestick Park. In September 2012, the RPD began offering Candlestick Park tours for \$18/adult via a third party website – www.BrownPaperTickets.com. And in December 2013, RPD announced it was selling Candlestick Park seats for \$649/pair and \$749/pair for seats purchased after January 2014. In a January 2014 San Francisco Business Times article, RPD Property Manager Nick Kinsey reports almost \$2,000,000 in revenues in the first month of sales. RPD General Manager Phil Ginsburg has not responded to requests for comment as to his or the RPD's authority to be charging these fees. Neither the Candlestick Park Seat fees nor the Candlestick Park Stadium Tour fees have ever been discussed or recommended by the Recreation and Park Commission or approved by the Board of Supervisors.

City Charter Section 2.109 reads in part "Within 30 days of submission by the Mayor, the Board of Supervisors shall approve by Ordinance or reject any rate, fee or similar charge to be imposed by any department, official, board or commission. . ." Yet, under GM Phil Ginsburg, the San Francisco RPD appears to be charging and collecting more than a half dozen fees that have never been recommended by the Recreation and Park Commission, or approved by the Board of Supervisors, including the Scaregrove and Eggstravaganza fees, the \$100 Camp Mather lottery registration fee, the Candlestick Park Stadium Tour fees, the \$649/\$749 Candlestick Park seats, the Harvey Milk Center Digital Sound & Recording Lab rental fees, and the summer camp extended care fees.

Now is the time to demand change at RPD.



A community rally against "pay to play" policies erupted at Rec & Park Commission: "Mission Playground is not for sale" YouTube

## VETERAN'S DAY PARADE

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Ruminations From A Former Supervisor By Quentin Kopp



In the aftermath of last month's local, state, and federal elections, I began to read a remarkably insightful book by a Fordham Law School professor (Zephyr Teachout) entitled *Corruption in America*. (I purchased it from our wonderful West Portal Bookstore.) Corruption in the years of the founding of our Republic and promulgation of the United States Constitution was considered in a more stalwart manner than contemporary law, society, and politics have transformed it today. Of the same genre is a 2013 book by Peter Schweizer, a Fellow at the Hoover Institution at Stanford, entitled *Extortion: How Politicians Extract Your Money, Buy Votes, And Line Their Own Pockets*. (It's also available at the West Portal Bookstore).

...today in an era in which independent expenditure committees and newly-minted billionaires in San Francisco, in California and throughout the United States flood our mailboxes, televisions, radios, and internet with their propaganda."

In September, a former Virginia Governor (Robert McDonnell) was convicted after several weeks of trial of extortion, based upon expensive gifts and even cash loans from a businessman. The prosecution convinced the jury that the Governor bestowed benefits upon the businessman, such as hosting benefits for him at the Governor's Mansion to extol the business in return for the businessman's largesse. Under the law, the prosecution was required to establish a specific relationship between the cash loans and expensive gifts to the Governor on the one hand, and the Governor's deed for the businessman on the other hand. That was not always the rule in American law. As Professor Teachout reminds us, the United States Supreme Court in 1991 reversed the criminal conviction of a West Virginia legislator seeking campaign contributions in return for introducing a bill on the ground the legislator's receipt of money was not "made in return for an 'explicit promise' to do (or not do) an official act." The legal standard now renders it much more difficult in every state and county to prosecute a public official for corruption.

That wasn't the case in 1787. Article I, Section 8 if the Constitution of the United States declares explicitly: "no Person holding any office for profit or trust...shall, without the consent of the Congress, accept of any present, emolument, office, or title, of any kind whatever, from any King, Prince, or foreign State." Why? In 1785, two years prior, the French King Louis XVI conferred a diamond-studded snuffbox containing the King's portrait on Benjamin Franklin upon conclusion of Franklin's service as our Ambassador to France. Public indignation ensued. Professor Teachout observes the public was indignant despite the fact that Franklin was not a member of the Continental Congress and had not granted any monetary or non-monetary favors to King Louis XVI or France. A corrupt intention was not necessary to finding a public official's independence had been weakened or annulled. The mere gift riled the populace. Constitutional Convention Delegate George Mason of Virginia declared at the 1787 Constitutional Convention: "If we do not provide against corruption, our government will soon be at an end." That's not merely a truism; it remains a reflection of human behavior today in an era in which independent expenditure committees and newly-minted billionaires in San Francisco, in California and throughout the United States flood our mailboxes, televisions, radios, and internet with their propaganda. Particularly searing local examples were the attacks upon Supervisor David Campos, for not voting to impeach the Sheriff in 2011, to secure his opponent's election to the California Assembly, and the hundreds of thousands of dollars spent to subvert Proposition H.

Professor Teachout details the development of lobbying in the United States. Paying lobbyists was prohibited or declared contractually void in state constitutions and appellate court decisions in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. An 1874 U.S. Supreme Court opinion regarding lobbying stated: "If any of the great corporations of the country were to hire adventurers who make market of

themselves in this way, to procure the passage of a general law with a view to the promotion of their private interest, the moral sense of every right-minded man would instinctively denounce the employer and the employed as steeped in corruption..." That changed. Commencing in 1890, state legislators enacted lobbyist-registration statutes. Lobbying contracts were enforced by courts from 1927 to the present. Two U.S. Supreme Court cases in 1946 characterized lobbying as free speech.

In 1974, as a Board of Supervisors member, I successfully secured passage of an ordinance establishing campaign expenditure limits for Mayor and the Board of Supervisors. For Mayor, it was approximately \$121,000; for a Board of Supervisors campaign (at-large, not by district), it was approximately \$46,000. That ordinance applied to the 1975 mayoral and supervisorial campaigns and would probably endure to this day with limits increased by the cost of living index increases for San Francisco. In 1976, however, the United States Supreme Court invalidated a New York state campaign expenditure limit law, asserting it violated First Amendment free speech rights. Since then "reforming" campaign spending has been a losing proposition with failed experiments, including taxpayer financing, which provide work for lawyers, accountants, and other specialists, but no respite for the body politic or our republic (or city). My 1974 ordinance was, thus, invalidated by the United States Supreme Court decision. The law now allows only a limit on contributions, not on expenditures, and permits "independent" expenditures of the sort witnessed in last month's elections. As Professor Teachout asserts, citizens must reassert what she calls the "anti-corruption principle" of public officials honoring civic welfare, not just private interests.

I'm reminded of that in the recent campaign for the BART Board of Directors. One candidate, the 24-year incumbent, was a Republican; the other a Democrat. Nevertheless, the Republican was endorsed and supported in glaring ads by such Democratic luminaries as House of Representatives Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer, U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein, Attorney General Kamala Harris, and even California Democratic Party Chairman John L. Burton. The answer can be found in campaign contribution records since 1999, demonstrating the incumbent's family contributions to such Democratic worthies, including even Democratic presidential candidates. It is, therefore, easier to understand why the San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee voted "no endorsement" in such election, thus showing a lack of integrity in committee endorsements. Perhaps a future president can use the "bully pulpit" to restore the values and principles of the delegates to the 1787 Constitutional Convention where James Madison declaimed: "Are we not struck at seeing the luxury and venality which has already crept among us?"

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

Notorious Crooks of San Francisco

The Death of Cornelius Stagg

By Paul Drexler

Up until the early 1900s there was no good reason to be in the Ingleside or Sunset Districts. There were plenty of bad reasons, though. Its remote location and distance from legal oversight made it a popular place for gambling, drinking and carousing.

The most popular activity was horse racing, the sport of kings. And the titan of the turf was Cornelius Stagg, who opened the Ocean Course race Track in 1865 and ran the Ocean House. For decades, his hotel became a favored destination for prominent celebrities, politicians, and even kings.

His murder thirty years later shocked and saddened San Francisco. It was as if an old, charming but slightly disreputable uncle had died. He may not have represented the best of old San Francisco, but he certainly exemplified the most interesting.



Cornelius Stagg was born in 1829 to one of the oldest families in New York and grew up with a taste for of adventure that could not be satisfied in his home state.

Stagg came to San Francisco in 1851 and quickly made an impression on the city's movers and shakers. His friends included theatrical producers, politicians and gamblers. Through his friendship with Senator David Broderick, Cornelius became a skilled political operative and was given the lucrative

position of Inspector of Weights and Measures by the state legislature.

But there was another side to Stagg. In the 1850s Cornelius worked as an undercover detective for Mayor Garrison and reported to Detective Captain Isaiah Lees. He also served as a confidential agent for the legendary Mexican President Benito Juarez. In the 1860s, Stagg was a special federal agent in New York and went undercover to arrest illegal whiskey distillers (government taxes on alcohol were one of the main sources of federal revenue at that time). His activities made him a wealthy man, and to celebrate, he bought a pair of thoroughbred horses for \$10,000 and had them shipped to San Francisco. Stagg returned to San Francisco in 1872 with a beautiful wife and a sizable bankroll.

In 1872, Cornelius bought the Ocean House resort, located near Eucalyptus Drive and 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue and started the Ocean Race Track. This track quickly became Ocean Beach's top attraction and was the scene of California's most famous race. Over 20,000 people flocked to the Ocean Race Track to see California's *Thad Stevens* defeat Kentucky's *True Blue*, proving that California thoroughbreds were as good as Eastern horses. Famous guests such as President Ulysses Grant, Buffalo Bill, and Emperor Don Pedro of Brazil visited, and the Ocean House rivaled the Cliff House for attracting wealthy sporting men.

But Stagg's gambling acumen was overshadowed by his matrimonial woes. His wife was unhappy at the Ocean House. She spent Stagg's money lavishly and eventually ran off to Philadelphia with one of Stagg's guests, a wealthy Englishman.

It was a blow from which Cornelius never recovered. He closed Ocean Race Track, which had become unprofitable. The Ocean House mysteriously burned down on Christmas Eve 1888. He then took over the Ingleside House, located at what is now Ocean Avenue and Junipero Serra. By 1895, few visitors came to the Ingleside House and Stagg was almost bankrupt.

At 10:00 Saturday night, March 16, 1895, just a handful of regulars were sitting around the bar playing liars dice at the Ingleside House when three masked men entered, all wearing long linen coats. The lead bandit entered the room and stood behind Cornelius, who was talking with an old friend. When the man demanded



Saloon keeper Stagg's last plea for money from the masked assassin



# End of the Road for Residential Neighborhoods

By George Wooding



Last year, Supervisor David Chiu rezoned the City's residential housing stock by making secondary units legal throughout the entire City. His legislation was so bureaucratic and ridiculous that only seven residents have signed-up.

This year, on October 21, the Board of Supervisors voted 7 to 4 to help Chiu pass the Airbnb legislation that caused 1) Every residential house in the City to be rezoned as commercial property, 2) Has no effective enforcement, 3) Is purposely vague, and 4) Allows Airbnb to skip paying at least \$25 million in back taxes owed to the City.

The Planning Commission is set to adopt the new "Article 2" code change at their November 20th meeting. It is a 462 page umbrella article for residential lots. Changes will allow a myriad of non-residential (e.g. institutional, public utilities, etc.) uses to be allowed without hearings in all residential areas".

Meanwhile, New York City leaders are prosecuting the Airbnb people who are renting out their homes illegally.

New York State Attorney General Eric Schneiderman just issued a report claiming up to 72 percent of Airbnb lodging reservations in New York are illegally booked.

New York is taking a different path than San Francisco. Schneiderman says as his investigation continues, he's teaming up with local authorities to step up enforcement against what he calls illegal hotels.

San Francisco's local politicians — Chiu, Wiener, Tang, Breed, Cohen, and Kim — capitulated to Airbnb's money and local political influence, while New York's politicians chose to fight Airbnb.

Conversely, District 7 Supervisor Norman Yee showed real backbone by standing up against the commercial rezoning of residential neighborhoods zoning. Yee states, "I don't believe in the one size fits all approach that this [Airbnb] legislation takes in legalizing short term rentals, we have zoning laws and allow certain uses in specific areas for very good reasons. I cannot support rezoning of the entire city and redefining residential use that this legislation attempts."

Chiu does not care one whit what his Airbnb legislation has done to the character of San Francisco neighborhoods. His true goal is to beat David Campos in California's District 17 Assembly race with the help of Airbnb's money.

According to Joe Eskanazi, a reporter from the San Francisco Weekly, "An independent expenditure committee called "San Franciscans to Hold Campos Accountable" has, to date, poured some \$600,000 into torpedoing Assembly candidate David Campos, Chiu's opponent in the forthcoming election. Half a million dollars of that comes from early Airbnb investor Reid Hoffman, \$49,900 comes from early Airbnb investor Ron Conway, and \$49,000 comes from Conway's wife, Gayle."

Chiu's campaign manager, Nicole Derse, is a partner in the consulting firm 50 + 1 Strategies. This same firm was also hired by Airbnb to recruit people who rent out their homes to lobby Supervisors to support a bill friendly to Airbnb.

Both Derse and Chiu claim that 50 + 1 Strategies has a "firewall" between his election campaign and Airbnb. 50 + 1 Strategies only has ten employees.

Interestingly, Supervisor Malia Cohen, the deciding vote on many of Airbnb's contentious 6 to 5 amendment votes is also represented by 50 + 1 Strategies. A quick perusal of contributions reveals several thousand dollars worth of donations to Cohen from Airbnb interests.

Cohen voted not to collect the \$25 million in back taxes owed by Airbnb to the City because, "the information on Airbnb is devoid of accurate information and is really politically motivated." She is obviously not paying any attention to City Treasurer Jose Cisneros.

Winning her District 10 Supervisorial seat with only 4,321 votes, Cohen is a great example of the limitations of

rank-choice-voting.

Last but not least, Airbnb investor Ron Conway is one of Mayor Lee's biggest financial supporters. Conway is well known in the technology sector for his early investing in Google, Facebook and Twitter, Conway had similarly spotted early potential in Lee as a malleable candidate for mayor. Conway formed an independent expenditure committee to support Lee's election to a four-year term. He pitched in \$150,000 of his own money, and the group raised \$670,000. Run Ed Run.

Mayor Lee signed Chiu's Airbnb legislation into law on October 27th while anti-Airbnb protestors demonstrated on the front steps of city hall and discussed lawsuits. Earlier, Mayor Lee had endorsed David Chiu on October 22nd to be the District 17 Assembly representative—no one cared.

Chiu's Airbnb legislation will now be facing a ballot initiative according to Doug Engmann, the former head of the planning commission. Engmann's anti-Airbnb group has already collected 15,761 signatures, likely enough to ensure the 9,700 valid signatures required to appear on the ballot. Engmann also stated that "anti-Airbnb volunteers may continue to collect signatures through May, 2015."

Enough said.

Dianne Feinstein Hates What Airbnb Will Do To The Neighborhoods

California Senator Dianne Feinstein stated, "The San Francisco Board of Supervisors is poised to approve legislation that would legalize short-term stays in private homes that are negotiated through a number of online reservation systems."

This [Airbnb] is a shortsighted action that would destroy the integrity of zoning throughout San Francisco, allowing commercial and hotel use in residential areas throughout the City. The board compounded this poor decision by rejecting a number of commonsense amendments that would have vastly improved the legislation.

Feinstein continues, "As a former nine-year member of the Board of Supervisors and nine-year mayor, I know firsthand the merits of strong zoning laws. They protect residential areas so they can support families and be free of commercial activities that are not related to neighborhood needs."

"This home-sharing legislation blurs those lines and provides for residential housing to be leased out for hotel use. As such, those of us who value the residential character of our neighborhoods and are invested in the city's quality of life will see all of this washed away by a blanket commercialization of our neighborhoods."

Feinstein is right.

Former San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown stated in his October 26th Chronicle column, "that Senator Diane Feinstein tells me that if Mayor Ed Lee signs the Board of Supervisors' legislation legalizing Airbnb-style rentals, she'll support an effort to overturn it at the ballot."

Brown further states, "It would be one

Cont. p. 14

## U.S. INCOME TAX BRACKET MATH:

MATT DAVIES  
REMARKS  
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My 2¢ • Will Durst

## THE ORANGE AND BLACK.

Here it comes. Creeping down dark alleys. Overturning garbage cans and spooking black cats. The scariest day of the year. With the exception of your next birthday, that is. Halloween. All Hallows' Eve. The night preceding All Saint's Day. Time to carve a gourd.



...begging for treats and threatening to play tricks if none are given. Behavior, seemingly leaked over from Halloween's holiday neighbor: Election Day."

Besides being an excellent excuse to gorge on candy corn and toffee apples it is also an occasion used by many religions to honor deceased relatives by placing lighted candles on the graves of the dead. Probably where that whole ghosts and witches and ghouls and devils thing got started. How pink princesses, Ninja Turtles and Mickey Mouse got thrown into the mix, is anyone's guess.

Supposedly, Celtic pagans (or is it pagan Celts) originated the merrymaking way back in the BCs with something called Samhain, a harvest festival halfway between the autumnal equinox and the Winter Solstice. Designed as a blowout before the onset of winter, (Winter is coming!) it featured much feasting and not a little drinking, if you catch my drift. There very well may have been carousing. Not to mention reveling and frolicking. These were pagans, after all.

Then around the 8<sup>th</sup> century, Catholics introduced All Saints Day into their liturgical calendar to honor dead saints: just happening to coincide with the extant partying. So all good little Christians could still have their fun honoring dead people; but do it in the name of the Lord instead of some Wicker Guy destined to burn up in a big bonfire. If you can't beat em, conjoin em.

Today Halloween has morphed into a hodgepodge of ever evolving rituals including scary movies and wearing costumes and traipsing door to door begging for treats and threatening to play tricks if none are given. Behavior, seemingly leaked over from Halloween's holiday neighbor: Election Day.

In some municipalities the orange and black has become nothing less than

a loosely organized bacchanalia. (named after Bacchus, one of the old gods of which we previously spoke) Entire districts of whole towns given over to mass feasting and much drinking and very definitely-carousing. Because we are the neopagans. Of course, for those living in San Francisco and New Orleans, Halloween is redundant.

It is a murky and confusing time, which may come from October and November stemming from the words eight and nine, but being the tenth and eleventh months of the year. For this we can thank Julius, that wacky Emperor, who altered the Roman calendar from 10 months to 12, naming one of them after himself. And his buddy Augustus. It was a Caesar thing. Like a salad.

Then, when Halloween ends, the black and orange will be taken down and the red and green will go up. And every third radio station will begin playing non-stop Christmas songs. Another Christian celebration merging with a pagan one. Saturnalia was held following the solstice to celebrate the dragon not eating the sun, and the return of the light. Again: pretty much exactly what Christmas is all about.

Then down the line, there will New Year's Eve, and both it and Christmas and Thanksgiving, will all be observed by a whole lot of feasting and not a little drinking. Not to mention carousing, reveling and frolicking. Oh, my, yes, there will be frolicking. Anyone beginning to detect a pattern here?

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## WESTSIDE OBSERVER

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## The November 4th Municipal Ballot

## Billionaires Buying Elections

By Patrick Monette-Shaw



San Francisco's November 2014 election is but one example of the *Citizens United* ruling allowing wealthy organizations and individuals to drown out other voices in the campaign. It didn't take much to discover that Mayor Lee's pals, billionaires Ron Conway and Reid Hoffman, are spending heavily in local and state races to unfairly influence election outcomes, and elect into office legislators who will support their political agendas and financial interests.

Even before the *Citizens Untied* ruling, San Francisco was rife with "independent expenditure committees" raising funds for their preferred candidates and ballot measures under the pretext that the independent committees would not (wink, wink, wink) communicate and coordinate their activities with actual candidates or official ballot measure sponsors.

## Buying David Chiu's Airbnb Legislation

As the *Westside Observer* reported in our October issue, Supervisor David Chiu has taken over two years to develop legislation to "regulate" Airbnb conversion of rental housing stock into short-term rentals — hotel rooms for tourists — driving out San Franciscans who are being displaced out of town. Over those two years, Chiu has met more than 50 times with lobbyists for Airbnb.

Chiu cannot *not* have known that two of Airbnb's investors are none other than billionaire venture capitalist Ron Canway and his wife Gayle, and billionaire venture capitalist Reid Hoffman, the co-founder of Linked-In.

According to the State of California's Cal-Access campaign donor database, Ron Conway has contributed \$154,800 to date in 2014, and his wife Gayle has contributed another \$94,200 to state elections, while Reid Hoffman has contributed at least \$702,350, for a combined total of \$951,350. That allows these two billionaires to buy a lot of access to politicians.

In addition, San Francisco's Ethics Commission campaign data for local elections shows that in 2014 Ron and Gayle Conway, and various probable relatives — including Christopher Conway, Daniel Conway, Michele Conway, and Ronny

Conway — have donated at least another \$254,500 to local candidates and measures.

The ballot measures Ron Conway is supporting include the Prop "A" MUNI bond, Prop "J" to raise the minimum wage, and Prop "C" to extend San Francisco's Children's Fund for another 25 years. Local candidates the extended Conway family have contributed to include at least \$2,000 to Supervisor Malia Cohen, \$2,500 to Supervisor Mark Farrell, and \$1,000 to Supervisor Scott Wiener.

The three supervisors are each up for re-election on November 4, and notably, all three of them voted on second reading to pass David Chiu's Airbnb legislation on Tuesday, October 21. And all three supervisors, along with Chiu himself, voted against an amendment that would have required Airbnb to pay its past due back taxes *before* the legislation could become effective. The amendment failed.

Between the Conway's and Hoffman, they have contributed at least \$1,205,850 to state and local elections through Sunday October 20. Add on to that \$1,193,000 in contributions made by another megabillionaire venture capitalist, Sean Parker, who served as tech giant Facebook's first president.

Parker augmented his \$1.2 million

...a letter signed by more than 50 women to Chiu's campaign headquarters demanding that Chiu stop playing politics with domestic violence.

in state elections contributions during 2014 with an additional \$299,000 to measures on San Francisco's November ballot, for a combined total of \$1,492,000 in contributions.

Ron Conway appears to have donated at least \$50,000, and Parker donated \$200,000, to help pass the Prop "A" bond measure to raise \$500 million for MUNI, perhaps in part because as the *Observer* predicted last month, Caltrans may be a beneficiary of the MUNI bond.

Both billionaires may want taxpayers to foot the bill via the Prop. "A" bond financing to extend Caltrans to the Transbay Transit Center to assist venture capitalists, investors, and developers of high-rise buildings around the planned Transbay Transit Center who had hired former Mayor "Slick" Willie Brown to help them wiggle out of their tax obligations in the Mello-Roos property tax district.

The *San Francisco Chronicle's* Matier and Ross reported on Monday, October 20 that Caltrans is in line to receive \$40 million from the \$500 million bond in order to "electrify" the system. In previous media reports, Caltrans was reported to be a potential beneficiary of the MUNI bond in order to complete its *extension* to the Transbay Terminal. Now we're being told it is to "electrify" Caltrans. It's unclear at this point whether Caltrans will receive multiple portions of the MUNI bond, to both complete its extension and "electrify" it.

Part of that uncertainty is because there is no precise language in the question being put before voters dedicating how the bond will be spent, other than that Mayor Ed Lee and the Board of Supervisors will be able to carve up the spending any way they please if voters are dumb enough to pass a bond that provides no clear or precise language on how the bond will be spent.

Between the three billionaires — Conway, Hoffman, and Parker — and their relatives, they have sank at least \$2.7 million in spending through October 20 on state and local elections, and may contribute more between now and the election on November 4.

## The flood of their money may well drown out other voices in this election. Buying a State Assembly Seat

How many so-called "Independent Expenditure Committees" does Supervisor Chiu need to buy himself a seat in the California Assembly?

California's Cal-Access campaign donor database reported that as of September 30, 2014, David Chiu's official campaign ("Chiu for Assembly 2014," ID # 1360422) had received \$1,401,737 in contributions, compared to David Campos' \$864,524 ("Campos for Assembly 2014," ID # 1359298). Late contribution reports filed between after September 30 and before October 20 reveal another \$61,100 in contributions to Chiu, and \$32,640 to Campos, bringing their official campaign totals to \$1,462,837 and \$897,164 respectively.

David Chiu has garnered at least four independent expenditure committees — "San Franciscans to Hold Campos Accountable (Opposing David Campos)" (ID # 1366671); "San Francisco Alliance For Jobs And Sustainable Growth" (ID # 1369934); "San Franciscans For Effective Government" (ID # 1365064); and the "Public Service Coalition, Sponsored By Public Safety, Building Trades and Retail Workers Organizations" (ID # 1371281) — who have combined contributions of an additional \$999,282, of which \$733,900 came from the "San Franciscans to Hold Campos Accountable" committee Reid Hoffman has so lavishly donated to.

Additional spending on behalf of Chiu includes \$374,208 in late independent

expenditures not reported above from nine other PAC's supporting him and \$12,136 from the "San Francisco Police Officers Association PAC Opposing Campos," bringing Chiu's campaign war chest to at least \$2,848,463.

By way of contrast, two other PAC's supporting David Campos raised \$79,339 as of October 20, and another \$269,000 was raised by the "Nurses, Teachers and Working Families United to Support David Campos for Assembly 2014 Sponsored By Labor Organizations (Opposing David Chiu)" (ID #1366930), which brings Campo's war chest to just \$1.2 million (actually \$1,245,502), less than half of Chiu's \$2.8 million.

Clearly, additional "official" independent expenditure committees supporting David Chiu have skewed the political spending by the elite few having money to burn.

## Smearing Campos

Many observers wonder whether Supervisor Chiu's official election committee is coordinating messages with various independent expenditure committees to unfairly blame Supervisor Campos for the Board of Supervisors vote to reinstate Sheriff Mirkarimi.

Leading up to the primary election last June, voters were inundated with, nasty campaign mailers seeking to discredit Campos funded by both the Police Officers Association PAC and the "Committee to Hold David Campos Accountable" for his vote on reinstating Mirkarimi as Sheriff. They seek to place the blame for Mirkarimi keeping his job solely on Campos.

This is ludicrous, as I wrote in October 2012 in "*Swimming in 'Official Misconduct'*." At the time, an anonymous analysis of the Ethics Commission's handling of the Mirkarimi case clearly laid out how the Mayor and Ethics Commission had gotten it wrong charging Mirkarimi with official misconduct. The analysis noted the Ethics Commission was strictly limited to a single legal question: Did a public official commit "official misconduct" as defined in City Charter Section 15.105(e), or not? The Ethics Commission didn't answer this question.

Chiu, Conway and Hoffman keep using a political tool against Campos, to punish him for having understood that official misconduct laws are there to punish official misconduct, not to remove elected officials the Mayor may have disagreements with.

An official mailer from Campos' Assembly Committee rightfully notes that three men — billionaire Conway, billionaire Hoffman, and David Chiu right in the middle — are playing politics with domestic violence. Many women reject the negative attacks on Campos, including Kim Shree Maufus on San Francisco's School Board, former Police Commissioner Angela Chan, and former State Senator Carole Migden.

The *San Francisco Chronicle* reported on October 16 that a group of domestic violence survivors staged a rally denouncing the smear campaign against Campos, and submitted a letter signed by more than 50 women to Chiu's campaign headquarters demanding that Chiu stop playing politics with domestic violence. According to the *Chronicle* the letter reads, in part:

"If you really cared about us, about this extremely difficult and complicated issue ... then you would stop using us to win votes. You would tell your billionaire friends to take the \$600,000 they have spent on vicious ads filled with hyperbole and lies and instead use that money to directly help domestic violence survivors like us."

Cont. p. 15

## Letters to the Editor

## Artificial Turf and Cancer

I'm writing in regards to Props H & I. Both have to do with artificial turf in our public parks. There is some evidence that artificial turf causes cancer. In light of this new research, I ask you to let voters know that there is a potential health hazard in using artificial turf.

Forbes reported (10/20/14) "A New Jersey city has halted its plans to install an artificial turf field following an NBC News investigation that raised potential safety concerns, city officials said. Ocean City Mayor Jay Gillian decided to keep the natural grass football field at Carey Stadium until more research is done. ...

"On October 8, NBC News aired the first in a series of on-air reports about crumb rubber turf. A Seattle area soccer coach and some former players have asked the federal government to conduct studies about any possible health risks from the turf, which is made of recycled tires and used on thousands of fields nationwide. The coach has compiled a list of dozens of former soccer players, many of them former goalies, who have developed cancer, but no study has shown any link between the surface and any health risk.

"Earlier this week, Kennedy Catholic High School in Burien, Washington, scrapped its plan to use crumb rubber turf in its new football field after seeing the NBC News reports. According to Principal Mike Prato, the school will instead use a Nike infill made up of recycled tennis shoe soles.

"A Democratic congressman from New Jersey, Frank Pallone, has called for a federal study on any health risks associated with crumb rubber on the thousands of sports fields across the country.

"The issue of concern with the more than 5,000 rubber-crumb synthetic turf fields in the United States is that the recycled tires, which fill up space between the artificial grass blades, contain, as one syndicated environmental column puts it:

"...arsenic, benzene, cadmium and nickel ... deemed carcinogens by the International Agency for Cancer Research. Others have been linked to skin, eye and respiratory irritation, kidney and liver problems, allergic reactions, nervous systems disorders and developmental delays.

"In the original NBC News report, University of Washington associate head women's soccer coach Amy Griffin noted two of her former goalkeepers contracted non-Hodgkins lymphoma, and further investigation found other goalies who had gotten cancer. Goalies, or anyone else who hits the ground a lot, would in theory be most vulnerable because they would be most likely to dislodge the fake black dirt off the turf into their mouths or noses."

Maybe it is too early to tell if artificial turf is the best choice for our parks. Before we spend tax payer money to install artificial turf, we should wait and get the results from this on-going research.

Kate Haug

Editors note: Sorry Kate, we could not let the voters know in time for the election, but we will trust in the collective wisdom of the electorate until proven wrong again.





### Climate Planning (Cont. from p. 1)

meant for high-speed traffic (by 1938 standards). Both have unused capacity.

The most controversial part of the plan's recommendation, that the Great Highway be narrowed to two lanes along the main stretch, met with considerable negative reaction. "We're not going to be pushing for it at this time, because we have much more core, transformative projects to consider," Grant said. Opposition to the narrowing plan has come mostly from Lower Great Highway residents who don't want traffic diverted to residential streets.

In response to a question posted on SPUR's website for the project — *Why does the plan propose the eventual closure of part of the Great Highway?* The response outlines the major problem: "This stretch of roadway is exposed to chronic and worsening coastal erosion and will be increasingly difficult to keep open. In 2010, winter storms resulted in the partial closure of this portion of the road for ten months. Bluffs receded forty feet in some locations, threatening not just the road, but wastewater infrastructure as well. Sea-level rise and increased winter

connects important open space and habitat areas, would require permits from the California Coastal Commission and the National Park Service, and are "unlikely" to be approved.

The California Coastal Commission unanimously rejected a City and County of San Francisco permit application for armoring measures at the beach. Local environmental advocates such as Golden Gate Audubon, Surfrider, Save the Waves and other ocean protection groups strongly oppose hard structure armoring in favor of "managed retreat," "beach nourishment" (sand replacement) and limited hard structure armoring.

An OBMP traffic study revealed that the Great Highway carries about 18,000 cars a day, less than half its 40,000 capacity. Removing two lanes would still allow 20,000 cars per day and removing the coast-side traffic lanes could reduce the 60 times per year when sand blowing onto the highway forces closure and diverts traffic onto the residential street, Lower Great Highway. The buffer space would be used



storms are projected to worsen these conditions in the coming decades. Inland circulation routes would be safer from coastal hazards."

The OBMP adds that frequent severe weather conditions result in bluff and beach erosion south of Sloat Boulevard. "This poses a very real threat to a critical sewage-treatment complex that is essential to protect coastal water quality in San Francisco. The environmental consequences of a rupture and sewage spill would be severe."

Space that is added by the restriction of pavement would be used for coastal protection measures, public recreation, and environmental restoration, according to the plan.

Many members of the public have asked about the possibility of protecting the road with a hard structure such as a large seawall or boulder revetment to control erosion. However coastal armoring at Ocean Beach, a National Park that

to rebuild the dunes the voters removed almost a hundred years ago.

Pressure from the federal Clean Water Act prompted a significant upgrade to the westside's sewer-stormwater system that began in the 70s. It was not uncommon to experience 60-70 sewer overflows into the ocean per year. The current system, completed in 1993, has reduced the overflows to less than eight each year. The Lake Merced Tunnel is a 14 ft diameter tube that runs under the Great Highway from the Westside Pump Station beginning at Sloat Boulevard to Fort Funston. It is immediately vulnerable to erosion and must be protected or moved to prevent serious sewage spills. The Westside Transport Box is a long rectangular tube running from Lincoln Boulevard under the Great Highway that collects sewage and stormwater runoff from a large swath of the westside, including the Richmond. It ends at the Westside Pump Station, where

it is pumped through the Lake Merced Tunnel to the Oceanside Water Pollution Control Plant. There it is treated and the effluent is released to the ocean, 4.5 miles out to sea through the Southwest Ocean Outfall.

Parts of the current  
Cont. p. 14

### Sewer Stand-off (Cont. from p. 1)

complained to Haase about suspected fraud and threatened to call the press. Moreover, that plumbing company abruptly stopped submitting claims — right after Hoeper alerted the Claims Bureau about the FBI's warning. This sequence of events led Hoeper to believe that insiders "had colluded with the plumbing company to submit fraudulent and inflated claims and that Haase had then likely warned the plumbing company and tried to cover their tracks." She then surmised that the \$3,000 overpayments served as kickbacks to the Claims Bureau. Whoa!

The next morning, Herrera replaced her as Chief Trial Attorney. In August 2012, he transferred her to the District Attorney's Office but continued her \$202,000/year salary. Hoeper states that Herrera then covered up her fraud allegations and failed to seek an independent audit of the Claims Bureau. In November 2013, two days after being re-elected, Herrera told Hoeper that she would be terminated. In January 2014, he kept his word.

A contrasting narrative emerges from a 35-page rebuttal by lawyers representing Herrera's Office. Herrera argues that Hoeper is not a whistleblower and that she was fired for "sub-par performance" related to her "pugilistic style" and "refusal to be a team player" — not in reprisal for her investigation. Admittedly, he "refused to allow Ms. Hoeper to continue her scorched-earth investigation against Mr. Haase...because she had uncovered no facts to justify further investigation."

To receive whistleblower protections, Hoeper must show reasonable cause to believe that waste, fraud, abuse or wrongdoing occurred. Herrera rejects her whistleblower status by declaring that her own investigation "turned up no evidence of a fraudulent scheme." He quotes this snippet from her Report: "The preliminary work we have done so far has not revealed the sort of obvious patterns that could be expected if there was a scheme to steer public funds to particular plumbing contractors in return for kickbacks." Another excerpt emphasizes that Haase was regarded as "a conscientious, hard-working and competent employee."

Hoeper responds that Herrera selectively "misrepresents" her findings and is "deliberately misleading...in order to cover up (his) true motivations for terminating Ms. Hoeper." She challenges Herrera to release her full Report as it is "replete with detailed examples of wrongdoing by the Claims Bureau." She adds that Herrera's quote about Haase was lifted from a section titled Additional Investigation is Needed that segued into "specific findings that Haase had engaged in unlawful acts."

While Hoeper viewed the City Attorney's handling of sewer claims as unjustified, Herrera asserts that since 1982, it's been City policy to accept liability for residential sewers damaged by City trees. Contradicting Hoeper's claim that SF was

unique in paying for tree-damaged sewers, Herrera identifies other California cities that also reimburse homeowners for sewer repairs. Hoeper retorts that, "Under the San Francisco charter only the Board of Supervisors may set policy and only through written ordinances and resolutions." Unlike the cities cited by Herrera, our Supervisors didn't set a sewer policy. Therefore, Hoeper maintains that the Claims Bureau had unilaterally and illegally implemented the costly sewer policy — then abolished it after her revelations.

While Hoeper was suspicious that Haase usually knew in advance when sewer claims would be submitted and instantly approved them, Herrera contends that she didn't understand that sewer claims were first investigated by DPW inspectors. In 2011, some 60 such sewer claims were reportedly rejected by DPW. Once approved by DPW, homeowners hired plumbers to do the work and filed a claim with the Claims Bureau. So, the Claims Bureau quickly approved sewer claims because they had already been screened by DPW. Herrera denies that homeowner complaints about sewer companies were buried, citing measures initiated by Haase to deter fraudulent claims. Herrera alleges that Hoeper "ignored or dismissed" these points and was "jumping to conclusions."

Hoeper responds that her investigators "documented many instances in which there were no roots in the sewers" — despite the DPW inspections and approvals. Plus, she was not allowed to examine the work of DPW. She describes Haase as: misleading when interviewed, concealing citizen complaints, taking 16 discounted Giants tickets from a contractor for whom he initiated a \$12,000 City sewer deal, and approving no-bid jobs for a contractor who employed his son. Herrera is portrayed as: "willing to make untrue statements about these easily provable facts in order to bolster his false narrative..."

Unfortunately, the City Attorney's Office twice declined to release Hoeper's investigative Report, citing attorney work-product and other confidentiality exemptions. So, we are bedeviled by contrasting interpretations of a crucial but secret document. Herrera does admit that; "The sewer investigation prompted the City to rethink this practice" and that "outdated policies were reformed and allegations against City employees were investigated and put to rest." Hoeper's attorney, Stephen Murphy, told us, "Jo's investigation was shut down and her career abruptly ended only after she had uncovered huge, illegal outlays of taxpayer funds. There's no question she was a whistleblower."

Next, we'll explore Herrera's claim that Hoeper's firing "was in the works long before she claimed...she had uncovered a kick-back scheme"

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

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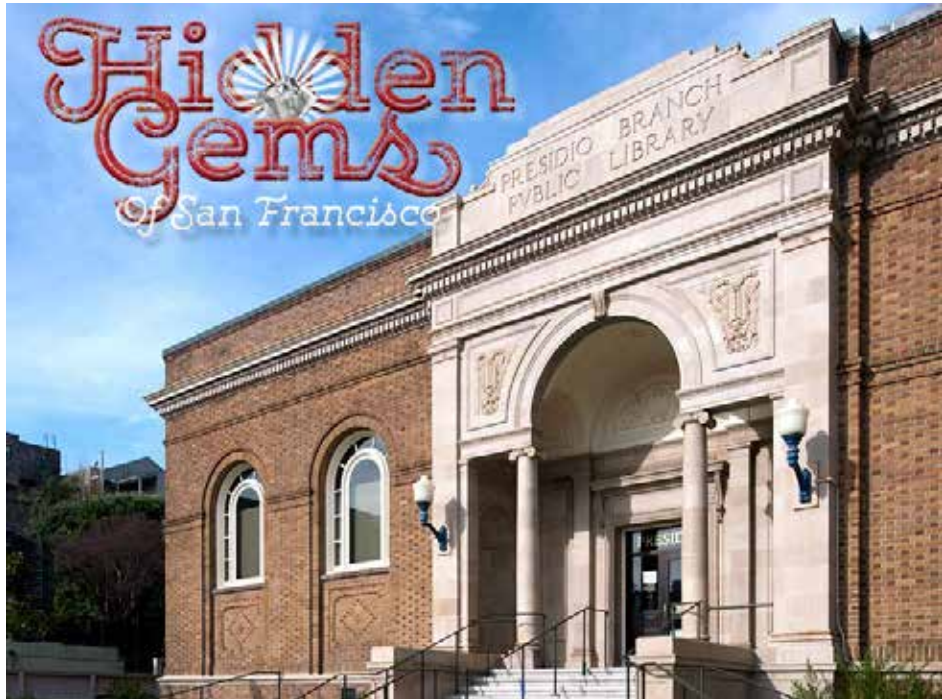
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**Presidio** The Presidio Branch is one of the city's most historic libraries. With library service established in 1898, Presidio was the sixth branch of the San Francisco Public Library system. The current building is an Italian-Renaissance-style landmark building that was completed in 1921, designed by G. Albert Lansburgh and funded by Andrew Carnegie.

The completed historic renovation includes a restoration of the building's beautiful, ornate exterior terra cotta façade and stairs. Interior renovation highlights include new pendant light fixtures that fit with the historic grandeur of the building, refurbished original wood shelving, and the designation of a new teen area in the library. Other features of the project include an interactive learning area in the children's room and the refurbishment of the downstairs community meeting room. The addition of new restrooms, more computers and more functional and ergonomic staff work areas were also part of this project.

## San Francisco's Public Libraries

### The Carnegie Libraries still stand out

By David Killian

**T**his month's Hidden Gems are our own San Francisco Branch Libraries. Though figuratively hidden in plain sight, I literally passed by my branch library for most of my 20 + years in my Upper Market neighborhood without so much as a notice or a care. When I did finally open my eyes and discover my "little library" some years ago, it became and has become a place for me to take a break from the day to day noise of life, where I can enrich my life and expand my vocabulary, and a chance to see our tax dollars serving our collective good. In a world that is systematically hollowing out the middle class and starving social support agencies, our libraries stand as a testament that we were once a more civil and socially-conscious society. Google may have captured and digitized every written word of every book of our collective known literary universe, but what is lacking is the brick and mortar public good of a public place. You might have a Kindle with all the latest digitized literary works, but I will take a bound book that I can hold, that I can dog-ear, and that I can sleep with any day of the week. Books are more than just the written word.

Cont. p. 8



**The Sunset Carnegie Library**, designed by architect Gustave Albert Lansburgh in the Classical Revival style, was the fifth of seven Carnegie branch libraries built in San Francisco.

Lansburgh drew two plans, one rectangular with interior stairs much like Mission and Noe Valley, the other octagonal. The octagonal was judged "quite impossible" and the other plan approved with slight revision. In this version of the Classical Revival, the central entrance is recessed within a loggia formed by three tall round arches supported by two segmented Corinthian columns and two pilasters. Names of authors, many Western, are inscribed under the sills of recessed arched windows. 1305 18th Ave.



**Richmond** The Richmond Renovation was completed on May 16, 2009.

Richmond/Senator Milton Marks Branch was the fourth branch established within the San Francisco Public Library system. The first location of the branch, in 1892, was at 809 Point Lobos Avenue (now Geary Boulevard) and Parker Avenue. In 1914 a new Richmond Branch opened at the current location, the first library building in San Francisco constructed with Andrew Carnegie grant funds.

In December 2000, the San Francisco Landmarks Board nominated Richmond Branch Library for designation as a city landmark. Funded by both a City bond measure and \$6 million in Proposition 14 State bond funds, a newly renovated, seismically safe, accessible and technologically updated building opened in 2009

The Richmond Carnegie Library, designed by Bliss & Faville in the Classical Revival style and built of sandstone and reinforced concrete, was the first of seven Carnegie branch libraries built in San Francisco.

## WEST OF TWIN PEAKS CENTRAL COUNCIL By Mitch Bull

**H**ousing and neighborhood issues were the dominant themes again at the November meeting of the West of Twin Peaks Central Council. Vice President Sally Stephens brought the meeting to order in the absence of President Roger Ritter. Following the determination that a quorum had been reached, the meeting progressed with Committee Reports to the 25 people in attendance.

**Estelle Smith** of the Planning and Land Use Committee gave an update on the legalization process of the drive to bring the illegal secondary units out "of the dark" and into compliance. To date, of the estimated 30,000 to 50,000 illegal units, only 1 legalization permit has been issued and only 7 are pending. It doesn't seem that these property owners/landlords are rushing to City Hall to bring these hovels up to code.

**Avrum Shepard** (Technology) reported that the WOTPCC website received over 519 hits in September and that the average stay on the site is over 5 minutes.

**George Wooding** (Public Health) reported that in August a person in SF was thought to be carrying the ebola virus, but that turned out to be false. He also added to the Planning report that the Planning Department is going through its documents and is changing/merging some of the terms and wording on some of the laws. These actions have been followed by the Coalition of San Francisco Neighborhoods (CSFN) and more information can be gained from their website.



Doug Engmann, lays out plans to overturn the AirBnB legislation next year

**“...under the legislation, do not have to implement the same measures as true B and B's and hotels such as meeting ADA (American Disability Act) requirements, or other safety requirements...**

Under the "Transportation" guise, **Avrum Shepard** spoke of an apartment complex at 5th and Kirkham that is currently 89 units, but that the owner is trying to increase to over 400. Traffic and parking would be a major concern.

A discussion on the proposed **Proposition G**, the Transfer Tax legislation, followed, with the major points being made that the legislation will only hurt small landlords and families, and not stop the larger "speculators" with over 30 units as they are exempted by the law as written. A motion was made and seconded to draft a letter stating that the WOTPCC is opposed to Prop G. The motion carried 11-0 with 1 abstention.

The remainder of the meeting was focused on the **AirBnB legislation** that had been signed by **Mayor Lee** earlier in the day, October 27. The legislation, drafted and sponsored by **Supervisor David Chiu**, basically rezoned the entire city in an instant, with the legalization of AirBnB short-term rentals in every neighborhood.

**Doug Engmann**, a civic leader opposed to the legislation, spoke to the assembled group and explained that although several aspects of the legislation were amended, many of the most important amendments were not added by the Board of Supervisors. Engmann is leading the efforts to repeal the legislation in 2015. He believes that a better way to apply the statute would be to roll it out in a "neighborhood by neighborhood" zoning effort, where the neighbors get to vote on acceptance of the short term rentals. The implications of this law taking effect are huge, according to Engmann. "Homesharers," under the legislation, do not have to implement the same measures as true B and B's and hotels such as meeting ADA (American Disability Act) requirements, or other safety requirements, as conditional use permits are not necessary. In addition, the Board of Supervisors failed to include the provision to hold AirBnB liable for the \$24,000,000 in back taxes that were owed San Francisco during the past several years while they have been operating outside the parameters of the law as it pertains to rentals under 30 days.

*The next meeting of the WOTPCC will be on Monday, November 24th at 7:30 PM at the historic Forest Hills Clubhouse. For more information see the WOTPCC website (www.westoftwinpeaks.org).*

## Holiday Parties at The Cliff House

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SF Gems (Cont. from p. 7)

they are a connection to the past and to the future. So get out and hold a real book, imagine who might have held it, or who might one day read it, smell the pages as you turn them, and revel in the publicness of our Libraries in our City by your Bay.

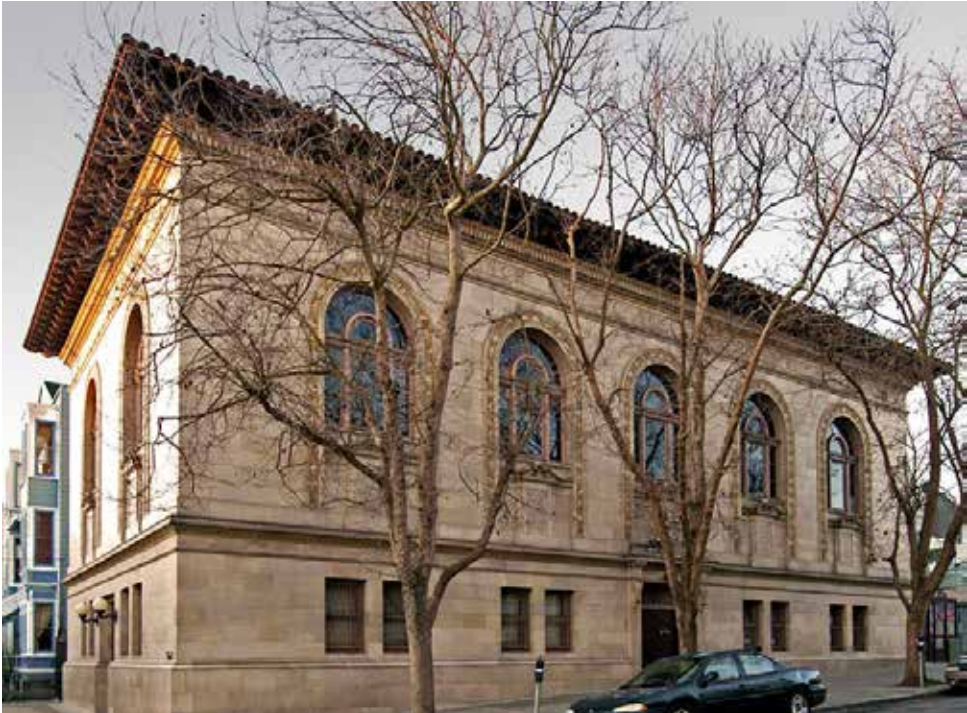
**Some quick history:** In 1877, Andre Smith Hallidie called a residents meeting and advocated the creation of a public library for San Francisco. So it was that a board of trustees for the Library was created in 1878 through the Rogers Act, which was signed by the then-Governor of California, William Irwin; funds for the new Library came from a property tax created by the Act. The San Francisco Public Library opened in 1879 on Bush Street at Kearny Street. Albert Hart was the first SF librarian hired. In 1888 the Library moved to the Larkin Street wing of City Hall at Civic Center. The first three branches opened from 1888 to 1889, in the Mission, Chinatown, and Eureka Valley. In 1889 the Library became a Federal Depository by nomination of Senator George Hearst.

In 1906, plans for a new library building in Civic Center were presented by architect Daniel Burnham. These plans were put on hold after the 1906 earthquake, which destroyed about 40,000 volumes, nearly 25% of its holdings. The library moved to temporary quarters while a new

tech, a tourist attraction. The atrium dramatically and, some say, deliberately reduced the amount of floor space available for shelving the library's collection which, critics conclude, resulted in the destruction of well over 200,000 books that were buried in a landfill. The new shelves were all the same height so thousands of books were thrown away because they were too tall. More books were destroyed by the new library than were burned in the 1906 fire. The card catalog both ancient and extremely large was going to be sent to the landfill, but a citizen group sued and saved it at the last minute. The research collections of one of the finest research facilities on the



**Chinatown Branch Library**, built in 1921 by architect G. Albert Lansburgh is a Carnegie library originally named the North Beach Branch. It is the third branch in the system. Located in Chinatown, on Powell Street between Washington and Jackson, the name was changed in 1958 to more accurately reflect the community served. In 1972, the Chinese language, and the Chinese American Interest collections were started in response to the needs and interests of the Chinatown community. In 1991, public and private funds were obtained for a major renovation and expansion of the Chinatown Branch Library. The branch was seismically retrofitted and expanded to twice its original size with a community meeting room and story-room available to use for programs and special events. The Grand Reopening was held on June 15, 1996.



**The Mission Branch Library** was the first branch in the San Francisco Public Library system. It was opened in 1888 in a storefront two blocks from its present location. The fire following the 1906 earthquake stopped four blocks north of Mission Branch. The current building at the corner of 24th and Bartlett Streets was built under the supervision of architect G. Albert Lansburgh and funded by philanthropist Andrew Carnegie. Cost for the building and furnishings was \$50,877. The building opened in December 1915. A major renovation of Mission Branch Library was begun in 1997. The renovation included seismic, electrical, and ADA upgrades. The first floor was completely redesigned, and the main entrance was relocated from 24th Street to Bartlett Street. The reopening was May 5th 1999

building was designed and built. In 1917, the new main library building, designed by George W. Kelham, opened in the Civic Center. Ten major murals by California Tonalist Gottardo Piazzoni were installed in 1931-1932; four more were completed in 1945.

Construction on the current Main Library began on March 15, 1993, at a cost of US \$109.5 million. The building was completed in 1995 and opened a year later on April 18, 1996. The old main library, which was damaged in the 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake, was rebuilt as the new Asian Art Museum.

The New Library grew to over 376,000 square feet (34,900m2) and climbed upward with six floors above and grounded by one below. The new library is more than twice as big as the building it replaced, featuring over 300 computer terminals, room for 1100 laptops and costing the City nearly \$140 million. Library visitations doubled in its first year open, from 1.1 million to 2.1 million, and the number of library card holders nearly tripled

There was much criticism, though, that the City Librarian Kenneth Dowlin would rather throw away books than let them clutter his library. It was said that he didn't care so much about books but instead wanted a monument to high

Eureka Valley

The Eureka Renovation was completed on October 24, 2009. The first branch building was the second branch in the system and opened on January 2, 1902. It was named the McCreery Branch in honor of Andrew McCreery who donated the land and paid for construction. It was damaged in the Daly City Earthquake of 1957 and demolished. The site was used to construct a new building designed by Appleton and Wolford at a cost of \$192,335 and opened on December 20, 1961. It was named the Eureka Valley Branch. In 1981 the Library Commission officially changed the name of the branch to Eureka Valley/Harvey Milk Memorial Branch Library to honor Harvey Milk, the first openly gay man to be elected to public office in California. Harvey Milk served as a member of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors until he was assassinated along with Mayor George Moscone on November 27, 1978. In 2006 the City honored Jose Sarria, the first openly gay man to run for Supervisor (in 1961) by renaming the section of 16th Street adjacent to the branch as Jose Sarria Court. Jose Sarria is best known for founding the Imperial Court System, one of the cornerstones of the GLBT community.

Excelsior

The Excelsior Branch Library was the 10th branch established in the San Francisco Public Library system. Initially a "library station", the first branch library was installed in rental quarters at 7 Bauer Street. In 1925 the branch was located on Ocean Avenue and

now our libraries look better than they have in many years.

**Andrew Carnegie Libraries**

From the late 1800s to the early 1900s, wealthy businessman Andrew Carnegie dedicated millions of dollars to building libraries throughout the world. In 1901, San Francisco received \$750,000 of these funds, leading to the creation of seven branch libraries over the next 20 years.

Nestled within San Francisco's neighborhoods, the Carnegie branches are elegant but never ostentatious. This was by design, as Carnegie stipulated that his libraries should be straightforward, single-story buildings that emphasized function over form.

All of the Carnegie Libraries in San Francisco still serve as libraries and all are San Francisco Landmarks: Chinatown Branch, Golden Gate Valley Branch, Mission Branch, Noe Valley Branch, Presidio Branch, Richmond Branch, Sunset Branch

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later at 4465 Mission Street. The current building at 4400 Mission Street was opened to the public October 1, 1967. The branch was designed by architects Appleton and Wolford and built for \$248,000. The branch was the first to be renovated under the Branch Library Improvement Program and reopened on July 8, 2005.

Glen Park

Glen Park Branch Library first opened in January 1927, at 700 Bosworth Street. The branch was located at that site for almost 38 years, until the building that housed it was demolished during construction of Interstate 280. Glen Park Branch was then housed in several different locations over the course of 42 years until a multiuse building was constructed in the neighborhood at 2825 Diamond Street. Part of the new building was designated just for the library. The branch opened on October 13, 2007 and became the sixth branch to be renovated through the Branch Library Improvement Program.

Park

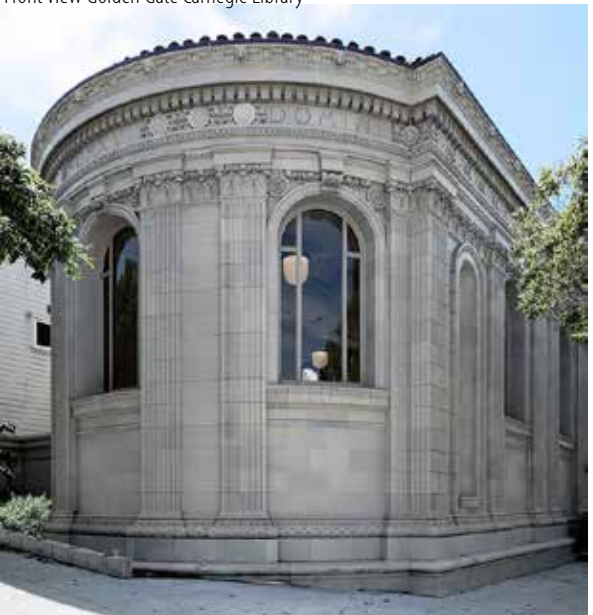
Park Branch opened on October 29th, 1909, and is the oldest existing San Francisco Public Library building. Park Branch was built with City funds: \$7,000 for the land and \$27,000 for the building. Designed by the McDougall Brothers, the two-story neo-classical brick and terra cotta building is set 30 feet back from the street to complement the primarily residential area around it.

West Coast were gutted, all of which occurred far from public sight or review. Later, under intense pressure that included then Mayor Willie Brown, Ken Dowlin, whose policy it was to weed and subsequently destroy the books, was forced to resign in January 1997.

Luckily, our branch libraries were spared this drama and intrigue and remain beautiful refuges sprinkled around our neighborhoods, always there for us to use. The voters of San Francisco approved the Branch Library Improvement Program, which kicked off with a first round of retrofits and renovations in 2000, and



Front View Golden Gate Carnegie Library



**Golden Gate Valley** Architect Ernest Coxhead designed this Classical Revival building which resembles a Roman basilica with its long narrow rectangle and curved apse visible on three sides. It is situated in a residential area in the Marina District. This is the fourth of the seven Carnegie Branch Libraries built in San Francisco. All seven buildings continue to operate as libraries



**The Noe Valley Carnegie Library**, designed by John Reid Jr. in the Classical Revival style, was the third of seven Carnegie branch libraries built in San Francisco. Located at 451 Jersey St.



Senior Smarts

# Alzheimer's Awareness

By Anise J. Matteson

November is National Alzheimer's Awareness Month!

**V**iewing the symptoms of Alzheimer's as normal may result in delayed access to treatment and services.

In many cultures, the symptoms of Alzheimer's and related disorders is viewed as part of the normal aging processes.

## Benefits of early diagnosis

With early consultation, there is more Mild Cognitive Impairment and Early Alzheimer's Disease diagnoses.

Individuals benefit from available treatments, eligibility for clinical trials, and can take an active part in planning for the future.

## DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AND DEMENTIA

Alzheimer's disease is a geriatric mental disorder of older adults occurring in people over 65. Early onset [younger-onset] Alzheimer's occurs before the age of 65. Senile dementia of the Alzheimer's type [SDAT] is the most common form. The presenile form can begin between the ages of 40 and 60 [occurring before the expected onset of age-related changes— in middle age]. A chronic progressive degenerative cognitive disorder that accounts for more than 60% of all dementias; *pathologically characterized* by cortex atrophy, loss of nerve cells, senile plaques in gray matter and neurofibrillar degeneration. The onset of dementia is insidious. The person loses interest in social contacts, becomes anxious, depressed, disoriented; aphasia, agnosia and apraxia develop; the gait shows a hesitant shuffle and incapacitating flexion contractures mark the terminal decerebrate phase of life.

Dementia is an *irreversible impairment* of cognitive intellectual capacities, marked by memory impairment and, often, deficits in reasoning, judgment, abstract thought, registration comprehension, learning, task execution, and use of language. The cognitive impairments diminish a person's social, occupational, and intellectual abilities. Dementia is somewhat more common in women than in men.

Senile dementia of the Alzheimer's type (SDAT) is dementia occurring in older persons, usually over the age of 65, resulting from Alzheimer's disease. (medical-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/senile-dementia-Alzheimer's-type)

## SYMPTOMS

**Cognitive:** Symptoms that affect memory, awareness, language, judgment and ability to plan, organize and carry out other thought processes.

**Behavioral:** A group of additional symptoms that occur to at least some degree in many individuals with Alzheimer's.

In early stages people may experience personality changes such as irritability, anxiety or depression.

In later stages, individuals may develop sleep disturbances; wandering impulses; agitation (physical or verbal aggression, general emotional distress, restlessness, pacing, shredding paper or tissues, yelling); delusions (firmly held belief in things that are not real); or hallucinations (seeing, hearing or feeling things that are not there). (Brochure #770-10-0003, p. 24.)

## THE BRAIN: HOW ALZHEIMER'S AFFECTS IT

Plaques and tangles begin in the brain area involved in memory. They gradually spread to other areas. Eventually much of the brain is affected.

*Plaques* are deposits of a protein fragment called beta-amyloid that build up in the spaces between nerve cells.

*Tangles* are twisted fibers of another protein called tau that build up inside cells.

The destruction and death of nerve cells causes memory failure, personality changes, problems in carrying out daily activities and other symptoms of Alzheimer's disease. (Brochure #770-10-0003, p. 12.)

In an October 25, 2011 email from Angela Geiger, Chief Strategy Officer, Alzheimer's Association, "The Brain: How it works & how Alzheimer's affects it," Geiger offers these tips:

**"Stay physically active:** Physical exercise helps to maintain good blood flow to the brain and encourages the growth of new brain cells.



**Eat a healthy diet:** High cholesterol may contribute to stroke and brain cell damage, so follow a low-fat, low-cholesterol diet.

**Remain socially active:** Social activity can reduce stress levels, which help maintain healthy connections among brain cells.

**Stay mentally active:** Mental stimulating activities strengthen brain cells and the connections between them, may even create new nerve cells."

The interactive brain tour can be found at [alz.org/brain](http://alz.org/brain).

## WHO IT AFFECTS

**Statistics:** An estimated 5.4 million Americans have Alzheimer's and include 13 percent over age 65 and 50 percent 85 and older; seventy percent living at home—the impact affects family members, caregivers and friends.

Baby Boomers began turning 65 in 2011 creating an increase in the number of persons with Alzheimer's. By 2030, the percentage of persons age 65+ with Alzheimer's is expected to increase to over 19 percent.

In 2030 the average life expectancy will reach 81 years; by 2050—83 years.

Nearly two-thirds of Americans living with

Cont. p. 18

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# AROUND THE TOWN

COMINGS AND GOINGS • By Mitch Bull

**Congratulations to the SF Giants...** what a fantastic finish to a weird and wonderful baseball postseason. Beating the favored Pirates (on the road), the favored Washington Nationals (with the amazing 18 inning game), and the favored St. Louis Cardinals (in America's self-proclaimed greatest baseball city...) to get to the World Series to face another wild-card team that had steamrolled their way (undefeated) over the Athletics, the Angels and the Orioles. Again, the KC Royals were the darlings of the media and the favorites to win their first WS in 29 years. A very weird series of games, with two games being decided by one run, and the others being lopsided wins and losses by 6, 5, 7 and 10 runs respectively. After the Giants 10-0 loss in game 6, it wasn't looking very positive. Game 7 was a gem, well played and well managed on both sides and despite an error with two outs that put the tying run on third, the Giants prevailed for their 3<sup>rd</sup> World Series title in five years. They are only the second National League team to do it in the last 70 years. Very historic, and the greatest run for the SF Giants in their west coast history. (Sorry Messrs. Mays, McCovey and Marichal.) Topped off by a parade on Halloween – why not – it's the season for Orange and Black.



**AirBnB Legislation...** Last week Mayor Lee signed the new legislation legalizing AirBnB short-term rentals that was authored by Supervisor Chiu. Now we can all be B and B operators in every neighborhood. Many neighborhood groups are upset with the law, and U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein even penned a commentary about this in the *Chronicle*. Look for citizen action calling for a repeal of the law within the next year. At the very least, the Board of Supervisors should have instituted the collection of taxes due to the city from AirBnB for their operation during the past several years while it was operating illegally in the eyes of the city lawmakers. Not only did the BoS legalize the operation, they let the company (estimated to be worth over \$10,000,000,000 -yes, that's 10 Billion) skate free from paying an estimated \$15,000,000 to \$20,000,000 in hotel taxes. I guess the city is flush and doesn't need the cash.



**SF Neighborhood Newspaper Day in SF...** newspaper publishers, dignitaries and other friends of local journalism gathered last week at the Bay Observatory at the Exploratorium on Pier 15 to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the San Francisco Neighborhood Newspaper Association. The Mayor's office was represented with a proclamation declaring October 22-2014 to be "San Francisco Neighborhood Newspaper Day" in the City. Political satirist Will Durst provided very funny and "spot on" remarks and the attendees had a great time (even if the Giants lost game 2 of the World Series). The venue overlooking the Bay was spectacular, and the Exploratorium staff and catering group did a fantastic job. The turnout was memorable, and it was great to have the 14 neighborhood monthlies all together in one room to be honored for the contribution that local, neighborhood-focused journalism can have.

**Bits and Pieces...the best Hikes in SF...** in a recent article, SFGate, named the 25 best places to take a hike in SF, and many are on the Westside such as Sutro Heights Park, Land's End to Eagles Point, McLaren Park, Mt. Davidson, Ft. Funston, Lake Merced, Twin Peaks, the Mt. Sutro Open Space above UCSF, Glen Canyon Park, the Great Highway, the "Batteries to the Bluff" trail in the Presidio, and the 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue stairs to Grand View Park. Many of these locations will get the heart pumping, and the scenery is beautiful. It's a great way to spend a few hours.



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



Abundant selections continue to attract customers in the search for healthy food at reasonable prices. It's all at the Stonestown Farmer's Market every Sunday from 10 until 3 pm. —yum!

## Stagg (Cont. from p. 3)

money, Stagg thought it was a joke and laughed. Though Stagg had lost his money he had retained his nerve. He had single-handedly fought off many previous robbery attempts on his bar. Enraged, the bandit smashed his pistol down on Stagg's head. A few seconds later, two bullets followed and Stagg lay dead on the floor. The robbers escaped with a total of four dollars. The next day scores of San Francisco's founders were among the hundreds of people who came to the Ingleside House to mourn his death, to celebrate his life, and to remember their youth.

Stagg's old boss, Captain of Detectives Isaiah Lees, put every man available on the case. In the two weeks following the

crime three different gangs were arrested, accused of the murder, and then later released. In the end, the leads petered out and the case remained unsolved. Had Cornelius lived just a few months more, his fortunes would have been restored. For on November 28, 1895, The Ingleside Racetrack opened, just a few blocks from the Ingleside House. The racetrack, occupying today's Ingleside Terraces development, brought thousands of people to the area and would have made the Ingleside House a profitable and valuable property.

Paul Drexler, Director, Crooks Tour of San Francisco, [www.crookstour.com](http://www.crookstour.com) 415-713-3077

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Dive into the dazzling world of aquatic plants in a new exhibition of tropical underwater gardens at the Conservatory of Flowers in Golden Gate Park. Visitors go 'below the surface' as they stroll past lush, living aquascapes, imaginatively crafted to highlight the diversity of the freshwater tropical waterways of Africa, Asia and South America.

Aquascaping, the art of creating stunning underwater landscapes with plants, stones and wood, is a popular international gardening trend. Annual competitions attract hundreds of elaborate entries from around the world. The beautifully planted aquariums can mimic everything from primeval forests to verdant valleys or can become sublime works of underwater abstract art.

Now, visitors to the Conservatory get a chance to marvel at this unique form of water gardening and learn how aquatic plants have adapted to life in the deep.

TICKETS: San Francisco Residents: \$5 general; \$3 youth 12-17, seniors and students with ID; \$1.50 children 5-11; children 4 and under FREE

Non-residents: \$8 general, \$5 youth 12-17, seniors and students with ID; \$2 children 5-11; children 4 and under FREE

INFO: [www.conservatoryofflowers.org](http://www.conservatoryofflowers.org), 415-831-2090



Photos: (Top) Tomucin Sagel (Above) Lao Chan Fei (Right) Aqua Forest Aquarium

November

CALENDAR

EVERY SUNDAY • FARMERS MARKET

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

EVERY TUE & THU • JOB SEEKERS LAB

Tue 10 am v–1 pm & Thu 2 pm – 5 pm | Internet-ready computers are available for resume, preparing job applications and/or searching for jobs. Handouts, books, some staff assistance. Bring a flash drive. Main Library, 100 Larkin, 6th Fl. 557-4277

EVERY TUE • COMPUTER SKILLS

Tue | 1:15-2:45 pm | Come get help with setting up email accounts, word processing and other basic computer related tasks. Most Tuesdays at this time. Ask questions and learn the basics of using a computer! Main Library, 100 Larkin St.

EVERY TUES • QUE SYRAH HAPPY HOUR

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

EVERY THURS – NIGHTLIFE

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

JAZZ FRIDAYS @ THE CLIFF HOUSE

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

FRIDAY NIGHTS @ THE DEYOUNG

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

FRIDAYS @ OFF THE GRID/FT. MASON

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

EVERY WED • FREE E-BOOKS

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

EVERY DAY • CLOUD FOREST

Daily | 9 am-5 pm | Fall is the best time for one of the only botanical gardens in the world where the alluring plants of the cloud forest thrive outdoors. For hundreds of rare and endangered plants native to the world's misty cloud forests, foggy feels like home. SF Botanical Garden, 9th Ave at GGPark. 661-1316

THU • YOSEMITE'S BIG TREES

Thu Nov 6 | 6 pm | Past and Future From inception in 1863, The Mariposa Grove of giant sequoia are fundamental to the past and future of the park. Historian Jared Farmer's illustrated lecture on two of the world's most famous plants, the Grizzly Giant and the Wawona Tunnel Tree. California Historical Society, 678 Mission St. 357-1848

THU • AUTHOR PEG CONLEY

Thu Nov 6 | 7 pm | *Imagine the Life You'd Love to Live, Then Live It* challenges you to think differently and consider incorporating various practices that will bring about the peace and happiness we all long to experience. Bookshop West Portal, 80 West Portal 564-8080

FRI-SAT • HOLIDAY BAZAAR

Fri-Sat Nov 7-8 | 10 am–2:30 pm | Featured items include needlework, one-of-a-kind handcrafted items, collectibles, jewelry, loose beads (including vintage and collectible), a special Christmas boutique, baked goods, silent auction and raffles. Lunch noon - 1:30 p.m. \$10 per person. Episcopal Church of the Incarnation 1750 29th Ave.

WED • LAUREN BACALL NIGHT

Wed Nov 12 | 6:45 pm | In memory of Lauren Bacall, *To Have and Have Not*, a 1944 romance-war-adventure film directed by Howard Hawks and starring Humphrey Bogart, Walter Brennan, and Bacall in her first film. Merced Branch Library, 155 Winston Drive (at 19th Avenue) 355-2825.

WED • AUTHOR MARY F. BURNS

Wed Nov 12 | 7 pm | Author discusses *The Spoils of Avalon*, the death of a humble clergyman in 1877 leads amateur sleuths into a medieval world of saints and kings and *Isaac and Ishmael* a new biblical trilogy, an original re-telling of the beginnings of the Hebrews and the Arabs. Bookshop West Portal, 80 West Portal 564-8080

FRI-SUN • SF GREEN FESTIVAL

Fri–Sun Nov 14–16 | 10 am | SF's Green Festival has something for everyone interested in living a more sustainable and healthier life — work green, play green and live green — from food, fashion and health, to energy, construction and design. Enjoy vegan and vegetarian cooking demos, educational activities for kids and families, panels featuring inspirational speakers, and live music and entertainment. Fort Mason Ctr, 2 Marina Blvd.

FRI-SAT • LOST AND FOUND

Fri Nov 14th & Sat Nov 15 | 7:30 pm | A zany, fast paced comedy featuring the characters from St. Dymphna's Parish as they race to beat a band of pirates to the buried treasure on the magical Desert Isle filled with tasty treats, knishes and ganaches. The play offers a mix of favorite Broadway show tunes, pop, classical and gospel music. St. Aidan's Church, 101 Gold Mine Drive

SUN • 3RD ANNUAL TEA FESTIVAL

Sun Nov 16 | 10 am–5 pm | It's Tea Time! Come connect with fellow tea enthusiasts for a day of tea discovery at the Ferry Building. Join more 1,200 other tea enthusiast, 20 exhibitors and 6 small group tea tastings, as well as presentations from the top experts in the tea community. Info/tickets: [sfinternationaltea-festival.com](http://sfinternationaltea-festival.com)

MON • DIEGO RIVERA MURAL TOUR

Mon Nov 17 | 3 pm | Tour of Diego Rivera's 1st US Mural *Allegory of California* graces the stairwell of the City Club (former Pacific Stock Exchange). Normally closed the public, free, but an RSVP is required. Please note, the tour is limited to the first 25 people to RSVP: [sfcityguides.org/Reservations](http://sfcityguides.org/Reservations) Meeting location is provided by email upon reservation until tour is full.

MON • E-READER DROP-IN

Mon 17 & 24 | 4–5 p.m | Bring your Kindle, Nook,

iPad, or other eReader device to the reference desk for help in checking out library eBooks and eAudiobooks. Merced Branch Library, 155 Winston Dr. 355-2825

TUE • COMMUNITY SAFETY MEETING

Tue Nov 18 | 7 pm | Meet with Captain Curtis Lum. 3rd Tue of the month. Taraval Police Station 2345 24th Ave 759-3100.

THU • YERBA BUENA GALLERY CRAWL

Thu Nov 20 | 4–10 pm | Art, performance, music, and drinks between 2nd and 5th St, Market and Harrison St. Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 701 Mission

FRI • HEALTHIER LIVING WORKSHOP

Each Fri–Nov 21 | 9-11:30 am | Free, 6-week Chronic Disease Self-Management Program developed by Stanford School of Medicine focused on participant empowerment, support and skill development for chronic health conditions. Taraval Station 2345 – 24th Ave. 550-2257/ [carmenlee@onlok.org](mailto:carmenlee@onlok.org)

THU • FACEBOOK FOR JOB-SEEKERS

Wed | 1:30-4 pm | Learn to create a Facebook page, or update the one you've got! Join us for a hands-on class where you can learn the basics for a standout page. Main Library, 100 Larkin St.

MON • SHARP

Mon Nov 24 | 7 pm | Nelda Williams, record-setting triathlete—It takes an unusual person to jump into the Bay at dawn, swim a mile and a half, bike 18 miles, and run another eight. She broke the course record for her age group (65–69) at Escape from Alcatraz Triathlon, Nelda will narrate a slideshow about the race and her part in it. Sunset Heights Assoc. of Responsible People. Last Mon of each month - [sharpssf.com](http://sharpssf.com) for details. 1736 9th Ave @ Moraga.

MON • CENTRAL COUNCIL

Mon Nov 24 | West of Twin Peaks Central Council meets to discuss topics of interest to Westside residents. Meets the last Monday each month. [westoftwinpeaks.org](http://westoftwinpeaks.org)

Local event? [editor@westsideobserver.com](mailto:editor@westsideobserver.com)  
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# Great Dickens Christmas Fair

By Jonathan Farrell

Early Bird ticket sales began in October for the annual Great Dickens Christmas Fair held at the Cow Palace. And while economic forecasts lately have been “Scrooge-like,” the Christmas fair’s executive director and CEO Kevin Patterson wants to assure everyone that “this years’ fair will be even more beautiful,” and very much the “living Victorian Christmas card” his mother Phyllis Patterson envisioned more than 40 years ago.

The *Westside Observer* got the opportunity to speak to Patterson and ask if he and his wife were prepared to carry on now that his mother and father have passed on, (Ron Patterson died three years ago and Phyllis this past year).

“Actually, my wife and I have been at the helm in charge for over 15 years, as my mom enjoys watching us and the crew put everything together.” He explained that as a live theatrical event, often referred to as he called it, “total sensory immersion theater,” it is different each year.

Creating a Victorian slice of life based upon the expansive literature of Charles Dickens’ 19th Century London is a challenge. Yet as Patterson explained, “It is a labor of love and was always something my mom (and dad) looked forward to.” He did say that, with his mom’s passing and now the second generation is in command, “there will be a deeper sense of gratitude and appreciation than ever before.”

Phyllis and Ron were always grateful, especially when as Patterson said, “there were a few years when we thought there might not be a Dickens Fair.”

Phyllis had explained to this reporter when writing about the Dickens Fair for the very first time, almost a decade ago, that the entire idea originated simply as a holiday party at home. She had wanted to have a theme party to invite some friends over and thought, why not make the theme a like a Victorian Christmas card? Then the idea of A Christmas Carol and Dickens soon followed; because the very next year after that party, friends and neighbors she had invited insisted she do the same again.



The idea caught on as it kept growing. Each year it gained a little more and a little more, eventually requiring that it find a more suitable and permanent home. It out-grew Fort Mason, and when the Fair settled in to the Cow Palace it was just the right fit.

The Pattersons, who also originated The Renaissance Fair, had offered it to a Chicago-based production company to take it over. “They bought the rights and such for our Renaissance Fair,” Kevin Patterson said, “but they just could not accept or understand the Dickens Fair.”

“They could not envision it, because he said, they saw only ‘the cost’ point of

view. We saw the Dickens Fair as a labor of love. And, for us having the Dickens Fair was a way to keep all of our actors, performers, musicians and vendors busy and working during the winter season.” With close to 800 people in the cast and production, the Dickens Fair and its associates are truly a large family. “My parents believed that sense of family, extended family, was also very important. I think this is one reason why the Christmas Fair endures and has lasted so long. People join us, work for a while and then follow other careers. But, they also come back to us.” Case in point is actor Sandy Grinn. He returns to the fair this year as the larger-than-life character of Fagan from Dickens’ *Oliver Twist*.

Patterson noted that, as a major on-going production, the fair never really stops. It rests, but rehearsals, auditions, set designs, props are always in process throughout the year. This year The Music Hall show will be presenting a new “classic British comedic song and dance review,” as he described it.

Patterson reiterated that the annual Christmas Fair is in fine form and is ready to share some of its “theatrically magical” holiday cheer. “The traditional things that people come to expect from the Fair will be as always.”

**Tickets are now on sale.** The Great Dickens Christmas Fair will open on Nov. 22 and continue for five weekends, including the Friday after Thanksgiving, through Sunday, December 21. For more information visit [www.dickensfair.com](http://www.dickensfair.com) Or call, (800) 510-1558.



Keven Patterson with the actor, Robert Young

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

### AVENUE Q Musical Treat Scores with Large, Enthusiastic Audience at Novato Theater



Linda Ayres-Frederick Flora Lynn Isaacson

Company Award-winning Director Carl Jordan has brilliantly directly Avenue Q, which recently opened at NTC. This outrageous romp features both puppets and human actors, and is known for its high energy naughty fun. Most of the characters in the show are puppets operated by actors on stage. Both the human characters and puppet characters sing. This musical is set in several tenements on a street in New York City. Avenue Q is an American musical in two acts, conceived by Robert Lopez and Jeff Marx, who wrote the music and lyrics.



The book was written by Jeff Whitty. Avenue Q is a coming-of-age parable, addressing and satirizing the issues and anxieties associated with entering adulthood. Its characters lament that, as children, they were assured by their parents and children’s television programs such as *Sesame Street* that they were “special” and “could do anything,” but as adults, they have discovered to their surprise and dismay that in the real world their options are limited, and they are no more “special” than anyone else. Avenue Q opened on Broadway in July 2003 where it won three Tony Awards, including Best Musical, Best Score, and Best Book, and rated 23rd on the list of longest-running shows in Broadway history.

Director Carl Jordan has put together a wonderful cast and crew for Avenue Q: Robert Nelson from *Leading Ladies* is fabulous as Princeton, and Melissa Claire fields the show as Lucy. Dell Parker exhibits fine energy as Gary Coleman. Set designer Michael Walraven has created a colorful inner city with impressive lighting by Frank Sarubbi. Special credit goes to Mary Nagler, who has done magical work with the creation of the puppets. Musical Director Monica Norcia keeps the Avenue Q band moving at a brisk pace. Avenue Q is a real treat for all of us, and judging by the warm welcome of the house, will have a successful run.

*Avenue Q* will run from October 10 to November 9, 2014, at the Novato TheaterPlayhouse, 5420 Nave Drive, Suite C, in Novato. Performances are Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. with Sunday matinees at 2p.m. For tickets, go online to [www.novatotheatercompany.org](http://www.novatotheatercompany.org) or call 415883-4498. Coming up next at NTC will be “*Inspecting Carol*” by Daniel Sullivan, from November 29 through December 20, 2014.

Flora Lynn Isaacson

## At the Movies / By Don Lee Miller

### Looking for Don Lee Miller’s Movie Picks?

Unfortunately this month At the Movies will not appear. Please check next month.





**Money Matters** By Brandon Miller & Joanne Jordan

## Women Are Taking Control of Their Finances



**A**s women's economic, political and social power increase, they're also taking a more active role in their finances. According to the recent Ameriprise Financial Women and Financial PowerSM study, women of all generations are involved in financial decision making — either shared or on their own — in their households.

In fact, among the Boomer, Gen X and Millennial women surveyed, only 4 percent said they weren't involved in financial matters. More than half (56%) share in making financial decisions with a spouse or partner. Another 41 percent are the sole financial decision-makers in their households.

Of the women who are the sole decision-makers, 63 percent are either unmarried or divorced. And nearly half (42%) of the 37 percent of married women said they are in the role of primary financial decision-maker because they view themselves as the most financially savvy individual in their household.

Trends show more Millennial women are financial decision-makers. A closer look at the numbers also reveals a trend for younger generations to take greater control of household finances. Thirty-eight percent of Millennials — compared with 22 percent of Gen Xers and 11 percent of Boomers — said they are the primary financial decision-makers.

With that in mind, it's not surprising that many Millennial women said they feel educated and knowledgeable about finances. Many (62%) also said that one or both of their parents spent time teaching them about finances and financial decision making while growing up — compared to only 43 percent of boomers.

This experience seems to have made mothers under age 34 even more likely to pass on financial knowledge to their children. A large portion (85%) of Millennial women with children over the age of five believe they have done at least a good job of teaching their children about money. In fact, 33 percent rate themselves as "excellent" at this — many more than any other generation studied. So, it appears that Millennial women are paving the way for the next generation to be even more financially savvy and confident.

**“...women's financial engagement and attitudes tend to improve with age. For example, 76 percent of boomer women said they have a long-term financial plan they feel comfortable with, compared to just over half (55%) of younger women.**

### Planning for your financial future makes a difference

Another interesting finding the survey revealed was that women who have a written financial plan feel the most financially confident and in control. They are also more likely to feel at peace with their financial choices. What's more, women's financial engagement and attitudes tend to improve with age. For example, 76 percent of boomer women said they have a long-term financial plan they feel comfortable with, compared to just over half (55%) of younger women.

This increased comfort also extends to the non-financial aspects of their lives. Boomer-aged women are more likely to rate all the life values — such as financial security, family harmony and health — as more important than other generations. Women ages 55 to 70 are also more likely to say they are satisfied that they've achieved the things that are important to them (80% versus 66% of women under age 55).

As the national conversations about finances and retirement readiness continue, it's important that women — and men — know how to successfully save and manage their money. If you'd like to learn more about financial planning or about creating a holistic financial plan, consult a financial advisor. An advisor can help you assess your financial situation and goals, and create a strategy to help reach them.

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

### Ocean Beach Erosion (Cont. from p. 6)

wastewater system are over 100 years old, but most is new and effective. Twice, the City of San Francisco was forced to respond to serious erosion episodes with temporary armoring, by dumping boulder revetments.

Any changes at Ocean Beach are under the jurisdictions of multiple overlapping public agencies, including the National Park Service, the SF Public Utilities Commission, the CA Coastal Commission, The SF Department of Public Works, the US Army Corps of Engineers, and the SF Dept of Recreation and Parks, and others. SPUR's role as “convener” was initiated by the Ocean Beach Vision Council.

Any proposals included in the OBMP are intended to be implemented gradually, over a decade or even longer if erosion slows from its current pace. Some

actions will be taken by coastal engineers as a response to “triggers” to ensure the safety of the infrastructure and the environment. Other segments of the proposal will depend on the permitting process through the various agencies and everything is contingent on funding allocated through public hearings and with input from stakeholders.

Environmental review under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) also requires additional technical analysis, consideration of alternatives and public outreach. Currently San Francisco is beginning an update of its Local Coastal Program (LCP) as an element of the city's General Plan.

*More information on the proposals and the 212 page Ocean Beach Master Plan are available through [spur.org/oceanbeach](http://spur.org/oceanbeach).*

### George Wooding (Cont. from p. 4)

heck of a fight for Lee to face when he is up for re-election next year, but Feinstein is serious in her belief that the proliferation of short-term rentals in the City will destroy the neighborhoods.”

Thanks to the new Airbnb legislation, homes will now cost more as families compete with developers and business people looking to convert existing residential units into Airbnb units. Bye-bye new families with children, tenants, and old people.

Even the high-tech workers pushing for the gentrification of lower income neighborhoods will suffer sticker shock, since the average monthly rent for a one bedroom apartment is \$2,873 and \$3,859 for a two bedroom apartment. In July 2009, the monthly rent for a one bedroom apartment was \$1,416 and \$1,840 for a two bedroom apartment.

Also, thanks to new planning rules many of the new apartments will only be 500 to 700 square feet. Some units are now being built as small as 288 square feet.

People used to aspire to live in the expensive house at the top of the hill. Now, they covet the affordable homes in the low-income housing areas. As lower income parts of town are being “gentrified,” lower-income people and the businesses who serve their neighborhoods are being pushed out by wealthier people ordering short, tall, grande, and venti coffees.

Why would a landlord rent/lease to a tenant for \$4,000 a month, when they could make \$6,000 per month by using Airbnb?

More planning changes may be coming to the residential neighborhoods.

Chui's Airbnb legislation has run roughshod over the San Francisco Planning Department's recommendations for

Airbnb's planning amendments and will now create new changes to Planning's Article 2.

The Planning Department has created/combined a 462-page rewrite of Planning Code Article 2 for residential housing. Planning did excellent work and claims that there are no substantive changes to the residential housing planning code, but there will be many unintended consequences to combining housing rules and definitions.

Questions on the Article 2 can be answered by planner Aaron Starr at (415) 558-6362 and/or by e-mail at [Aaron.Starr@sfgov.org](mailto:Aaron.Starr@sfgov.org)

The Planning Commission is set to adopt the new “Article 2” code changes at its November 20 meeting. It is a 462-page umbrella article for residential lots. Changes will allow a myriad of non-residential (e.g., institutional, public utilities, etc.) uses to be allowed without hearings in all residential areas.

A new “use characteristic” category will be created to allow the sea change for residential lots. Height limits may change based on topography. Rear yards shrinking to 15 feet or precious housing being automatically being turned into dormitory housing? Since the Board of Supervisors passed Airbnb (hotel-like use) for residential areas, who'll be your next neighbor?

David Chiu's Airbnb legislation has made a mockery of the City's planning processes demonstrating a system where politicians who were elected to represent the voters are representing billionaires to further their own self interest.

*George Wooding, Midtown Terrace Homeowners Association*

### Farrell (Cont. from p. 1)

we haven't had in twenty years. We need solutions, not rhetoric. We need to stop looking at race, color, gender, sexual orientation, and, as Martin Luther King said, “But by the content of their character.” Character with qualifications, that is. Once we do this then this great City will have direction and focus on the main issues. And the main issues are those that are in the best interest of the City and County of San Francisco.

Mayor Lee was appointed to be an interim mayor until a real mayor was elected. This wasn't the case since he went against his word and won reelection with the help of a flawed rank choice voting system, a system in which you are elected without a majority vote. I have been raised that you are only as good as your word and hand shake. It doesn't mean much to most people anymore but I stand by mine.

When the 2011 election was over, Mayor Lee had 59,775 votes out of 197,242, or 30.3% of the vote, before the rounds of the rank choice voting. After the rank choice voting rounds Mayor Lee won with 84,457 votes, or 42.8% of the total ballots cast. There were 52,524 votes that were exhausted, meaning these voters didn't vote for either of the two remaining candidates. In other words, these votes didn't count. This to me is unconstitutional. By the way, I get a kick because rank choice voting was to save tax payer monies and then the City decides to provide public financing for elected positions.

Mayor Lee's record includes positives which include bringing tech firms to the City, cutting the unemployment rate, and reforming the City's pension program and

payroll tax. But let's face the fact, pension reform wouldn't have been addressed if it wasn't for Jeff Adachi.

There are also negatives like supporting the 8 Washington Street development to build luxury condos above the height requirements, which was defeated by the voters in 2013. Also why would a standing Mayor have Willie Brown negotiate a Muni contract when anyone in their right mind would have given the drivers what they deserved.

Currently the issue at hand is to remove the Fire Chief. Whether you like the Fire Chief or not, which I do, I can tell you one thing, Joanne Hayes-White will never sell out the City. And as Al Pacino said in the movie Scent of a Woman, “That is called integrity.”

Prior mayors like Joe Alioto, Diane Feinstein, Art Agnos and Frank Jordan made decisions on what they believed was in the best interest of the City, whether you agreed with them or not. You never felt that the City was losing its direction.

Mayor Lee will probably be re-elected in November 2015 with substantially less than the majority of the voters due to the faulty ranked choice voting system. Whether you vote for him or not, we want our Mayor to do what is in the best interest of the City and to lead by example.

We are the City that knows how. We need our Mayor to step up and take the lead.

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

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## Second Thoughts / By Jack Kaye



## Reducing Income Inequality

Much is being written of late about the great gap between the haves and have nots to the point that it will soon be the “have everything” and the “have nothing except debts.” Or, as I like to say, the rich are too rich and the poor are too poor. There is little disagreement among economists and pundits that this growing disparity is not good for the affected people or for the country’s economy. The best-selling book, *Capital in the Twenty-First Century*, by a French economist, predicts the problem will only get worse as the financial markets outperform production. Since those with the most capital profit most from financial investments, one suggestion is to heavily tax capital. Another suggestion is to heavily tax high income earners and redistribute the income to the poor and/or the middle class.

I have a much simpler plan that is comprised of four changes that both liberals and conservatives could live with: dramatically improve public K-12 education for every student; increase the minimum wage and therefore the wages above as well; change the tax code, eliminating all itemized deductions and credits on all sources of personal income which will all be equally taxable; and lower the maximum amount not subject to inheritance tax.

Everyone surely agrees that a good education is an important factor in future success. It is also clear that many of our students are not getting a good education, in part because of large class sizes, in part because of family socio-economic problems affecting the children. But I think another much neglected part is a lack of relevance many high school courses have for students. School curricula are no longer tailored to student needs and differences. Students are no longer tested and evaluated to find the coursework to which they are best suited.

The truth is that we are not only not created equal, we are also not created to be the same and accomplish the same goals. A great scientist might not be a good philosopher as proven by almost every scientist. An acclaimed artist might not be good at math.

Many of us were required to take three levels of algebra and a year of plane geometry and trigonometry in high school. Some students even took calculus. How many of us ever used them or can still do them? Students are still urged to take at least three years of science including biology, chemistry and physics. How many will ever use their knowledge or even remember most of it? Students who will go on to study science, technology, engineering or math (STEM) will need and enjoy these courses. But others might profit more from courses in Latin, philosophy, social science, economics, crafts or even from actual apprenticeships. By testing students for their aptitude, and by providing excellent survey courses in junior high in math and science, and with smaller classes, teachers can identify student interests and talents. The result will be better educated students and future parents, and more responsible community members. Well educated girls have fewer children they can’t afford. Well educated boys are more likely to be employed and less likely to commit crime.

Conservatives want to see a reduction in the amount the government spends on transfer payments to low income households, and an increase in the number of households that contribute to the tax base. Liberals want to see low income workers paid a decent, living wage. By increasing the minimum wage from its current \$7.25 per hour to \$10 an hour almost immediately and to \$15 an hour in five or ten years, the average affected workers’ income would initially rise by almost 50%. Those supervising the minimum wage earners would also see pay increases as would those above them. Even wage earners in other fields would see upward adjustments to their pay as well. Companies could raise their charges for goods and services to cover their increased labor costs but would be restricted by competition and reduced demand, thus holding down inflationary pressure.

The other effect would be a significant reduction in transfer payments, such as the annual \$65 billion Earned Income Credit,

the \$80 billion Food Stamps program (SNAP), as well as the many rent and utility subsidies that will be no longer needed by the more prosperous former recipients. The tens of billions saved by the reduced transfer payments could be used to help the very poor find their way back into the mainstream. And more households would earn enough to pay income taxes, thus broadening the tax base. The better paid workers would also be less likely to commit crime and therefore reducing the prison population with all its related costs. With workers earning more they will spend more which will create more new jobs also enlarging the tax base. The trust funds for Social Security and Medicare, FICA, would also be greatly enriched.

Conservatives want to see a lowering of marginal tax rates on their personal income. Liberals want the rich to pay more and not use loopholes to lower their taxable income. The government would like to see a reduction in tax fraud and an increase in tax revenue. By changing the tax code to eliminate all itemized deductions and credits and replacing them with a generous standard deduction (e.g. \$15,000 for individuals and \$30,000 for families), it would force the wealthiest to pay more in taxes without access to any loopholes. (Currently, two out of three taxpayers just use a standard deduction.) By so doing the maximum tax rate could actually be lowered to 35% for incomes over a million (down from 39.5% for income over \$400,000), meaning that 99.9% of all taxpayers would pay less than 30% of their income for federal income tax while many would pay as little as 5%. While currently 47% of the population pay no income tax, under the new system more would pay taxes and the rich would pay almost 30% of their actual income in federal tax (in addition to state income tax and FICA). With more taxes collected involving much less paperwork and verification and much less fraud, the government would gain hundreds of billions of dollars some of which could be used to provide better educational opportunities to the less fortunate as well as improving the infrastructure and creating needed public service jobs, especially in K-12 staffing. It would take taxpayers only a few minutes to compute the tax payment. They would just add up all their income and then look that figure up in the tax table. The tax could even be computed by the IRS since it would know all income from W-2s and 1099s and would have no deductions or credits to verify. The IRS could then focus on tax returns for the businesses and self-employed who would still claim business expense deductions.

Finally, the ceiling for tax-free inheritance should be lowered from the current \$10 million (\$5 million per parent), to a maximum of \$5 million all told. This would have an obvious impact on the accumulation of capital and would provide yet another source of revenue that could be used for the public good.

While there can and should not ever be absolute income equality, for me the goal should be to have a nation of two classes for 99.9% of us - the middle, with a two wage earner family earning a minimum of \$60,000 a year (\$15 per hour times 2,000 hours per year times two wage earners) and upper middle with incomes up to \$1 million but netting as little as \$600,000.

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

## Chiu/Campos (Cont. from p. 5)

One signer of the letter, Trisha Fogleman, asserted that Chiu and his billionaire backers are focusing their attacks solely on Campos. She noted “You can’t use it against one candidate and not others,” since Campos’ vote to reinstate Mirkarimi was just one of four votes finding that the charges against the Sheriff were too unconstitutionally vague.

The San Francisco Chronicle also reported on October 21 that Campos’ campaign manager, Nate Allbee, believes this is “pay-to-play politics at its worst. Allbee says “David Chiu’s Airbnb investor friends have realized that their sleazy attempt to use domestic violence to get their friend elected has backfired and angered women.”

Another group — the League of Pissed-Off Voters — also cries foul with David Chiu’s dealings with Airbnb lobbyists. The Examiner reported on October 21 that the League filed a complaint with San Francisco’s Ethics Commission involving a consultant on Chiu’s Assembly campaign, Nicole Derse, who co-founded 50+1 Strategies. The League alleges that Chiu did not disclose the relationship between himself, 50+1 Strategies, and Airbnb prior to

the Board of Supervisors vote legalizing Airbnb’s short-term rental business. As I reported in October, Chiu’s two-year delay developing the Airbnb legislation clearly has benefited Airbnb’s prime investors: Billionaires Conway and Hoffman.

*Monette-Shaw is an open-government accountability advocate, a patient advocate, and a member of California’s First Amendment Coalition. He received the Society of Professional Journalists–Northern California Chapter’s James Madison Freedom of Information Award*

*This is an abbreviated version of the article, for the full story on the website: [www.westsideobserver.com](http://www.westsideobserver.com)*

Feedback: [monette-shaw@westsideobserver.com](mailto:monette-shaw@westsideobserver.com)

## Further Reading

Eric Brill’s dispassionate, initially anonymous analysis of the Ethics Commission’s handling of Sheriff Ross Mirkarimi’s case can be found online at [rjemirkarimi.blogspot.com/2012/09/ethics-commission-proceeding-against.html](http://rjemirkarimi.blogspot.com/2012/09/ethics-commission-proceeding-against.html). It’s well worth the read, disputing much of the nonsense being raised by billionaires Conway and Hoffman against Campos.

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235 San Anselmo	St. Francis Wood	6	5.5	2	2,779,000	3,576,000	128.68
19 Gaviota Way	Miraloma Park	3	2	1	1,098,000	1,412,000	128.6
1385 Monterey Blvd	Monterey Heights	4	4	2	2,175,000	2,450,000	112.64
167 Marston Ave	Sunnyside	1	1	2	649,500	739,000	113.78
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## BRAIN FUD

### DELETE a Letter

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

- 1) the movement up or down of the nose and tail of an airplane (5 letters) & (delete 4th letter) the essential part or gist
- 2) something that serves to guide in the solution of a problem (4 letters) & (delete 2nd letter) something that serves as a signal to perform an action
- 3) a jailer (7 letters) & (delete 4th letter) three consecutive strikes in bowling
- 4) the monetary worth of something (5 letters) & (delete 4th letter) a way to express farewell

#### Answer

- 1) pitch & pith  
2) clue & cue  
3) turnkey & turkey  
4) value & vale

## OPEN LATE



By Julie Casson

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

## Sudoku-fun!

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

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

**Answer:**  
The answer appears below.

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

## CITY ROLLS OUT 250-BLOCK ROAD RESURFACING PROJECT

Crews got to work this week resurfacing more than 250 blocks over the next two months to make the City's roads smoother for all users.

San Francisco Public Works' contractors will be applying a thin layer of micro-surface on top of the existing asphalt pavement to prolong the life of the roadway. The work on each block typically takes one to two days to complete. Micro-surfacing protects the existing surface from the effects of natural aging, rain and sun. Prior to resurfacing a street, crews seal any cracks on the roadway.

Last year the City resurfaced a record 913 blocks, due in large part to funding from the

2011 voter-approved \$248 million Road Repaving and Street Safety Bond.

The Pavement Condition Index assigns blocks a score from a low of zero for the most deteriorated streets to a high of 100 for a freshly paved block. Each of the City's 12,884 blocks is evaluated based on ride quality, cracking and signs of deterioration. San Francisco, which now has an average rating of 66.

A Pavement Condition Index score of 85-100 is rated as "excellent," 64-84 "good," 50-63 "fair," and 0-49 "poor." About half of San Francisco's blocks are rated at good or excellent condition.

## Community Opportunity Fund Workshops

Are you a group or individual with an idea for how to improve your neighborhood park? Apply for a Community Opportunity Fund (COF) project and help make a difference in your community. The Program gives neighborhoods, community groups, and park lovers an opportunity to make a difference in their favorite parks. The Rec & Parks Dept. and SFPA are hosting workshops to help you prepare your project and your application. Applications

will be due in April 2015. Attend any of these upcoming mandatory applicant workshops to find out how to get started:

- Thur | Nov 6 | 6-8 pm Minnie and Lovie Ward Recreation Center (Capital Ave and Montana)
- Sat | Dec 6 | 10 am-12 pm County Fair Building - GG Park
- Thur | Dec 11 | 6-8pm | Joe Lee Recreation Center - Multipurpose Room 2





By Carol Kocivar

**T**here is a little mental checklist I go through each Sunday morning in the fall. To do it gracefully, you need to make sure you have found your car keys and are headed out the door.

It goes like this:

- Water Bottle. ☒
- Sunscreen. ☒
- Matching socks. ☒
- Player pass. ☒
- Acetaminophen. ☒ ☒ ☒

This is accompanied by a sigh of relief—my shorts and shirt still fit (and it really does not matter that my socks are still in the back of the car from last week's game.)

Yes, one more season of soccer...not for the kids but for ME, ME, ME.

On Sundays, I play on a women's soccer Team called "Forte". The name is sort of a play on words. We are—for the most part—way over 40 (fortay). In fact, we are *fivetay* and *sixtay*.

And...my goodness hold your breathe... we even have a group that gets together on Tuesday mornings with some who are *seventay*.

I think you get the picture. None of us play in the World Cup.

But play we do.

Thanks to a little quiz in the paper last week, I am even giddier at the thought of running around the soccer field.

You know I am a sucker for quick quizzes. Last week it was a nuanced question: What is your *fitness age*? I hoped there were double points and a smiley face if we could get our real age and our fitness age answered correctly.

It seems that a group of researchers have put together questions that will prompt you to get out of bed and MOVE.

You should be able to answer these.

Your weight. Your height. You waist (ugh.) Then you have some calculations to do about your heart rate. Finally, there is what I call the "Truth or Die" question. How often and how hard do you really exercise?

According to the researchers, your body's capacity to transport and use oxygen during exercise (VO2max) is the most precise measure of overall cardiovascular fitness. Based on the research of The K. G. Jebsen Center of Exercise in Medicine at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology, you can easily estimate your fitness level:

**Go for it at this web site.**
<https://www.worldfitnesslevel.org/#/>

One of the best parts of the quiz is that you can cheat. (Sort of.)

If you don't like the results of the test, you can get a better score... by just exercising more.

So how did I do? Well...thankfully... after all this sweat... my fitness age is a decade younger than my real age.

But I am the ever perfectionist. That is not good enough.

After taking the quiz, I doubled down on the soccer field—running harder and longer. And that was just the warm-up as I circled the field.

While I didn't score a goal, I am on the way to a better score on the fitness test.

My goal is Forte.

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



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## Sunset Mercantile

A festive pop-up open-air metropolis...La Playa style!

Sat, December 13th 10am – 5pm

**Francis Scott Key Elementary School • Kirkham & 42nd Ave**

An opportunity for individuals, businesses and organizations to share their wares, talents, services and causes with the greater Sunset Community and beyond, in a fun-filled multi-faceted event that has a little something for everyone.

Small business owners, budding entrepreneurs, artisans, artists, local farmers, local schools and organizations are given an opportunity to reach out or "market" to an expected 400 plus attendees.

Additionally, this is an opportunity to "expand your business" for the day. Showcase specialty items. Test new products or services. Offer "fire sales" for clearance merchandise.

• Performance artists, musicians, actors, dancers, comedians, storytellers, etc, are all invited to share their talents in our mini "amphitheater"

- Delicious food
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Alzheimers (Cont. from p. 9)

Alzheimer's are women. About 13 million women are either living with Alzheimer's or caring for someone who has it.

**Risk Factors:** Risk factors for developing Alzheimer's are age, family history and genetics, and race. Latinos and African-Americans are at risk because they have higher rates of vascular disease. Other risk factors—serious head injury (auto, sports, falls), or conditions that damage the heart and blood vessels (heart disease, diabetes, stroke, high blood pressure and high cholesterol)—vascular dementia.

10 WARNING SIGNS OF ALZHEIMER'S

- Memory changes that disrupt daily life
  - Challenges in planning or solving problems
  - Difficulty completing familiar tasks at home, at work or at leisure
  - Confusion with time or place
  - Trouble understanding visual images and spatial relationships
  - New problems with words in speaking or writing
  - Misplacing things and losing the ability to retrace steps
  - Decreased or poor judgment
  - Withdrawal from work or social activities
  - Change in mood or personality
- alz.org/national/documents/brochure\_10warnsigns.pdf

THE STAGES OF ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

According to the Alzheimer's Association, a system for defining the seven stages of Alzheimer's was developed by Barry Reisberg, MD:

**STAGE 1: No impairment.** Normal function. The person does not experience any memory problems.

**STAGE 2: Very mild decline.** May be normal age-related changes or the earliest signs of Alzheimer's. The individual may feel that he or she is having memory lapses—forgetting familiar words or the location of everyday objects.

**STAGE 3: Mild cognitive decline.** Early-stage Alzheimer's may be diagnosed in some but not all individuals at this point. Friends, family or co-workers may notice difficulties.

**STAGE 4: Moderate cognitive decline.** Mild or early-stage Alzheimer's. At this point, a careful medical interview should be able to detect clear-cut problems in several ways.

**STAGE 5: Moderately severe cognitive decline.** Moderate or mild stage dementia. Gaps in memory and thinking are noticeable, and individuals begin to need help with day-to-day activities.

**STAGE 6: Severe cognitive decline.** Moderately severe or mid-stage Alzheimer's. Memory continues to worsen, personality changes may take place and individuals need significant help with daily activities.

**STAGE 7: Very severe cognitive decline.** Severe or late-stage Alzheimer's. In the final stage of this disease, individuals lose the ability to respond to the environment, carry on a conversation and, eventually, to control movement. They may still say words and phrases.

At this stage, individuals need help with much of their daily personal care, including eating or using the toilet. They may also lose the ability to smile, to sit without support and to hold their heads up. Reflexes become abnormal. Muscles grow rigid. Swallowing is impaired. (Brochure #770-10-0003, pp. 19-22.)

CARE PLANNING

Finding a doctor

Your local chapter of the Alzheimer's Association can help you find the right doctor.

Family meeting

Hold family meetings to discuss your loved ones care needs. The Alzheimer's Association can help caregiver's plan together after diagnosis. Call (800) 272-3900 for a copy of "How to Hold a Family Meeting."

Legal issues

Advance care planning for health care discussion-making when your loved one is no longer able to speak for themselves (e.g., Durable Power of Attorney, Advance Health Care Directives, will).

Medical issues

Setup a health care journal [elder diary] to assist the caregiver (and the elder, if able) with organizing medical information (e.g., Advance Health Care Directive, Durable Power of Attorney, instructions from health care

professionals, medications, treatments, lab results).

Screening

Evaluation for diseases before they become clinically obvious. Screening can play an important part in early diagnosis and management of selected illnesses.

**Memory Screening:** November 18 is Alzheimer's Foundation of America's National Memory Screening Day to promote early detection of memory problems including Alzheimer's.

PROBLEM MANAGEMENT

Medic Alert ID

**Medical identification** continues to be a critical life-saving tool for millions of people every day. Anyone living with diabetes, asthma, heart conditions, stroke risk, memory impairment, or allergies such as insect, food or medicines should wear a custom-engraved ID, in case they are unconscious and unable to speak for themselves. And those who are the primary caregiver for many individuals with these conditions should also wear a medical ID in order to ensure their loved one receives the attention they need. ©Information courtesy of Dick Van Slyke, American ID. ©2007. Caring for an Aging Loved One: The Family Caregiver's Guide Book. (Matteson).

Wandering

**Medical Alert® + Alzheimer's Association Safe Return®:** A 24-hour emergency response service that provides assistance when a person with dementia wanders and becomes lost or has a medical emergency. Enroll at (888) 572-8566 or alz.org/safereturn. (Brochure #770-10-0003, p.29.)

**GPS Shoe:** When a person wanders off from a pre-set distance, the caregiver will immediately receive an alert to their smartphone and computer, with a direct link to a Google map plotting the wanderer's location. Available online through the Aetrix e-commerce site (www.aetrex.com). ©Information courtesy of Jerry Barber, SVP of Business Development, GTX Corp (GCT.013) for Caring Boomers Newsletter ©2011.

A June 25, 2014 email received from GTX Corp. announced the availability of its products on Amazon.com: "The first products offered include the company's VL2000 Take-Along GPS Tracker and the Code Amber Alertags."

**Alzheimer's Association Comfort Zone®:** A web-based GPS location management service that allows families to monitor a person with Alzheimer's.

**Alzheimer's door lock:** Attaches to the inside of the door. Simple to use and people who experience Alzheimer's cannot operate this lock. Available at Assist Security Product Div. of ALS, LLC, www.assistsecurityproducts.com.

**Silver Alert:** A public notification system in the United States to broadcast information about missing persons—especially senior citizens with Alzheimer's disease, dementia or other mental disabilities – in order to aid in their capture.

Silver Alerts use a wide array of media outlets—such as commercial radio stations, television stations, and cable television – to broadcast information about missing persons. Silver Alerts also use variable-message signs on roadways to alert motorists to be on the lookout for missing seniors. In cases in which a missing person is believed to be missing on foot, Silver Alerts have used Reverse 911 or other emergency notification systems to notify nearby residents of the neighborhood surrounding the missing person's last known location. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Silver\_Alert.)

**Name Label:** Something not mentioned by the Alzheimer's Association—sewing name label in clothing. If the person is not wearing a medic alert ID or GPS shoes, they can be identified by emergency responders.

*For a complete and extensive list of support groups and resources please go to [www.westsideobserver.com/health.html](http://www.westsideobserver.com/health.html)*

*Anise Matteson is an elder care consultant, retired Registered Health Information Technician, writer of reference books or seniors (Elder Diary: Starter Kit, Caring for an Aging Loved One: The Family Caregivers Guide Book), and Advocate, National Alzheimer's Awareness Month 2014. Photo courtesy of Dick Van Slyke, American Medical ID. For specific questions and advice, please contact your health care specialist and other professional service provider. If you require legal advice, you should seek the services of an attorney. cfaalo@yahoo.com.*

Illegal Water Rates

By Brian Browne



The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) must redesign its water and wastewater pricing rates.

Its current ascending tier system is illegal for municipalities, does not promote conservation, and is an inefficient use of resources. Recent studies in Texas and Australia show that the increasing block tariff (IBT) rate system used by the SFPUC and many other municipalities in California do not or encourage conservation.

1996's Proposition 218 (taxpayer revolt) clearly states that municipal rates in California cannot be changed without a vote of the people and rates must not exceed the cost of producing utility services. The 2006 California Supreme Court in Bighorn Desert Agency vs Vewril ruled that water-rate increases or decreases are property related fees and subject to Prop. 218.

A two-tier system implies that some ratepayers will subsidize other ratepayers. This is illegal under Prop 218. Rates must equal utility costs for all customers. Subsidies between different classes of customers are illegal. Plus the tier system imposes a hardship on dwellings with high occupant-density that have a low threshold to cross over into use of the higher-tier block tariff.

Instead of illegally diverting funds to subsidize conservation appliances the SFPUC should be looking into putting individual-meters into every dwelling and have a cost-based rate system without gimmicky and unverified rate systems, such as IBTs. Let the customer decide, based on market signals transmitted via actual use and cost, how to budget for conservation measures as a function of their own budget hierarchies.

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

Election (Cont. from p. 1)

is showing that as of today, Supervisor David Chiu is holding a 2400 vote (2%) lead over Supervisor David Campos. In District 19, Phil Ting was re-elected. Former Supervisor Fiona Ma won her Board of Equalization election with 67% of the votes. Both Assessor-Recorder Carmen Chu and Public Defender Jeff Adachi were re-elected, as they ran unopposed.

For most local voters, the numerous local measures on the ballot were some of the most hotly contested items on the ballot. Measure A (Transportation Bond) passed with 71 percent of the voters voting yes. Measure B (Match Transportation Funding to Population Growth) also was passed with 61% of voters approving. The Children and Families Measure (Measure C) was approved easily with 73% of voters in agreement. Measure D, approving health benefits for employees of the (now disbanded) Redevelopment Agency was also approved with 55% of voters voting yes. Measure E, the hotly contested proposed tax on Sodas and other Sugary beverages was defeated as 54% of voters voted against the measure.

In two real estate related measures, voters approved the proposed plans for Pier 70 (Measure F) with 72% voting approving. Measure G, the proposal to enact a Real Estate Transfer Tax on parcels sold within 5 years of purchase was turned down as 54% of voters voted no.

(It looks like artificial turf for GG Park)

The two measures that will determine the future of the western end of Golden Gate Park were decided by almost equal tallies. Proponents of keeping the natural grass playing fields in Golden Gate Park were rebuffed as Measure H, requiring the fields to be maintained in their natural grass state, was defeated by a 54-46 tally. The corresponding Measure I, to renovate the fields at the Beach Chalet with artificial turf, lighting, and bleachers was approved by a similar 55-45 margin. As we go to press, SF Park and Rec is already starting work on the project.

Measure J, raising the San Francisco minimum wage level was approved by 76% of the voters. Measure K, setting up a process to fund and build affordable housing, also won handily with 65% of the vote. The final measure on the local ballot, Measure L, attempting to implement a new policy directive for transportation management within SF, failed by a 61-39 margin.

The final ballot choices focused on the local School District, the Community College District and the BART District 8 Board Position. In the SF School Board election, Emily Murase, Shamann Walton and incumbent Hydra Mendoza were elected to new terms. Local parent Lee Hsu fell slightly short in his bid to be elected to the board. The Community College Board will also have new members was Thea Selby and Brigitte Davila will join incumbent John Rizzo, who was re-elected. The Westside will have a new BART Director as newcomer Nicholas Josefowitz unseated incumbent James Fang by approximately 4600 votes.



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Real Travel By Sergio Nibbi

From Baseball to Boston

With baseball on everyone's mind and with the Giants in the World Series once again, orange and black are the colors that encircle the Bay Area. From a world class ballpark to the many sports bars, restaurants and private parties our lives are put on hold for what may well be a dynasty in the making. By the time this issue of the *Westside Observer* hits the streets, the Giants' fate will have been sealed and hopefully crowned with a third World Series victory in the last 5 years.

But October also brings back memories of the fall colors so vivid in the New England States. As we face shorter days and morning mist I'm reminded of our last trip through New England, where our journey started in Boston and brought us through some of the most beautiful country we've ever seen. We traveled from Boston through Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont, ending in Providence, Rhode Island. As beautiful as the countryside was the food was a close second coupled with the charm and hospitality of the innkeepers and restaurateurs.

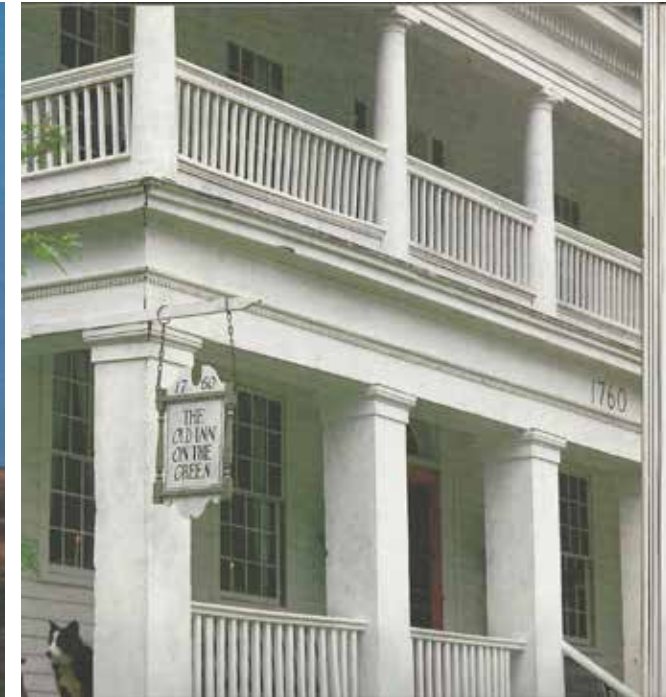
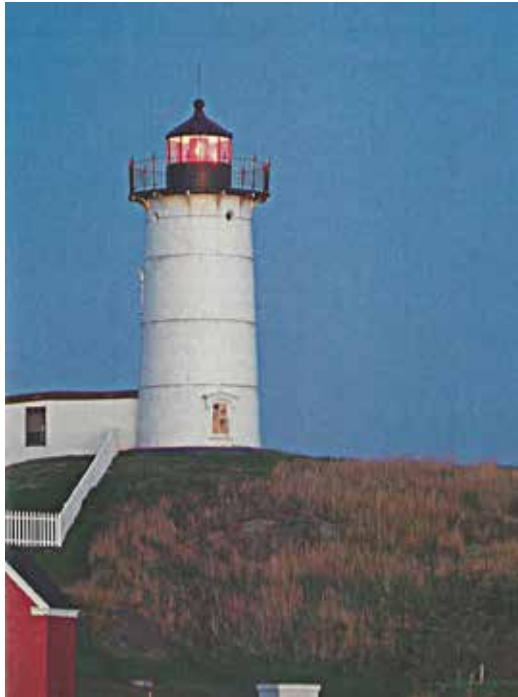
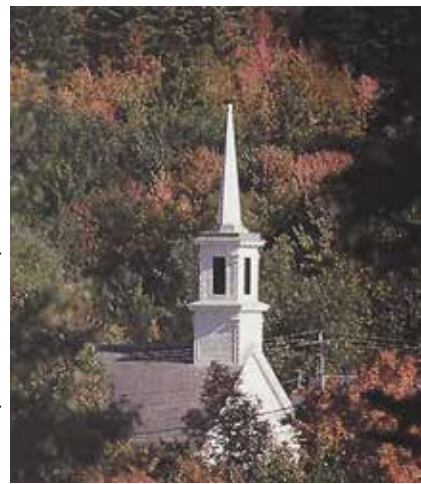


Heading north from Boston we followed a costal route to Salem, passing a handful of lonely lighthouses hugging the rocky New England coast. Our guide book directed us to Pickering Wharf and the Peabody Museum. The Pickering Wharf area hosts a large variety of sleek yachts and a three mast schooner called *Friendship*. Our first night was spent in Portsmouth, New Hampshire where we enjoyed a delicious dinner of veal steak with sun-dried tomatoes. From Portsmouth to Portland, Maine the colors seemed to brighten with every passing mile. The Philbrook Farm Inn in Lyme, New Hampshire was our home for our third night, a stately looking Colonial-style building that has been serving guests since 1861. From Lyme to Ludlow, Vermont was a short hop that gave us the opportunity to check in early at The Governor's Inn for a memorable stay, not to mention the six-course dinner and a hearty breakfast the following morning. As I recall, we ordered a picnic lunch to take along for our easy ride to West Dover, stopping along the way to enjoy the brilliant colors and nature's beauty.

The Hancock Shaker Village looked more like a castle than a village, but we did enjoy the displays and history of the area as we drove to New Marlboro, Massachusetts. The Monterey Chevre cheese that we tasted at the Rawson Brook Farm was reminiscent of the many delicacies that we so enjoyed along the way. The General Samuel McClellan House in South Woodstock provided us with a relaxing stop before heading off to Providence, Rhode Island, where the quaint countryside transformed to big city.

Our journey ended in Providence, but the memories will always remain with us, as will the brilliant hues of the countryside turning red, yellow and orange. The inns where we stayed were staffed mostly by families, and the dinners usually served as part of the package. There is no doubt that the show put on by nature is a true gift to be enjoyed by all and a precursor to the winter months ahead. Let's only hope that as the season changes and the weather cools, our hearts will be warmed once again by yet another parade down Market Street honoring our World Series champions, the San Francisco Giants.

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



A Pinch of This...

Complete your Thanksgiving menu with Caramelized Onion Cornbread Dressing. Sweet cornbread with zesty sausage/vege soyrito makes this a delightful departure from other more traditional dressings. And you can make this ahead of time! Perfect for a busy day.

Caramelized Onion Cornbread Dressing

What You Need

- 2 boxes cornbread mix
- 2 links mild Italian sausage, plus 1 link hot Italian sausage (casing removed and cooked) Vegetarian: use soyrito
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup
- 3-4 c chicken stock/bouillon-water
- 2 medium onions
- 2 stalks celery
- 2 tbsp dried sage
- 4-6 tbsp butter (optional)

Directions

- Make cornbread according to package directions. Crumble
- Once cornbread bakes, preheat

- oven to 350 degrees. Using butter or extra virgin olive oil, saute onion and celery in medium to large saucepan until dark brown
- Pour into greased 9 X 13 baking dish. Add crumbled cornbread, cooked sausage and sage
- In medium bowl, whisk together soup and 1 c stock/bouillon. Pour over cornbread mixture. Toss until well combined.
- Pour remaining stock over dressing mixture, stir until completely moistened. Bake for 30 minutes
- Optional: top with 4-6 tbsp butter during last few minutes of baking.

Got a recipe to share? [editorwso@westsideobserver.com](mailto:editorwso@westsideobserver.com)

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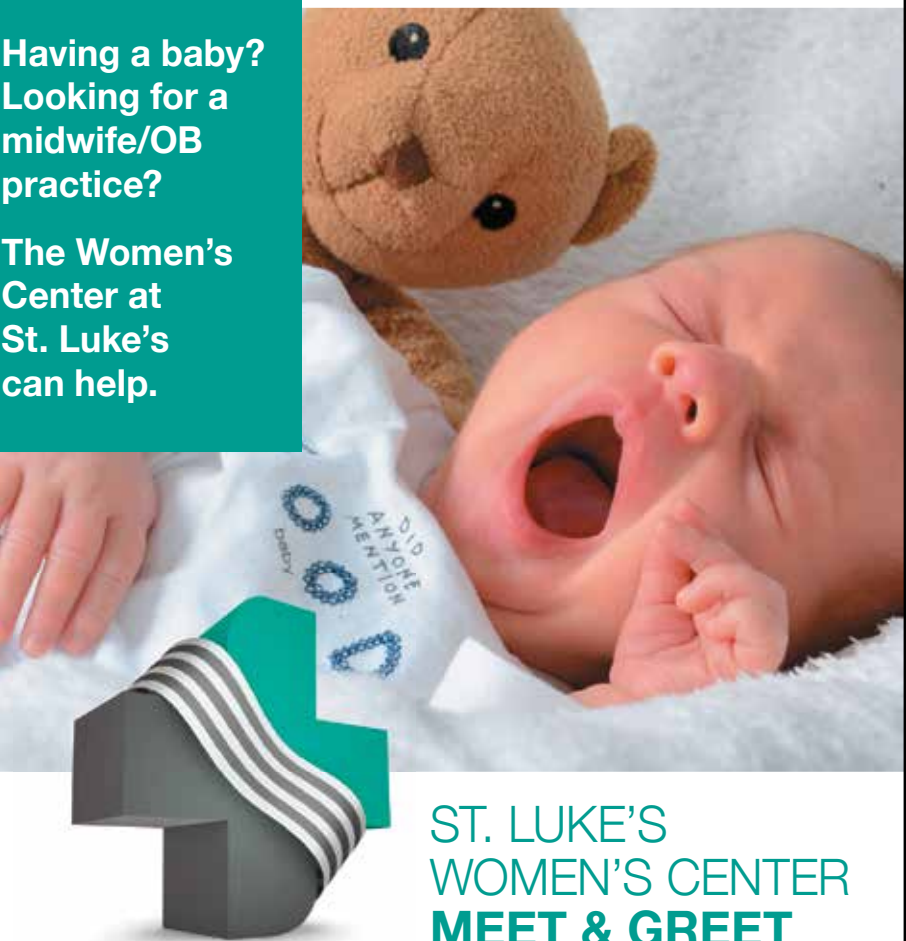
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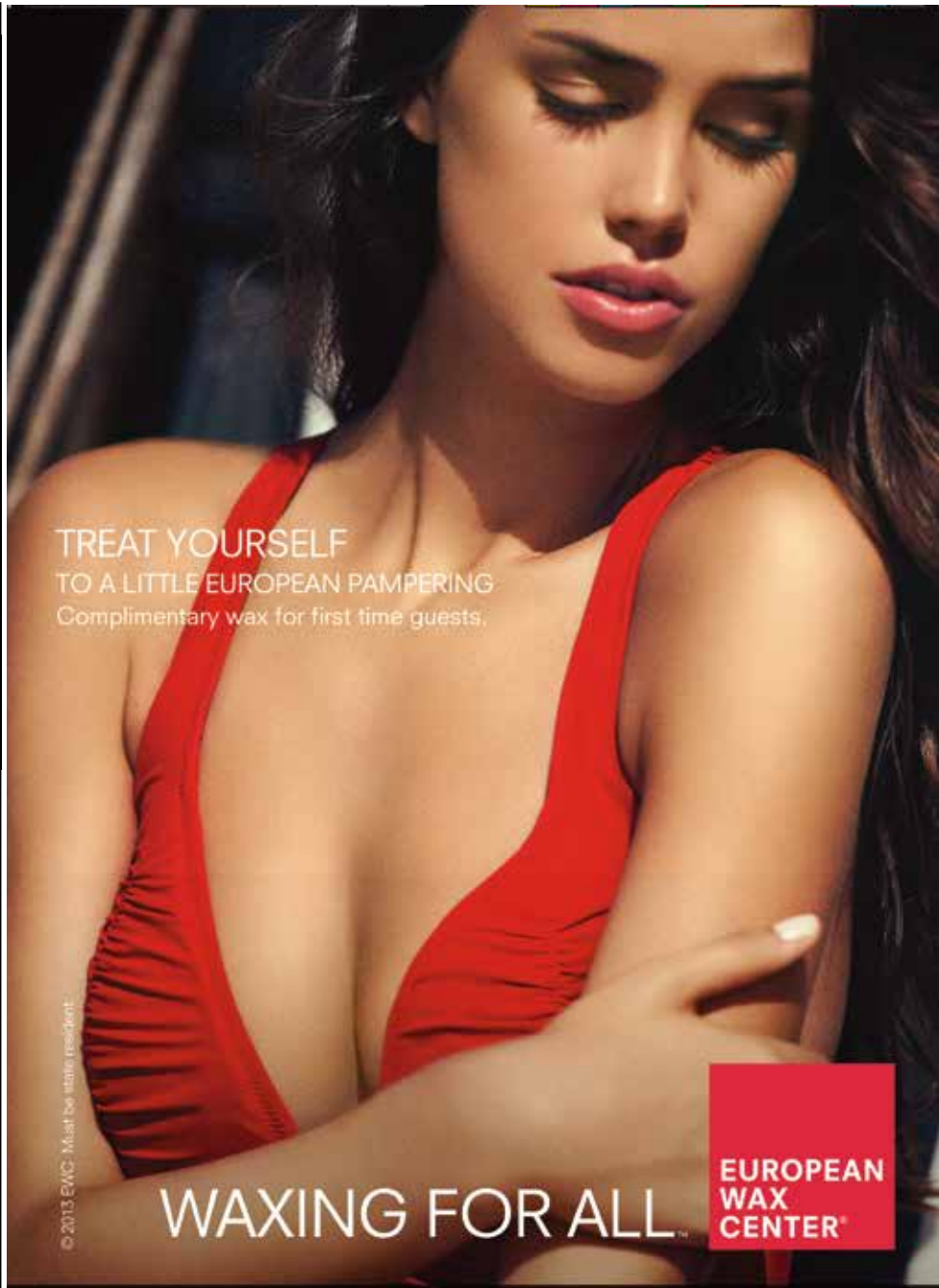
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