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WESTSIDE OBSERVER

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Natural Areas Plan: Eucalyptus Advocates Fight Back

By Nancy Wuerfel, Sally Stephens & Avrum Shepard

It's hard to believe, but in San Francisco, there are some people who want to cut down our healthy forests (and use toxic herbicides to keep them from re-growing) simply because the trees are not "native" enough.

The claims against the trees, most of which are eucalyptus, have changed over the years. First, it was that they will spread unchecked and take over nearby parkland. Then it was that chemicals in their leaves kill plants on the ground. Then it was that they are a huge fire risk. Now, it's that they're dying due to the drought. Turns out none of these are true.

The trees' real "crime" is that, like many of us, they came here from somewhere else and haven't been here long enough to be considered "native" by native plant activists.

To be "native," plants must have been here before Spanish settlers arrived 250 years ago. Then, San Francisco was a barren, wind-whipped place, filled with sand and dune scrub, and few, if any, trees. By this definition, nearly all trees are non-native to San Francisco. Eucalyptus trees, planted "only" 150 years ago are, to native plant advocates,

Cont. p. 6



In the 2003 Scripps Ranch Fire in San Diego, wildfire swept through a subdivision, burning houses to the ground, but leaving adjacent eucalyptus trees untouched

“The NAP Management Plan (its Final EIR will be released soon) calls for the removal of over 18,000 healthy, mature trees, mostly eucalypts, because they are non-native and so that they can be replaced with native grasses and scrub.

Tenants Misplaced

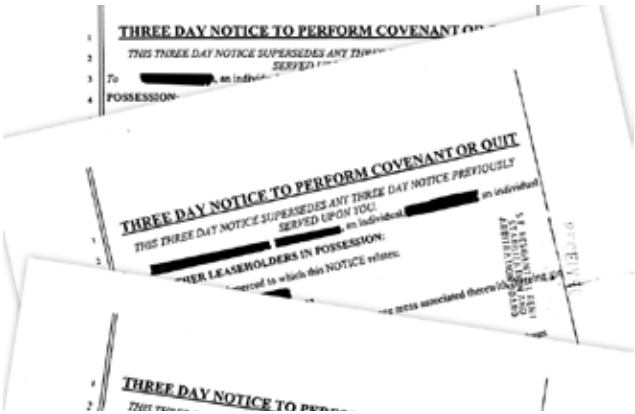
Mass Evictions Rock Parkmerced

By Lynn Gavin

To date nearly 700 Three-Day Notices for utility fees (water, sewer and garbage) were issued by Parkmerced Investors Properties, LLC and filed with the San Francisco Rent Board. These notices coincide with the submission of Parkmerced's application to San Francisco Planning Department for development of its properties.

No one — not the City Attorney, District Attorney nor the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC)

Cont. p. 8



No, No, No

By John Farrell

No on Prop A - Affordable Housing Bond



Of course anyone with a heart will agree we need housing for our City's low and moderate income families. This \$310M Bond to be paid by property owners is to help our City affordable housing needs with the Mayor's promise of 30,000 affordable new units by 2020. However, per the September 9th *Chronicle* article "Lee outlines plan to create or repair affordable housing" Mayor Lee's goal now is to build or rehabilitate 10,000 units for low-income and working class families by 2020. I figure the Mayor dropped the units from 30,000 to 10,000 since he has his re-election in the bag and didn't have to blow smoke anymore. The Mayor is fully aware that less than 10,000 affordable housing units have been built over the last ten years and the planning department is backlogged 18 months, as frustrated contractors and their clients are fully aware.

“This \$310M bond for affordable housing could be handled with existing and future City funds if prioritized, without asking taxpayers to pay the bill, and save millions in bond interest payments.

In regard to affordable housing, when Mayor Lee was asked in Jan 2014 by *Time* magazine "Why has San Francisco been so slow to build," he replied, "Our city did pretty good in investing in low-income housing and trying to do as much as we could for the homeless. That was where our sentiments were ... I don't think we paid any attention to the middle class. I think everybody assumed the middle class was moving out." This says it all.

Our City is flourishing and money is coming in hand over fist and is expected to continue over the coming years. Our tax revenue has increased substantially due to transfer taxes, property sales and new construction. And we are not even bringing in the hundreds of millions that we can, as I have written in previous articles.

Let me just stress the fact that I am a strong advocate for affordable housing and not just during an election year. But I am also for accountability. This \$310M bond for affordable housing could be handled with existing and future City funds if prioritized, without asking

Cont. p. 6

Density Crowds the City

Sometimes togetherness isn't better

By George Wooding

Under San Francisco's current and proposed planning guidelines, building density now trumps height zoning or character of neighborhoods.

"Density" is the new altar at which the Mayor, Board of Supervisors, developers, Chamber of Commerce, and co-opted City think tanks like SPUR, now pray. All of these groups pay little attention to what the impacted neighborhoods think about their plans to build height or density housing as they see fit, while ignoring neighborhood input. These groups also need the money, profit, donations, and political contributions that continued development generates.

City zoning changes and property use changes are routinely ignored or changed. Witness *The Chronicle's* gigantic Mission and Fifth project (5M), one of the largest City building projects ever, that was just turned into a "special use" district. This means almost no standard planning rules will apply to the project.

"By fast-tracking the 5M project through the planning process through Special Ordinances that exempt this site from established Area Plans, the City is negating the hard work of all those involved in the community planning process by granting exceptions, variances, and privileges through the creation of a Special Use District and implementation of a Development Agreement," Gerry Crowley, SF Neighborhood Network founder said. "Dismissing the impact of major up-zoning on vulnerable neighboring communities adjacent to 5th and Mission Street threatens community planning and responsible development in every neighborhood throughout San Francisco."

Several City development projects have routinely received height exemptions through spot zoning variances, such as 1481 Post Street and 75 Howard.

The Planning Commission is a seven-member board controlled by the Mayor. Four of the commissioners are directly appointed by the Mayor and give the appearance of having no independent free will on large planning decisions. Citizens wait hours to testify for two minutes at the Planning Commission

“There are currently over 20,000 vacancies. Prop C was supposed to be used over 20 years to build up to 30,000 units. Mayor Lee is trying to build 30,000 units in five years. When the housing bubble bursts, the City will be overbuilt.”

affordable housing to new or existing buildings/housing.

Affordable housing is designated as "below market rate." The federal government, the City and non-profit housing organizations underwrite the development and leasing of affordable housing throughout San Francisco.

The new density bonus program wouldn't apply to zoning districts that only allow single-family (RH-1) or three-unit development (RH-2) on lots. Major exceptions to this rule include streets along transit corridors, like Geary, Judah and West Portal Avenue.

Impacted neighborhoods will watch developers add two floors of supposedly affordable housing to their neighbors' homes. When housing costs \$800,000 and the family of four moving in has an income of \$120,000

Cont. p. 14



London Breed's Anti-Sunshine Litmus Test

Dr. Maria Rivero & Dr. Derek Kerr

For those who are driven to govern, transparency doesn't come naturally. Nudging City governance out of the shadows often relies on open government advocates. For example, the 2013-14 Civil Grand Jury report, *Ethics in the City – Promise, Practice or Pretense*, recommended amending the Sunshine Ordinance to require that Supervisors' business calendars be publicly disclosable. Since 1999, the Ordinance had required only the Mayor, City Attorney and department heads to disclose who they met, and where. Although the Jury found that "nearly all" Supervisors voluntarily provided their meeting calendars, some officials "failed to list the subject matter and the attendee's names" making it difficult to track lobbying activities and influence peddling.

London Breed, who clenched the Board presidency in January 2015, has viewed requests for her calendars as intrusions. When sunshine activist Michael Petrelis requested them this April, he was initially told the "voluminous" records would take time to assemble. Instead of delivering the calendars, Breed's legislative aide sent a startling e-mail: "Supervisor Breed has not maintained a calendar since February 1st, 2015. Per the charter rules, Supervisor Breed is not required to keep a calendar."

Public interest in Breed's engagements peaked this August when her name popped up in the FBI probe of political corruption that ensnared Senator Leland Yee among others. A local entrepreneur was quoted as saying he "pays Supervisor Breed with untraceable debit cards for clothing and trips in exchange for advantages on contracts." Breed denied the allegation.

On June 16, 2015 the Supervisors amended the Sunshine Ordinance to require the disclosure of their daily appointment calendars - including meeting locations and attendees. Breed demurred, "I'm not necessarily a fan of this measure." Surprisingly, the tough-talking Supervisor who confidently attends District 5 community gatherings cited "concerns about my personal safety" and "establishing a pattern of my whereabouts." Plus, "it took my staff several days

to separate my public and private calendar." Breed made a motion to withhold the location of Supervisors' meetings and to wait for the Department of Technology to organize their calendars. Her motion died for lack of a second. The Board voted 10-1 in favor of disclosing its calendars. Breed voiced the sole "No." On July 7 the board finally, and unanimously, passed the amendment. The Mayor signed it into law on July 15, but Breed's displeasure smoldered.

Though not a member of the Rules Committee (Avalos, Tang, Cohen), Breed materialized at the September 10 meeting "in place of Supervisor Cohen." The agenda included the approval of a journalist and a lawyer applying for the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force (SOTF), the 11-member body that adjudicates sunshine complaints. Both applicants were nominated by the Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ)



Public interest in Breed's engagements peaked this August when her name popped up in the FBI probe of political corruption that ensnared Senator Leland Yee ... requested?" Since her question had been affirmatively and legally answered in July, it was deployed to render applicants into supplicants. Eldon maneuvered out of Breed's

Will Durst	5	Sunshine	9	Jack Kaye	15
Housing Crisis	7	Crime Report	10	Remember When / Open Late	16
Money Matters	8	Calendar	12	Kocivar / Education	18
Around the Town	9	Movies	12	Real Travel	19
		Theater	13		

that is mandated 2 seats on the SOTF. Still working in the City, both nominees had recently moved to Oakland so they needed residency waivers from the Supervisors.

After *Hoodline* editor Eric Eldon gave his presentation, Breed launched a menacing interrogatory about "conflicts of interest" when journalists serve on the SOTF. Note: voters approved assigning 3 journalists to the SOTF: from the SPJ,

New America Media, and local press. Breed wondered if Eldon's "professional opinion" as a reporter who pursues City records, might conflict with "making the right decision." Unappeased by Eldon's ethical strategy for countering potential bias, Breed declared, "Let me be more specific; I have a different opinion about the calendar requests...there's a thin line between public information and being nosey...I don't think it's appropriate for the public to know my whereabouts 24 hours a day." Then, the litmus test: "Do you think that public officials should have to share their calendars if

trap by crafting thoughtful, ego-soothing responses, including, "I would listen to the advice of the City Attorney" and "I can't say I'm decided on that." Incidentally, Breed had been wrangling with the SOTF since June, when she was found in violation of the Sunshine Ordinance for dodging a hearing on her calendar hoarding.

The other SPJ nominee was Mark Rumold, an Electronic Frontier Foundation attorney who litigates transparency and surveillance issues in the National Security arena. After serving on the SOTF for 9 months, he had to resign upon moving to Oakland. He presented his credentials and goals in a straight-forward way, without fawning. Breed didn't bother to ask him a single question, then grouched; "I'm not completely familiar with Mr. Rumold..." Apparently, he hadn't kowtowed for her blessing before the hearing. To show who's boss, Breed "hesitantly" approved Rumold's residency waiver.

All 3 Supervisors okayed the candidates, but Katy Tang's mute passivity was a marked departure from her energetic obstruction of SPJ nominees in 2013-14. Joining a Board vendetta against the SOTF, Tang had applied her own litmus test: supplicants had to vow to abide by City Attorney opinions in sunshine disputes. She also imposed a "diversity" standard on SPJ candidates that she waived for City Hall shills. Press coverage set off a political imbroglio for Tang, and may explain why she ceded this year's litmus test to London Breed.

Dr. Maria Rivero and Dr. Derek Kerr were senior physicians at Laguna Honda Hospital. They repeatedly exposed wrongdoing. Contact: DerekOnVanNess@aol.com



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West Of Twin Peaks Central Council By Mitch Bull



Mark Buhler, SF Heritage spoke about Prop J the Legacy Business Fund

The West of Twin Peaks Central Council held its first meeting of the 2015-16 term on Monday, September 28th and the discussions and speakers covered much of what is special about San Francisco’s neighborhoods and heritage, with a question of how to maintain and pay for “heritage” and Parks and Recreational needs. Even a discussion on whether bicyclists should have to follow the law was debated at the WOTPCC meeting.

WOTPCC President Roger Ritter opened the meeting, spoke about the agenda for the evening, and following the roll call introduced Mike Buhler from the non-profit SF Heritage. Buhler spoke on Proposition J, which would set up a funding mechanism where businesses who apply for “Legacy” inclusion can apply for a grant from the city that could help them maintain their particular business look and operation. The grants are predicated on the number of employees, and the length of time the business has been open in SF. Landlords can also make an application for a grant up to \$4.50 per square foot, with a maximum amount of \$22,500 per year.

The hope is to “save” legacy businesses from going out of business or relocating out of the city. The concept has been tried (successfully) in other cities such as Barcelona, Paris, London and Buenos Aires. Buhler gave some startling statistics showing that over 4000 businesses closed their doors in SF in 2015, compared to just 500 in the year 1992.

Delegates asked questions on why the city would use taxpayer dollars to help reward these types of businesses or to incentivize landlords, instead of having the free market approach. Also, it would be up to the Board of Supervisors to set the amount each year that would be applied to each grant request in the formula. Most delegates felt this is not a good use of city funding, although they agreed with the spirit of the proposition to try and keep legacy (beloved) businesses operating in SF.

Supervisor Mark Farrell

then spoke about two programs that will impact every neighborhood across the city. The first is a ballot measure for the June 2016 ballot that would set aside a \$3,000,000 increase in the annual Rec and Park budget. Unlike a bond measure, this would not increase property taxes, but would be used to maintain and enhance the parks and the park experience for everyone. Farrell noted that as a percentage of the city budget, the expenditure for the city parks has dropped from 2.1% to 1.3% of the budget over the last 15 years, even though the population of the city has increased by over 100,000. When the delegates were asked what kinds of improvements they would like to see, the following items were suggested: tree maintenance, kids programming, Park Rangers, better lighting and trails, security enhancements, and playground directors.



Supervisor Mark Farrell spoke about Parks and playgrounds

Playground accessibility was the focus of the next item as Farrell discussed the “Shared Schoolyard Project,” which has raised money and volunteers to open schoolyards throughout the city on weekends. To date, the program has reopened 28 of the 100 schoolyards, and is projecting the reopening of 50 more over the next 2 years. As a result there are more places for children to play, and with the fences unlocked and embraced by the local neighborhoods, there has been less trash and less graffiti than when the yards are closed and unattended. All of this has been done without taxes being raised for this program. To learn more, go to www.sfsharedschoolyard.org.

The meeting continued with committee reports on updates to the Balboa Reservoir project; Public Health; Open Space and Transportation. More details on these items can be found at the WOTPCC website.

In the final discussion of the evening, a resolution was presented by Avrum Shepard to have the WOTPCC send a letter in opposition to proposed advisory legislation by the Board of Supervisors (written by Supervisor Avalos) to make the ticketing of bicyclists for failing to stop at intersections the lowest priority of the SF police. A spirited discussion on the rights of bicyclists and drivers ensued. A vote was eventually taken and the motion to oppose the legislation passed by a vote of 12-1 with 1 abstention.

The next regular meeting of the WOTPCC will be on Monday, October 26th 1 at 7:30 PM at the historic Forest Hills Clubhouse. For more information see the WOTPCC website (www.westoftwinpeaks.org).

Ruminations From a Former Supervisor By Quentin Kopp



H. L. Mencken, the literary sage of the 1920s, accurately observed: “Democracy is the theory that the common people know what they want, and deserve to get it good and hard.”

That old chestnut, often repeated over the past 90 year or so, characterizes the November 3, 2015 Municipal Election, which features no contest for Mayor, District Attorney, City Attorney, or Treasurer. To dispose of those anointments, I declare resolutely to vote for Dennis Herrera as City Attorney and Jose Cisneros as Treasurer. The Mayor and District Attorney have cleverly concealed basic facts from San Franciscans, including the rising crime rate attributable to policies of the California Attorney General and San Francisco District Attorney, if not the Mayor, who may soon be in a public “tizzy” over alarming crime statistics of which he has knowledge. Here’s a disclaimer: I am internally discouraged from endorsing any of the three candidates for Sheriff because my criminal defense lawyer son, the estimable Shepard S. Kopp II of Los Angeles, represented the incumbent Sheriff successfully four years ago in thwarting the Mayor’s attempt to secure the incumbent Sheriff’s impeachment at the Board of Supervisors.

No such family inhibitions attach to my evaluation of 11 ballot measures.

Proposition A is yet another borrowing “doozy” from the Mayor and his political allies. It’s a \$310,000,000 bond issue for “housing.” It follows wise rejection in 2002 and 2004 of similar debt. The ballot measure is vague; it lacks specificity on how and in what manner \$310,000,000 of debt will be spent. It uses the phrase that money “may be allocated” to certain uses; it avoids promising voters that millions of dollars “shall” be spent on specified types of housing. In June, 2014, the Civil Grand Jury reported an abysmal record of new housing, not just “market rate,” but so-called “affordable” housing. Borrowing \$310,000,000 by floating general obligation bonds means repaying the \$310,000,000 plus about an additional \$275,000,000 in interest. I strongly recommend a “No on A” vote on this “blank check” to City Hall which will otherwise donate our money to its favorite developers.

Proposition B increases the municipal budget and taxpayer cost by providing 12 or 16 weeks of paid leave for City employees after the birth, adoption, or foster care placement of a child. It’s a tempting idea for decent taxpayers to do so, but it’s a benefit generally not duplicated in private employment at a time in which San Francisco’s City employees exceed a record 28,500. I’m voting “No” on B.

Proposition C Thanks to former Chief Deputy Public Defender, ex-Golden Gate University School of Law Dean, and Ethics Commission member Peter Keane, Proposition C closes a loophole created by the Board of Supervisors in 2010 when our heroes repealed a law requiring public disclosure of lobbyist spending to influence City Government decisions, directly or indirectly. (In establishing the Ethics Commission by a charter amendment, voters bestowed on the Commission the power directly to submit any tightening of ethics rules at City Hall directly to voters without first obtaining Board of Supervisors affirmation. That’s how Proposition C made the ballot.) Proposition C will apply the same requirements to nonprofit entities that are required of all other lobbying practitioners, namely, reporting all money in excess of \$2,500 spent monthly to influence government decisions. Talk about howling like a “stuck pig.” Nonprofit entities under Proposition C can no longer conceal their expenditures to obtain financial and other emoluments from City government under the guise of immunity based upon nonprofit status which enables such entities to pay their administrators salaries in six figures or more. That’s why many nonprofit corporations (and their lawyers) oppose Proposition C. Voters should pass it.

Proposition D is a large building project of the San Francisco Giants on the waterfront near AT&T Park for hundreds of rental units, offices, retail stores, and eight acres of parks on a cheerless City government waterfront parcel now used only for parking. I’ve endorsed it, despite its raising of height limits, because it is now zoned for a park with a zero height limit, and under voter-adopted law, any waterfront building project exceeding current height limits on the waterfront needs voter approval. The Giants competed against four other organizations to rent the parcel for 75 years at current market value and develop it. There’s no public subsidy, and sales and other tax payments to the City should constitute about \$25,000,000 per year.

Proposition E is a wolf in sheep’s clothing. It sounds innocently as a measure to increase “civic participation” by requiring live remote dissemination of Board of Supervisors meetings and all City commissions, committees, and boards, with enormous electronic technology expenditures. It purports to increase painlessly electronic display of all their public meetings with citizen testimony from remote locations, while pretending to require minimum expenditure. In fact, however, open meeting and public record champions oppose it. The California First Amendment Coalition opposes it. Bruce Brugmann, the long-time publisher of the Bay Guardian and singular advocate of public access to meetings and government records, opposes it. The Ethics Commission does not support it. City government already spends nearly \$3,500,000 to broadcast board and commission meetings. This would increase the length of already unduly long hearings. It’s not fair to those who take time to attend a hearing or even to board and commission members who would need to delay debate and votes. It’s sponsored as an advertising promotion by a man who intends to run for Supervisor in the Richmond District in two years. As a State Senator, I sponsored State and City law permitting public testimony at every Board and Commission meeting. That’s been effective and economical. Proposition E would be an expensive, unnecessary time-waster. Vote “no” on E.

Proposition F represents an effort to protect single-family housing neighborhoods. The practice of renting extra rooms in single-family residences is based upon units illegally converted to serve as hotels. This is an Airbnb specialty with about 60 other entities promoting use of illegal units for commercial purposes, and doing it without paying the City hotel tax much less registering such “short-term rentals,” as legally required. Proposition F requires quarterly reports of each such unit’s address and nights rented with a maximum 75 nights per year after registration and payment of the hotel tax. I resent the hundreds of thousands of dollars spent by Airbnb to bamboozle voters. As of September 23, it reported donations of \$7,965,000 plus non-monetary contributions of \$381,000, a total of \$8,346,000! Vote “yes” on Proposition F and thwart the lawbreakers who destroy residential neighborhoods, including those west of Twin Peaks.

Propositions G and H now constitute
Cont. p. 6

QUENTIN’S BALLOT GUIDE

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| Prop A Housing Bond | No |
| Prop B Paid Leave | No |
| Prop C Lobbyist Disclosure | Yes |
| Prop D Waterfront Development | Yes |
| Prop E Remote Public Testimony | No |
| Prop F Airbnb Hotel Taxes | Yes |
| Prop I Housing Moratorium | No |
| Prop J “Legacy Business” Fund | No |
| Prop K “Surplus” land sales | No |

Sanctuary City

By Former Supervisor Tony Hall

The Sanctuary City movement grew out of efforts by churches in the 1980's to provide sanctuary to mainly Central Americans who were fleeing violence and political and religious persecution in their countries.

Innocent and law abiding aliens who arrived in our country to escape persecution should be provided with some form of immigration status until a path to citizenship was established. Like most Americans, I am sympathetic to the plight of those who come to escape persecution, are law abiding, and demonstrate in their personal lives and work ethic that they truly want to become citizens for the betterment of themselves and their families.

However, the prevailing sentiment of tolerant Americans in the '80s was a clear signal to the political "intelligencia" of San Francisco who sensed an opportunity to show the world just how wonderful and concerned they were about the plight of refugees. As a result, they passed a 1989

...the Supervisors, supported by the current Mayor...severely limiting the ability of local authorities to honor any requests from Immigration and Customs Enforcement

law called the City and County of Refuge ordinance, which went so far as to prohibit city employees from helping federal immigration enforcement efforts unless compelled by court order or state law.

In 2007, then San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom, never one to pass up a political grandstanding opportunity, reaffirmed that no city employee would be allowed to help in any "way, shape or form" with immigration enforcement.¹

In 2013, the Supervisors, supported by the current Mayor, unanimously passed a Due Process for All Ordinance severely limiting the ability of local authorities to honor any requests from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to hold suspects up to 48 hours beyond their scheduled jail release without a court order, except for those convicted of a violent felony within the previous seven years.

It's hard to believe that this Ordinance was passed in the wake of the horrible 2008 SF Bologna family murders, where a mother lost a husband and two sons to a known illegal criminal alien, who should have been deported before the murders but was protected under sanctuary laws!²

No matter how well intentioned a law may be in its creation, to enforce it in reality often brings unwanted consequences. If city employees and local law enforcement agencies are forbidden from cooperating with ICE unless such cases involve a court order, they can easily ignore the primary tool that ICE uses to initiate deportation proceedings against illegal criminal aliens. A detainer is the primary tool used by ICE to notify another law enforcement agency that ICE intends to take custody of criminal aliens for deportation. The detainer includes information on the alien's criminal history, immigration violations, and potential risk to public safety or security.

By forbidding City employees from cooperating with Immigration authorities without a court order, our "leaders" have now created a more serious problem. By not allowing cooperation, detainees are ignored with the result that the more serious illegal criminal offenders can be shielded under Sanctuary City laws from deportation proceedings. Why would anyone *not* want to have the information provided in detainees readily available to local authorities sworn to protect society?

Certain opportunistic politicians have found it rewarding to pander to a specific constituent base without thinking through their affect on the public safety. Sanctuary policies, while purporting to protect the innocent and law abiding, actually gives cover to illegal criminal aliens.

As of last year, 276 jurisdictions across the country have adopted some form of sanctuary policies that encourage

non-compliance with some or all of the detainees issued by ICE.

According to the Center for Immigration Studies, from Jan. 1 to Aug.31, 2014, 8145 criminal alien offenders were released because Sanctuary Cities refused to cooperate with detainees from ICE.

Of the 8145 released, 63%, or 5,131 were previously convicted, or charged with a serious crime — "Public Safety Concern."

Of the 8145 released, 25%, or 2036 were already felons at the time of release.

Of the 8145 released, 25% went on to commit an additional 4300 serious crimes. Of these recidivists, 60% are still at large.

Since Aug 31 of 2014, the number of criminal aliens released by sanctuary jurisdictions has exceeded 17,000 with 60%

still at large.

Sanctuary City policies actually hinder the ability of local law enforcement to protect society because information, such as provided in detainees, is ignored.

Advocates often promote the "myth" that society is safer because the policies allow illegal immigrants to cooperate with law enforcement. But federal "U Visas" already afford illegal aliens protection in cooperating with law enforcement.

I am sure there have been abuses by ICE agents whereby innocent and law abiding aliens have been deported. A partial solution to this problem might be the creation of a federal judge or magistrate system that would review individual illegal immigrant data and recommend deportation proceedings where warranted.

The present immigration system is wholly mismanaged and underfunded. They cannot even keep up with the tracking and deportation of some 60% of existing illegal alien felons who have been released into society by sanctuary cities.

To make matters even worse, earlier this year the Obama administration gave sanctuaries free rein to ignore detainees by ending the successful Secure Communities Program (SCP), replacing it with the Priority Enforcement Program (PEP) which explicitly allows local agencies to disregard ICE detainees of deportable aliens in their custody, and replacing detainees with "requests for notifications" which contain no information about the alien in question or provisions for enforcement.

If local or state laws forbid compliance because of Sanctuary City policies, the agency should be able to communicate with ICE by phone, email, or other means to coordinate a custody transfer.

The solution is for Congress to revamp our federal immigration system to insure fairness to those law abiding aliens who seek citizenship, and at the same time spell out in federal law that local law enforcement agencies must cooperate with ICE detainees regarding serious criminal offenders or face sanctions from certain kinds of federal funding.

Instead of creating laws that obstruct, wouldn't it be unique if our leaders actually expended effort in trying to fix or repair our broken immigration system, so that those who deserve to stay here have a chance versus those who have demonstrated that they should be deported because of their criminal activity.

Tony Hall served twice as Supervisor for District 7

1. www.sfgate.com/bayarea/article/Newsom-pledges-to-make-SF-a-sanctuary-for-illegal-2600279.php

2. en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edwin_Ramos



Mayor's "Affordability Agenda" Inequities

Don't Re-Elect Mayor Ed Lee

By Patrick Monette-Shaw

Ever since being appointed Mayor five years ago in January 2011, Ed Lee has distinguished himself as a court jester, often favoring his billionaire backers.

Do San Franciscans really need, let alone want, another four years of his so-called "consensus leadership" skills on top of the five years we've already suffered through?

As part of his jobs-jobs-jobs agenda, Lee appears to have potentially been on a City-jobs buying binge.

Given his plunging approval ratings, voters would be wise to elect anyone-but-Ed-Lee, or cast no vote for mayor. There's plenty of upside in withholding your vote for mayor.

In just a short two-year period, Mayor Lee's approval rating plunged nearly 30%, from 65% favorable approval in 2013 to just 38% as late as April 2015. Concomitantly, his disapproval ratings have soared by almost 20%, from 28% in January 2013 to 46% April 2015. For all anyone knows, his approval ratings may have plunged even further since last April. With numbers like these, who would vote for him?

"Jobs, Jobs, Jobs": Patronage City Jobs?

Between the time Lee was appointed Mayor at the half-way point in FY 2010–2011 and the end of

FY 2014–2015 in June 2015, the City's payroll increased by a staggering 13.1%, from 34,576 employees to 39,122 employees, an increase of 4,546 additional City employees, which added over a half-billion dollars in total pay excluding increases in benefits and retirement costs over the five fiscal years during his tenure.

Cushy Management Positions

Digging deeper looking into the City Controller's payroll database, it turns out that of the addition 4,546 employees, fully 2,971 (65.4%) are employees earning over \$100,000 annually Those 2,971 new employees suck \$491,869,027 (94.1 %) of the increased \$522,510,769 in increased payroll costs during Lee's tenure. They represent 64.5% of new hires, but gobble 94.1% of the increased payroll.

Why did the Mayor need to hire 1,265 more employees earning between \$149,000 and \$199,999 plus another 559 more employees earning \$200,000 and up? Combined, the 1,824 additional employees earning over \$150,000 cost \$345,405,936, fully 66% of the \$522.5 million increase in the City's payroll.

The data shows that between citywide senior managers and senior managers at MUNI, the Mayor added 129 such positions, at a cost of \$30 million, including 31 additional Deputy Directors and Department Heads at a cost of \$7.5 million. Why did Mayor Lee need another 31 deputy directors and department heads to run City government?

Since 2003, when former City Supervisor Tom Ammiano first identified a problem with just 2,918 then-City employees earning greater than \$90,000 annually, we now have 11,886 more employees who do — yes, nearly *twelve thousand* more — costing \$1.7 *billion* more than in 2003.

Also since 2003, the City hired or promoted 620 senior managers citywide, including an additional 124 deputy directors and department heads, costing an additional \$100 million annually in salaries alone. Can anyone explain why San Francisco needed 124 more deputy directors and department heads, 25% (31) of whom were added during Lee's five-year tenure?

Allegations of Corruption

When San Franciscans reached for their morning copy of the *San Francisco*



Examiner on August 5, they were roundly, and uniformly, shocked to read an *exposé* of allegations of public corruption, featuring photos of Mayor Lee and Board of Supervisors president London Breed, plastered across the front page.

The story's headline on page four reading "Mayor allegedly took bribes in exchanges for favors" came as a complete shock to most San Franciscans, despite rumors of City Hall corruption that have circulated for decades.

Evidence presented in the racketeering prosecution of Raymond "Shrimp Boy" Chow reportedly alleged implication of a wide array of City and State leaders, including Mayor Lee, involving alleged bribery schemes, pay-to-play plots, campaign contribution money laundering, and state construction contract rigging, according to a filing in Federal court the day before by "Shrimp Boy's" attorneys.

"Shrimp Boy's" attorneys requested the case against him be dismissed due to the alleged selective prosecution of him, but not prosecution of Mayor Lee, among others. The court fil-

ing quotes and references FBI wiretaps, body wires, agents and sources. Then

San Francisco Human Rights Commissioner Nazly Mohajer was recorded on tape explaining how she laundered Lee's campaign money.

The next day, on August 6, we were even more shocked to

read Jonah Owen Lamb's hardcopy article in the *Examiner*, which reported "Mayor Ed Lee knew his underlings were arranging campaign money laundering schemes, and they were caught saying as much on FBI wires ..." In addition to Mohajer, former Human Rights Commission staff member Zula Jones was also caught on wire saying Lee "knew he was taking the money illegally."

Reportedly, Lee met with an undercover FBI agent April 6, 2012 and discussed the first \$10,000 illegal "straw donor" contributions to break up one person's contributions exceeding donor limits into smaller contributions. During an April 25, 2012 phone call, Mohajer spoke ill of the Mayor, saying she found San Francisco politicians are extremely corrupt and that Ed Lee "is worse than all of them."

On August 14, Jonah Owen Lamb reported in the *Examiner* that "Shrimp Boy" Chow's August 4 motion also asserted that Annemarie Conroy — who is currently in charge of External Affairs for the U.S. Attorney's Office and has connections to San Francisco City politicians — "used her position of influence to cull political figures out of the prosecution, and selectively prosecute others." In other words, Mr. Lamb reported Ms. Conroy appears to have spared prosecution of Mayor Lee.

By August 27, the *Examiner* carried its "Broke-Ass Stuart" (a.k.a., Stuart Schuffman) columnist's article on how to fix San Francisco's corruption problem. Stuart — who is running for election as mayor in November — observed:

"The corruption in this town has become unbearable. It's so blatant that it's hit a point of arrogance. The mayor and his cronies feel untouchable and because of this, things are getting worse, far worse."

Upside in Not Voting for a Mayor

I recommend that you cast no vote for mayor at all. This will not only send a signal to Lee that voters totally disapprove

Cont. p. 7

Commentary

Power and Housing

By Steve Lawrence

Since 2002, when the electorate relieved SFPUC (water, sewer, power) from the need to obtain voter approval for its bond funds, SFPUC has been expanding. Need money? Most city agencies must ask voters for it; not SFPUC.



While its \$4.7 billion water program is unfinished, and SFPUC is just getting under ground on its \$6.9 billion sewer program, next year SFPUC will open a retail power sales business. Called CleanPowerSF, it will sell electricity in competition with the much-despised PG&E. Juice flows in the Spring.

Part of this new endeavor is more ambitious than merely poking PG&E in its bread basket. CleanPowerSF plans to build local and regional renewable power-generating facilities.

At first CleanPowerSF will buy much of the power it will sell, including renewable energy, on the open market. The hope is to gradually generate ever more renewable power itself. In this way residents will be put to work. The electrical workers union, which belatedly is on board, looks forward to build-out work.

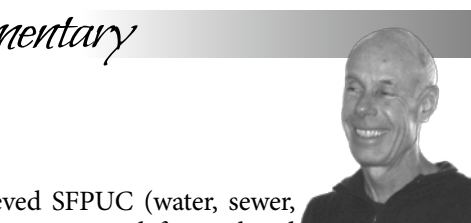
What is the plan? Competitor PG&E is under much pressure to supply an ever higher percentage of renewable energy. There is demand aplenty. Why hasn't that demand been sufficient to motivate the building of the renewable generation facilities CleanPowerSF plans? Are the projects CleanPowerSF plans economical? CleanPowerSF must keep its prices comparable to PG&E's, or its customers will bail.

CleanPowerSF does start with some advantages. The City has already built solar on rooftops of Moscone Convention Center, and other public buildings around town. That power gives CleanPowerSF a head start.

Going forward, CleanPowerSF plans to site renewable generation at properties owned or controlled by SFPUC. Using property for a second purpose, CleanPowerSF may not need to pay full freight. Such projects will probably be built and operated by a contractor pursuant to a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) under which all power generated will be sold to CleanPowerSF at a given cost for a set number of years.

Consultants have recommended where CleanPowerSF can build renewable generation. Solar, wind and geothermal facilities are likely to be built. Over fifty megawatts of solar is said to be possible, located in Sunol Valley, SFO (parking lot), Hunters Point, at various reservoirs and water storage facilities around town, and at Piers 90-94. Wind generation could provide up to over 300 megawatts, almost all at regional sites, including Walnut Grove, Montezuma Hills, Sunol, Altamont Pass, Tesla and Oceanside water facilities. Small hydro projects, and a geothermal expansion, may also be pursued.

How this ambitious building program plays out is anyone's guess. CleanPowerSF is looking to invest "profits" from early sales in its build-out program. Also, bonds will be sold to fund the build-out. While no voter approvals are needed to sell bonds, CleanPowerSF must convince creditors that it is a worthwhile credit risk. This is a new venture. Consultants believe SFPUC has the expertise to go into business, but it lacks a track record and is unproven. As an enterprise department, taxpayers are not to pay; revenues generated are to cover costs. (However, six million dollars of City



Long after the public officials strut and crow, CleanPowerSF will be building away. One hopes the resulting facilities will economically generate electricity. If not, you'll be reading about another city "boondoggle."

money has been fronted for startup.)

What would build-out of renewable generation facilities cost? That is the big question. Mid-range estimates are that 56 megawatts of solar might be put up for \$173 million, a bit over \$3 million capital cost per megawatt. For wind, the estimate is \$732 million for 328 megawatts, or about \$2.25 million per megawatt. Geothermal is penciled in at considerably more. Solar prices have been declining. Wind is drawing more attention because of bird and bat kills; will its cost rise accordingly?

Although no schedule is yet firm, \$200 million of bonds might be sold during the first five years, documents show. Build-out should begin in year two, with some rooftop solar in year one as well. The build-out schedule will be dependent on finances, still a big question mark.

Costs can easily multiply. CleanPowerSF will charge the cost of SFPUC employees who work on the matter. It must obtain environmental clearances, or pay a private contractor to do so. It will be using land for two purposes, instead of just the one now involved (say water transmission). It must connect up to the grid, or bring power to the city directly. There are always changes and claims. For the water program, now four-fifths done, these have increased costs more than twenty percent (and not all are solved).

Supervisors keen to take a poke at PG&E are cheering on CleanPowerSF. Even the mayor has come around to supporting what had been viewed as a dubious endeavor, financially dangerous. Long after the public officials strut and crow, CleanPowerSF will be building away. One hopes the resulting facilities will economically generate electricity. If not, you'll be reading about another city "boondoggle."

Returning to the stoop: SF's affordable housing policy. While there are a wide range of numbers, among the latest is Lee's 10,000 affordable units by 2020, 2000 per year.

But not counted, nor seemingly considered, are affordable units taken off the market. Some go Ellis Act; some may go because they have been "affordable" for the agreed number of years, usually twenty-five, which are up. Are we not interested in adding units, net? Why not follow the change in the number of affordable units. The population of SF is increasing on the order of 10,000 per year. What percentage of newcomers require affordable units? At 2000 per year, are we getting ahead or further behind?

Better yet, review housing policy. For years city government led the way towards affordable housing. Is it succeeding? If not, perhaps a course change is indicated? How about zoning rationally, and unleashing the private market? Sure, in the short-term the new housing built will be luxury. But in the longer run the full spectrum of demand should be balanced with supply. We have a housing policy that has not worked, is not working, and yet our leaders clamor for more. What's the definition of insane?

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



My 2¢ • Will Durst © 2015

GREED NOT GOOD.

Get this. And get it straight. Gordon Gekko was wrong. Greed is not good. Greed is bad. Greed eats away the core of society like a golden parasitic leech the size of Manitoba. Or Saskatchewan. One of those Provinces or Territories or Protectorates or whatever they use in Canada to keep their license plates distinct.

...when a man who sucks up to bigots and racists calls you shameless, it's definitely time to rethink your priorities."

And practicing and/ or defending greed makes you nothing but a blood-sucking tick no matter how fancy a suit you're wearing. Or size of the diamonds around your wrist. Or how free-range the organic heirloom Chicken Florentine is on your plate.

The movie "Wall Street" came out in 1987. And after Vietnam and Watergate and an oil embargo and 4 years of scolding by Jimmy Carter, a little irrational exuberance may have seemed warranted. But that was 30 years ago. Too much is no longer not enough. Too much has gotten way out of hand. Today's too much is much much too much.

In his UN address, the Pope said it best. "A selfish and boundless thirst for power and material prosperity leads both to the misuse of available natural resources and to the exclusion of the weak and disadvantaged." You know what; he's right. Got to love Papa Frankie. The guy is like a slightly older more lovable Argentinian Bernie Sanders. With the crank dialed down to a manageable hum.

Let's be honest; what we're really talking about here is that idiot CEO, Martin Shkreli who raised the price of the life-saving drug, Daraprim, from \$13.50 a pill to \$750 each, because, and I quote, he "needs to start making a profit." A 5,455% increase: which if produce distributors did to onions would make a side of rings about 3 grand.

This rapacious price gouge follows in the carnivorous footsteps of Gilead Sciences who developed a drug called Solvadi, a cure for Hepatitis C. The treatment regimen consists of 84 pills. Each one costing 1000 dollars. That's right. 84 thousand dollars. But then you're cured. And after all,

how much is your life worth? Half of what you own? Everything? Your first born?

Gilead Sciences is publicly traded, but Turing Pharmaceuticals has no stockholders to report to. Just Shkreli, the former hedge fund manager. A group known for having the same conscience as starving hyenas in heat. These guys make a safari of lion-killing dentists look cuddlesome.

Remember the traders who advised clients to buy stocks that they themselves were getting rid of? Them's our boys. The mindset of a hedge funder is whatever it takes to make the most money: lie, cheat, steal and worse. They rewrote the book on worse.

And now that worse includes letting people die for profit. We've moved beyond taxing hedge fund managers at the same rate as real humans and moved into deciding how long the season should be for hedge fund manager hunting. Bows? Shotguns? Anti-tank guided weapons?

What's to keep these guys from creating diseases for which their companies conveniently have the antidote? Ethics? How often have Republicans lectured us: there is no ethical consideration, only business.

Speaking of ethically challenged, even Donald Trump called the price hike a disgrace and said Shkreli should be ashamed of himself. And when a man who sucks up to bigots and racists calls you shameless, it's definitely time to rethink your priorities.

Will Durst is an award-winning, nationally acclaimed columnist and comedian. Go to willdurst.com for info about his new one-man show "Boomeraging: From LSD to OMG," and the documentary "3 Still Standing" premiering at the Roxie in SF on Oct. 9.

WESTSIDE OBSERVER

Award Winning News for the Neighborhood
— Society of Professional Journalists

Correction: A photograph of Supervisor Jane Kim was incorrectly identified as Supervisor Katy Tang in the September edition. We regret the error.

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No, No, No - Farrell (Cont. from p. 1)

taxpayers to pay the bill, and save millions in bond interest payments. Further, there are also balances as of June 30, 2015 in two existing City trust funds for affordable housing totaling approximately \$95.7 million that are unencumbered.

I can't get over that the Mayor's FY2015-16 budget of \$8.96 billion is \$1 billion more than it was 2 years ago and City Hall is still asking homeowners for more. Something is really wrong here. City Hall must be made accountable. **No on Prop A. No on Prop D - Mission Rock Development** - The SF Giants organization wants to transform a 28-acre industrial site on Port property, currently used as a surface parking lot for Giants games, into a mixed-use, 11 building \$1.6 billion development featuring waterfront parks, 1500 rental units with 33% of affordable housing, retail and 1.5 million sq ft of office space, a new parking garage and the restoration of historic Pier 48 for a new Anchor Steam Brewery.

The Mission Rock Initiative on the November ballot would allow the Giants to increase the existing height limit of 40 feet on waterfront land to 90 to 190 feet for office and retail uses and 120 to 240 feet for rental housing, with 33% of the units dedicated for affordable housing.

If this was another developer besides the Giants I believe they wouldn't even consider going to the voters asking for such a large increase in the height. The only reason that this initiative is being put to the voters is because of the increase in the waterfront height limits as required by Prop B. Prop B was approved by the voters in June of 2014, which prevented the City from allowing any development on Port property to exceed the height limits in effect as of January 1, 2014 unless the City's voters approved the height limit increase.

Over the next month, the Giants organization and its political allies will stress the affordable housing, job creation, waterfront parks, and transforming a parking lot into a neighborhood asset. Which is fabulous and needed. But if they really care, then drop the height more. Isn't it deceiving that Prop D is about height limits but is not mentioned in any of the Yes on Prop D ads. But that's politics.

The 40 ft height limit was set to protect the waterfront. The voters approved the Pier 70 development project which increased the height to 90 ft. The voters

rejected the 8 Washington project which wanted to increase the height limit to 130 ft but provided no affordable housing on site. The Mission Rock Initiative by the Giants organization is asking for a height increase of buildings up to 240 ft (24 stories), and is way out of line (Just think of the 18 story Fontana West at the end of Van Ness Ave and picture it 1/3 or 6 stories higher). But that is my opinion. I'm just a fool who loves this City and doesn't want another eyesore on our City landscape, especially not on our waterfront. No on Prop D.

By the way, if you added all the heights of the eleven buildings and divided by eleven and made adjustments for the bases of the buildings than you would accommodate all the space needed for the project with building heights of no more than 150 feet (15 stories). But that is my opinion. That's a win win.

No on Prop I - Suspension of Market Rate Mission District Housing - If passed the City would suspend the issuance of permits in the Mission District for market rate housing for 18 months and develop a stabilization plan. The Mission District has gone through a dramatic change due to gentrification displacing lower income residents and small businesses. Without gentrification we wouldn't have the Castro, Noe Valley, Alamo Square and other neighborhoods that were rundown and people came in and fixed up the properties increasing the value of the neighborhoods. The Mission has been up and coming for the last 50 years and was considered a tough neighborhood and rundown. It is now becoming a chic neighborhood due to gentrification. The problem is not gentrification; the problem is no vision from the government to provide affordable housing for low-income and middle class. There is also a problem with quality of life issues which is not even being addressed. No on Prop I.

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

FARRELL'S BALLOT GUIDE

Prop A Housing BondNo

Prop D Waterfront Development No

Prop I Housing Moratorium No

Quentin Kopp (Cont. from p. 3)

ballot "litter." G is sponsored by Electrical Workers Local 1245, which is in bed with PG&E in trying to delay so-called "clean" energy like sun and wind power. The union abandoned Proposition G a month ago, and Proposition H is now the favorite of City Hall. You can play their silly games by not voting on either or voting for Prop H and against Prop G.

Proposition I is essentially in the same "silly" league. It's an effort by the most left wing San Francisco Supervisors to stop housing construction in the Mission District for 18 months. **I'm voting against it.**

Proposition J sorrowfully is an "only in San Francisco" measure. It establishes a Legacy Businesses Historic Preservation Fund, which will cost taxpayers \$3,700,000 this year, rising to as much as \$94,000,000 annually by 2040. It allows businesses and even their landlords, once nominated by any supervisor or the Mayor to obtain taxpayer money. Not even the "People's Republic of Berkeley" gives away taxpayer money to pay landlords and keep certain (but remember, not all) businesses in existence. Proposition J enables City Hall-chosen businesses and their landlords to secure annual taxpayer grants even though, as the Libertarian Party of San Francisco notes, they "make a lot of money on their own . . ." As many as 300 businesses will be eligible annually for taxpayer money. Grants to landlords could reach \$63,000,000 annually by 2040, says the City Controller. Businesses open and close. Businesses are successful and unsuccessful. Businesses like the City of Paris, W.

J. Sloane, the Flytrap, Hungry i, and Capp's Corner come and go. If an enterprise is genuinely "healthy," to use City Hall's ballot argument, it will continue to exist. Why should taxpayers subsidize landlords and businesses like Boudin Bakery or Recology, which are the largest donors? **I'm voting "no" on Proposition J.** I strongly urge readers to do so, too.

Proposition K Lastly, Proposition K signifies yet another City Hall effort to control who receives the benefit of taxpayer assets, in this instance taxpayer-owned real estate deemed surplus by City Hall bureaucrats. It establishes a percentage quota for the always-clamoring subsidized housing parasites instead of simply selling taxpayer-owned assets for market value. The city budget for 2015-2016 is almost \$9,000,000,000. It exceeds Los Angeles, which has a population of approximately 4,000,000 people, by several million dollars. That's chiefly due in our city of 850,000 residents to financial disregard and catering to special interests, whether technology billionaires or nonprofit City Hall regulars. Proposition K is yet another instance in which "pork barrel" projects will be enriched by the proceeds of surplus public land sales. Taxpayer-owned land should be sold at market value, not for subsidies. That's why **I urgently recommend a vote against Proposition K.**

To summarize, it's "Yes on Propositions C, D and F and "No" on A, B, E, I, J and K. Don't waste your time on G and H.

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

Eucalyptus(Cont. from p. 1)

unwelcome immigrants.

The question facing San Francisco is: Do we really want to see most of the trees on Mount Sutro and Mount Davidson cut down because of the preference of some people for the former, treeless San Francisco? Do we, as a City, really want to support an ideology that says arbitrarily defined natives are "better" than more recent arrivals, even those who have been here for over a hundred years?

Let's look more closely at the arguments against eucalypts.

For years, native plant advocates said eucalyptus trees were highly "invasive" and would spread uncontrollably if left alone, and, therefore, should be cut down. The California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC) originally agreed. But last March, after significant criticism of that position, Cal-IPC took another look at eucalypts. As a result, they have downgraded the invasiveness of blue gum eucalyptus trees from "moderate" to "limited."

Just look at Mount Davidson, half covered in a eucalyptus forest, and half covered in grassland. The borderline between the two halves hasn't changed significantly in over 100 years. Eucalypts are not the invasive threat we'd been told they were.

Native plant advocates then tried to claim that eucalyptus leaves that fall to the ground contain chemicals that kill all other plants, turning forest floors into ecological deserts or "mono-cultures" to justify cutting them down. However, laboratory studies and inventories of plants on the ground around trees have largely disproved this old wives' tale. Indeed, as part of its re-evaluation of eucalypts, Cal-IPC removed most references to eucalyptus leaf litter killing plants on the forest floor.

The Cal-IPC re-evaluation also noted that eucalyptus trees provide needed habitat for raptors, owls, and other animals. They are one of the few sources of nectar available during winter months for bees, hummingbirds, and monarch butterflies. Turns out, cutting down eucalypts won't help forest biodiversity.

Searching for a new justification, native plant advocates then seized on the idea that the trees present a significant fire danger. This grew out of the 1991 Oakland Hills firestorm, in which eucalyptus trees (along with nearly everything else) burned. Native plant advocates told us that had the eucalypts not been there, the tragedy might not have happened.

But there have been other urban wildfires in which eucalyptus trees did not burn. For example, in the 2003 Scripps Ranch Fire in San Diego, wildfire swept through a subdivision, burning houses to the ground, but leaving adjacent eucalyptus trees untouched. Clearly, at Scripps Ranch, fire plus eucalypts did not equal disaster.

The Oakland fire occurred after a prolonged, deep winter freeze in the East Bay. According to a FEMA analysis, the freeze caused many plants to die and eucalypts to drop more leaves than usual onto the ground. The increased ground litter and dead vegetation was never cleaned up and contributed more fuel to the fire than would normally have been found in a eucalyptus forest.

Generally speaking, wildfires start in grass or in litter on the ground, as happened in Oakland. Grass fires spread quickly, but, on their own, tend to stay close to the ground and don't burn hot enough to ignite trees. It's only if the grass fire moves into shrubs and bushes that it begins to burn hotter and higher. According to wildfire experts at the US Geological Survey, only 3% of fires in California involve trees.

What ignites trees in a wildfire is wind. In Oakland, a strong, hot, dry wind pushed the fire. When wind whips up a grass fire, it can burn everything in its path - grass, shrubs, trees, and, tragically, homes.

The fear-mongering that warns of an Oakland-style firestorm in San Francisco ignores an important fact - San Francisco is not Oakland. The conditions that caused

the Oakland fire - dry, hot temperatures after a prolonged, deep winter freeze - do not occur in San Francisco's moderate, foggy climate. Eucalypts are not the fire danger here that we've been told.

It is ironic that native plant advocates cite fire as a reason to cut down non-native eucalyptus trees since they want to replace the forests with native grassland. Grass ignites easily; trees don't. Replacing eucalyptus forests with native grassland may actually *increase* the fire danger to surrounding homes.

What about the drought? Is it killing the eucalyptus? Jake Sigg, a well-known native plant advocate, has called for cutting down blue gum eucalyptus in city parks for over a decade. He has cited all the reasons debunked above. Now he's claiming that in the next few years, all the eucalyptus will be dead from the drought.

Sigg claims that epicormic sprouts, an unusual growth of leaves, have recently been seen on eucalyptus in San Francisco, and are a sure sign the trees will soon die. Except, that's not true. Epicormic sprouts are a survival mechanism for eucalyptus trees. Sometimes, they're a response to stress, but other times they're just part of the normal growth cycle of the tree. The epicormic sprouts Sigg is seeing are actually a sign the trees are coping with the drought, not necessarily surrendering to it.

Ironically, the drought is not the only environmental stressor facing the eucalypts. Over the past few years, thousands of the trees have been cut down in San Francisco to "thin" the non-native forests. Thinning changes the environment in which the remaining trees live - more light, more wind, less fog drip, herbicides use, etc. - all of which can trigger the trees' protective response of epicormic sprouting.

Academic foresters and professional arborists who have looked at eucalyptus in San Francisco city parks say the forests are largely healthy, even with the sprouts, and they expect the trees to live another 200 years.

This discussion about eucalyptus trees isn't just academic. The San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department has a Natural Areas Program (NAP) that plans to convert existing habitat (including eucalyptus forests) in one-quarter of the City's parkland to a native plant gardens. The NAP Management Plan (its Final EIR will be released soon) calls for the removal of over 18,000 healthy, mature trees, mostly eucalypts, because they are non-native and so that they can be replaced with native grasses and scrub. On Mount Davidson, for example, 1,600 trees are slated for removal.

NAP also endorses the repeated and large-scale use of the toxic herbicides (such as Roundup, recently classified as a probable carcinogen) in its "natural" areas. The herbicides, applied to eucalyptus stumps, are the only way to prevent felled trees from re-sprouting.

San Francisco will soon have to decide if it really wants to decimate its urban forests in the name of native plant ideology. No one is saying that dead trees or branches should not be removed to protect the public. That's not what this "debate" about eucalypts is about.

San Francisco has significantly fewer trees than most cities our size. Mature trees scrub carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere, helping reduce the effects of climate change. We need *more* trees, not less.

Our choice - protect healthy trees that may have originated somewhere else but have thrived here for over a century, or cut them down in service to an ideology that says anything not native is bad simply because it hasn't been here long enough.

Nancy Wuerfel served on the Park, Recreation and Open Space Advisory Committee for nine years. Sally Stephens is Vice-President of the West of Twin Peaks Central Council. Avrum Shepard is a Past-President of the Greater West Portal Neighborhood Association.

Our Intractable Housing Crisis

By Howard Strassner

San Francisco has a housing crisis as indicated by the lowest Housing Affordability Index in the country. The Index compares the median household income with the income needed to purchase a median-priced house. For many of us the Index is just a number and the crisis is one that many of us want because it means that the price of our house will continually increase. But, for someone who makes just about the median income and needs a place to live, the crisis is real when they are compelled to move for a very long commute, or pay a rent that is so high that they can have no expectation of saving enough to ever own a place of their own or helping a child to get an education.

The reasons for this crisis are easily understood if one considers that our Planning Code limits housing to one or two units per lot for about 20 square miles of our City. The rest of our 48 square miles is: commercial; industrial; public space; high rise residential; and thankfully, many small and few large parks. The shortage of space allowable for dense housing is compounded by the great number of very well-compensated jobs in the Bay area. In economic terms there is a lot of money seeking the limited supply of existing or possible new housing. Mean while the median income, which is based on employment in most fields, is much lower than highly-compensated lawyers, bankers, and techies who bid up the price for the limited supply of housing. This supply and demand scenario is further compounded in a City with very desirable, climate, scenery, and culture.

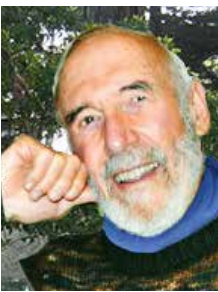
The problem today is that our Planning Code was established by a democratic process, over many years, which included the approval of elected Supervisors and Mayors. Or another way to say this is that in the past most of us wanted to limit opportunities for new dense housing near where we live because we didn't want the shadows from the tall buildings, or to think about who might live in the

buildings. Some of us wanted to preserve our views, or keep our curb side parking space, or just maintain the best compromise possible with our ideal of suburban living.

This is not a new phenomenon, San Francisco has been trying to avoid this crisis and provide affordable housing for over seventy years. First we used federal funds to build low rise projects for war workers, and then we used these projects and others for our most needy. That just concentrated problems, and poor management by a City agency made things worse. But, it was politically acceptable because not too many voters lived nearby. Next we tried a mild form of rent control, which was acceptable because not too many voters knew investment property owners and it didn't apply to new construction. Meanwhile zoning controls were imposed, by popular demand of Nimbys, over most of the City, to limit most new housing sites to single family and low rise. There was strong political support to just ignore the housing demands of people who wanted to share our very desirable, climate, scenery, and culture, unless they were very wealthy.

Of course this deepened the affordability problem, so we moved on to mandate that a portion of all larger new housing projects be affordable to those earning less than our median income. This attempt at a solution during the early stages of the affordability crisis had some good features. Developers provided some affordable

Cont. p. 19



Drought Forum

San Francisco Tomorrow and the Potrero Hill Demo Club present a forum on the impact of the worst drought in 1300 years on the Bay environment and residents of the city. Are we - our governments, and our water agencies - doing enough to prepare for and deal with drought, especially given the realities of climate change? Tues, Oct 6, 7-9 PM • Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 DeHaro Street (Take 19-Polk to Southern Heights) Panelists include state as well as local experts on drought, climate change, and the Bay, including Adam Scow, Food and Water Watch, Jennifer Clary, Clean Water Action, Barry Nelson, Western Water Strategies

Vote No on Mayor Lee (Cont. from p. 4) of his performance, it will also help make placing citizens signature petition initiatives for future municipal elections easier.

Consider this: In the November 2011, only 197,242 of 464,380 registered San Francisco voters bothered to vote. Voter turnout in 2011 was just 42.47%, up from 35.6% voter turnout in the November 2007 election when only 149,465 ballots were cast by then 419,598 registered voters.

Given election results in the election of Gavin Newsom for mayor in 2007, just 7,168 valid signatures of registered San Francisco voters were required in 2011 to qualify a proposed signature petition initiative for the ballot, since City Charter §14.101 stipulates the signature threshold is based on 5% of the entire vote cast for all candidates for mayor at the last preceding regular municipal election. Based on the turnout for Ed Lee for mayor in 2011, the signature threshold climbed to 9,862 for the November 2014 election, an increase of nearly 2,700 additional signatures to qualify an initiative for the ballot.

Notably, under ranked choice voting, if you skip filling in a ranked choice slot, a quirk in San Francisco election law transfers your ranked choices. When first-choice ranking is skipped as required, San Francisco Charter Sec. 13.102 states: "If a voter casts a ranked-choice ballot but skips a rank, the voter's vote shall be transferred to that voter's next ranked choice," whether that's what you intended to do, or not.

Simply by not casting any vote for mayor in November 2015, you will help drive down the number of signatures required to place citizen signature petition

initiatives on future ballots.

But if you feel compelled to vote for a candidate for mayor, remember that the election is ranked choice. Consider voting for these three candidates, in ranked order: #1: **Francisco Herrera**, #2: **Amy Farah Weiss**, and #3: **Stuart Schuffman**. Or you could write yourself in (or anyone) as a write-in candidate for Rank #1, and not cast any votes for Ranks 2 and 3, if you're really compelled to vote for someone.

Just don't vote for Ed Lee, who needs to be sent a message voters have completely had it with his housing policies that favor speculators and developers, which is fueling massive displacement of long-time San Franciscans.

After all, the Mayor's dismissive remark that requiring 33% of new housing to be affordable is merely a "sentimental number" is insulting to those who've already been displaced out of town, and to those who soon will be.

Let's hand Ed Lee far fewer than the 59,775 votes he garnered during the first round of ranked choice votes in 2011. Maybe that will send him a signal he needs to rapidly become the "people's mayor," not the "developer's mayor."

An expanded version of this article will appear on www.stopLHHdownsize.com.

Monette-Shaw is an open-government accountability advocate, a patient advocate, and a member of California's First Amendment Coalition. He received the Society of Professional Journalists-Northern California Chapter's **James Madison Freedom of Information Award** in the **Advocacy** category in March 2012. **Feedback:** <mailto:monette-shaw@westsideobserver.com>.



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Money Matters By Brandon Miller

A Reminder That Markets Move up and Down



It's happened many times before, but when we experienced a serious downward move in stocks in late August, it caught many investors off guard since we hadn't been through such a shift for quite some time. Beginning on August 18 and ending on August 25, the Dow Jones Industrial Average lost nearly 1,900 points or more than 10 percent of its value — a significant drop in a condensed period of time. At the close on August 25, 2015 the Dow Jones Index actually fell more than 14 percent from the year-to-date high it reached in mid-May.

More surprising than the drop itself may be that it had been roughly three years since the U.S. stock market experienced a correction of at least 10 percent.² Historically, such corrections tend to happen more frequently — on average once every two years since 1932.²

Markets move in unexpected ways

Stock markets are notoriously unpredictable in the short term. The events of August 2015 are a reminder that the markets can move quickly with little or no warning. Nobody can say with certainty what will happen to stocks over the next week, month or even over the next year. For example, by early March of 2009, U.S. stock markets had lost more than 50 percent of their value over an 18-month period. The Dow Jones Industrial Average bottomed at 6,547 and fears were running high. At that point, many investors likely didn't think they'd see the Dow Index around the 18,000 level that it reached this year in May of 2015.

It's not about the markets — it's about you

It is important to look beyond the headlines and instead keep the focus on what you are trying to accomplish with your investments over time. Short-term market fluctuations are a fact of life, but they should not drive investment strategy. It is important to assess your willingness to accept investment risk in conjunction with the goals you are trying to achieve. A market correction may be a good time to step back and re-assess what you are trying to accomplish with your portfolio. Here are some things to consider:

If you have years to let your money grow

If you are still several years from retirement, there may be less reason to be concerned with short-term market swings. Make sure your portfolio is positioned in the most effective way to achieve your long-term goals consistent with the amount of fluctuation you are willing to accept over shorter periods. If you don't feel your portfolio is aligned with your goals given the recent bout of volatility, it may be time to work with a financial professional to reposition it.

If you are investing regularly in the market (such as contributions to your workplace retirement plan or an IRA), the volatility could work in your favor through dollar-cost averaging. This is a method of investing that helps reduce the risks of market timing by investing a fixed amount at regular intervals. When prices are low, your investment purchases more shares. When prices rise, you purchase fewer shares. Over time, the average cost of your shares will usually be lower than the average price of those shares. It does not assure a profit or protect against losses in a declining market. However, over longer periods of time it can be an effective means of accumulating shares. Investors should always consider their ability to continue investing through periods of low market prices.

If retirement is drawing near

Those who are within a few years of retirement tend to be more sensitive to short-term market moves and may want consider making some adjustments to their portfolios. This could include keeping more of your assets in less volatile investments that can help diversify stock market risk. Yet it's still important to balance the need for growth opportunity as well as less volatile assets with the likelihood that your retirement could last for two-to-three decades or longer. Your next move really depends on what stage of life you are in and how close you are to retirement. Now would be a good time to talk with financial professional about your portfolio.

The outlook? More unpredictability

If there is one thing we can count on in the days ahead, it is more speculation about where the stock market may be headed. Various experts will voice different opinions about whether a further correction is in the cards or a major rally is on the horizon. Don't be overly concerned with what you may read about in the papers or hear from TV pundits. Your own financial goals and the time you have to invest should guide your investment decisions.

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

Parkmerced (Cont. from p. 1)

Utilities Commission has investigated this issue. The SFPUC does not regulate reselling or third-party billing of its water. The City owns the water through the SFPUC. The City and County of San Francisco, the Mayor's Office, SFPUC General Manager and SFPUC Commissioners all have a fiduciary role in the reselling of San Francisco's water. Have violations of the law occurred regarding third-party billing for utilities at Parkmerced?

Some residents at Parkmerced are proposing a utility party, a meeting of residents to analyze the charges for utilities. Some worry that the cloud of shame would prevent residents from sharing as a community the different charges for the same utilities. In order to determine that rates are fairly charged, ask how many people reside in your apartment and what you are being charged for utilities. Residents can blackout their name and address on the utility bills to prevent Parkmerced's bullying and intimidation. As a former resident myself, I was issued two Three-Day Notices with different amounts. It does not take an accountant to analyze the utility fees charged to residents on file with the San Francisco Rent Board; anyone can see that the numbers simply do not add up.

There are frequent rumors of pay to play politics in the City. "Money Changes Everything," as the song by Cindy Lauper asserts. Passage of the Parkmerced Development Agreement and approval by the Mayor created a contractual agreement between Parkmerced and the City and County. The equity firm partner with Parkmerced Investors Properties, LLC paid the City nearly \$400 million dollars for the development agreement contract. Is Parkmerced too big to investigate? Could this be the reason why the SFPUC is silent on the utility issue at Parkmerced?

A recent scandal involved SFPUC employees who abused a program designed for low-income San Franciscans offered by the SFPUC, though they did not qualify for the low-income program. In short the

employees deprived residents of needed assistance, and the SFPUC squandered taxpayer funds that were needed for low-income residents. What has Mayor Lee done about the misappropriation of taxpayer dollars among SFPUC employees? What measures has he instituted to ensure it will never happen again?

There are low-income residents at Parkmerced who need assistance with utilities. Why is there no outreach to them? San Francisco is a sanctuary city. Why did the SF Board of Supervisors not pass any legislation or resolution regarding the utility issue? Why has there been no elected official advocating for the residents at Parkmerced? Why have the major newspapers not reported on this issue? They have customers who reside at Parkmerced.

Through the contractual agreement with Parkmerced the City and County is responsible for the infrastructure at Parkmerced. A law suit has been filed against the City and County of San Francisco, SF Board of Supervisors Eric Mar, Malia Cohen, Scott Wiener, Assemblyman David Chiu, Assessor Carmen Chu, Mayor Lee, City Attorney Dennis Herrera, District Attorney George Gascón, SFMTA and the SFPUC regarding the fiduciary responsibility regarding the issuance of Three-Day Notices at Parkmerced.

A utility party will answer some of these questions but not all of them. Voters must hold elected officials accountable. Many of the issues raised in this article can only be answered in a court of law.

The San Francisco Gray Panthers will have a meeting on Sunday, October 18, 2015 from 12:00 pm – 2:30 pm. It will be at the Main Public Library in the Koret Auditorium on the lower level. The meeting will be titled "Utility Party." San Franciscans who pay third-party utility fees are invited to the meeting. There will be guest speakers to discuss this important issue – bring your utility bill!

Lynn Gavin is a former Parkmerced resident.

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OCTOBER 2015

Welcome to October, the time of change as summer fades away and the changing colors of the leaves signify autumn and the move towards shorter days. October also means baseball playoffs (although not for our lads this year), the frenzy of football (a mixed bag for Bay Area teams) and of course the election season as we gear up for the local election on November 3rd. Agree with him or not, in this issue our erstwhile columnist and political pundit Quentin Kopp offers his take on the many propositions and items on the ballot.

This month also features the bewitching day of Halloween on the 31st, but we got an early taste with the lunar eclipse on September 27, which featured a “blood” or red moon; where the sun’s rays are diffracted by the earth to give the illusion that the moon has turned red. Out here on the edge of the world, we were privileged to have a good view of the phenomenon.



Halloween Celebration... The Sunnyside Neighborhood Association will be holding a spooky Halloween event at the St. Finn Barr Community Room on October 31st from 11:30 – 2:00 PM. Food, fun and much “spookiness”. The cost is \$5 for kids to attend.



La Boulange of San Francisco? - It has been reported that La Boulange founder Pascal Rigo has agreed to reopen 6 sites of the shut-



tered chain under a new enterprise “La Boulange of San Francisco”. The six sites do not include the location on West Portal Avenue, but ... is “Lemonade” on the horizon? Los Angeles-based Lemonade, a fast casual chain that in the words of its marketing department is “part lemonade stand, part grade-school cafeteria,” is reportedly in talks to set up shop in former La Boulange spaces. Unfortunately, website Eater SF reported (on 9/30) that while Lemonade is indeed taking over three of the former La Boulange sites, the West Portal location is not on the list, so the future of the property remains a mystery.

Beach Chalet Field Appeal Denied... the First Appellate District Court of San Francisco has ruled against the Sierra Club’s appeal of the renovation of the Beach Chalet Soccer fields. Recreation and Parks General Manager Phil Ginsberg released a statement saying, “This project is fundamentally about letting kids play. Through this renovation we will add 14,000 hours of play to our system each year. This victory is not just a court victory, it’s a victory for San Francisco’s kids.

Phil’s Coffee Break... drop in and see Assemblymember Phil Ting in the Richmond for a coffee break to share your ideas and questions concerning the state budget and legislation.
Saturday, October 17, 2015 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm at the Garden House Cafe at 3117 Clement Street.

Covered California Health Enrollment... Join Assemblymember Phil Ting November 1, also in the Richmond District for a Covered California Enrollment Fair- Covered California¹ is the state’s online health insurance marketplace where you can compare health plans and choose the one that’s best for you. Under the law, no one can be denied coverage for having a pre-existing condition. Representatives will also be present to help enroll individuals into Medi-Cal or Healthy San Francisco².
Sunday, November 1, 2015 from 1-4 pm at the Richmond Recreation Center, 251 18th Avenue.

Walk-ins are welcome; however, pre-registration is encouraged. For more information and to pre-register for enrollment, please call (415) 557-2312 or online.³

New Ingleside Library Garden unveiled... District 7 Supervisor Norman Yee, City Librarian Luis Herrera and public officials from San Francisco Public Works, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission and San Francisco Recreation and Parks, cut the ribbon Thursday Sept. 24, on the newest public open space in the Ingleside neighborhood. The Ingleside Branch Library’s courtyard merged with what was undeveloped San Francisco Public Utilities Commission land to offer up a community space. The new garden and play-to-learn area offers an expansion of reading area for library patrons and the public in general to enjoy.

The total budget for the project was \$550,000, jointly funded by San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, the Library and Supervisor Yee’s office.

Do you have any information, news, or other tidbits that you would like to share with the neighborhood? Just drop a line to me at: mitch @westsideobserver.com

1. CoveredCA.com
2. healthysanfrancisco.org/participants/time-to-renew/necessary-documents-to-enroll/
3. lcmspubcontact.lc.ca.gov/PublicLCMS/ADInfo/einvites/AD19/449_Covered_California_Enrollment_Fair.html

New Complaint Procedures Defeat Sunshine

By Peter Warfield

The City’s official check on open government compliance, the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force, has been considering changes to their “Public Complaint Procedure.” The group’s Chair, Allyson Washburn, said at the last meeting that she wants final decisions about the complaint procedure at the October 7 meeting.

It has never been easy for a member of the public to bring, and win, a complaint at the SOTF, but even more so after Supervisor Scott Wiener made sure, several years ago, that not a single member of an excellent, but independent, Task Force was re-appointed after he and several other supervisors were found by the then-existing SOTF to be in violation of the law in their handling of Parkmerced-related legislation.

After a period of many months during which the SOTF was unable to meet because the Supervisors had also refused to reappoint the only handicapped member, and the law requires that there be at all times such a member present, new members were appointed. Unfortunately, the SOTF has not dealt publicly with how to catch up on the resultant backlog of cases by, for example, discussing the problem at a meeting. Or by scheduling additional meetings until caught up, say meeting twice a month instead of only once a month. Or by stricter, prompter, and clearer enforcement of the law, so that violators are not encouraged to repeat by enjoying endless delays on hearings, multiple hearings at various subcommittees, and unclear Orders of Determination that fail to spell out precisely what action(s) caused what violations. Or by insisting

that the level of support from other city departments be as is called for in the Sunshine Ordinance: a “full-time staff person” from the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors and “an attorney from within the City Attorney’s Office ... [who] “shall serve solely as a legal advisor and advocate to the Task Force.” Or by referring all failures to comply, with SOTF orders to comply with the law, to the “district attorney or the attorney general” within 5 days (Sunshine Sec. 67.21(e)).

No, it appears the SOTF’s solution to the backlog will be to squash complaints via proposed changes to its Complaint Procedure, by discouraging, preventing, and even tossing out complaints from the public that come in over the transom. These proposed changes would throw major obstacles in the path of anyone complaining about violations of the law, and give a great deal of powerful new discretionary actions to an already over-worked and under-staffed “staff” rather than the Task Force or even its chair.

The new rules would allow the SOTF “staff” not to accept complaints at all, unless the staff determines that certain minimum criteria have been met. The complaint would be reviewed, by staff, to determine whether it is under

Cont. p. 14

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YES on K: Expands Use of Surplus City Land for Affordable Housing

Vote No

NO on F: Reduces Legal Home-Sharing Days

Takes income from homeowners and renters, costs millions in lost taxes

NO on I: Places Moratorium on Housing Construction in the Mission

Stops all housing production, driving housing costs higher

Vote YES on H and NO on G

SF FORWARD

SF Forward – the Political Action Committee (PAC) of the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce – is the political voice for businesses and residents who support sound economic policy and an exceptional quality of life for all San Franciscans. sfchamber.com/sf-forward

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TARAVAL STATION Crime Report

In the past 7 weeks I have been a busy Captain. I have spent much of that time, getting to know the hard working officers of Taraval Station and worked very closely with the community to address concerns of Burglaries, Auto Burglaries and Traffic Enforcement. Although being a captain of a station has its' challenges, interacting with the community is one of the most rewarding things I get to do in my role as Commanding Officer. ...I have to give special thanks to all the members of Taraval Station. In my short time as the Commanding Officer, I have witnessed dedicated officers doing outstanding police work. Your ability to meet daily challenges, rise above expectations and your understanding the community where you work, is to be commended. The Taraval SIT(Station Investigative Team) is one of the best in San Francisco. Their effort to address crime within the district does not go unrecognized. To all the members of Taraval, I am honored to be your Commanding Officer and look forward to working with you!!
NOTE: Not all crimes are reported in the weekly reports—this is a truncated version.



ordered the suspects to stop, two of the suspects fled and the third suspect was not located. Witnesses identified the suspects and both had stolen property in their possession. The suspects were arrested.

Suspect 1 & 2 – Arrested
Suspect 3 – Hispanic male :: 18-25 years :: 6’00” tall :: 170 lbs :: black hair

Saturday 9/5

DUI Traffic Violation – Arrested
1:19 pm | 1800 19th Ave
A vehicle made an illegal left turn, and officers made a traffic stop The driver who smelled of alcoholic beverages and showed signs of intoxication with slowed speech and watery, bloodshot eyes. The officers conducted a field sobriety test which the driver failed. He was arrested

Burglary – Arrested
12:47 am | 2300 Noriega St
A witness said that they saw the suspect enter the pharmacy section of a Safeway by climbing into the window’s gate. The intrusion set off the alarm and the suspect attempted to flee the scene but an employee and security guard were detained him. After a review of security footage, the suspect was arrested.

DUI – Traffic Violation – Arrested
11:29 pm | Kirkham St & 20th Ave
A driver was passed out inside a motor vehicle that was still in a traffic lane. Responding officers observed that the driver was indeed unconscious, had the smell of alcohol and the keys in the ignition, the vehicle in gear and still running. After the driver was revived, a field sobriety test confirmed the driver’s state. The driver was arrested.

DUI– Traffic Violation – Arrested
1:53 am | Sloat Blvd & 19th Ave
When officers responded to a second report of a driver that was passed out inside a motor vehicle which was still in a traffic lane, the driver was unconscious with the keys in the ignition, the vehicle in gear and still running. The driver smelled of alcohol. After the driver was revived a field sobriety test revealed the driver was drunk. He was arrested.

Sunday 9/6

Marijuana Offense – Arrested
2:43 pm | 700 Irving St
The manager of a coffee shop witnessed two males yelling and pushing each other. and called the officers when the remaining suspect refused to leave. A computer check revealed that the suspect had a warrant for his arrest. A search of the suspect also revealed marijuana and a marijuana pipe. The suspect was arrested.

Assault with force
2:00 am | 3000 San Jose Ave
A clerk for 7-11 was stuck in the head and did not know what had happened. A witness stated that two suspects were arguing with the victim over scratcher tickets. After the argument, the victim went outside to have a smoke. Once outside, one of the suspects punched the victim on the head and both suspects ran into a waiting vehicle that a third suspect was driving.

Suspect 1 – Hispanic male :: 25-30 years :: 5’11” tall :: 150 lbs :: black hair
Suspect 2 – Hispanic male :: 20-30 years :: 5’07” tall :: 150 lbs :: black hair
Suspect 3– Unknown
Suspect Vehicle – Black Honda Accord

Robbery
7:43 pm | Alemany Blvd & St Charles Ave
A woman was holding on to her cell phone when the suspect suddenly snatched it from her hand. She started yelling and chasing and grabbed one of the suspect’s

legs. Her neighbors jumped in to immobilized the suspect until the police arrived. The suspect was arrested.

Tuesday 9/8

Shoplifting – Arrested
5:39 pm | 3200 20th Ave
An employee saw the suspect select numerous items from the store and put them in his pockets, then left the store without paying. The officer was unable to confirm his identity therefore the suspect was arrested.

Shoplifting – Cited
9:00 am | 100 West Portal Ave
An officer was in the store when he observed a suspect take packages of coffee grounds and putting them in his pants. Failing to pay for the merchandise before he left the store, the officer detained the suspect and he was cited.

Wednesday 9/9

Robbery – Traffic Collision
7:47 pm | 800 Ulloa St
Three men approached a victim at a gas station. They asked first for directions, then for money, which he gave. When they demanded his iPhone, the victim punched one man who leaned into the open car window. The victim panicked and pressed on the gas causing a collision with another vehicle. The suspects fled the scene.

Suspect – Black male :: 20-25 years :: 5’9” tall :: 170 lbs :: black hair
Suspect – Black male :: 20-25 years :: 5’9” tall :: 190 lbs :: black hair
Suspect – Black male :: 20-25 years :: 5’7” tall :: 140 lbs :: black hair
Suspect vehicle silver Hyunda Sonata

Robbery – Fraud
7:42 pm | Moncada Way & Cedro Ave
A suspect told the victim her wallet was stolen and she needed her check cashed because her rent was due. The victim agreed to help. Another suspect joined them and both suspects demanded she take her own money out of the ATM. Intimidated, she took out some money and gave it to the suspects.

Suspect – Black female :: 32 years :: 5’4 tall :: 130 lbs :: brown hair
Suspect – Black male :: 30-35 years :: 5’7” tall :: 190 lbs :: black hair

Saturday 9/12

Sexual Battery
16:02 pm | 19th Ave & Judah St
The victim said the suspect grabbed her behind. The victim yelled at the suspect

and several other passengers assisted in making sure the suspect got off the bus. Officers detained and cited for the battery.

Robbery
10:05 am | 400 Orizaba St
The victims were sitting in a vehicle when two suspects, one with a gun, approached them and demanded their property. The victims complied and the suspects fled.
Suspect – Black male :: 20-23 years :: 5’10” tall :: 200 lbs :: black hair
Suspect – Black male :: 18-20 years

Sunday 9/13

Battery – Resisting or Delaying Officers – Under the influence of Alcohol
6:56 pm | 2300 Taraval St
Two suspects matching a description of a fight at a bar were walking away. Officers told them to stop. One complied, the other suspect continued to walk away. The victims (bartenders) said suspects attempted to punch the victims. One suspect was arrested for resisting and delaying. Both were arrested for being under the influence.

Battery
9:52 am | 300 Plymouth Ave
The victim, a bus driver, picked up the suspect at BART Station. Throughout the ride, he was screaming profanities. The driver told the suspect to be quiet or leave the bus. He punched the driver and exited the bus.
Suspect – Black male :: 30-40 years :: 5’09” tall :: 160 lbs :: bald

Monday 9/14

Robbery
5:07 am | Ocean Ave & Westgate Dr
A victim, walking down the street heard someone running up from behind. The suspect hit him on the back punched him in the face and stole his cell phone.
Suspect – Hispanic male :: 25-30 years :: 174 lbs :: black hair

Thursday 9/17

Assault – Threats
11:30 am | 19th Ave & Wawona St
The victim got off the 28 bus when he was choked and cut in the shoulders and stomach area. “Never come back to this location again” suspect told victim, he ran home.
Suspect – white male :: 20-30 years :: 6’00” tall :: 140 lbs :: black hair

NOTE: Crimes are reported as space is available, this is not a complete report, nor is the report online at taraval.org, but that site is a more complete source.

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San Francisco Walk for Farm Animals



Sat Oct 17 • Little Marina Green • 10 am

Meet **Gene Baur** national bestselling author and Farm Sanctuary President and Co-Founder. His new book *Living the Farm Sanctuary Life* (watch him on The Daily Show with Jon Stewart¹). *Time Magazine* calls Gene “the conscience of the food movement” and he is widely recognized as one of the most influential social justice activists of the 21st century for his work to change the way society views and treats farm animals. It’s a hot topic, especially in light of new Federal dietary recommendations that Americans eat less meat for health and environmental reasons.

Celebration: After walking, celebrate with vegan food, drinks, live music, prizes, and more! Rain or shine. \$15 register online², \$25 at event. (Children under 18 free, Dogs welcome).

1. cc.com/shows/the-daily-show-with-jon-stewart/interviews/rcpf6c/exclusive-gene-baur-extended-interview
2. events.walkforfarmanimals.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=donorDrive.event&eventID=684

October

C A L E N D A R

EVERY SUNDAY • FARMERS MARKET

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

EVERY TUE • COMPUTER SKILLS

Tue | 1:15-2:45 pm | Get help setting up email accounts, word processing & basic computer related tasks. Most Tuesdays at this time. Learn the basics of using a computer! Main Library, 100 Larkin St.

EVERY TUES • QUE SYRAH HAPPY HOUR

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

EVERY THURS – NIGHTLIFE

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

JAZZ FRIDAYS @ THE CLIFF HOUSE

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

FRIDAY NIGHTS @ THE DEYOUNG

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

FRIDAYS @ OFF THE GRID/FT. MASON

Every Fri | DJs 5-7:30/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? That’s a party! Ft. Mason Ctr. Two Marina Blvd.

TUE • DE YOUNG FREE DAY

Tue Oct 6 | 9:30 am - 5:15 pm | Art from the 17th -20th centuries, and native Americas, Africa, & Pacific. 50 Hagiwara Tea Garden Drive. Free first Tuesdays.

TUE • LEGION OF HONOR FREE DAY

Tue Oct 6 | 9:30 am - 5:15 pm | 4000 years of ancient and European art in the exquisite Beaux-Arts building in an unforgettable setting overlooking Golden Gate Bridge. 100 34th Ave. Free first Tues.

TUE • AUTHOR MEG WAITE CLAYTON

Tue Oct 6 | 7 pm | NY Times bestselling author of *The Wednesday Sisters*, returns with a transportive World War II novel inspired by real frontline stories about two American female journalists who, together, race the Allies to occupied Paris for the scoop of their lives. Bookshop West Portal, 80 West Portal Ave.

TUE • DISABLED HOUSING

Tue Oct 6 | 1 pm | Reasonable Accommodations in Housing Seminar will address fair housing for people with psychiatric and/or developmental disabilities. Everyone is welcome. People With Disabilities Foundation. Koret Auditorium, SF Public Library, 100 Larkin.

WED • GWPNA MEETING

Wed Oct 7 | 6:30 pm | Greater West Portal Neighborhood Assn meetings are open to all members and to the public, first Wed each Month. Playground Clubhouse, 131 Lenox Way. GWPNA.org

WED • SUNSHINE TASK FORCE

Wed Oct 7 | 4 pm | Consideration of changes to the complaint procedures. (See page 9) City Hall, Rm. 408.

SAT • RESILIENT SUNSET

Sat Oct 10 | 9:am | Reduce the impact of threats, such as earthquakes and tsunamis, as well increase its ability to respond and bounce back to times of stress – with a strong focus on protecting our most vulnerable neighbors. Grace Evangelical - 3201 Ulloa St

TUE • BASIC COMPUTER SKILLS DROP-IN

Every Sat Oct 10, 17, 24, 31 | 2 – 4 pm | Drop-in and get one-on-one help with a teen tech savvy volunteer! Bring your laptop, e-readers, gadgets, digital cameras, tablets, cell phones. We will try to help you figure it out. West Portal Branch, 190 Lenox Way.

SAT • 10 HOUR INTENSIVE SAT TEST

Sat Oct 10, 17, 24 | 10am | For the new “redesigned”

PACIFICANS CARE SPEAKEASY NIGHT

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SAT -You'll learn test strategy to help you score high, how to tackle the toughest trick questions, and how to put it all in context. This class will take place over four weeks leading up to an actual SAT/ACT administration. Register online at edupath.org/sf/ West Portal Branch, 190 Lenox Way.

SAT • GERMAR THE MAGICIAN

Sat Oct 10 | 2 pm | This incredible comedy-magic show includes the production of 2 live birds, a real bunny, awesome magic tricks, music, and lots of help from the audience. West Portal Branch, 190 Lenox Way

TUE • FILLMORE'S CABLE CARE

Tue Oct 13 | 7:30 pm | The Unique Fillmore Street Cable Car System was built in 1890s, a new unpow-ered cable counterbalance system whereby one cable car could pull another up the steep grade between Green and Broadway. 455 Golden Gate Ave. \$10 non-members (\$5 students, teachers, seniors, disabled).

TUE • SUCCEED AT WELLNESS GOALS

Tue Oct 13 | 6:30 pm | Designing your personal wellness strategy Sylvia Doss will lead your own strategy so you leave with a plan crafted especially for you. Sylvia Doss is a wellness expert and founder of Open Circles (OpenCircles.net) with 25 years experience with effective fitness and nutrition habits. An adjunct faculty member at GG University. This part of the Self Healing Series at West Portal Library. 190 Lenox Way.

THU • DOWNTOWN PLAN AT 30

Thu Oct 15 | 6 - 7:30 pm | Our City is vastly different than it was in 1985, but our plan for the downtown community remains a generation behind. Join us to discuss the future of this urban landscape, how we move people from point A to point B, and its increasing role as a central social district. SF Public Library's Koret Auditorium, 100 Larkin St.

SUN • AUTHOR ANNIE BARROWS

Sun Oct 18 | 11 am | 6th Annual Ivy + Bean Weekend with Special Guest Annie Barrows, an American author best known for the *Ivy and Bean* series of children's books, but she has written several other books for adult as well. Bookshop, West Portal, 80 W. Portal.

TUE • COMMUNITY SAFETY MEETING

Wed Oct 21 | 6 pm | Meet with Captain Denise Flaherty. 3rd Wed of the month. Minnie and Lovie Ward Recreation Center / 650 Capitol Ave. 759-3100.

WED • FILM: FED UP!

Wed Oct 21 | 6:30 | See the film the food industry does not want you to see! If Congress says pizza is a vegetable, then what else is going on? Features Oprah Winfrey, Bill Clinton, Katie Couric, and Gary Taubes. Popcorn! West Portal Branch, 190 Lenox Way.

THU • HAMLET / SF SHAKESPEARE

Thu Oct 22 | 6:30 pm | Hamlet - A live performance by The SF Shakespeare Festival. One of his finest commentaries on morality and the human condition. Our one-hour touring production travels to you with a cast of professional actors in costume, with set, props and live music. West Portal Branch, 190 Lenox.

THU • AUTHOR SAEEDA HAFIZ

Thu Oct 22 | 7 pm | *The Healing* - a young African-American woman signs up for lessons in yoga and cooking as a symbol that she has now entered the

middle class. Little does she know that this self-healing journey brings her face-to-face with inner demons fed by the domestic violence, addiction and poverty of her youth—a spiritual path of ultimate transformation. Bookshop West Portal, 80 W. Portal Ave.

SAT • NATIVE PLANT SALE

Sat Oct 24 | Afternoon | The CPNS annual native plant sale will be at the Miraloma Park Improvement Clubhouse. 350 Oshaughnessy Blvd. at Del Vale.

SUN • WALK TO END LUPUS

Sun Oct 26 | 9 am | Walk to End Lupus Now will raise money for lupus research and education programs, increase awareness of one of the world's cruellest, most unpredictable and devastating diseases. Register from 7:30 am, GG Park, Music Concourse lupus.donorpages.com/SanFranciscoWalk2015/

MON • CELL PHONE RADIATION

Mon Oct 27 | 6:30 pm | Mobilize: documentary explores the long-term health effects from cell phone radiation, including brain cancer and infertility. Q&A after. West Portal Branch, 190 Lenox Way.

TUE • WOMEN'S BOOK SHOWCASE

Tue Oct 29 | 7 pm | The ultimate writer's resource: author Martha Conway, *Thieving Forest*, has been called “extraordinary” and “hypnotic.” Author Carole Bumpus, a retired family therapist, novelist. *A Cup of Redemption*: an elderly woman's search for a father she never knew. Lisa Alpine, author of *Wild Life: Travel Adventures of a Worldly Woman* has won many awards for travel and her many short stories. Bookshop West Portal, 80 West Portal Ave.

MON • CENTRAL COUNCIL

Mon Oct 26 | 7:30 pm | West of Twin Peaks Central Council meets to discuss topics of interest to Westside residents. Meets the last Mon each month. Forest Hills Clubhouse, 381 Magellan Ave. westoftwinpeaks.or

TUE • LEARN TO RIDE A BIKE

Tue Oct 27 | 8 pm | Intro to Urban Bicycling - how to pick the right bike, the rules of the road and route planning. Considering bicycling, or looking to brush up on skills. No bicycle, or experience is needed. Register: sfbike.org/edu. Sunset Library (1305 18th Ave)

THU • OMI NEIGHBORS IN ACTION

Thu Oct 29 | 7 pm | Meets last Thu each month. This meeting is at Temple UMC 65 Beverly/Sheilds.

SUN • ASIAN ART MUSEUM FREE DAY

Sun Nov 1 | 10 am-5 pm | Every first Sunday is free at the Asian Art Museum (save \$12) -17,000 artworks spanning 6 thousand years. 200 Larkin St.

THU • AUTHOR DAVID TALBOT

Thu Nov 5 | 7 pm | The Devil's Chessboard: Allen Dulles, the CIA, and the Rise of America's Secret Government from the founder of Salon and the author of the NY Times bestseller *Season of the Witch*. Allen Dulles, who transformed the CIA into the most powerful and secretive colossus in Washington reveals the rise of the security state and the battle for America's soul. Bookshop West Portal, 80 W Portal Ave.

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Now At the Movies • By Don Lee Miller

BLACK MASS
Whitey Bulger: Johnny Deep barely recognizable with a balding skull cap and blue contacts, plus added makeup appliances, help him resemble the real Boston criminal he's playing. Deep choses to make Whitey more of a Nosferatu ghoul, an inhuman freak. In Boston, the families are large, whether by birth or, as here, by acquisition. As Whitey rises up the black ladder, brother Billy: Benedict Cumberbatch does so by winning elections, navigating a straight path to State Senator. When Mafia elements start invading Whitey's territory, he finks to the FBI, getting ten years for his confession. Director Scott Cooper fills in the minor parts with known actors: FBI agent, a friend from childhood, John Connolly: Joel Edgerton, who not only manages the Boston accent, but his good intentions go wrong; Charles: Kevin Bacon; Lindsey: Dakota Johnson; Brian: Peter Saarsgaard; Robert: Adam Scott and Mrs. Connolly: Julianne Nicholson. Brutal violence, profanity throughout, especially lots of "f**king". Some sexual references and brief drug use.

GRANDMA
Grandma: Lily Tomlin learns her granddaughter : Julia Garner needs an abortion. All day they try to scrounge the necessary cash. Judy: Marcia Gay Harden, Olivia: Judy Greer, and Carla: Elizabeth Peña round out the cast. Writer-director Paul Weitz pulls a sassy dramatic portrayal from Tomlin. The other ladies are all well cast. Profanity. Some drug use.

LEARNING TO DRIVE
New York book critic Wendy: Patricia Clarkson accidentally leaves a package in the back of the cab driven by Darwan: Ben Kingsley, a Sikh about to take a trip down the arranged marriage path. When he returns her parcel, Wendy notices that Darwan also gives driving lessons. She enrolls and the two cultures meet, sometimes more affably than others. Spanish-born director Isabel Coixet brings out the riches from her characters and

MAZE RUNNER
No running of the maze in Maze Runner, but there are lots of agents of World in Catastrophe Killzone Department (aka WCKD, or "wicked," of course). The Gladers (teenaged guys) run from zombie-like critters called cranks; they run from the threatening superstorms that strike rapidly in the futuristic post-apocalyptic Earth. After running and running, they wind up nearby. There are few exciting action incidents. Every so often, an old familiar actor will pop up in a cameo for a couple of minutes, Lili Taylor, Patricia Clarkson, Giancarlo Esposito and Aidan Gillen who deserves the clap for being able to say the full WCKD name with a straight face. Director Wes Ball supplies some style, but he would have been helped by a more interesting plot. Well filmed but too busy. Extended sequences of violence and action. Some thematic elements and substance use. Profanity.

THE VISIT
Teenagers Becca: Olivia DeJonge and Tyler: Ed Oxenbould spend a week on their grandparents' (Deanna Dunagan, Peter McRobbie) farm whom they've never met. The latest from M. Night Shyamalan is sillier than it is scary. Granny runs nude through the night; who cares? There are a couple of cheap scares and a creepy foreboding.

A WALK IN THE WOODS
Author Robert Redford is joined by a down-on-his-luck friend Stephen: Nick Nolte, of many years when he decides to hike the Original Appalachian Trail, a mere 2,200 miles, going from Georgia to Maine at roughly 20 miles a day. Bill's wife: Emma Thompson and Jeannie, a waitress. There are a couple of large bears and an incident with a ten-foot cliff, otherwise they plod along day after day. Profanity. Some sexual references.

At the Theater / Flora Lynn Isaacson

Extended!
Fantastic Production of The Oldest Boy

Marin Theatre Company has just opened its 49th Season with the West Coast Premiere of Sarah Ruhl's The Oldest Boy. An American woman (in a moving performance by Christine Albright) and her Tibetan husband (a sympathetic Kurt Uy) are making a life together in the United States with their son, Tenzin, who has just turned 3. When a monk (Wayne Lee) and a Lama (Jinn S. Kim) arrive on their doorstep with the revelation that the toddler may be a reincarnated lama, the ultimate test of a mother's love may be her ability to let him go. Interspersed with Tibetan Buddhist ritual and dance, and featuring renowned Berkeley-based Tibetan artist Tsering Dorjee Bawa, the play is as powerful as it is beautiful. The little boy is a puppet manipulated by three pupeteers (Jed Parsario, Melvign Badiola, and Tsering Dorjee Bawa as the voice of the little boy).

This will be the second production of the The Oldest Boy, which premiered off Broadway at the Lincoln Center's Mitzi E. Newhouse Theatre in November 2014. This play was a recipient of the Theatre Communication Group's 2014 Edgerton Foundation New-Play Award. The play's wonderful Director, Jessica Thebus, is Associate Professor of Theatre at Northwestern University and directs its Director Program.

Scenic Designer Collette Pollard cleverly designed two sets. Act I is a living room cluttered with toys, and Act II is a beautiful Buddhist Temple. Fumiko Bielefeldt's costumes included colorful Tibetan clothing, and Composer Chris Houston's Sound Design and music were imaginatively incorporated and striking. Other particularly notable contributions to this production include the magical boy-puppet design by Jesse Mooney-Bullock; excellent dramaturg by Julie McCormick; and lighting by Jeff Rowlings was effective and always appropriate.

The Oldest Boy is extremely imaginative throughout, and hypnotically beautiful. This is a gorgeous production, not to be missed.

Remaining matinees are:
Sat. October 3rd at 2:00 p.m.
Sun. October 4th at 2:00 p.m.
Sat. October 10th at 2:00 p.m.
Sun. October 11th at 2:00 p.m.
Purchase tickets online at www.marintheatre.org or from the Box Office at 415-388-5208 Tue-Sun between 12 p.m. and 5 p.m.
Coming up next at MTC will be Elizabeth Irwin's My Mañana Comes from October 29 through November 22, 2015. *Flora Lynn Isaacson*
RVP Opens 86th Season with
Glorious!
The True Story of Florence Foster Jenkins, the Worst Singer in the World
Ross Valley Players theatre is proud to open its new season with the hilarious and heartwarming comedy, Glorious! based on the real story of Florence

Cont. p. 18

per year the house is really for moderate-income people. Moderate-income people need help with housing as well.

Can developers who build the density be trusted to use the bonus building capacity favors correctly? How can we be sure that a City with such a checkered past on building oversight will do a good job measuring square footage? Time will tell.

The one great thing about the Bonus Density Program is that it will force the City to better use its inclusionary housing program. Planning Code Sec. 415 or the Inclusionary Affordable Housing Program, requires residential developments with 10 or more units to pay an Affordable Housing Fee. Project sponsors may apply for an alternative to the fee in the form of providing 12% of their units on-site or 20% of their units off-site as affordable to low-to moderate-income households.

Once the City receives the inclusionary housing money no one really knows what happens with the funds that the Mayor's Office of Housing (MOHCD) will receive. For example, the 75 Howard Street project paid \$9.8 million to the City so that they could build 133 luxury-housing units and no affordable housing. Where is the money going?

In 2012, voters passed Prop C creating an enormous housing slush fund and the State decided to shut down redevelopment agencies. The City will transfer over \$1.5 billion from the General Fund to the MOHCD over the next 20 years. But rather than placing redevelopment funds into the General Fund, the City created the Housing Trust Fund (HTF) with MOHCD's "sole discretion" over how the fund will be expended. What happened to that money?

There are currently over 20,000 vacancies. Prop C was supposed to be used over 20 years to build up to 30,000 units. Mayor Lee is trying to build 30,000 units in five years. When the housing bubble bursts, the City will be overbuilt.

We need more equally dispersed affordable housing. Building density isn't

the answer. We need to be concerned about quality of life and living space.

Marsha Maloof, the President of the Bayview Hill Neighborhood Association, thinks concentrating low-income and affordable housing does not work.

"When you concentrate all affordable housing in one area you get uninspired housing that turns into raggedy housing over time. Not to mention, making the average household income levels of the surrounding area unattractive to retail and many other businesses.

"San Francisco is on the right track with mandating and incentivizing development to include a reasonable number of low-income and affordable units. However, to allow developments to shift this requirement from the building site to alternate locations is not good for residents, neighborhoods, or the economic development of the City."

Maloof concludes, "Let's not allow the 'NIMBY' attitude or developer greed to replace good common sense."

The Census Bureau reports SF's population grew 4.6 % from 2010 to 2014. At current projected growth rates, it will grow by 5.6% from 2010 to 2015. Interestingly, 53.8% of the growth is from single, white people. 41.2% of these Caucasians live alone (elderly people and young people). There are 2.31 people living in the average household in 386,564 housing units.

Single people, not families, are fueling our rapid growth from 805,195 in 2010 to an estimated 852,469 in 2014.

New young residents with money have driven up housing prices and contribute to the displacement of longtime San Franciscans, gentrification of neighborhoods, and housing density development.

The SF rental market continued to be the most expensive in the country, reaching an all-time high of \$3,530 for a 1-bedroom apartment. While prices in New York City remained largely flat at \$3,000, last month SF increased 1.5% per month and 3.3% over the last quarter.

Mayor Lee's density policies sound

great until you have to live in a 288 to 1,200-square-foot apartment, or pay one-half of your salary to live with two other people. You had to sell your car, the last two buses were late, and both were full.

Many single people who recently came to the City will leave when their jobs disappear, they start a family, or simply get tired of living like a hamster in their overpriced, shared apartments. At the moment there is still a housing crisis in San Francisco.

In June 2014, our Board of Supervisors approved two significant pieces of legislation that support accessory dwelling units (ADUs), also known as "in-law" or secondary units. The first, introduced by Supervisor Chiu and passed in 2014 enables existing illegal units to be legalized. The second, introduced by Supervisor Wiener allowed construction of new accessory dwellings in his district.

Chui's legislation has been an absolute failure because the cost of renting secondary units too high. Once rented, it became a rent-controlled unit.

In March, Sunset Supervisor Katy Tang, asked the City Attorney to craft a law to legalize backyard cottages in single-family zones. According to the *Examiner*, The Sunset has "many homes that have large backyards that could accommodate" additional dwelling units, Tang said.

No more backyards in the Sunset... Tang was appointed by Mayor Lee.

Just recently, the Supervisors

expanded in-law units in Weiner's District and tossed in Supervisor Julie Christensen's District 3.

In November 2014, citizens passed Proposition K, to 1) Address the current housing affordability crisis; and 2) Support production of 30,000 units of new housing—one-third of those affordable to low-and moderate-income households.

This Policy has been the platform for several bad planning decisions. Please note, that 90% of the Planning Department's revenue comes from developer fees. Between the money donated to local politicians by developers and the Planning Department's development fees, developers and their lobbyists have become have become the new "kings" of San Francisco.

Perhaps it is time to apply the proposed "Density Bonus Program" to the City Hall building, the Planning Department building, and the SPUR office building. Each structure could use an additional two stories of luxury condominiums. The Planning Department would have no problem changing each structure's zoning requirements. Gentrification and changes to "character of neighborhood" should not be a problem, nor should changing the affordable condominiums into luxury condominiums.

George Wooding was recently elected president of the Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods

Sunshine (Cont. from p. 9)

the jurisdiction of the SOTF, a function done previously by the full SOTF. And among the worst proposed changes, "With approval of the Chair of the SOTF, the [staff would] ensure that complaints are not duplicative of previous complaints or subject matter." Would repeat City violators get off scot-free? Almost any complaint could be considered "duplicative" of some other complaint filed in its 20-year history. And allowing "similar" complaints to be "combined" could lead to enormous

confusion.

Citizen activist and retired attorney Allen Grossman¹ sent the Task Force a list of problems with the proposed changes.

The SOTF should shine a light on, and help fix, problems with open government, taking more seriously its role as guardian of Sunshine for the public and those who come before it hoping for a measure of justice.

Peter Warfield, Director, Library Users Assn

1. westsideobserver.com/pdfs/Grossman.pdf

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Second Thoughts / By Jack Kaye



Private and Public Ownership

For thousands of years, the notions of private property and ownership have been basic to Western Civilization, beginning before the Old Testament and reinforced again in the New Testament. We own many things. Our possessions include our real estate, cars, furnishings, and clothing, as well as less material things like our names, our memories, our talents, our personality, our reputation, our thoughts and, to some degree, other living beings, like our loved ones - human and otherwise.

There is also the notion of public ownership. Citizens are part owners of their homeland, and residents are part owners of their public spaces like parks, highways and bridges. Those who pay for, use, and depend upon public facilities have a vested interest in their continued availability. Citizens elect representatives to not only make and enforce policies for the greater good, but also to properly maintain our public property.

The private sector which affects the flow of private property is driven by the profit motive, enlightened self-interest. In our western, capitalistic society, the banking industry controls the flow of capital - the cause and effect of private ownership - by deciding to whom to lend money and for whom to deny it. Private sector activity is monitored and impacted by the appropriate government agencies - the public sector - as well as by shareholders, the media and by the consumer.

Private sector workers are primarily motivated by the same profit motive as is their industry. In this sector, in order to ensure maximized profit, employees are evaluated based on their ability and effectiveness. Just as private sector firms are competitive, so are their employees. Only the best survive. The better you do, the better you do.

The public sector is controlled by government agencies to provide for the efficient and effective distribution of public services to create and maintain public property. The goal is not maximizing profit.

In the public sector, workers are motivated by a love of service to the community and/or by the comfort of knowing that their jobs are safe and that their performance will not be used for or against them when it comes to raises and promotions. This environment can foster a spirit of cooperation rather than the competition found in the private sector. But it can also cause some to become less enthusiastic about doing much at work since it makes very little extrinsic difference.

We see this in education where inadequate teachers who have seniority and tenure don't have to worry about losing their jobs because any layoffs that occur will affect the least senior teachers, no matter how excellent their work has been.

We see this in our city's and probably our state's civil service system. Public employees testing for promotional opportunities are not judged on any of their past evaluations (if there are any), no matter how behavior-based, because they could be subjective. The promotion must be based on seniority as well as the results (subjective and/or objective) of a standardized oral or written examination. Seniority and test-taking ability can become more important criteria than actual past performance.

The same is true in many public sector agencies where transfers to other units are granted based solely on seniority of the requester, and the request.

The effect of this difference in private and public sector performance is striking.

The private sector employee is motivated by fear of job loss and by an ambition to succeed, as well as any intrinsic motivations that might be involved such as pride in one's work, wanting the organization to succeed, being of service, and a nice working environment.

The public sector employee can enjoy job security and excellent present and

future fringe benefits like a good pension, with some getting 90% of their pay in retirement, and a Cadillac health plan. There also is the satisfaction of serving the public to help make life that much more pleasant for the people affected by their services, e.g., police officers save lives and arrest criminals; firefighters save burning buildings and rush people suffering illness or injury to the hospital; nurses and social workers help those in greatest social or physical need. Public sector gardeners can provide the community with beautiful spaces filled with nature as relief from the concrete and metal that surrounds us.

While we each can encourage our private sector by making wise purchases that reward quality, value and creativity, we must motivate our public service sector by treasuring our public property and insisting that it be maintained. Just as we should take good care of our private possessions,

we can also take that same responsibility for our public property.

Your sidewalk or road was not made for sleeping on and humans deserve a better place to sleep.

Do you see a public garbage can with its door flung open by someone who had been digging in it for food or recyclables?

Stop and close it back up. It's your can on your property.

Do you see someone sleeping on the sidewalk or in the road? See if the person needs help or call the number to get city services for the person. Your sidewalk or road was not made for sleeping on and humans deserve a better place to sleep.

Have you noticed that they stopped work on a street repair leaving everyone to navigate their way over wooden planks and large barriers? Contact the appropriate city agency to get the work started again.

This just happened in Pacific Heights at a busy intersection. Workers began replacing the four corner curb cuts but left the job unfinished and never came back, leaving wooden planks and large plastic road barriers behind. This absence went on for almost a month and during that time it appears that only one person called in to have the job completed. Hundreds of people passed by this unfinished work every day. Shop owners saw it. Shoppers saw it. Police officers saw it. And yet only one person called in and had it finished.

It was "the Emperor's New Clothes" in reverse with only one person declaring that the emperor (intersection) has too many clothes (obstacles).

Neighbors saw their park being neglected by Recreation and Park personnel. Weeds were everywhere, trees were dying, park benches were battered, cigarette butts were everywhere in this "no smoking" area that lacked proper signage or enforcement, and the pavement was cracked. After many years of passive acceptance by most park visitors, a few concerned public property owners have begun work to redo the park. They meet with their district supervisor and with park officials to motivate them to do what is needed to fix the park and then to properly manage it. These neighbors are exercising their ownership of the park.

So just as we need the public to keep the private sector from its potential excesses, we need private individuals to keep the public sector from its potential shortcomings - inefficiency and ineffectiveness with the strong scent of impunity

Feedback: kaye@westsideobserver.com.

Do you have a pinched nerve? We can help.

Dear friend,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

• Headaches • Migraines •

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

Here is what some of your neighbors have said:

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

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

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

Now...Find out for yourself and benefit from an AMAZING OFFER- Look, It should not cost you an arm and a leg to correct your health. You are going to write a check to someone for your health expenses, you may as well write a lesser on for chiropractic. Anil know you're smart. You want to get to the cause of the problem, and not just cover it up with drugs. When you are one of the first 20 people to call and schedule a new patient exam (by August 15th) you will receive that entire exam for \$37. That's with a consultation with the doctor, examination and x-rays... the whole ball of wax, and there are no hidden fees. But call right away because we expect to be flooded with calls as this exam costs \$437. Again there are only 20 of these slots so don't miss out. I hope that there's no misunderstanding about the quality of care just because I have a lower exam fee. You'll get great care at a great fee. I just offer that low exam fee to help more people who need care.

My qualifications:

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

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

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

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

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



WEST OF TWIN PEAKS PROPERTIES SOLD SINCE 9/1/15

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

ADDRESS	TYPE	BEDS	BATHS	PK	ASKING	SOLD	%OF ASKING
533 Wildwood Way	Westwood Park	2	1	2	699,000	875,000	125.1
220 San Marcos Ave	Forest Hill	4	4	2	2,295,000	2,338,000	101.87
129 Dellbrook Ave	Midtown Terrace	2	1	1	899,000	1,225,000	136.26
80 Terrace Dr	St. Francis Wood	4	3	1	2,198,000	2,830,000	128.75
661 Laguna Honda Blvd	Forest Hill Extensio	3	2	2	1,195,000	1,480,000	123.85
40 St Elmo Way	Monterey Heights	3	2.5	2	1,750,000	1,805,000	103.14
370 Valdez Ave	Westwood Highlands	3	2	1	1,500,000	1,500,000	100



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Department of Elections

Election Day
Tuesday

November 3

Vote at City Hall
October 5 – November 3

Vote by Mail
requests by October 27

Vote at Your Polling Place
on Election Day

Register to Vote by October 19



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Implementation Manager

INGLESIDE RESIDENT

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At PG&E, our customers are our neighbors. The communities we serve as PG&E employees are where we live and work too.

That’s why we’re investing \$5 billion this year to enhance pipeline safety and strengthen our gas and electric infrastructure across northern and central California. It’s why we’re helping people and businesses gain energy efficiencies to help reduce their bills. It’s why we’re focused on developing the next generation of clean, renewable energy systems.

Together, we are working to enhance pipeline safety and strengthen our gas and electric infrastructure—for your family and ours.

SEE THE FACTS IN SAN FRANCISCO



Replaced approximately 28 miles of gas transmission pipeline



Invested more than \$443 million into electrical improvements



Connected more than 5,100 rooftop solar installations



Together, Building
a Better California

pge.com/SeeOurProgress

Education

So How Well Are They Doing?

By Carol Kocivar © 2015

I still have that wooden yardstick attached to the wall in our hallway. At the top are my two kids' names.

Lines in colored marker show just how tall each was at every birthday celebration.

(Well, almost every birthday.) Some years we cheated a bit and did a mid-year measurement.

They are now grown up.

If I put a yardstick today over the top of each head, it would balance almost perfectly. While they grew in bits and spurts...one a little taller than the other at various times....now they are just about even.

Last month, I did a double check on the yardstick. My grandchildren (almost one and almost six) were visiting. How did they stack up?

We all do a bit of measuring.

Are my kids on track? When do they start to crawl? When do they start to walk? While "Run Jane Run" probably isn't the first sentence they will read, I am interested in all these little milestones.

(I put my internet search engine on private browsing so no one will know how many times I visit the Child Development site to see what kids are supposed to do at each age.)

And that brings me to those new assessments in our schools.

What do they mean? How well are our kids doing?

Regardless of your political leanings on testing, it is important to be able to assess in some way if our kids are measuring up.

This past month, California rolled out the results of new assessments based on new education standards: The Common Core.

(There are two NEW things happening at the same time. (1) New Standards – Common Core, and (2) a new assessment, called Smarter Balanced "SBAC", to measure these standards.)

Schools now have a SBAC report that helps them understand how students are meeting those new standards. Parents receive individual student scores. (You can find the school and district results by pasting this in your browser: 2015 Results for English

Language Arts/Literacy and Mathematics

Guess what? Not every child is above average.

Some kids (and schools) did better than others. A broad generalization but here goes: poor kids did not do as well as kids from higher income backgrounds.

San Francisco again did better than other urban school districts and the state average.

Half of the S.F. students hit proficiency levels.

A couple of things to know:

Tests are just one small measure of student progress.

Our schools and teachers are transitioning to new standards designed to prepare children for college and careers. These emphasize skills in problem solving, communication, and analysis.

Comparing this year's test scores to those in the past won't work. They measure different skills.

The first year of a new test is the base line. We need to see how well schools and kids do over time.

Not all kids start at the same place. Poverty, health, and a sense of security play a huge role in how well kids do. Measuring student growth over time is essential.

We have a new yardstick in California. Let's make sure we keep an eye on what it measures. And yes, just like our kids, growth will probably come in fits and spurts.

I hope that years from now, when all the colorful marks are on this new yardstick, that California will proudly display this on its the wall to show how well our kids have grown.

You can find more detailed information about Common Core standards and Student testing on www.Ed.100.org

9.3 Tests

6.1 Great Expectations: How Do Common Core Standards Work?

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



Theater (Cont. from p. 13)

Foster Jenkins. Peter Quilter recreates this exuberant "soprano" in his play while she sings and screeches her way through performances for her enthusiastic audiences, who mostly fall apart with laughter.

According to the play's director Billie Cox, she actually knew people like Florence, who were simply not very good but loved what they did with a transcendent passion.

As Florence Foster Jenkins, Ellen Brooks brilliantly evokes the excruciatingly awful singing of a woman who has little sense of pitch or rhythm and is barely capable of sustaining a note. She is a singer whose pianist makes adjustments to compensate for her tempo variations and rhythmic mistakes. She shrieks, squeaks, and screeches – but so what, she loves it!

Quilter's play, brilliantly directed by Billie Cox provides an interesting portrait of an eccentric American woman who, despite her lack of ability to sing, was firmly convinced of her greatness as a soprano.

The play is set in the year 1944, the last year of Florence Foster Jenkins' life. While nations are embroiled in WWII, Florence is busy recruiting a new pianist, Cosme McMoon (Daniel Morgan), to accompany her in forthcoming performances and recitals.

Maria (Maureen O'Donoghue), her housekeeper, is a Spanish woman with whom she cannot communicate (neither speaks the other's language), and her the sentimental friend Dorothy (Eileen Fisher), together with her supportive husband St. Clair, a bearded-British-Shakespearean actor (Mitchell Field), serve to accentuate Florence's bizarreness. Ellen Brooks is terrific as she emulates Florence Foster Jenkins, a soprano diva who is at once both a ridiculous and fascinating subject. Jackie Blue portrays Mrs. Verrinder-Gedge, Florence's nemesis, who comes up from the audience and hurls insults at her.

This great cast is aided in no small measure by Ron Krempetz's magnificent set, which should have equal billing with the actors. Before the play opens in Florence's apartment, we see a vintage 1940s black and white movie of New York City traffic, projected on a wide screen. Special mention should be made of Michael A. Berg's costumes.

Glorious! is well worth the price of admission because of Billie Cox's superb direction as we're guided through Florence's charity recitals, extravagant balls, bizarre recording sessions, and ultimate triumph at Carnegie Hall.

This hilarious play will continue through Oct. 18: Thu., 7:30 pm, Fri.–Sat., 8 pm. Tickets: rossvalleyplayers.com or 415/456-9555, ext. 3. Ross Valley Players, 30 Sir Francis Drake Blvd., Ross.

Coming up next at RVP will be *The Ladies of the Camellias* by Lillian Groag and directed by Julian Lopez-Morillas, running Nov 20 through Dec 20. **Flora Lynn Isaacson**

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Real Travel By Sergio Nibbi



Amazing Grace

A quarter of a century ago Ken Burns produced a critically acclaimed documentary on the American Civil War. Now, 25 years later, KQED is once again showing this remastered copy, and with both local and national elections on everyone's minds the program is certainly apropos. The horror of war, any war, is pure hell, but this one was especially brutal with countrymen fighting countrymen and in the end thousands of young lives lost and countless cities destroyed. It's still blue against red, and have we not learned anything in all these years?

In 2001 we had occasion to go on a Cruise with the San Francisco Giants to the Caribbean, but before heading to Fort Lauderdale and boarding the Grand Princess we spent a few days in Charleston and Savannah.

Charleston is on a peninsula with the Ashley River on the west and the Cooper River on the east. About 3 blocks north of where we stayed is the City Market with 4 or 5 blocks of stores, restaurants and a huge shed housing every conceivable craft and junk store imaginable. On our first day we chose to head south towards The Battery, stopping along the way to gaze at



Slave school house

the endless rows of gracious old homes from the past. The Battery is a lovely park-lined area with Magnolia trees and waterfront paths, but it still has scores of cannons, mortars and guns used to defend the city during its many conflicts. We could easily see Fort Sumter, which was first fired upon when the Confederate artillery fired on the Union Garrison, starting the War Between the States. The history of the area is fascinating, and we were told how Charleston had been under bombardment for over 550 days from the Northern troops, more than any other city in history. Eventually we made our way to the Heyward-Washington House, which is one of many mansions open for public tours, most of which are owned and operated by the Charleston Museum or the Preservation Society. The most amazing part is finding out how many of the locals signed the Declaration of Independence or the Constitution.

Early the next morning we visited one of the many plantations and we chose Middleton Place. We first took the house tour and later the self-guided tour of the gardens, during which we found out that most of the original buildings had been destroyed during the Civil War, rebuilt, but only to be destroyed again by fire or earthquake. The Museum House holds many of the original furnishings; many of the valuables and statuary had to be buried before the Union troops burned and plundered the entire plantation. When slavery ended the plantation owners could no longer afford to keep the properties and many ended up in ruins.

Charleston's harbor is one of the best in the nation, and as a result was always under siege. It also provided for worldwide trade, and with the rice, indigo, and cotton farming sustained by slavery the economy prospered, beautiful homes were built, and children educated both here and abroad. Unfortunately, by the end of the Civil War the city was in ruins and there were so few men left that rebuilding took years. The following day it was time to leave the Low Country, as it's

called, and head for Savannah. By the time I drove the car around the corner from the Inn's parking lot to the front door, Maurice had our luggage on the curb and ready to load. After a few more "Yes Sir" and "Thank you Sir" we drove off for Savannah, a two-hour one hundred mile drive. About half-way down is Beaufort, a sea town not unlike Carmel except for the flat marshes surrounding it. On the way we passed Beaufort Marine Air Base, and about 15 miles out of town is Parris Island, the Marine training area where years ago the Marines had a tragic accident during night training exercises. I mentioned this to a couple of the locals but they either forgot or did not want to remember.

The Atlantic is just a stone's throw from the town, and the boats and yachts would make any area proud. We had a pleasant lunch under green-colored umbrellas, took in a few of the local sites and headed towards Savannah. A few miles before our final destination we traded South Carolina for Georgia and after crossing a spectacular stayed cable suspension bridge we arrived in Savannah, Georgia. Fortunately for us, the city is laid out in a simple grid and very easy to navigate. There is a total of 22 Squares and each has houses, churches and business all with their own style and personality. Unlike Charleston, Savannah was not burned down during the Civil War, and as a result of its surrender to General Sherman it was spared the fate of so many other Southern cities and many of the old mansions still exist today. It was General Sherman who gave Savannah to President Lincoln for a Christmas Present.

The next day we headed for the City Market area, a district of shops and restaurants reborn from old produce and fish vending areas. The streets in this area are still paved with the old cobblestones that were used for ballast in the old sailing ships and are extremely difficult to navigate. We made our way to the house of Juliette Gordon Low, the woman who started the Girl Scouts, to Henry Ford's first showroom, the Catholic Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, and a beautiful show of Andrew Wyeth's work at the Telfair Museum. At the Visitor's center we saw but could not sit on Forrest Gump's bench, memorabilia



John Rutledge House in Charleston



A church steeple in Savannah

from the past when cotton was king, and endless references to books and souvenirs on "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil." — a great book but a lousy movie. One interesting thing we saw was a trundle bed that had rope strung around the frame to hold up the mattress. On the side was a wooden handle to tighten the rope. The old saying "Sleep tight and don't let the bedbugs bite" came from there. We had learned earlier that the mattresses were made from horsehair or Spanish Moss, which had bugs in it. To celebrate our last night in town we found and very much enjoyed an Italian restaurant called Il Pasticcio. Enough Southern cooking for a while although the Grouper that I ordered was delicious.

Salvatore, the night clerk at the Inn, who by the way worked in Naples, Italy until just 4 months before, had made taxi reservations for the ride to the Amtrak station,

Housing Crisis (Cont. from p. 7)

housing with 12% of their project on site, or subsidized about 20% off site in smaller projects, so the affordability problem was not concentrated. This method was politically acceptable because a portion of the subsidy came from higher prices on the market rate portion of these projects, and that automatically raised the price of every other house in the City. This has led to neighborhoods where the insurance replacement cost of the existing building is only 20% of the selling price of the house and land together, whereas for most of our country the land is only 20% of the selling price for a house.

Currently there are construction plans to build 30,000 new units, but we can be sure that this small percentage increase, about 8%, of the total housing stock will not make housing more affordable because our history shows that if it did, we wouldn't do it. The law of supply



Rainbow row in Charleston

and promptly at noon Ray picked us up and off we went. During the short ride we found out from Ray, a rather large man and a real Redneck, that he was a Free Mason, a native--his family tree took up two volumes and he still doesn't carry five-dollar bills in his wallet. As he reminded us "they came down here, we didn't go up there."

After our 7 day stay in the area it was quite obvious that not much has changed in the 150 years since Robert E. Lee surrendered to Ulysses S. Grant at the McLean house in Appomattox. Our stay was pleasant, the people polite, kind and accommodating but still very much Southern and as we were taught to say: "Y'all have a good day."

Feedback: Sergio@westsideobserver.com



Gastonian front in Savannah

and demand, simply stated, is: if demand increases with a constant supply the price will increase, and vice versa, if the demand decreases or the supply increases the price will decrease. Normally a price increase will induce some increase in supply; but, as shown above, not in San Francisco, because of our Planning Code. But this may be ready for a change. I can see a small number of people interested in community, rather than constant price increases, getting together with a larger group who hope to profit from changes, and the very many for whom change is absolutely necessary if they are ever going to be able to buy housing in San Francisco. Next month I will suggest a method of increasing the supply of housing with what I would consider only limited impacts.

Howard Strassner is a transit advocate and former President of the Greater West Portal Neighborhood Association

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A breakdancer in a red shirt and patterned pants is performing a handstand with one leg raised high, surrounded by a crowd of spectators. The dancer is in the center of the frame, with their head on the floor and one leg extended upwards. A large crowd of people is gathered around the dancer, watching the performance. In the background, there is a large, illuminated wall with a grid pattern. To the right, there is a poster for the event, which features a stylized figure and the text "KULTUR NACHMITTAG" and "FÜR KINDER UND JUGENDLICHE".

A discounted \$15 ticket is required to visit the special exhibition galleries.
Fees apply for dining and cocktails.

Photo by Robbie Sweeney



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