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Central Council

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WESTSIDE



Laguna Honda Grapples with Fleeing Patients

Dr. Derek Kerr & Dr. Maria Rivero

hree years ago, in Exodus from Laguna Honda Hospital, The Westside Observer reported a whopping increase in the number of LHH patients who fled the premises. Now, LHH managers are publicly acknowledging the exodus and testing ways to reduce "unplanned discharges." Unplanned discharges refer to patients who sign out of the hospital Against Medical Advice (AMA), or who simply walk out, Absent Without Official Leave (AWOL). Less than half of AWOL patients eventually return to LHH.

meeting of LHH managers Commis-Health sioners, Social Services Director Janet Gillen presented an analysis of unplanned discharges. She confirmed that FY 2014-15 saw a sig-

Janet Gillen Social Services Director nificant spike, with 23.6% of all community dis- with "behaviors affecting othcharges leaving AMA or AWOL. ers" like wandering, scream-In subsequent years, the rate of ing, aggression, and rejecting unplanned discharges hovered care. The new LHH's private

us up. We need to be there for

A Resolution to End Homelessness in Our City

t seems that our City is always in a reactive mode instead of a proactive one. We need

resolution to tackle our homeless and quality

have had someone there to pick parking for 500 RV's.

of life crises in our City. Well, here is one. I call it, "A Call for Care."

time in our life. Luckily, many tion Complex, and temporary

those who don't. "A Call for and cost benefit analysis for a

We are all broken at some- Navigation Center, a Naviga-

A Call for Care

by John Farrell

At LHH's 11/13/18 Joint Con- the year ending in September ference Committee, a public 2018, the AMA/AWOL rate hit

> 26%, a new high. That's double the historical around 13%, even in the old LHH with its open wards and fewer amenities.

Concurrently, LHH is coping with a rise in unruly patients

between 18% and 24%. And in and semi-private rooms were

We need a feasibility study



from 23% in 2013 to 31% in 2017, discharges in 2018. But instead 45 (16 AMA and 29 AWOL) in

almost twice the State nursing home average of 17%. Recently, largely by changing environment. Nothing and rejecting care." was said about bothersome

hidden. Without addressing what when there were 74 unplanned

supposed to contain such jarring had been changed in its admis- discharges. behaviors. Instead, the propor- sions process, or the population

Concurrently, LHH is coping deemed a success. However, ing reporting standards, with a rise in unruly patients with the percentage of unplanned LHH claims that patients "behaviors affecting others" like discharges is identical at with disruptive behaviors fell to 23%. Hardly a healwandering, screaming, aggression, partly because there were

patients provoking others to bail of reducing these departures in 2014-15. So last year's drop below the 52 cases recorded in FY mirrored the decline in total dis-LHH is working hard to reduce 2016-17, LHH reached way back charges and admissions. Nonethe turmoil while keeping its roots to an easier target, FY 2014-15, theless, for the past 4 years, about

Compared to the 74 unplanned tion of patients showing bother- it serves, LHH set a goal of reduc- discharges (33 AMA and 41 some behaviors steadily increased ing the number of unplanned AWOL) in 2014-15, there were

2017-18. That reduction in absolute numbers was many fewer discharges last year, 188 compared to 313

Cont. p. 5

Care" is for those that don't. Navigation Complex at Can-Both the Navigation Complex and temporary RV parking would result in a higher quality of life in our City by safer and cleaner streets. And it would substantially reduce the costs of services currently provided by Police, Fire, Public Works, and Public Health."

The Department of Home- dlestick Park that could offer less and Supportive Housing's (DHSH) 2017 Point-In-Time count reported 7,499 people experience homelessness in the City on any given night. Of those 7,499 people, 4,353 are living on the streets. Further, the Director of DHSH estimates that 500 RV's are parked on our City streets on any given night with 1,100 people living in vehicles, up from 387 in the last official homeless count in January 2017.

San Francisco has a homeless and quality of life crisis. Lennar and Five Point Holding's proposed retail/housing project at Candlestick Park has not proceeded, and the shopping mall idea was suspended in April 2018. A small portion of that site would provide more than it would substantially reduce sufficient space for a larger

respite from life on the streets, and support all those 4353 people who need shelter, changing their lives through lasting social service and housing connections. They should be provided room and board while case managers work to connect them to relatives, income, public benefits, health services, and permanent housing. In addition to the Navigation Complex, the proposed site could provide temporary RV parking for up to 500 RV's, helping the approximate 1,100 people living in them.

Both the Navigation Complex and temporary RV parking would also result in a higher quality of life on our City's safer and cleaner streets. And

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Participatory Budget: A Chance to Spend Your Own Taxes

by George Wooding

istrict 7's participatory budget (PB) process has begun. Residents have until January 5, 2019 to submit a project proposal to qualify for a piece of the \$650,000 that Supervisor Norman Yee has acquired for District 7. To apply for a project here.¹

deserve to have a voice in the deci-borhood Disaster Preparedness.

sion on how to spend our tax revenue. This is why I have prioritized District 7's participatory budget (PB) pro- available. Projects Participatory Budget- cess has begun. Residents have until January supporting Vision ing in District 7 for the last six years. This year I expanded the program qualify for a piece of the \$650,000 that Superdeaths by 2024. and categories so that visor Norman Yee has acquired for District 7."

Zero aiming to end all pedestrian deaths by 2024. Proposals that residents may propose residents may propose ideas and decide on how to allocate \$650,000."

In 2018, 32 projects were subselected, including 6 Pedestrian Safety Projects and 15 General Improvement projects. Fully 2,200 voters cast more than 19,500 votes or public safety. **Culture**: Such as for projects. Each person can cast more than one vote and residents and greening. Small Businesses: prepared and respond in case of a as young as 16 can vote.

Supervisor Yee states, "Residents Projects, and \$100,000 for Neigh-

available. Neighborhood Ser-

vices: Such as services for youth,

seniors, non-English speakers,

Such as merchant organizations

PB is a democratic process For 2019, District 7 Supervisor and commercial district revitalin which community members Norman Yee has set aside \$300,000 ization. Schools, Education: Such decide how to spend part of San to be used for Participatory Bud- as improving schools, libraries, Francisco's City budget. It gives get General Projects, \$250,000 or after-school-programs. Other: citizens real power over real money. for Pedestrian Safety Vision Zero Bold and innovative ideas are welcome.

PB Pedestrian Safety Vision Zero

Projects: \$250,000 in funds would improve the safety for all

Projects must fall within at least road users, including but not limone of these categories. PB Gen- ited to: Traffic calming and engimitted. Thirty projects were eral Projects: \$300,000 total funds neering improvements for street safety, pedestrian or bicycle safety, and/or safety education programs.

Neighborhood Disaster Preparedness Projects: \$100,000 in events, art, beautification, parks, funds available for projects to be

Cont. p. 5



Following Untenable Legislative Track Record ...

Mayor Needs to Clean House at DHR

by Patrick Monette-Shaw

ondon Breed's June 5 election as mayor was essentially for an 18-month period to serve out the balance of Ed Lee's term. She faces a mere 10-month period between December 2018 and October 7, 2019 — the first day of early voting, and the date on which vote-by-mail ballots will be placed into U.S. Mail — to create a track record to justify being re-elected mayor for a four-year term in her own right.

while a six-year member of the Board of Supervisors, she's got a lot of work to do.

Legislative Track Record

Leading up to the June 5 election, the San Francisco Examiner published an article comparing the legislative histories of the three leading mayoral candidates. The meat of legislative job duties for City supervisors includes four main categories: Introducing Resolutions (typically nonbinding resolutions or commendations honoring constituents), Ordinances creating actual legislation, calling for and conducting public Hearings, and sponsoring changes to the City Charter. Supervisor Breed's six-year record was weak, compared to candidates Jane Kim and Mark Leno. Of the four categories, Breed had a total of 184, of which 112 (60.9%) were Resolutions. That stands in stark contrast to Supervisor Kim's total of 445, including 248 (55.7%) Resolutions.

Breed authored 50 Ordinances, half of the 96 Ordinances Kim introduced. Breed called for 22 hearings, one-quarter of Kim's 96 hearings. While Kim sponsored five Charter Amendments, Breed sponsored zero. And of the 50 Ordinances Breed introduced, only eight (16.0%) were for housing and development, compared to Kim's 29 housing and development Ordinances, 31.9% of Kim's total Ordinances.

The Examiner mistakenly credited Breed for strengthening the City's whistleblower protection ordinance (WPO) for City employees. That's nonsense. If

Given her dismal legislative track record anything, Breed's inaction while Board president caused a two-and-a-half-year delay, with the whistleblower protection amendments languishing unheard at the Rules Committee.

> San Francisco's Ethtowards Bethlehem Rules Committee." introduce them until

June 14, 2016. The amendments Breed introduced retained the provision City employees could file complaints with local, State, or federal government agencies and retain anti-retaliation protections.

The amendments sat in limbo while the Department of Human Resources (DHR), the City Attorney's Office, the Board of Supervisors, and Ethics Commission staff massaged and edited the amendments, significantly watering them down.

The very first amendment on the cutting room floor eliminated was Ethics' recommendation to allow City employees to file complaints with state and federal agencies. Several Ethics Commissioners are thought to have potentially been "infuriated" that provision was eliminated without their knowledge.

The Rules Committee scheduled hearing

the WPO amendments during its Novem- Complaints for up to 180 days. ber 28 meeting. We'll see how long it takes the full Board of Supervisors to pass them.

Breed's delay on the WPO amendments wasn't her only failure to marshal legislation through the Board of Supervisors.

File No. 180546 — Harassment Prevention Training for City Employees: This Ordinance was first introduced on May 22, 2018 and assigned to the Rules Committee under the Board's 30-day Rule.

up to one year, apparently increasing the heard. reporting period from six months (180 ıııı days).

ics Commission forwarded proposed Breed's inaction while to expand the City's warded proposed amendments to the Board president caused a former sexual harass-Board of Supervi- two-and-a-half-year delay, ment prevention trainsors on April 11, with the whistleblower all types of harassher hands on them protection amendments ment, not just sexual sight (GAO) Committee. she choose to slouch languishing unheard at the harassment. Unfortudoesn't require *all* City

> harassment prevention training. Part-time African-American discrimination comemployees working less than 20 hours a week appear to be non-covered employees. Based on the City Controller's payroll database for FY 2017–2018 ending June 30, 2018, of 42,271 employees in the database, 10,234 — nearly one-quarter, or 24.4% worked less than 20 hours per week and will not receive the expanded harassment prevention training.

Malia Cohen introduced a substitute Ordinance bearing a new title, *removing* the time frame for filing EEOC complaints. The October 2 substitution replaced the provision that DHR shall accept complaints for up to a year, saying the oneyear period is uncodified by existing Civil Service rules and DHR's current policy provides the City will only accept EEO

Now, the Board of Supervisors is merely "urging" or "recommending" that the Civil Service Commission adopt a rule to accept EEO complaints for up to one year.

Both versions of the Ordinance expanded the training to annually, rather than the current policy of biennially.

This legislation was also tentatively scheduled on the Rules Committee "forward calendar" for its November 28 meet-The first version of the legislation ing, but when the agenda was posted asserted the Department of Human on-line, the legislation wasn't listed. It's Resources shall accept EEO complaints unknown when it will be scheduled and

> File No. 180630 — Request for Hearing to Consider African-American Workforce Hiring, Retention, and Promotion Opportunities; Workplace Discrimination and Complaints: A hearing request was introduced on June 5, 2018 to

The hearing was held at GAO on Sepnately, the legislation tember 19 but tabled to the "Call of the Chair" where it languished without Breed's employees receive the assistance, despite massive problems with plaints in the Department of Public Health, the SFMTA, and other City departments.

> Supervisor Malia Cohen introduced a motion calling the matter from the GAO's Call of the Chair back for a hearing before the full Board sitting as a Committee of the Whole on November 27.

Breed's Anemic Record as Mayor

Breed's efforts to curtail sexual harass-On October 2, now-Board president ment and racial discrimination, and beef up whistleblower protections during the five months since she was sworn in as mayor on July 12 have been anemic.

> Breed's September 18 "Executive Directive"

> Breed callously waited to intervene in the sexual harassment and racial discrimination scandal until after introduction of

> > Cont. p. 12



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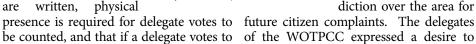
West Of Twin Peaks Central Council by Mitch Bull

he November and final meeting of 2018 for the West of Twin Peaks Central Council featured a lighter than usual turnout. President Mark Scardina set the agenda to focus on community, including the D7 preparatory budgeting **process**, and building a strong and connected neighborhood through **NERT training**. Opening the meeting at 7:45 PM, Scardina turned the meeting over to Secretary

rum was not reached by 1 delegate, the solve an issue that many neighborhoods slimmest of margins, at 7:40 PM.

January meeting. He then posed a ques- associations or the city itself). If not the

tion, asking if the delegates were receiving the agenda and information through their listed e-mail addresses. He is concerned that some of the delegates may not be receiving them, resulting in lower than usual turnout, and asked the group to consider other ways to get input from members for voting purposes. Matt Cham**berlain** commented that as the current by-laws $_{\mbox{\footnotesize Erica}}$ Maybaum from Supervisor Yee's office



abstain from an issue, it is treated as a "no" vote. Following more discussion, Chamberlain volunteered to form a temporary committee during the break to look at the **by-laws** and come up with some revisions. Three other delegates agreed to assist him.

Treasurer Carolyn Squeri announced that the WOTPCC has \$3874.85 in the bank and that she is distributing the final dues letters for Joanie Van Rijn, President, 2018. Discussion took Miraloma Park Improvement Club place about the timing

of the letters, and if they reflect 2018 or Small Businesses, Schools-Education-2019 dues. (They reflect 2018 dues). Matt Youth, Activate Space for Play, and other Chamberlain offered assistance to look at innovate programs; Pedestrian Safety/ getting the 2019 dues requests out in the Vision Zero (\$250K available), and new first quarter of the year, and to update the for this year, Emergency Preparedness e-mail addresses of the contact names for (\$100K available). the many homeowner organizations.

know that the minutes for the September meeting were updated and available on the WOTPCC website, as well as the October minutes.

for the evening.

George Wooding commented on Planning and Land Use, speaking on a process there is no minimum or maximum. by the Board of Supervisors to eliminate the minimum mandatory parking January 5, 2019 before midnight. Once requirement for developers. This action received the programs will be listed and could allow developers and builders, for voted upon by the D7 residents. Those example, to replace 10 units of parking in a receiving at least 400 votes will be ranked 10-unit structure with a bicycle rack holding 10 bikes. He feels it is another way to eliminate vehicles from the streets within the city, as a "one size fits all" approach, program, contact Erica at Supervisor Yee's although the needs of the western districts office, (415) 554-6517 or at Erica. Mayis much different than the needs of the <u>baum@sfgov.org</u> downtown districts. He will send the link to the effort to President Scardina who will distribute it to the delegates.

Wooding continued, giving a report on Public Health, speaking on a small fire that started near Laguna Honda hospital on November 3. Although it was small it was adjacent to a eucalyptus grove, bringing on the threat of fire in the trees. It was stated that although San Francisco is densely urban, there are opportunities for destructive fires in the forests on the

Sally Stephens had no report update Mark Scardina next brought the del-

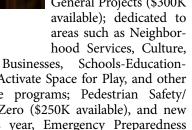
egates up to date on the actions by Officer

David Golden, who took the roll. A quo- Mark Pinetta of the Taraval Station to have. In many areas on the westside, there Scardina started the officer's reports by are paths and walkways in neighborthanking VP Dena Aslanian-Williams hoods, that are unnamed and in many for running the October meeting in his cases have "unknown providence," relatabsence and announced that the SF Land ing to which group is responsible for Use Coalition will be presenting at the ownership or maintenance (homeowners,

> city, they are considered private property and it limits the ability of police and other city departments to access them. Recently there were some issues with a pathway in the Ingleside area. Officer Pinetta worked with SF Planning to go through the process of having the path (between Urbano and Ocean) officially recognized and created as Ingleside Way. Now the SFPD has jurisdiction over the area for

officially thank Officer Pinetta and the SFPD in early 2019.

> Special Guest Erica Maybaum of D7 Supervisor Norman Yee's office spoke next on the 2018-19 Participatory Budgeting program for D7. This year, Supervisor Yee has procured \$650,000 for community driven projects. The grants can be applied for within three categories: General Projects (\$300K



The projects must be one-time expen-**Secretary David Golden** let everyone ditures benefitting the residents of D7 and cannot name a specific organization to receive the funds. The projects are coordinated by city departments working with the neighborhood groups. For General VP Aslanian-Williams had no report and Emergency Preparedness Projects the Minimum amount is \$5K, with a max set at \$25K. For Pedestrian Safety projects

Proposal submissions are due by and the top vote-getters in each category will be considered for funding.

For more information on this important

The next discussion was centered on the process of building a connected community and given by Joanie Van Rijn, President of the Miraloma Park Improvement **Club**. She gave an overview of a project started by MPIC in 2014 to build a connected community that can be much more self-empowered in the event of a disaster than those that are not connected through planning and practice. As she clearly explained, "A garage full of emergency preparedness supplies are not going to save a life without training and skills."

In the event of a disaster such as an from the Open Space and Parks committee. earthquake, only 300 SF Firefighters may be available and will be concentrating on Cont. p. 5



Ruminations From a Former Supervisor by Quentin Kopp

n the aftermath of last month's elections, I'm reminded of the unusually effected scare tactics presented to local newspaper readers who expect accuracy in reporting and opinion-writing. As observed by a judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit on Constitution Day this year, Thomas Jefferson in 1789 wrote: "Wherever the people are well-informed, they can be trusted with their own government." Bear in mind, however, 71% of Americans can't identify the Constitution as

the supreme law of the land, according to a 2012 Xavier University report, and 10% of college graduates, according to a 2015 American Council of Trustees and Alumni poll, thought Judith Sheindlin (aka Judge Judy) is a U.S. Supreme Court justice, while only 32% of college graduates could name all three government branches, and 33% can't name a single branch, according to the 2018 Annenberg Constitution Day Civics Survey.

and maintain state highways, county roads, and city streets. That's good government. Instead, the California legislature and governor last year collaborated to enact for public buses and other forms of repealed the use of gasoline taxes for nonhighway, road, and street purposes. That summary is by law the Voter Information Pamphlet information presented to voters. California courts have been reluctant to Proposition 6 opponents spent tens of millions of dollars to defeat it because receive the taxes paid by drivers.

Regarding transportation, on August 8, 2018, the Wall Street Journal pointed

As I have previously reminded readers, She'd call it the "Office of Racial Equity", California's gasoline tax was instituted in avowedly to end alleged discrimination 1922 as a user fee for the specific and sole in employment practices at City Hall and purpose of employing proceeds to build housing policies. That means more office space, more city employees than even the current 30,000, and more taxpayer subsidization.

On the state level, legislators henceforth a 12-cents-per-gallon tax increase, the needn't live in the district each represents. proceeds of which would also be used Senate Bill 1250 enables politicians to claim residences outside their district. transportation, which will be paid for While the U.S. Constitution contains by vehicle drivers and certainly not as a no residency qualification for House of user fee. The California Attorney General Representative members, Governor Jerry wrote as deceiving a summarization of Brown signed such bill after pardoning state Proposition 6, which would have a former legislator who was elected in a district outside his residence. The honest method to effectuate such a policy, contrary to the California Constitution, would be a constitutional amendment for voters to approve. That, however, means interfere in litigation to stop the falsifying the rule of law in a "sanctuary state" which of the Attorney General's summarization. refuses to recognize illegal immigration in jails and prisons.

As a new governor commences his they're the road construction, engineers, responsibility next month, people ask me designers, and unionized workers who what to expect. I'm not a soothsayer. I can't answer. I know California has the highest poverty rate in the country, laws benefiting criminals and illegal aliens, releases of out that California spends ten times more criminals from detention, erasing criminal on electric car subsidies than on clearing records. That's the incentive for native dead trees, which result in flammable San Franciscan Nina Salarno Besselman groundcover - \$335,000,000 for electric of Crime Victims United announcing

New York City granted Amazon \$1,500,000,000 in cash and property tax credits ... Kansas and Missouri spent \$500,000,000 in tax incentives for companies, thus taking money from schools and infrastructure. Once government grants corporation A property tax forgiveness, why shouldn't it grant the same exemption to corporation B, and C, etc.?"

car subsidies and only \$30,000,000 for institution of a 2020 initiative to reverse the York City did last month for a "second headquarters" for Amazon. San Francisco waived property taxes for technology corporations on Market Street. New York City granted Amazon \$1,500,000,000 in government grants corporation A property tax forgiveness, why shouldn't it grant the same exemption to corporation B, and C, etc.? It's the antithesis of good government.

So is San Francisco city government behavior. Last week, one Supervisor declared intent to establish yet another new office for curing alleged "racial" inequality.

clearing 60,000 acres of forests. Similarly, public safety damage of alleged "criminal governments use taxpayers' money to justice reform." That includes restoration confer on massive corporations like of the money bail system instead of a Amazon billions of dollars, as New computer-based "risk assessment" which is plainly defective. California possesses over 4,000,000 illegal aliens, and the National Economics Editorial estimates they can pay \$3,500,000,000 in taxes, but cost California about \$30,300,000,000 yearly. cash and property tax credits. As pointed That's 17.7% of California's annual budget, out in The Week, Kansas and Missouri with welfare, food stamps, meals, free spent \$500,000,000 in tax incentives immunization, low-cost housing, in-state for companies, thus taking money tuition fees, and, potential 2019 legislation from schools and infrastructure. Once to permit candidacies for elected public

Meanwhile, the Festival of Lights (aka Hanukkah) begins December 2 for eight days, and Christmas still occurs on December 25. Jingle Bells to all. Have a Happy New Year.

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

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— Commentary

California's Fish/Water Quandry

he past few weeks have been turbulent for SFPUC (watersewer-power). Environmental interests pressured SFPUC hard to support the State's Bay-Delta Plan, which would help fish but curtail SF's water supply. The State's plan is to send lots more of water down-river. Non-governmental fish/environmental organizations (NGOs) agree.

helped with smarter interventions than sending much more water down the river. By enhancing gravel spawning beds and restoring riparian health, by discouraging predators, and by close monitoring, less water need be sent down river. State and environmental NGOs disagree.

accommodation was reached between the State's Plan, which means, according to SFPUC staff and NGOs. A few days later it SFPUC staff, that insufficient water supply fell apart. NGOs feel betrayed.

While the Board of Supervisors sided **environmental** Mayor Breed vetoed elect to allow more State's plan. SFPUC Commis- an time for settlement

NGOs claim that yet to reverse course. the State plan is critical to prevent extinction of fish in the Tuolumne River ecosystem. Some claim that SFPUC's science is not sound, and that the State's is. Some claim that SFPUC is over-stating the dire consequences of implementation of the State's plan. SFPUC Commissioners are listening, but have yet to reverse course.

The decision on just how to try to save the fish in the San Joaquin River system is sure to have major consequences. The amount of water available to SF will decrease, and its cost will increase. Water rationing will become more likely, and will bite harder during droughts. Rate increases beyond those planned are certain. Users will suffer, either more (State plan) or somewhat less (settlement).

SFPUC staff has proposed alternative supplies to make up some Tuolumne River losses. The river now provides 85% of our water. There are no easy replacement supplies. Most possibilities must be studied; some will be implemented. It will cost, big. At best, SFPUC staff have come up with possible ways to replace half the water that they believe would be lost to the State plan.

Environmental groups are passionate, knowledgeable, committed, and effective. There are no voices for the water customers (users) and ratepayers — other than

SFPUC has responded that fish can be BAWSCA, a group of the system's out-of-

At the November Commission meeting, other than the BAWSCA rep (representing the out-of-city users of our system water), speakers were all from or supporting the position of the NGO environmental groups, opposing SFPUC. The groups In late October it was believed that an implore SFPUC and the City to support will be available to

Non-governmental fish/ our water system. While no com-Organizations menter mentioned it, with the NGOs, claim that the State plan is criti- what hangs over the heads of the coma Board resolution cal to prevent extinction of fish in means of the commissioners is the which had supported the Tuolumne River ecosystem. threat that an initiathe State plan. An Some claim that SFPUC's sci-tive be brought to impending vote by the State Water Board ence is not sound, and that the way commissioners on the State plan was State's is. Some claim that SFPUC are appointed—now then delayed at the request of the Gov- is over-stating the dire conse- by the mayor. If commissioners become ernor and Governor- quences of implementation of the elected, there will be slate, and it will have sioners are listening, but have an excellent chance of winning all five commission seats.

> At the December 12 Commission meeting commissioners will have one last chance to change course and support, or not oppose, the State's plan. Certainly commissioners hope for a settlement before December 12. Otherwise each commissioner must decide whether to support staff and defy the State and NGOs. Absent settlement, on Dec. 13 the State Water Board will most probably vote to implement the State plan over SFPUC's objections. Then SF may sue. A suit might delay implementation of any remedy designed to prevent the further decline and possible extinction of fish.

###

Flood zone. Over 2000 homes, many on the Westside, are in a designated 100-year flood zone. A flood map defining the zone has been adopted. Those affected have received a letter, and will receive another soon. An ordinance is likely to require sellers and lessors to notify buyers/lessees that the property is in the flood zone.

For a map of these zones type this gobbledygook into your browser: www.westsideobserver.com/pdfs/100-year_ flood_risk_map.pdf

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

John Farrell (Cont. from p. 1)

the costs of services currently provided by Police, Fire, Public Works, and Public Health.

Once the Navigation Complex is completed it could continue to provide housing and services as existing 'temporary' navigation centers, are converted to affordable housing.

Prop C, just approved by voters, mandates Homeless funds, but potential litigation may delat funding for several years.

I know of hundreds of millions in existing funds, not currently being addressed, that could be used for such a Navigation Complex and temporary parking.

It's easy to turn away, hoping things will get better — but they will only get worse for these who need our help—and for residents and taxpayers who are relying on our elected officials to resolve this problem.

I urge our Mayor and Board of Supervisors to consider "A Call for Care" and take immediate action to help those in need and provide a resolution to this crises in our City.

To all our police, fire, emergency workers, and volunteers throughout our nation: Thank you. I cannot say enough about these tremendous people who rose to the occasion to confront the fires in our state and assist those in need—unbelievable dedication and self-sacrifice. Times like these remind us of how strong we are when we put our differences aside and unite for the common good.

Have a wonderful and safe holiday season, and all the best to you, your family and all those close to your heart.

John Farrell Broker/Realtor - Farrell Real

The most effective way to donate to help fire victims is to donate cash:

American Red Cross

California Community Foundation's Wildfire Relief Fund

Estate, MBA, Former City Asst. Assessor-Budget/Special Projects, Westside resident - farrellreinvestments@yahoo.com

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MONETIZING THE WHITE HOUSE. oney. Moolah. Cash. Dough. Scratch. Dinero. Benjamins.

Greenbacks. Cabbage. Lettuce. Gravy. Whatever you call it, ■nobody ever has enough of it: you, me, poor people, rich people and even, apparently, America.

Republican Senator Mitch McConnell impeach. Submissions closest to says the country needs to slash entitlements because of our huge deficit. What he corporate tax cut pushed through earlier Not very limited. this year. Kind of like the kid who murders his parents then begs the court for mercy FERENT PACKAGE. Ivanka Trump owing to him being an

orphan. Of course, now, with This nation needs made matzo. a change in the House someone who knows how of Representatives, you ing down a pride of the perfect match. He's performed in the preslions than getting the the perfect match. Democrats to sign off on already presented a Medal ALTERNATIVE cuts to Social Security of Honor to the wife of his FACTS CAN BE FUN. and Medicare. Unless, largest depart the right are Kellyanne Conway & and Medicare. Unless, of course, it would largest donor. If the rich are Sarah Huckabee Sanders increase their reelection willing to drop big bucks conduct a how-to webi-

president who's good at qling from ribbons ..." monetizing things. After

all, he ran a string of casinos and hotels and time. Self-delusion a pre-requirement. golf courses and beauty pageants and football teams and airlines and universities and POTUS. Round of golf with the Leader of made plenty of money, right? With only a couple of bankruptcies. Okay, 6. And a gazillion lawsuits, but still.

how to sell the presidency and the current occupant seems the perfect match. He's already presented a Medal of Honor to the wife of his largest donor. If the rich are willing to drop big bucks for hunks of metal dangling from ribbons, we should do everything in our power to accommodate them.

There's plenty more ways this Administration can raise money by offering items of interest for which the general public might here are just a few of the more marketable favorably. Costs just a wee bit more. with fancy titles.

FIRST LADY MAKE OVER. An intensive one-hour beauty consultancy with the lovely Melania Knauss Trump.

RUMBLE IN THE TRUMPLE. Presidential son Eric will let you beat him at tictac-toe in the lobby of Trump Tower.

IMPEACHMENT POOL. A national lottery on what day the House will vote to

earn bonuses.

BEST FRIENDS FOREVER. High qualfails to mention is he's mostly responsible ity limited edition autographed photos of for that deficit because of the \$1.5 trillion Vladimir Putin riding a horse shirtless.

WHY THIS NIGHT IS REALLY DIF-

Kushner will attend your Seder and bring home-

VICE PRESIDEN-TIAL SPA. A soothing got a better chance of to sell the presidency and back rub from VP Mike a wounded gazelle tak- the current occupant seems Pence. Note: cannot be

Fortunately we have a for hunks of metal dan- nar where they teach commonly held beliefs like gravity and night-

PARS, PUTTS & PITCHES WITH THE

the Free World. Mulligans not included.

MUNCHING WITH THE MUNCH-KIN. Don Jr. will provide lunch at same This nation needs someone who knows restaurant table he ate with Natalia Veselnitskaya.

GRISLY IS AS GRISLY DOES. Private audio session with Mohammed bin Salman describing the action during Jamal Kashoggi's "interrogation."

REPRESENTATIVE YOU. Your very own US Congressional seat. (limited to residents of red states)

BOSS TWEETER. The president of the United States will mention you in a tweet.

BOSS SWEETER. The president of the be willing to cough up hard currency and United States will mention you in a tweet,

> Will Durst. Will Durst is an award-winning, nationally acclaimed comedian, columnist, and former cab driver in Milwaukee, Wisconsin (one day). For past columns, commentaries and a calendar of personal appearances, including the Big Fat Year End Kiss Off Comedy Show XXVI, Dec 26, 2018-Jan 6, 2019, please visit willdurst.com.

Letters to the Editor

Judicial Corruption

he invasion of the United States by immigrants is quite upsetting to all sides of my family and millions of families that escaped Communism, Socialism and oppression. Proper admittance to the United States is being completely ignored. Today, due to politics, Judicial Activism, and failure of the Court to apply law whilst

times for payoffs, is unforgivable. Such Socialists such as Bill Ayers, and Saul Alin-Judicial failure to comply with their oath is sky deviance. unforgivable...and subject to prosecution.

I have family in San Francisco that first arrived about 1865. My father first arrived in San Francisco at age twelve in early 1900 fleeing totalitarianism. I have seen the duping of our youth all of my life by Socialwonderful relationships with immigrant Americans, near everyone I know to date, I have seen our youth manipulated over

playing politics, and more so cowering the last 65 years with education facilities to friends and political allegiance and at infiltrated by anti-Americanism, definite

Frankly, I suggest that even Chief Justice Roberts is way off base having commented on President Trump's stance brought forth to protect the United States and support proper immigration.

Not a stupid person, it seems very eviists and Communists. While maintaining dent to me that the greatest problem in the United States is the Judiciary.

Richard Bodisco, San Francisco, Author of SF Term Limits

WESTSIDE BSERVER

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> Award Winning News for the Neighborhood Society of Professional Journalists

The ideas and opinions expressed in these pages are strictly those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the staff or publisher of this paper. The Westside Observer is a free monthly newspaper serving the entire West of Twin Peaks area of San Francisco. Circulation is 18,000 copies, distributed 10 times a year. 16,000 are distributed -to-door, 2000 are distributed via free distribution racks in the West of Twin Peaks area, as well as libraries and other key drop-off points (see westsideobserver.com/hardcopy.html).

Participatory Budget (Cont. from p. 1) disaster, including neighborhood organizing and trainings, supplies and equipment. Another subcategory will be **Activating** Play Space. PB director and Legislative Aide to Supervisor Yee, Erica Maybaum, states the following about the PB project. "I am honored to have the opportunity to again staff Participatory Budgeting. I'm looking forward to supporting the proposals, especially in the new categories of Neighborhood Disaster Preparedness and Activating Play Space. I'm excited for neighbors to identify public spaces, sidewalks and walkways that would be enhanced with designs for interaction and play such as hopscotch, colors, and tree stumps for climbing. This will not only boost child friendly-experiences, but benefit all residents."

This year, funding for the Participatory Budget Project will be available for several projects of \$5,000 to \$25,000, or a single general fund project that will receive a budget of \$75,000. This project must be sponsored by a minimum of three neighborhoods in District 7. Projects submitted in the Pedestrian Safety category will have no maximum cost limit. All projects must be a one-time expenditure and must benefit the residents of District 7. Projects must also receive a minimum of 400 approval votes from District 7 residents to be considered eligible for funding.

After all proposals have been submitted by January 5, a Neighborhood Leadership Council will review each proposal on Saturday, January 12. The following 12 neighbors have been selected to decide which proposals will be voted on: • West Portal Disaster Preparedness David Yoo, Forest Hill; George Wooding, Midtown Terrace (MTHOA); Sofia Perel, Golden Gate Heights (SHARP); Jean Perata, Miraloma Park (MPIC); Paige Quaintance, Youth Council Forest Knolls (FKNO); Erika Ragland, Monterey Heights; Judy Goddess, Inner Sunset; Jason Chommanard, Sunnyside; Ivy Lee, Inner Sunset; Byron Sigal, West of Twin Peaks; Kathy Studwell, Lake Merced Heights; and Karl Agular, West Portal.

On March 18, District 7 voting will begin. The Neighborhood Leadership Council will evaluate applications for completeness and then rank them. The top 20 to 30 projects will then be put on the ballot for District 7 residents to vote on. Each proposal that is selected by the Neighborhood Leadership Council will also be reviewed by City agencies to make sure that they are feasible. Project winners will be notified in early Spring.

PB started in Porto Allegre, Brazil in helped reduce child mortality by nearly 20%. Since then PB has spread to over 3,000 cities around the world, and has been used to decide budgets for states, counties, cities, housing authorities, schools, and other institutions. The *New York Times* calls PB deepens democracy, builds stronger communities, and creates a more knowledgeable distribution of public resources.

Voters ostensibly elect politicians to 1. bit.ly/PB2018-2019 improve their community, not just to the responsibility of budgeting with residents, they can better address local needs and desires. PB helps government officials

do their jobs better by putting them in closer touch with their constituents, utilizing local knowledge, and incorporating volunteer energy into the budget process.

This is the sixth year that District 7 Supervisor Norman Yee has constructed a Participatory Budget for D-7. Yee's PB is by far the largest in San Francisco. A sampling of the 2017 and 2018 projects that won are shown below:

Vision Zero and Pedestrian Safety

- Safety Routes to School Aptos Middle & Commodore Sloat
- Ocean Ave & Granada Flashing Beacon
- Traffic Study of the Five-Way Vicente/ Wawona/Madrone intersection
- Sunnyside Pedestrian Safety Improvements - Judson Avenue between Circular and Gennessee Avenues
- and Foerster Crosswalk Mangels Proposal

General Projects

- Restore the Historic Trail System of Laguna Honda
- Sunnyside Park Plaza Activation
- Triangle Park Renovation Forest Hill Extension
- D7 Live Music and Dance Performance Series
- West Portal Commercial Corridor Beautification
- Lighting Avoca Alley between Bella Vista & Myra Way
- Lakeshore Elementary School Tree Planting and Beautification • Inclusive Play for Sunnyside Elementa-
- ry's Shared School Yard
- Program Miraloma Park's Mobile Emergency
- Response Unit Aptos Park Beautification
- Improvement
- Unity Plaza Community Litter Management
- Earthquake Preparedness in Golden Gate Heights and Inner Sunset
- Ocean Avenue Day Promoting the Commercial Corridor
- Ingleside Community Mural and Mosaic Fund

"Anyone who lives, works, or plays in the district can propose a project," Maybaum said. It's intended to be a very inclusive process, and the hope is to increase civic engagement more broadly," she added. Should you have any questions regarding Participatory Budgeting please email Erica Maybaum at Erica.Maybaum@Sfgov.org

The District 7 Participatory Budget-1989 as an anti-poverty measure that ing Project aims to establish an inclusive way to identify projects within the district to improve the quality of our neighborhoods. These projects may range from bold, new, and lasting to simple, useful, and thoughtful. The essence of the Participatory Budget is to involve as many com-"revolutionary civics in action" since it munity members as possible, regardless of age, race, or socio-economic background.

Please remember to submit your project application on or before January 5.

George Wooding, Coalition For San make decisions. If elected officials share Francisco Neighborhoods Feedback: wooding@westsideobserver.com

WOTPCC (Cont. from p. 3)

the largest fire centers, she told us. Those in the neighborhoods will likely have to take up local action themselves. Four years ago, the MPIC determined that a large percentage of their citizens (seniors, children, disabled) would be at risk in the event of a disaster. They decided to form and train a NERT (Neighborhood Emergency Response Team) that meets 7x per year, reviews CPR, first aid and other life- saving skills, and learns and practices how to do utility patrol and control to turn off gas, electricity and water to structures where the utilities could cause a danger.

With training they also could conduct localized search and rescue using tools and supplies.

They accomplished these things over the course of 4 years using three grants from the D7 Participatory Budgeting Program. Their first grant enabled them to conduct "Senior" training, giving over 50 bags of preparedness supplies out to seniors in their neighborhood. This process also allowed them to identify and connect with their senior neighbors. The second grant helped them set up the community structure of block captains and block champions; secure emergency preparedness and **Laguna Honda Patients** (Cont. from p. 1)

are baffled by contradictions. Between and methamphetamine. These drug hab-2010 and 2015, prior the big exodus, the its cannot be treated with methadone or included 33% who "Did not want to be support groups, and anti-depressants can

a quarter of LHH discharges actually ran addicts didn't impact AMA and AWOL discharges. Another 17% of runaways Why do LHH patients flee? Here, we craved non-opioids like cocaine, alcohol, reasons for AMA and AWOL discharges buprenorphine, though psychotherapy, here" and 26% related to substance abuse. help. Even so, LHH Psychiatry surveys

There are costs. This year LHH faces a \$2.5 million budget shortfall "mainly due to the increased need for coaches in an effort to facilitate patient flow within the network." Coaches are staffers assigned to watch unruly or unsafe patients. And there are escalating costs for security services, including staffing, patrols, security technology and environmental controls. For example, every AWOL event triggers a burdensome campus-wide search by the Sheriff's Department and busy LHH staff. Meanwhile, LHH becomes more guarded and réstrictive."

sentation, 70% of unplanned discharges a major impact on patient flight. Wisely, are related to substance abuse. Only 18% LHH recently abandoned its draconian didn't want to be at LHH. However, in a policy of tobacco prohibition. After 3 years September presentation, Chief Psychiatrist Dr. Yifang Qian insisted that merely ing rules, and causing some to rebel by 18% of unplanned discharges were tied to substance abuse between January 2017 and smoking area. April 2018. If that 18% is correct, treating ify their discrepancies. No response yet.

LHH admissions are designated as homeless. Surprisingly little was said about caring for these sometimes challenging patients. Although LHH documents are almost devoid of demographics, Gillen homeless. But their presence within the larger AWOL contingent wasn't disclosed. unplanned discharges fled from the Rehabilitation Unit, and 38% from the HIV/ AIDS ward. Such information should help to target specialized services.

Now, according to Gillen's November pre- show that addiction treatments won't have of harassing smokers who defied no smokgoing AWOL, LHH has restored a patient

Intriguingly, LHH hasn't explained why substance abusers won't do much to curb it admits patients who "do not want to be runaways. Yet, virtually all efforts to reduce here," comprising 18% to 35% of AMA and abrupt decampments seem directed at AWOL departures. Were these patients drug users. The conflicting numbers pre- appropriately evaluated and screened prior sented by Ms. Gillen and Dr. Qian are to admission? That query is taboo because unlikely to guide effective interventions. screening impedes flow, namely the Health We asked Ms. Gillen and Dr. Qian to clar- Department's Flow Project. Flow refers to flushing non-paying patients out of San Currently, records show that 25% of Francisco General Hospital (SFGH) in order to open up beds for acute cases and generate revenue from new admissions. Most LHH admissions come from SFGH. When SFGH patients exceed the allotted length of stay for their ailment, state and did say that most AMA discharges were federal reimbursement stops. Typically, patients who complete treatment are sent home to recuperate. But the homeless or Gillen mentioned in passing that 44% of mentally impaired cannot be readily discharged. Rushing them into LHH saves

There are costs. This year LHH faces a \$2.5 million budget shortfall "mainly due LHH deploys a host of interventions to to the increased need for coaches in an cut unplanned discharges. These include effort to facilitate patient flow within the early identification of patients troubled network." Coaches are staffers assigned by drug cravings, as well as more sup- to watch unruly or unsafe patients. And port groups, motivational counseling, and there are escalating costs for security serpsychiatric consultations. Surprisingly, vices, including staffing, patrols, security a 16-month trial of Medication Assisted technology and environmental controls. Treatment, offering buprenorphine or For example, every AWOL event triggers methadone to opioid users, was a flop. a burdensome campus-wide search by the Turns out only 1% of unplanned discharges Sheriff's Department and busy LHH staff. were opioid users. So, treating heroin Meanwhile, LHH becomes more guarded *Cont. p. 15*



Cont. p. 14

Other People's Money

SFERS' Limousine and Vacation Fund

by Lou Barberini, CPA

he consistent theme in my recent Westside Observer columns has been that the San Francisco Employees' Retirement System (SFERS), its Trustees' Board, and its administrators to the \$20+ billion pension fund and the voluntary \$3+ billion deferred comp savings plan, have:

- and opaque products;
- 2. Allowed politics to influence and compromise their fiduciary responsibilities;
- 3. Directed the \$20+ billion pension to subpar returns during a soaring bull market, which lowered the pension's fully-funded level over 20 percentage
- 4. Remained oblivious to what or where the deferred comp pension assets are invested in; and
- 5. Prepared financial statements without supporting documentation.

If there was any doubt SFERS' administrators and its Retirement Board are ignorant to the nuances of the pension assets they steward, David Sirota, writing for the U.S. edition of *The Guardian*, exposed how SFERS was apparently illiterate to the fact that a Blackstone hedge fund investment had siphoned off city employees' pension money to contribute to a 2018 California ballot proposition.1

More concerning than unaccountedfor pension assets is, it appears that both SFERS' top administrators and its Retirement Board seem not to care. An example of the prevailing condescending attitude is a public employee's \$150 limousine ride the pension fund pay for her travel and to a New York City airport — where New

1. Consistently sought the most expensive Blackstone visit yet again, a mere 39 hours after landing. A second trip presumably necessitated because everyone from Blackstone immediately disappeared on Friday at 1:30 p.m. after the Blackstone conference concluded. Any pragmatic business owner would have crammed the extra meetings into the first visit or relied on video conferencing. "Limo Bill" commutes to visit Blackstone the way city employees hop on Muni. Only a month earlier, "Limo Bill" had flown Virgin Premium Economy (\$2,700!) to spend three days with Blackstone, perhaps oblivious that Blackstone had peeled off city employees' money for political purposes. But then again, "Limo Bill" is spending other people's money from the city employees' pension fund.

Consider, CIO Coaker is hardly the only SFERS fiduciary to bleed the pension fund for travel costs. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018:

In March 2018, Retirement Board Commissioner Leona Bridges hit SFERS' pension fund for the "Second Annual Delegation to Africa," which included stops in Dakar, Senegal; Johannesburg, South Africa; and Cape Town, South Africa. Two months ago, Ms. Bridges requested attendance at the Congressional Black



city employee, steered the city employees' pension to below average profits

Limo Bill" claimed there were no taxis available in Manhattan, so he was "forced" to take a limousine to the airport. Really? No taxis were available in all of Manhattan, but "Limo Bill" was able to flag Bill Coaker, the highest-paid San Francisco down a limousine in the middle of the street? Has Coaker not heard of Uber?"

York airport taxi runs are capped at \$66 Caucus Foundation Annual Legislative

Bill "Limousine" Coaker is SFERS' Chief Investment Officer who was hired to enable hedge funds entry into the city employees' pension investments. He is the people's money. highest-paid San Francisco city employee, while steering the city employees' pension to below average profits. In his October 2016 reimbursement request, "Limo Bill" claimed there were no taxis available in Manhattan, so he was "forced" to take a limousine to the airport. Really? No taxis were available in all of Manhattan, but "Limo Bill" was able to flag down a limousine in the middle of the street? Has pre-scheduling required for limousine

On this particular trip to New York to attend Blackstone hedge fund presentations, "Limo Bill" arrived on the scene late on Monday, October 17, 2016 and took the limo to the airport on Friday around 1:30 p.m. Presumably, Blackstone executives leave work at 1:30 p.m. Then, after spending only Saturday in the Bay Area, "Limo Bill" was back at SFO on Sunday to return to New York, charging the pension \$99 fund for extra leg room. "Limo Bill" spent all day Monday meeting again with Blackstone, then flew business class back to San Francisco the next day, in effect having returned to New York for a single calendar day.

San Francisco city employees should question why anyone would check in and out of a hotel twice, spend 11 round-trip hours in the air, fight traffic in his 60+ mile commute to and from his home to the airport, go through TSA twice, just to turnaround and fly out of SFO for a

Conference in September in Washington, D.C. — a worthy cause — but how was that conference applicable to finance or our city employees' pension fund? Other

Retirement Board Commissioner Wendy Paskin-Jordan parlayed her SFERS' pension fund travel perks to gain her United Airlines' highest frequentflyer status: "Premier 1K." In the aforementioned fiscal year, Wendy went to New York twice, attended a seminar in Chicago, and incurred an \$8,000 flight to attend a conference in Berlin, Germany. City employees paid a total of \$16,000 for Coaker not heard of Uber? Or, is this just that three-day seminar within Ms. Paskin's a fabricated cover-up to mask the typical eight-day vacation to Germany. In October 2018, she tapped the city employees' pension fund again for \$16,000 to attend seminars in Melbourne and Sydney, Australia.

> Perhaps it's because Paskin-Jordan's private financial advisory business and her ability to deduct the costs of international seminars from her firm's taxes that she is uniquely the only SFERS-related person who always pays for her for own flights, produces tax receipts, and then seeks reimbursement from the city employees' pension fund.

> With all the worldly financial knowledge Wendy has gained at the city employees' expense, it is clearly ironic that her firm's registration with the SEC documents that her firm's clients are too good for insurance annuities investments, while she has never once objected to churning through insurance annuities for the 28,000 city employees in SFERS' deferred comp plan. Other people's money.

> By no means are these the only SFERS staff and Retirement Board members

Sname on San Francisco: Patient Dumping

The Homeless Nobody Talks About

by Teresa Palmer, MD ging in Place is a popular term for supporting those who are elderly or disabled at home. There is a lot of effort

locally, statewide, and even nationally on this. Helping someone frail stay healthy in their home environment is clearly cost effective and good for quality of life.

The availability of "beds" in facilities that accept Medi-cal or who charge lower fees are a vanishing breed. The result is that those who cannot pay, or who must "spend down" for Medical, have to leave the county.."



longer safely live at home despite maximal available support? "Homelessness" is another issue now finally getting attention and funding, and this is one variant of homelessness There are huge gaps in services to those who have lost their "place" in San Francisco specifically due to the gravity of their health problems and who are, therefore, functionally homeless.

In San Francisco, not all of these folks are desperately poor — some own homes, and many just don't have enough income to pay \$4,000 to \$15,000 monthly to residential care facilities and skilled nursing facilities (SNF's) for long-term care (LTC).

hospital-based SNF beds (43.3%) between 2001 and 2015 and lost an additional 151 SNF beds in non-hospital freestanding SNF's. Many Residential Care Facilities have shut down. San Francisco lost 16 "board and care" facilities (a form of residential care) and 80 beds in Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly (RCFE's) in the five years between 2011 and 2015.

services much more competitive. The Alzheimer's in county. availability of "beds" in facilities that accept Medi-cal or who charge lower fees are a vanishing breed. The result is that those who cannot pay, or who must "spend down" for Medi-cal, have to leave

Traditional health insurance doesn't pay for LTC in either RCFE's or SNF's. Medi-Cal (Medicaid in other states) pays only for LTC SNF's. Medicare, which all seniors get, pays partially for 100 days of post-hos-Medicare rehab pays more per day than Medi-cal LTC, SNF's want to convert as many beds as possible to short-term rehab and limit the number of Medi-cal LTC beds. This has resulted in the loss of LTC beds for those who need them most.

Many believe the definition of "Aging in Place" should include your own community. One's "place" in their community is a big part of what confers meaning and gives quality of life. It also means you are close to family and friends who support you. Medi-Cal and other services are apportioned by county: If you are low-income and have to move out-of-county, you have to enroll in a completely different set of healthcare and social services that may be less in other jurisdictions than in San Francisco.

Forcing physically frail elderly and

But what happens when you can no disabled San Franciscans to leave the county is a sign of failure to care for our

> Observers believe San Franciscans as a whole don't want to mistreat this subcategory of the "homeless" (which may include our own parents or spouses). But we are doing so. We have no idea how many folks in this category are forced from their long-time family and community support systems to leave the county in order to survive. How many others linger at home without adequate care, fearing out-ofcounty displacement?

San Franciscans need a plan for LTC. The last "Health Care Services Mas-Due to "market driven" shifts in provi- ter Plan" completed by San Francisco's sion of healthcare San Francisco lost 1,012 Department of Public Health (SFDPH) in October 2013 noted:

> "San Francisco likely lacks sufficient long-term care capacity to accommodate its growing aging population ... San Francisco's long-term care (LTC) bed occupancy rate is higher than that of the state, though San Francisco has fewer LTC beds per population."

Since then, many more beds have been This makes the "market" for long LTC lost, including beds caring for people with

One of the first steps to solve this is to begin to collect data. In 2017, the SFDPH asked private-sector hospitals to provide data on their out-of-county discharges. The data was incomplete because some hospitals simply ignored DPH's request and there was no mechanism to enforce it.

There are two categories of data on out of county discharges of San Francisco residents that need to be collected: 1) Discharges from an acute-care hospital who pital rehabilitation only in SNF's. Because are transferred immediately out-of-county due to a lack of facilities, and 2) Discharges of San Franciscans who have been temporarily admitted to San Francisco skilled nursing or residential care facilities for convalescence/rehab who are later transferred out-of-county because they cannot find a facility to accommodate their need for ongoing LTC in county.

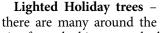
If collection of this data is legally mandated, as it should be, consideration should be given to offering San Franciscans discharged out-of-county some sort of "certificate of preference" so they can return as soon as possible.

We do know that at least 1,479 folks have been discharged out-of-county: 703 from SFGH and LHH combined, and at least 776 from just two private-sector hospitals,



·December 2018 • January 2019 ·····

Holiday cheer is easy to find in the city ...and much of the fun is free, or very reasonably priced. Here is a short list (not even remotely comprehensive) of fun holiday things to do and places to see. So, get into the holiday spirit and foist yourself out of your armchair and into the city, one of the best places to be!



city, from the big tree at the heart of Union Square, to one at Ghiradelli Square, one at Mc Laren Lodge in Golden Gate Park, and the tree at 18th Street and Castro among others. Lots of twinkling lights among the branches.

Ice skating – there are rinks at both Union Square and Justin Herman Plaza.

Visit with Santa Claus at Macy's on Union Square - and don't forget to take a look at the SPCA's adorable, adoptable pets in the windows to do a special type of "window shopping."

See the 2-story gingerbread house - in the lobby of the Fairmont Hotel on Nob Hill. **Grab a sweet -** at the Sugar Castle and Sweet Shop in the Westin St. Francis Hotel at



Union Square. **Run with the Santas** - (and elves) at SantaCon (started in SF in 1994).

See soldiers and Sugar Plum Fairies - at the SF Ballet's *Nutcracker*, which made its American debut in San Francisco in 1944.

Visit with Tiny Tim and Ebenezer Scrooge - in ACT's production of *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens.

Hang out with the animals - at the SF Zoo and see Santa on the Christmas Zoo Train.

Celebrate Hanukkah - at the Contemporary Jewish Museum with *Night at the Jewseum*, December 6 from 6-9 Pm.

Revel in the cavalcade of lights - at the Lighted Boat Parade along the Embarcadero. Boats from the St. Francis Yacht Club, the Golden Gate Yacht Club, the Pier 39 Marina, the Fisherman's Wharf Fishing Fleet and the SeaScouts will put



on their illuminated finery and have a parade on the water. December 14 from 6-8 pm.

Grab a cable car - and ride through the city looking at the holiday lights and people watch.

Volunteer - at a food kitchen for the homeless.

Make a donation - to the fire victims of the Camp fire in Butte County. United Way of Northern California makes

direct cash contributions to the fire victims.

Dr. Derek Kerr, journalistic whistleblower and contributor to the *Westside Observer*, was honored by the **Society Of Professional Journalists** at their Excellence in Journalism Awards ceremony on Novem-



ber 14. Kerr received the *John Gothberg Award for Meritorious Service* to the Society and his contributions towards Sunshine Ordinance related journalism through his work exposing issues such as the misgovernance at Laguna Honda Hospital, and other San Francisco city departments. Dr. Kerr is pictured accepting the award with SPJ's Bob Butler.

December at our local Merced Branch library

Programs for Adults:

Merced Branch Library Book Club - Tuesday, December 4, 7 to 8:30 pm

Join us for a lively discussion of author Thi Bui's illustrated memoir, *The Best We Could Do.* Club meets bimonthly, and new members are always welcome. For a copy of the book or for more information, contact library staff at (415) 355-2825.

The Citizen's Art of the Op-ed – Saturday, December 15, 2 to 3:30 pm

Writing for social change professor, author, and national columnist Zachary Michael Jack leads a hands-on workshop in envisioning, drafting, and refining short opinion, commentary, and editorial pieces for publication. Zachary's articles have appeared recently in many of America's best-circulated newspapers, including *USA Today*, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, and the *Albuquerque Journal*, among



Merced Branch Library Book Swap – Saturday, December 29, 3 to 4:30 pm

Bring in a book (or 2+) from home that you want to trade in for another. Browse a variety of book choices available to swap. Books you bring in to swap should be in good condition.

Book-A-Librarian: Learn Basic Computer Skills

Choose a topic—searching library databases, setting up an email account, or surfing the Internet. Basic mouse and typing skills required. Sign up in-person or call to schedule a 45-minute one-on-one appointment.

Programs for Adults and Teens:

Knitting Circle - Tuesday, December 11, 6 to 7:30 pm

All levels of knitters, join us with your projects and spread the inspiration! Practice supplies provided — bring your own if you have a special project. Ages 13 and up.

Merced Craft Night – Thursday, December 13, 6:30 to 8 pm

Join us for a fun night of crafting! Held on the second Thursday of each month it's for or ages 13 and up. Space is limited. Please sign up with a librarian or call (415) 355-2825. Sign up starts on the first day of the month. This month's craft is TBA.

Great Dickens Christmas Fair returns to the Cow Palace. Now in its 36th season on Saturdays and Sundays, it offers a delightful holiday experience without rival. There are a limited number of tickets available for each day of the Fair. 'Select Day' tickets must be purchased for the actual day you wish to attend. After tickets sell out for any given day, there will be no more tickets available for that day, so purchase early to ensure you are able to attend on the day(s) you prefer. Tickets are non-refundable, but may be transferred to another person.



Admission Prices at the Gate (if available): Adult/General Admission (13+): \$30.00 / Children (5-12yrs): \$14.00 (Children under 5 free.) / Pickwick Club 2018 Season Pass: Available online through Dec. 9th at \$120.00 per pass, plus a convenience fee charged by Eventbrite (a \$390.00 value!) / Adult Twilight Tickets, valid after 3:00 Pm: \$18.00 (available at the box office only). / Child Twilight Tickets, valid after 3:00 pm: \$10.00 (available at the box office only).

Bring an **unwrapped NEW toy** to the box office for a \$5 discount on adult tickets! The toy drive, Daly City Fire Department's "Operation Santa Claus," now in its 69th year brings cheer to less fortunate families in the Daly City/Colma/Broadmoor.

Parking \$12 per vehicle (charged by the Cow Palace). Convenient shuttle from the Glen Park BART station. INFO: tickets.dickensfair@gmail.com

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



Jennifer@Rosdail.com · 415-269-4663 · LivingAboveSF.com

— Taraval Station Community Meeting

Tue, December 18 | 6 pm -7 pm • Minnie & Lovie Ward Rec Ctr • taraval.org



hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and had time to spend with family and friends. December is around the corner and it is one of the busiest shopping times of the year. We recommend that you stay alert when using electronic devices: limit your distractions, be aware of your surroundings and have your keys in hand as you approach your vehicle. Park Smart: avoid vehicle break-ins by leaving nothing visible in your car, consider moving your vehicle to a different Captain Robert Yick



location each time you load packages in the trunk, and try to use parking lots with attendants. For more tips, visit sanfranciscopolice.org/safeshopper for "Safe Shopper -Holiday Season Safety Tips."



Also, the San Francisco Police Department has launched its 2018 Holiday Toy Drive, benefitting children in need. From November 16th to December 14th, the SFPD will be accepting donations of new and unwrapped toys at Taraval Police Station, or at any of our other district police stations and at Walgreens locations. Visit http://sanfranciscopolice.org/toydrive for more information.

Thursday | November 1

Theft from a Vehicle - Battery

3:10 pm | 00 Harding Rd

A man having lunch in his car heard glass breaking and looked up to see the suspect stealing his backpack. The suspect then got onto a bicycle and rode away. He followed in his car, cutting in front of the suspect to stop him. He reached out and grabbed the backpack but the suspect pepper sprayed him and fled.

Brandishing a Weapon

10:44 am | 19th Ave & Sloat Blvd

When the suspect made a dangerous and sudden lane change in front of him, the driver honked at him. When he passed the suspect shortly thereafter, he was brandishing a gun and yelling. The driver drove away from the suspect.

Theft of a Bicycle -Stolen Property

12:06 pm | 1200 Funston Ave

TNT officers saw the suspect stealing a bicycle. When they detained the suspect, a search revealed him to be in possession of more stolen property. A check found a warrant out of San Mateo. After further investigation, the suspect was arrested.

Theft of a Bicycle

10:19 pm | 3000 Judah St

TNT officers saw a suspect riding on a LimeBike. He rode the Lime bicycle to his own bicycle before switching bikes and riding off with the Lime bicycle in tow. They detained the suspect who said he had found the bike. A search revealed that it had been stripped. He was cited.

Friday | November 2

Shoplifting - Arrested

2:35 pm | Various Locations

A TNT officer identified a suspect who had a history of shoplifting in the Taraval and other districts in the city. A check revealed he was due in court and he was arrested after the court appearance.

Sunday | November 4

Unlawfully Causing a Fire

8:05 pm | 00 Dorado Ter

After SFFD extinguished a fire. The suspect told officers he wanted to get rid of some of his property but could not find a trash can so he set them on fire instead. He was cited.

Assault with a Gun

2:43 am | 200 Plymouth Ave

Officers found a man who was suffering from a gunshot wound. He said he invited a woman he met online to his house earlier and she left soon after arriving. However, she soon returned saying she had left something. When he opened the door, she was with another person with a gun. He tried to run away but was shot, and they

fled.

Assault - Threats

5:06 pm | 2500 43rd Ave

A woman said she went to an ex boyfriend's house to pick up some furniture, but a verbal argument ensued between her and the current girlfriend of the man. When she attempted to hit the previous girlfriend with a hammer, the ex boyfriend grabbed the hammer and she left the house without further incident.

Monday | November 5

Assault

3:35 pm | 100 Font Blvd

An argument over a parking spot lead to the suspect pepper spraying the victim. After investigation, officers arrested him.

Possession of a Firearm

2:07 pm | 00 Cedro Ave

After TNT officers stopped a suspicious vehicle with an expired registration, they were told that the license plate had been reported stolen. When a check on the driver found he was on probation with an arrest warrant, they searched the car and located a hand gun, multiple burglary tools and numerous keys. Both driver and passenger were arrested.

Wednesday | November 7

Robbery with a Gun

8:01 pm | San Jose Ave & Lakeview Ave

A man had been texting on his cell phone with his headphone in his ears when the suspect suddenly walked up to him, pointed a gun at him and he surrendered handed his phone to the suspect.

Robbery of a Residence

10:20 am | 1900 23rd Ave

A man was watching TV at home when he heard a suspicious noise from upstairs. The suspect came in and held an ax to his neck, then searched the house, stole his property and fled.

Battery

10:00 pm | 1400 21st Ave

Once officers determined that two neighbors, who had been at odds with each other for over 18 months, resulting in both attacking the other earlier in the evening, they cited both for battery.

Thursday | November 8

Brandishing a Weapon

1:45 pm | John Muir Dr & Skyline Blvd A woman said she had been walking when she saw the suspect urinate on a bush, get into his car. She confronted thim and they exchanged words before he produced a gun and threatened her, then drove away.

4:10 pm | 1600 Ocean Ave

A store employee said she saw the suspect

threatening her with a pair of scissors arrested before fleeing.

Friday | November 9

Assault - Marijuana for Sale

7:43 pm | 300 Monticello St

A man went to the suspect's house to buy marijuana and finding the dealer's room a mess, decided to help clean and put empty plastic bags along with other items into his bag before going to use the bathroom. When he returned, the dealer accused him of stealing and an argument ensued whereupon the dealer stabbed him. When officers searched numerous illegal narcotics were found and the dealer was arrested.

Robbery 2:24 pm | 100 Miramar Ave

A man was outside his home when three suspects ran towards him. They took the contents out of his pockets and also stole his backpack, then fled in a waiting car.

Theft of Registration Tab

1:38 pm | Judah St & 21st Ave

Seeing a suspicious vehicle, officers conducted a check which showed the car had an expired registration despite the current registration tab displayed. When they stopped the driver, he said a friend had given him the tab. An investigation, determined that the tab was stolen off another car's license plate. He was cited.

Saturday | November 10

Robbery

2:02 am | Plymouth Ave & Grafton Ave

on his cell phone at a street corner when the suspect walked up to him, started a conversation, then suddenly grabbed his cell phone. A struggle ensued but he was overpowered and the suspect fled with the his phone.

Robbery

11:41 am | Great Highway & Sloat Blvd

A man was taking photos of scenery when several suspects approached him from behind, held him and pulled his camera away from his hands, then fled in a car with the stolen property.

Assault - Robbery

4:02 am | 00 Grafton Ave

A man in the hospital said he had just left a party when several people suddenly punched and kicked him while demanding his property, which he surrendered and they fled on foot with the stolen items.

Sunday | November 11

Assault with a Weapon - Possession of a **Loaded Firearm - Resisting Arrest**

2:12 pm | 31st Ave & Noriega St

A share ride driver said he honked at a double parked car on Noriega St., but when he drove by the car he saw the driver pick up a gun and fire several shots at his car. He tried to drive away but the suspect followed him and fired additional shots in him before he fled. Officers detained him 12:03 am | 3400 Wawona St

stealing merchandise. When she con- in the Bayview area, but in the pursuit, he fronted the suspect he responded by threw his gun out of the window. He was

Vandalism – Arrested

10:16 pm | 3000 Noriega St

Witnesses said they heard loud yelling and pounding before they saw the suspect throw something at the glass shelter which caused it to shatter. Officers detained the suspect and he was arrested.

Monday | November 12

Warrant Arrest - Concealed Weapon

3:57 pm | 48th Ave & Ortega St

Officers arrived as a man was lying down and obstructing a neighbor's driveway. and a background search revealed an arrest warrant. A search of the subject found a pocket knife with the knife blade fully unsheathed. He was arrested.

Assault - Marijuana Transport

6:55 pm | 19th Ave & Pacheco St

A man said he was getting gas when the suspect opened his car door striking his vehicle. He tried to exchange information but the suspect drove away, knocking him to the ground with his car. A witness said he saw someone yelling at another man, then the man stepped in front of the car to stop it from moving, but the driver did not stop. Officers searched the car and found marijuana, and he was arrested.

Tuesday | November 13

Robbery - Assault

6:52 pm | Judah St & 46th Ave

A man said he was standing on the sidewalk when five suspects suddenly A man had just left a party and was talking approached him. He lost consciousness and when recovered, the boots he was previously holding were missing.

Wednesday | November 14

Warrant Arrest

3:48 am | 2800 Sloat Blvd

An employee of a security monitoring company called police when he sasomeone jumping over the fence. Officers located three subjects matching the description and a check revealed that two had an arrest warrants. The two were arrested.

Battery

11:03 pm | 46th Ave & Taraval St

A woman said she was listening to music out loud while riding on a MUNI. The suspect told her to turn the music off before getting off. He turned and got back on, spat on her, and exited the MUNI.

Stolen Vehicle - Battery of Police Officer

1:11 pm | 2400 20th Ave

An off duty officer saw a car driving recklessly through traffic before parking. He contacted on duty officers and a check revealed a stolen auto. The suspects returned to the car. As officers detained them they resisted and one kicked the officers. One of suspects were arrested.

Friday | November 16

Residential Robbery

Cont. p. 13



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SANTACON • PEC. 8 • 10 AM-6 PM • UNION SQUARE

Though Rec & Parks denied SantaCon a permit request for amplified sound to host costume contests and a singalong for this year's event, Santas won't be deterred. Even though it won't be a City sanctioned event, thousands of Santas, Mrs. Clauses, Elves, reindeer, and grinches will continue the holiday caper, without a singalong or a contest.

The first SantaCon took place in San Francisco in 1994 and the annual phenomena has grown so much, it now takes place in well over 100 cities around the world. Last year's SantaCon had more than 10,000 people get out to Union Square to have fun and give a little to those in need. The event is free, 21+, and attendees are encouraged to bring a new, unwrapped toy that can be donated to Toys for Tots.

EVERY SUNDAY • FARMERS MARKET

Farmers Market | Every Sun | 9 am-1 pm | Fresh fruits and vegetables are the stars this popular market. Stonestown rear parking lot: at Stonestown Galleria (19th Ave @ Winston).

EVERY SUNDAY • VICTORIAN TOUR



Sundays | 2 pm | Victorian era architecture of the city's first suburb Lafayette Square neighborhood. SF's illustrious history and some steep streets. Fabulous views! 1801 Bush St. garden. Donations OK. nightbloom/ JFK Drive, GG Park. MUNI 1, 3. Updated INFO: sfcityguides.org

EVERY TUES • QUE SYRAH HAPPY HOUR

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

EVERY THURS – NIGHTLIFE

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

SUNDAYS • FREE COMMUNITY YOGA

Every Sun | 10 am | Bring Your Own Mat for outdoor yoga at Playland at 43rd Ave. All classes are FREE and DROP IN. (Rain cancels.) 1360 43rd Ave & Judah. Cancellations: Playland Yoga Facebook Page.

DAILY • DICKENS CHRISTMAS FAIRE



Ongoing thru Dec 23 | 10 am - 7 pm | This lamp- Wed Dec 5 | 5-7 pm | Civic Center Plaza Holiday Tree lit city brimming with over 800 lively and colorful characters from the imagination of Charles Dickens relives the pages of history, and the Victorian stage. Free BART Shuttle from Glen Park Station every Fair day. Parking \$12. (cash only) The Cow Palace, 2600 Geneva Ave, Daly City. Info/Tix: dickensfair.com

DAILY • HOLIDAY ICE - EMBARCADERO

Ongoing thru Jan 8 | 10 - 9:30 pm -11:30 Fri, **Sat** | Celebrating 30 years! The Bay Area's largest outdoor ice rink, a beautiful city setting and an array of shops and restaurants to enjoy. Info: embarcaderocenter.com / 837-1931. Tix: \$11, children \$7.

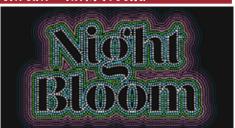
DAILY • SF FIREFIGHTERS TOY PROGRAM



Daily | In its 63rd year of helping children, the Toy

Program is the largest in the U.S. and is looking for donations of unwrapped toys. Bring toys to any S.F. firehouse 415-777-0440, sffirefighterstoys.org

ONGOING • NIGHT BLOOM!



Now through - Jan 7 | Light up the season with Night Bloom, a light and sound exhibition in an illuminated Conservatory of Flowers bursting with vibrant and luminous displays through the five galleries. AVAILABLE DAYS: conservatoryofflowers.org/

· DAMES AT SEA



Ongoing - Dec 16 Sweet, innocent Ruby arrives in New York with big dreams and lands in the chorus of a new show – but the theatre is about to

be torn down! Full of vim, verve, and tap-dancing, DAMES AT SEA will charm its way into your heart. Gateway Theater, 215 Jackson St. 42ndstmoon.org

WED • GWPNA MEETING

Wed Dec 5 | 6:30 - 8:30 pm | GWPNA meetings on the first Wednesdays -open to members, and public. 131 Lenox Way, West Portal Playground Clubhouse.

WED • TREE LIGHTING/CIVIC CENTER



Lighting: On the bill of family-friendly festivities are live music, the Tap Dancing Christmas Trees, visits from the Grinch and Santa, and a toy giveaway, free. Polk and Grove www.civiccentercommons.org

WED • GUIDE DOGS FOR THE BLIND

Wed Dec 5 | 11 am | Guide Dogs for the Blind Holiday Luncheon: The 42nd annual fundraiser includes a reception, raffle, boutique, meal and program. \$150. St. Francis, 335 Powell St., www.guidedogs.com

THU • PEOPLE OF PARKSIDE

Thu Dec 6 | 7 pm | POPS meeting is at the Taraval Police Station, 2345 24th Ave. POPs meets very first Thursday of the month.

THU • THE DEVIL WE KNOW

Thu Dec 6 | 6 pm | Citizens in West Virginia discover a big corporation has been dumping a toxic chemical into the local drinking water. Teflon-like chemicals are found in hundreds of products — and now in

Holiday Parties at The Cliff House

The Terrace Room

Offering sweeping views of the Pacific Ocean, historic ambiance and delightful cuisine, the Terrace Room is a truly unique private event venue for groups up to 120.

Private Events Direct 415-666-4027 virginia@cliffhouse.com

The Lands End Room

Located in the Sutro's Restaurant, the Lands End Room is a semi-private space for smaller parties of 17-49 offering California cuisine, awesome ocean views and Sutro Baths history.

Large Parties Direct 415-666-4005 lauraine@cliffhouse.com



Call soon to book your event!

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nearly every American. Discussion with film-maker, decision makers and local activists & SF Dept of the Environment follows. Main Branch, 100 Larkin St. / Koret. Please RSVP: thedevilweknow.eventbrite.com

THU . YOUR POWER OF SELF-HEALING



Thu Dec 6 |6:30 pm | Meir Schneider's techniques from his book, Awakening Your Power of Self-Healing. Learn the basics he developed to heal his own congenital blindness. West Portal Branch, 190 Lenox Way.

FRI • JOHN KALLEEN JAZZ



Fri Dec 7 | 7-11 pm | The John Kalleen Group is a classic style jazz quartet echoing the bop eras of the 50s and 60s, . The Balcony Lounge at the Cliff House. 1 Seal Rock. INFO: cliffhouse.com/home/jazz.

FRI-SAT • SATURNALIA

Fri-Sat Dec 7-22 | Bar 7:30 | Show 8 pm | Raunchy circus cabaret solstice party is inspired by the Pagan origins of Christmas traditions and features pole dance, comedy, contortion, a live rock band, sword fighting Shelton Theater, 533 Sutter St (drinks allowed in theater!) sheltontheater.org

FRI-SUN • HAAS-LILIANTHAL TEA & TOUR

Fri-Sun Dec 7-9 | 2-5 pm | Holiday Victorian Teas: SF Heritage Society hosts the seasonal fundraiser in the historic architectural setting, \$30-\$75. Haas-Lilienthal House, 2007 Franklin St. www.sfheritage. org/upcoming_events/

|SAT • PLANT SWAP

Sat Dec 8 | 11 am | Bring your succulents, cuttings, starts, seeds, or extra harvest to trade with others. Share your surplus and take home something new, for free! Ortega Branch, 3223 Ortega St. Back patio.

SAT • PAROL LANTERN FESTIVAL

Sat Dec 8 | 5-9 pm | Parol Lantern Festival & Parade: The Filipino community hosts the 16th annual yuletide display and festivities, preceded by lanternmaking workshops. free. Jessie Square, Mission & Yerba Buena Lane, www.bayanihancc.org



SUN • SING-ALONG MESSIAH & FAIR

Sun Dec 9 | 6 - 9:30 pm | Holiday Craft Fair 6 - 9:30 PM (setup 4 pm!) Donate your own quality handmade items / baked goods (pre-wrapped and priced) to support SF City Chorus Fair. Sing-Along 7 pm Accompanied by volunteer orchestra. \$15. Bring your own score, or borrow one of ours. Lakeside Presbyterian Church, 201 Eucalyptus Dr. sfcitychorus.org

SUN • FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS



Sun Dec 9 | 5-7 pm | Celebrate Hanukkah with Rabbi Moshe Langer and the Chabad SF -SOMA Shul & Pacific Heights at Westfield

SF on Level 4, Under the Dome. Open to the public with live music, treats, crafts for the whole family, and the lighting of the menorah. 5th & Market St.

SUNSET HOLIDAY MERCANTILE



Sat – Sun Dec 8-9 | 11am – 5pm | Eat, drink, shop, play). Explore 85+ artisans, artists, merchants and children's activities, lively entertainment, scrumptious food, beer and wine tasting! Free and fun for

November 2018



- 1. Becoming Michelle Obama
- 2. Unsheltered Barbara Kingsolver
- 3. The Library Book Susan Orlean 4. The Witch Elm Tana French
- 5. The Reckoning John Grisham
- 6. The Weight of Him Ethel Rohan *
- 7. The Fifth Risk Michael Lewis
- 8. Leadership: In Turbulent Times Doris Kearns
- 9. Nine Perfect Strangers Liane Moriarty 10. Ruth Bader Ginsburg: A Life Jane Sherrod De
- 11. Dark Sacred Night Michael Connelly
- 12. Bad Blood: Secrets and Lies in a Silicon Valley
- 13. Almost Everything: Notes on Hope Ann Lamott
- 14. Elevation Stephen King
- 15. These Truths: A History Jill Lepore
- * Event with BookShop West Portal; signed copies available.

WHAT ARE YOU READING?

all! County Fair Building in Golden Gate Park (1199 FRI • LIGHTED BOAT PARADE 9th Ave. @ Lincoln Way) sunsetmercantilesf.com

ISUN • COMEDY OF ERRORS

Sun Dec 9 | 2-3:30 pm | SF Shakespeare Festival's on tour troupe performs a one-hour version of Shakespeare's farcical comedy: The Comedy of Errors - in the original text, a tale of chaos and confusion caused by two sets of twins - a best-loved comedy since its debut in 1594 -- and with good reason! Main Branch, 100 Larkin St. / Koret

MON • SING IT YOURSELF MESSIAH



Mon Dec 10 | 7:30 pm | This year "serious" singers" have the option to sit in the audience with our chorus members and group together by part (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass). \$20-45 Golden Gate Symphony Orchestra & Chorus. Herbst Theater, 401 Van Ness Ave. goldengatesymphony.org

| WED • WON'T YOU BE MY NEIGHBOR?

Wed Dec 12 | 6 pm | An exploration of the life, lessons, and legacy of iconic children's television host, Fred Rogers, 2018. Ortega Branch, 3223 Ortega St.

THU • OPEN HAND LUNCHEON

Thu Dec 13 | 11 am | Project Open Hand's 26th seasonal fundraiser with emcee Renel Brooks-Moon and auctioneer Franco Finn supports its efforts to serve meals to people in critical need. \$250. Fairmont, 950 Mason St., www.openhand.org

FRI • ORQUESTA CONQUISTADOR



Fri Dec 14 | 7-11 pm | Orquesta Conquistador entertains with lively classic Latin jazz, traditional Cuban music, Salsa, Mambo & Cha Cha Cha. The Balcony Lounge at the Cliff House. 1 Seal Rock. INFO: cliffhouse.com/home/jazz.

FRI-SUN • S.F. ZOO LIGHTS



Fri-Sun Dec 14-16 | 5-8 pm | Holiday decor illuminates the park and animals, with refreshments and caroling. ALSO: Dec. 18-23 & 26-30. \$8-\$10. (\$10-12 parking). Sloat Blvd/Great Highway, www.sfzoo.org

Fri Dec 14 | 6-8 pm | Fisherman's Wharf Lighted



Boat Parade: 60 decorated boats parade along the waterfront in the event, held since 1994, Fisherman's Wharf Benefit District & St. Francis Yacht Club. free. Pier 39, www.visitfishermanswharf.com

| SUN • S.H.A.R.P / LUNCHEON

Sun Dec 16 | 12 - 2 pm | Winter Solstice Luncheon The irrepressible Jack Barry, spouse May Pon, and Sat Dec 22 | 1 pm | Hysteria echoed from SF to D.C. SHARP members, \$10 public. RSVP (Required): sharpsf.org - 1736 9th Avenue.

SAT • SANTA'S HELPERS NEEDED

Sat Dec 15 | 8:30 am - 2 pm | SF City Impact hosts the 31st annual Pre-Christmas Outreach. Help deliver groceries, cook, prepare and deliver meals to MON • LIVE NATIVITY Tenderloin residents in over 40 buildings, disperse Mon Dec 23 | 5-8 pm | Experience the Nativity with toys to kids, and serve hot meals to the homeless. all the animals and music and its hope and good \$25 | 415-292-1770, Register(By 12/12): sfcityim- will. Shrine of St. Francis and Portziuncola Nueva, pact.com. Salvation Army Kroc Center, 240 Turk St.

SUN • SF MADE GIFT FAIR

Sun Dec 16 | 11 am - 5 pm | The 8th shopping event Tue Dec 25 | 8:30 am - 2 pm | SF City Impact's 31st offers locally made gift items from 50 vendors jewelry, chocolate, apparel, toys, decorations, stationery and more. free. California College of the Arts, residents in 35 buildings in the Tenderloin. \$25.415 Nave, 1111 Eighth St., sfmade.org

TUE • GUERRILLA PUBLICITY

Tue Dec 18 | 5:30 pm | Want to be the #1 Influencer in your industry? Bigger media visibility. Based on her international bestseller, Guerrilla Publicity, Jill Lublin shares simple strategies to help your small business go from unknown to newsworthy. Main Branch, 100 Larkin St. / Learning Studio

TUE • COMMUNITY SAFETY MEETING

Tue Dec 18 & Jan 15 | 6-7 pm | Meet with Captain Yick at Taraval Station. Taraval Community Relations Forum: (Every 3rd Tues.) 2345 24th Ave.

WED • CRAFT NIGHT: SACHETS

for a gift or for yourself. We'll have materials to make cards and tags too. For adults. RSVP 415-355-5700 Ortega Branch, 3223 Ortega St.

WED • CHOCOLATE BARK TREATS

Wed Dec 19 | 7 pm | Chocolate Bark is simple to make, Portal Branch, 190 Lenox Way. and with endless variations! Space limited: RSVP 415 355-5770 Parkside Branch, 1200 Taraval St.

FRI • VIBO SIMFANI - JAZZ



Fri Dec 21 7-11 pm | World music at its best, ViBO Simfani bridges cultures from around the globe by fusing elements of Latin jazz, folk, classical, Brazilian styles such as Bossa Nova and Choro. The Balcony Lounge at the Cliff House. 1 Seal Rock. INFO: cliffhouse.com/home/iazz.

SAT • WINTER WONDERLAND FILM FEST

Sat Dec 22 | 1-4 pm | Join us for family-friendly movies during the winter break, starting with Elf (gingerbread house building at 1 pm, movie at 2). West Portal Branch, 190 Lenox Way.

SAT • SCANDALOUS RINCON MURALS



SHARP's winter solstice luncheon buffet. Free to when these murals were unveiled. Powerful voices called for their destruction, yet 30 years later they saved the building from demolition. Discover the Sat Jan 5 | 1-4 pm | 3rd in our family-friendly movdrama behind these New Deal treasures - and The City's history. Rincon Center, Mission & Steuart . sfcityquides.org.

Vallejo at Columbus, North Beach.

TUE • CHRISTMAS HELPERS

annual ministry to serve food, clothing and gifts to low-income families, at-risk children and isolated 292-1770, Register (By 12/23): sfcityimpact.com.

FRI . MOONGLOW TRIC



Fri Dec 28 | 7-11 pm | From the gypsy jazz of Django Reinhardt, and classic blues, swing, soul and pop - violinist and vocalist Richard Chon, formerly with **Jan 23-31** A 10 day celebration of SFs world-class Dan Hicks mixes it with guitarist Mike Wollenberg Wed Dec 19 | 7 pm | Make a scented sachet, perfect and bassist Bing Nathan. The Balcony at the Cliff House. 1 Seal Rock. INFO: cliffhouse.com/home/jazz.

SAT • WINTER FEST/AN AMERICAN TAIL

Sat Dec 29 | 2-4 pm | 2nd in our family-friendly movies during the winter break, An American Tail. West Mon Jan 28 | 7:30-9 pm | West of Twin Peaks Cen-

SUN • KWANZAA—CELEBRATE NIA

Sun Dec 30 | 1-5 pm | The 5 day of Kwanzaa, with entertainment, food and fun. Nia represents purpose: To be responsible to Those Who Came Before Thu Jan 24 | 7 - 8:30 pm | Temple UMC 65 Beverly (ancestors) and to Those Who Will Follow (descendants). Main Branch, 100 Larkin St.

MON • RING THE BUDDHA BELL

Mon Dec 31 | 11:30 am (public) | 33rd Annual Japanese New Year's Bell-Ringing Ceremony. Take a swing at a 2,100-pound, 16th-century temple bell, with a purification ritual and chanting of the Buddhist Heart Sutra. Leave behind any unfortunate



experiences, regrettable deeds or ill luck. Asian Art Museum 200 Larkin St.



ies during the winter break, The Snowball Express.



West Portal Branch, 190 Lenox Way.

SF COMEDY FESTIVAL

Thu-Sun Jan 10-27 | Various venues | SF Sketchfest was founded in 2001 to showcase Bay Area sketch comedy groups and has grown rapidly into a nationally recognized comedy festival that mixes national headliners, local favorites and the best up-andcoming groups from throughout North America for a month of sketch, improv, stand-up and alternative comedy. Info, schedule and tix: sfsketchfest.com.

THU-SUN • FOG

Thu-Sun Jan 17-21 | 11 am - 7 pm (Sun 5 pm)| Celebrate the worlds of design and visual arts, with 53 leading galleries; prominent contemporary design dealers. A focal point for the design and arts communities on the West Coast. \$25 Fort Mason Pavilion, 2 Marina Blvd.

SF RESTAURANT WEEK

dining community. 130 restaurants offer special prix-fixe minus to showcase their passion for sharing great food. Visit ggra.org for a list of participating restaurants.

MON • CENTRAL COUNCIL

tral Council meets the 4th Monday of the month to discuss local topics. Forest Hills Clubhouse, 381 Magellan Ave. westoftwinpeaks.org

SAT • OMI NEIGHBORS

St. (Shields)

MON • S.H.A.R.P

Mon Jan 28 | 7 pm | For updated meeting info: sharpsf.org - 1736 9th Avenue.

Local event? Priority for Westside events

editor@westsideobserver.com





Dishing the Dirt During the Holidays

hen you sit down at the table to celebrate the move elsewhere, soil health declines. holidays, along with giving thanks for famrich agricultural soil that produced your dinner. I learned together and releases carbon into the atmosphere. The this from Anne Stauffer, co-organizer of the Sierra Club's Loma Prieta Soils Committee and the recently formed Sustainable Agriculture Committee within Sierra Club California.

Stauffer grew up in Bakersfield, went to school with farmers' kids, and majored in biology in college. But it wasn't until she read Kristin Ohlson's book, "The Soil Will Save Us," that Stauffer became dedicated to soil health and the new field of regenerative agriculture.

Healthy soil has many benefits — it stores carbon and other necessary elements, absorbs and holds onto water, provides sustenance to the myriad of microorganisms needed for plant health, and overall provides a happy growing medium for plants.

Soil becomes healthy through the power of photosynthesis. Plants use the sun's power to absorb carbon dioxide and give off oxygen. The absorbed carbon combines with water and other elements and passes into the plant's ide (CO2). root system as a sugar; this sugar is used by soil microbes as food. In return, microbes provide necessary nutrients to the plants. When the microbes die, they release carbon into the soil for other microorganisms to use. This that covered the Southern Plains during the 1930's Dust

ongoing process gradually builds up soil organic matter.

Carbon is so important that soil organic matter typically contains at least infertile, dry dust – the kind that and over, and using pesticides and herbicides.

But agriculture can also is the result of a long-term nessed to restore the land while Last month, the United lions of microbes.

Unfortunately,

ventional agriculture has been responsible for the deg- would take a vast, unprecedented global radation of much of the agricultural soil. For example, effort to limit the devastating effects of clisynthetic fertilizers decrease soil microbial activity. Plants mate change. Part of that effort would be to treated with synthetic fertilizers don't need to interact limit the burning of fossil fuels; another part with soil life-forms as much and, instead, increasingly would be to draw carbon out of the atmodepend on the fertilizer. As these soil life-forms die off or sphere and store it. One place to store that

global warming.

Conventional agriculture also uses repeated tilling, ily and health, be sure to give thanks for the which breaks up the structure that holds soil particles carbon combines with oxygen and becomes carbon diox-



Soil exposed to air by tilling soon dries out, and the nutrients blow away. If the microbes that nurture soil productivity die, what is left is infertile, dry dust - the kind

Bowl. Other contributions to poor soil health include If the microbes that nurture growing the same crop over

50% carbon. Walking covered the Southern Plains dur- be harnessed to restore the through a redwood for- ing the 1930's Dust Bowl land while solving another est, you can feel a spongy soil under your feet. That But agriculture can also be har- warming.

build-up of organic mater solving another serious problem: Nations Intergovernmental ter full of millions to bil-(IPCC) released an alarming report that stated it

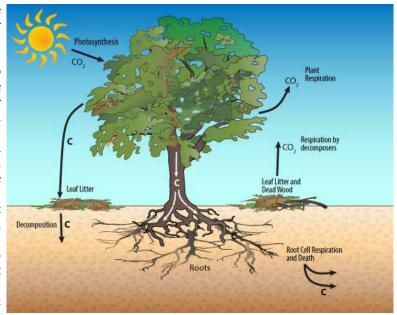


carbon is by using soil as a carbon sink or a reservoir for carbon, a process called carbon sequestration.

Globally, over one third of arable land is used for agriculture. Think of the impact, if we can employ regenerative agriculture worldwide to increase soil carbon in agricultural soil!

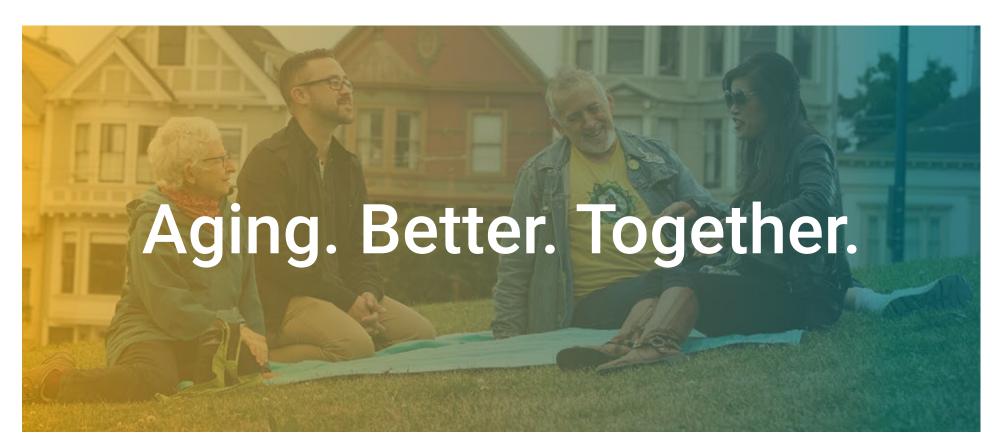
Stauffer outlined some of the proposals for regenerating soil and sequestering carbon.

- 1. Use non-till farming. Non-till farming preserves the soil structure that helps to lock carbon into the soil.
- 2. Grow cover crops. Non-food crops grown during the off-season can put down roots that sequester carbon, slow down erosion, and promote better soil health.
- 3. Leave the cover crops in place. Leave the green matter on the surface and the roots in the soil, to decay and enrich the earth.
- 4. Grow crops with deep roots. The deeper the roots, the deeper the carbon is placed and the longer it stays in
- 5. Plant diverse crops. Crop rotations using different Cont. p. 13





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Mayor (Cont. from p. 2)

the harassment prevention training Ordinance introduced on May 22, and until long after the hearing request on June 5 was introduced regarding African-American workplace discrimination complaints.

Grandstanding, Breed issued an "Executive Directive" on September 18 in a bald attempt to get ahead of the racial discrimination issue before the GAO hearing scheduled for the next day on September

During the GAO hearing on September 19, the Director of the City's centralized Department of Human Resources, Micki Callahan, asserted Breed's Executive Directive indicated *all* City employees would receive the harassment prevention training. Both Breed and Callahan could **not** have not known that the pending legislation before the Board of Supervisors carved out an exemption for mandated training for employees who work less than 20 hours weekly.

Breed's directive is almost meaningless, since the issues involve on-going harassment by managers against current and long-time employees.

Breed's Directive also wrongly claims DHR will expand the City's current sexual harassment prevention training to all forms of harassment and also to *all* City employees on a biannual [sic] basis. "Biannual" meansas twice per year, which is not what's being proposed. Breed appears not to understand that the harassment prevention training amendments explicitly seeks to expand the current limited prevention training from biennial (every other year) to annually, not biannually. Biennial would maintain the status quo.

October 5 Appointment of MTA Ombudsman

On October 5, the *Examiner* reported Mayor Breed had "hired a new 'high-level manager' who will be uniquely empowered to investigate harassment, discrimination and bullying at all levels of Muni."

Breed appointed Dolores Blanding as the first hire to an "independent ombudsperson" position with power to hold any SFMTA employee accountable. Blanding is *not* an independent employee, nor a new

Why hasn't Breed appointed ombudspersons in other notorious City departments, like the Department of Public Health?

'Ombudsman-to-MTA" October 25 **E-Mail to SFMTA Staff:**

Blanding e-mailed MTA staff on October 25, three weeks after she had been appointed by Breed. Blanding noted "SFMTA is committed to a work environment free of discrimination, harassment and retaliation."

Some MTA staff believe Blanding's e-mail amounted to window-dressing. Blanding's stated goals contradict what Breed had appointed Blanding to do at MTA: To rout out harassment at the agency. Breed tried to reassure MTA employees on October 5 Blanding would ensure all MTA ing the termination of named defendants *supervisors and managers* receive the anti-harassment training. Shouldn't Blanding be ensuring *all* MTA employees take the harassment prevention training, not just supervisors and managers?

staff, MTA issued a press release noting its com. Director of Transit, John Haley, was forced to retire. Reportedly Haley's assistant, Sabrina Suzuki, claims she had brought complaints about Haley's conduct to SFMTA officials, but her complaints were dismissed. Removing Haley won't solve MTA's woes.

The City settled a sexual harassment

We're On The Web:

lawsuit filed by MTA employee Sherri Anderson for \$250,000 in March 2018. The man Anderson named as a defendant in her lawsuit, Gerald Williams, remained on MTA's payroll as of June 30, 2018 and is reportedly still employed. Why wasn't Williams terminated between March and June

Anderson alleged in Court records Williams had forced her to perform sexual intercourse and oral sex during working hours to avoid jeopardizing her continued employment.

Part of the duties Breed assigned Blanding was that the Ombudsperson would ensure the appropriate level of discipline is administered. Now two months after Blanding's appointment on October 5, is she incapable of getting rid of Mr. Williams? Is forcing a subordinate to perform sexual intercourse and oral sex to keep her job *not* grounds for immediate termination?

Breed Must Clean House at DHR

What might help Breed out is to clean house at DHR, starting with DHR's Director, Micki Callahan. As the Westside Observer reported in April 2018, the City has racked up over \$70 million on 329 prohibited personnel practice lawsuits filed by City employees between January 2007 and December 2017. Callahan paid \$248,499 in FY 2017-2018 — is an albatross around Breed's neck for multiple, obvious reasons:

First, Callahan was hired on October 24, 2005 and promoted two years later to being DHR's Director on October 9, 2007. There is a direct correlation between Callahan's tenure as Director, and the staggering \$70 million in lawsuit costs. Breed can't miss seeing that time frame overlap.

Second, on January 13, 2012 Thomas Willis, an African-American, heterosexual male at San Francisco's Human Rights Commission (HRC), filed a lawsuit against the City explicitly naming as defendants the City, and both Callahan and the then-director of HRC, transgender celebrity Theresa Sparks, alleging racial discrimination. Willis was awarded a \$210,000 settlement signed by Callahan in her role as Director of DHR on March 7, 2013. The City Attorney's Office racked up another \$119,594 in time and expenses trying to stop Willis' lawsuit, pushing total costs to \$329,594. Given her role as a named defendant in Willis' lawsuit, how is it Callahan kept her job for five years after she signed Willis' settlement? Do all named defendants keep their jobs?

Finally, it's easily within Breed's reach to require an analysis be conducted between how many of the cases involved in the \$70 million in lawsuits during Callahan's tenure had first received a determination from Callahan she had found no merit to, and had denied, their initial EEOC complaints, but went on to prevail in their lawsuits.

What might help Breed establish some credibility for re-election is whether she quickly sacks Callahan, along with forcsuch as Williams. If Breed was able to force Haley to retire, Breed can force Callahan and Williams to retire, too.

An expanded version of this article with additional discussion, is available on the The day after Blanding e-mailed MTA author's web site at stopLHHdownsize.

> Monette-Shaw is a columnist for San Francisco's Westside Observer newspaper, and a member of the California First Amendment Coalition (FAC) and the ACLU. He operates stopLHHdownsize. com. Contact him at monette-shaw@westsideobserver.com.

www.westsideobserver.com

Do you have a pinched nerve? We can help.

Dear friend,

Last year more Americans were killed by and 160,000 were when the drugs were

prescription drugs than by guns, AIDS, suicides and terrorists combined ... But we'll get to that in a minute.

Let me start by explaining the photo in this letter. You know when I meet people in town they usually say, "Oh yeah, I know you, you are Doctor Meakim. You have been on the corner of Beach and Jones for years"...(and we just moved to our

me. I'm also the woman hugging her niece at the Jersey Shore in the picture.

Seventeen 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, midback 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 it 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 It's hard to believe, I know, but it's true. deaths due to medication people took...

> 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

new office on Clement Street). Well, that's body can heal itself. Your body doesn't need any help; it just can't have any interference. With chiropractic, we don't add anything to the body or take anything from it. We find interference in the nervous system and remove it, thus enhancing the healing capacities of the body.

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

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

- Headaches
- Migraines
- Chronic Pain
- Neck pain
- Shoulder/arm pain
- Whiplash from car accidents
- Backaches
- Numbness in limbs
- Athletic injuries, just to name a few. Here is what some of your neighbors have said:

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

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

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

My qualifications:

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

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

Thank you.—Dr. Christina Meakim D.C. P.S. When accompanied by the first family member, I am also offering the second family member this same examination for only \$17.

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

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



Exterior of San Francisco Fire Department Engine 39 at 1091 Portola Drive • Apr. 17, 1941 Reproduced by permission of San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library. Curbed San Francisco (sfcurbed.com) features this firehouse:

The San Francisco Fire Department dates back to earliest days of the city, founded in 1849 after a massive Christmas Eve fire destroyed 50 buildings in fledgling San Francisco. Originally all volunteer, the official city fire department was founded in 1866 and has grown to include 44 stations throughout the city. One of those stations, Engine 39 on Portola Drive, used to boast a pretty darn impressive garden behind the

Engine Company No. 39 was formed in 1908 at a station on Geary Street, but was relocated to Portola Avenue in Miraloma Park in 1923. The original station was made of brick and featured a massive tower, made even more imposing since there weren't many other buildings nearby. Houses were soon built up around it, but the fire station maintained a larger lot on the block. Behind the firehouse was a massive garden, planted and maintained by the firemen. Complete with terraces, radiating planting beds, and a cool hedge spelling out 'SFFD', the station's garden was really something to behold.

In 1955, the station was heavily remodeled - the tower was removed and the whole building was covered in stucco. It's been changed again since, with different window openings and a sign ledge added above the garage doors. Somewhere along the line the garden was planted with big trees, so the terraced plots are no more.

sfcurbed.com/2013/10/14/10187458/the-gardens-of-engine-39-on-portola-drive-in-miraloma-park

Police Report (Cont. from p. 8)

a man had been home and heard suspicious footsteps. When he left his room he was confronted by several suspects. The told him they had a gun but he didn't see one. The suspect demanded to know where his cash was, and went to search downstairs when said he didn't Vandalism - Probation Violation have any. After a few minutes he went down to investigate but they had already stolen some personal property and left.

Saturday | November 17

Robbery - Battery

8:50 pm | Font Blvd & Chumasero The victims said they had just exited

BART when they were approached by a suspect who pointed a gun at them and demanded their property. They gave him their cell phones and wallets before the suspect pushed them and told them to were walking when the suspect leave.

Monday | November 19

7:19 am | 1200 8th Ave

witness reported someone throwing bottles and kicking doors. Officers located the suspect and Assault - Arrested detained him. The witness said he 11:40 am | 1700 44th Ave saw the suspect throwing glass bot- A man said he got into an argutles at the MUNI bus shelter, then ment with his father and threw a kick a nearby planter, breaking it. traffic cone at him. They got in the The suspect was arrested.



Monday | November 20

Attempted Robbery - Resisting

3:16 pm | 300 Judah St

A woman said she and her friends grabbed her purse but was unable to pull it away from her. Officers reported a description of the suspect and the direction of flight was broadcast by dispatch. They successfully detained him and he was arrested.

car and continued arguing. Shortly after, the father got out of the car and struck the victim with a stick, through the open window. After investigation, father was arrested.

Burglary - Vandalism - Theft

2:56 am | 1200 15th Ave

The witness attempted to detain the suspect who broke through the front gate of an apartment complex and damaged a coin operated washing machine to steal the coins. But the suspect fled and officers found him and he was arrested.

NOTE this is an abridged version of the complete Police Report that is available at: taraval.org

The next community meeting will be on Tuesday, December 18th at 6:00 pm at Taraval Station's Community Room.

Parking is limited so please try to

As always, if you have any questions please call Taraval Station at (415) 759-3100.

Environmentalk (Cont. from p. 11)

plants may contribute higher soil carbon and soil microbial biomass than less diverse systems.

- 6. Spread compost on top of the soil. Even a thin layer will enrich the soil beneath it.
- 7. Use less synthetic fertilizer. This encourages stronger root development.
- 8. Plant perennial crops. If the same plant produces a crop year after year, an extensive root system can develop.
- 9. Plant hedgerows. Dense rows of trees and shrubs provide protection from wind erosion as well as a rich habitat for wildlife.

10. Rotate farm animals on the land. Instead of muddy, lifeless feed lots, rotate cattle or sheep through a series of pastures. The native forage grasses have a better chance to survive and can even thrive, as the critters massage and fertilize the soil by doing what they do naturally after they digest their dinner.

Our state has started to try some of these new approaches to farming. California has established a Healthy Soils Program as part of its Climate Smart Agriculture program. Since California has over 43 million acres of agricultural land, this could result in an enormous amount of carbon being sequestered in California's

For Stauffer, the changes needed for agriculture are not that complicated. Her biggest challenge is figuring out how to get people to change. Except for farmers, most of us don't think about soil we just walk on it. And yet, as Stauffer says, "soil is the reason we are all here."

In a future article, we will talk about how you can apply the principles of regenerative agriculture to your own garden. Meanwhile, enjoy your holiday feast and give thanks to the web of life that produced it.

Join Stauffer in her efforts at: www.facebook.com/soilscommittee4u/ www.facebook.com/sustainableag4u/ Learn more about regenerative agriculture at: regenerationinternational.org/ Learn more about California's agriculture programs at: calclimateag.org/overview-of-climate-smart-agriculture/ Watch fun videos here:

Katherine Howard is a member of the Executive Committee of the SF Group of the Sierra Club.

SFERS (Cont. from p. 6)

kisstheground.com/

using the SFERS \$20+ billion pension for globetrotting vacations. During the aforementioned 12-month period, while badly underperforming simple stock index funds SFERS indulged on international trips to: London, Helsinki, Florence, Hong Kong, Mumbai, Singapore, China, Okinawa, Japan, Taiwan, Paris, and San Paulo. And, because SFERS and the Retirement Board is spending other people's money, they deem themselves above the city departments' and mayor's requirement of flying coach.

And, it's not just the glamorous nature of places SFERS deems they must visit; it's the vanity seminars they attend.

For instance, in July 2017, president SFERS' board attended a three-day seminar at Harvard University designed for "board members of large publically-held companies." The city employees' pension fund, which is obviously not a public company, paid a whopping \$9,250 tuition for the president's three days to schmooze at Harvard.

After attending the Harvard seminar, at the May 2018 Retirement Board meeting the president mocked this column's use of the words "virtual" and "synthetic" to describe the unaccounted for deferred comp savings plan. If I may paraphrase Matt Damon's Good Will Hunting take on Harvard: "This is certain! Fifty years from now, you will wake up and realize you wasted \$9,000 a three-day seminar you coulda got for \$1.50 in computer charges at the public library." Had the board president simply searched Google for Investopedia, the online financial encyclopedia, he would have

learned that annuity components are described as "virtual, (if not exact) clones of their counterparts." Surely, the board president's fellow SFPD officers would have benefited more from him researching insurance annuities at the library or on-line, rather than taking an inapplicable \$9,250 course at Harvard. Other people's money.

This is clearly transactional. SFERS' administrators and the Retirement Board enable both of SFERS' two funds to accommodate the political winds, while being handsomely repaid, fêted with ostentatious travel to exotic places. It isn't just the air miles, seminar tuitions, hotels, and limousines; it's SFERS' and the Retirement Board's lowerpension performance peddled to city employees' and taxpayers as stellar investment performances. During the 2017/2018 fiscal year, despite my deferred comp performance beating the pension fund by 3.9 percentage points — a 34% greater return than the pension fund "Limo Bill" oversees - the city paid "Limo Bill" a \$223,000 bonus for his underperformance (or his enabling), for a total income of \$550,000! This is certain: If "Limo Bill" replaced his jet set lifestyle with \$1.50 in computer charges at the public library, taxpayers and city employees would be a hell of a lot wealthier.

Do these enablers care about their co-workers? Pass the Grey Poupon, please?

Lou Barberini's family lives in the West Portal area. He has an of your co-workers' money on MBA in Taxation and currently provides fiduciary retirement planning and investment services through Nich Capital Partners on assets held at Charles Schwab & Co. He can be reached at lou.barberini@gmail.com.

Money Matters By Brandon Miller

Why Releasing Your Inner Santa Is a Good Thing

cience can tell you why Santa is so jolly. It has nothing to do with getting to travel the world or only having to work one night a year. And being able to eat all the cookies he wants because no one judges him for being fat isn't a contributing factor, either.

tered this whole giving-is-better-than- gone? receiving thing.

that you're happier giving your money to others than spending it on yourself. Numerous studies over the past decades demonstrate a "giver's glow" or "helper's high" that stems from being generous. And this holds true across the globe, regardless of income level or gender.

Let's talk about you.

Scratch that. Let's talk about who you

What makes Santa, Kris Kringle, Father tuition costs? Or if you're leaving part of Christmas, St. Nicholas or whatever you your estate to a charity, will they even be want to call him so cheery is that he's mas- around decades from now when you're

Another reason to choose the here and Yes, there really is scientific evidence now is to use your gift as a trial run. If you hand \$5,000 to a friend who's having trouble making rent and they blow it on a pair of Jimmy Choos, do you really want to leave them a larger chunk of change later?

And then there's the reason for choosing now that's near and dear to me. I'm a huge proponent of giving your values along with But enough about Santa and science. your money. Here are two strategies that I use with my own sons.

The first is to match the money they

... look at what you have, or will have, minus what you need for the rest of your own life. Whatever is left you can spend as you wish on whatever you like."

want to help. I always suggest that my cli- put toward a goal. For every \$1 they save, ents focus directly on who they'll be giving to because it provides clearer guidance for their thinking.

Of course you'll also have to decide how much can you afford to give and when should you bestow your gifts.

Let's tackle the first question first.

The only real way to know how much you can afford to give is to know where your finances stand. What are your sources of income today and in the future? How much have you put away? How much do you need each month, both now and years from now? How many years do you think your money will have to last?

Then you look at what you have, or will have, minus what you need for the rest of your own life. Whatever is left you can spend as you wish on whatever you like.

If that means doling out some excess wealth to someone else, then the question becomes, should you give your gift now or later? This subject isn't quite as straightforward because there is a lot of emotion wrapped up in it. But here are some things that I suggest my clients consider.

impactful now versus later. Yes, it's dramatic to give a big inheritance to someone once you're gone. But really, where's the fun in that? Except as a plot twist in movies, of course.

Giving money to your loved ones or charities now means you get to see the impact it has on their life or organization. And this is where it really helps to focus on your specific recipient. For example, if you're thinking of leaving a grandchild \$50,000 in your will, wouldn't that money be more meaningful doled out in \$12,500 increments over four years to help defray

I contribute \$5. Technically I'm giving my sons money, but I'm teaching them about saving at the same time.

My second tactic is to insist that they give back part of what I give them. I might hand each twin two \$5 bills with the caveat that they can spend \$5 on themselves, but the other bill has to be spent on someone else. This is a really fun way to teach them how good it feels to give to others.

And yes, these tactics work equally well for adults.

However you choose to share your money with others, you'll feel a rush of dopamine and endorphins that stem from the act of generosity itself. And you don't even have to put on a Santa suit.

The opinions expressed in this article are for general informational purposes only and are not intended to provide specific advice or recommendations for any individual or on any specific security. It is only intended to provide education about the financial industry. To determine which investments may be appropriate for you, consult your financial advisor prior to investing. Any past perfor-First, your gift is likely to be more mance discussed during this program is no guarantee of future results. Any indices referenced for comparison are unmanaged and cannot be invested into directly. As always please remember investing involves risk and possible loss of principal capital; please seek advice from a licensed professional.

> Brio Financial Group is a registered investment adviser. Advisory services are only offered to clients or prospective clients where Brio Financial Group and its representatives are properly licensed or exempt from licensure. No advice may be rendered by Brio Financial Group unless a client service agreement is in place.

> and training, but will pay huge dividends

homeowner associations was tabled until

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM. The next meeting of the WOTPCC will be on Monday, January 28 at 7:30 PM at the historic Forest Hills Clubhouse. For more information see the WOTPCC website



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Patient Dumping (Cont. from p. 6)

during different reporting periods. It hasn't been possible to obtain data from all acute-care hospitals, because four hospitals didn't respond.

Worsening out-of-county discharges was CPMC's closure of its sub-acute unit in June 2018 for patients who need ven-

through a legislative mandate, that our Health Department collect this out-ofcounty discharge data from private sector facilities. Data collection can then be enforced for those facilities that may be reluctant. Since this measures the care we give to the most vulnerable among us, once the legislation is proposed, it will be

One of the first steps to solve this is to begin to collect data. In 2017, the SFDPH asked private-sector hospitals to provide data on their out-of-county discharges ... hospitals simply ignored DPH's request"

tilators, tracheostomy, and other forms of complex care to survive. There are no other sub-acute units in the City left. So if you have an illness that leaves you ventilator-dependent and you can't continue at home, there is no long-term bed in San Francisco for you.

and the Board of Supervisors to require,

hard for any elected or appointed official to disagree with collecting it. What public officials don't measure, they can't fix.

Dr. Teresa Palmer was a Senior Physician Specialist in geriatrics at Laguna Honda Hospital for 15 years and has practiced medicine in San Francisco for 30 years. It should not be difficult for the Mayor Patrick Monette-Shaw contributed to this

WOTPCC (Cont. from p. 5)

search and rescue equipment; gain skills in first aid, CPR and basic search and rescue. The third grant allowed them the resources to design and implement the "Senior Connected Community Program," an exercise and support group for their senior neighbors that enabled everyone to get to know each other and to connect seniors to others in the neighborhood, while also conducting exercises and practicing the emergency skills that will be needed when a disaster occurs.

Their program was so successful that "Emergency Preparedness" was separated out as a separate D7 Budgeting options for neighborhood grants. The program does take a core group of neighbor volunteers and organizers, and continual outreach

when the next disaster occurs.

WOTPCC President Scardina next asked for ideas for future topics for the agenda. Topics such as SF Citizen Power; a recap of the Election results and impact of the Propositions, and the expected resubmittal of Senator Weiner's' SB827 legislation were discussed.

An update on the issue of "non-active" the January 2019 meeting.

(www.westoftwinpeaks.org).



= Real Travel By Sergio Nibbi

Tipsy Towers

aving recently spent two weeks in Eastern Europe visiting scores of churches, cathedrals, synagogues, fortresses and magnificent palaces, I always marvel at the size, height and beauty of these amazing structures. As a builder I always marvel at the talent and craftsmanship of those builders from so long ago. One of the first Cathedrals that we visited during our river cruise was the Regensburg Cathedral with its soaring

spires. Who was the soils engineer? Who designed the foundations? Where did the material come from and how many men did it take to carve that magnificent exterior? The spires reach to the heavens but how did they get all that material to the very top? Today we have tower cranes and metal scaffolding, but how many trees did they need to cut down to get to the very top of those spires? And how many would-be Michelangelos did it take to carve all those sculptures?

Duomo was started in 1296 with the realization that at the time, no one knew how to build the dome, and it would take over 100 years before Brunelleschi finally figured out how to construct what is still the largest brick dome ever created. And what about Giotto's Bell Tower next door? Still



standing and not an inch out of plumb. Is there a lesson to be learned here?

I questioned a structural engineer years ago about the construction of Saint Peter's in Rome, and why the building that huge simple. They figured out the weight of the were more workers than attorneys? And



The Cathedral in Florence known as the soil being excavated and figured the weight of the new structure and the solution was simple, the weight of the new building was equal to the weight of the soil being removed.

> With all the construction going on in San Francisco at this time, one would think that a little research would be in order. I'm sure that with all the brilliant soils engineers in our area someone must have visited some of those magnificent old world structures and spent time doing research on the



didn't tilt or sink. His answer was very means and methods. Could it be that there



speaking of workers, was there a mini- Notre Dame in Paris. mum wage, days off on your birthday, or two weeks paid vacation?

thought, but maybe I had better start holding on to those cruise brochures that come in the mail daily. I still vividly remember the sun shining through the hole in the roof of the Pantheon, the grandeur of St. Peter's in Rome, the amazing mosaics that cover the walls and ceiling of the Church of the Savior on Spilled Blood in St. Petersburg, and one of my favorites,

With the holidays upon us, maybe Santa's sack might have just enough room for I've never given this a lot of serious a pair of tickets to some exotic spot where we can study the construction of these magnificent structures, take some notes and bring back some ideas on how to build them right, build them straight and, well, you know what Shakespeare said about the attorneys!!

> Sergio gets around—the world. Feedback: sergio@westsideobserver.com

Laguna Honda (Cont. from p. 5)

and restrictive.

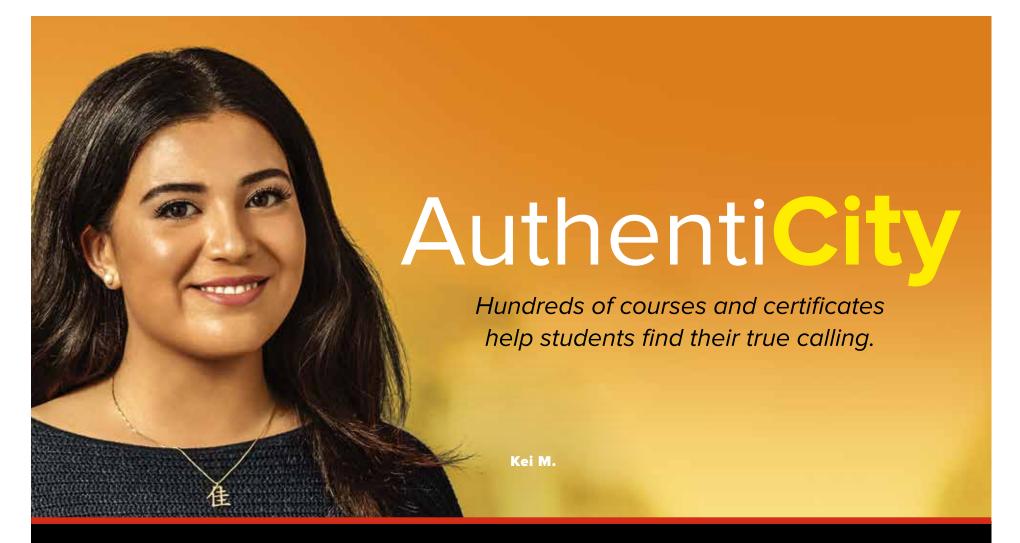
Finally, San Francisco lacks nursing home beds, shelters and housing. The Health Department only provides 45 Medical Respite beds on Mission Street for homeless persons discharged from SFGH. So, some patients are sent to LHH even if they don't want to be there. Because LHH always has a waiting list, folks who want to stay at LHH get displaced by those who don't.





Maria Rivero and Dr. Derek Kerr were senior

cians at Laguna Honda Hospital where they repeatedly exposed wrongdoing by the Department of Public Health. Contact: watchdogs@westsideobserver.com



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Did we learn anything from a tumultuous year?

just spent the last 20 minutes snuggled next to a four-year-old singing The Wheels on the Bus Go Round and Round And then we practiced reading the words, Shhh! Shhh! Shhh!

My bet is that everyone needs a bit of a nice. It is being a bully. cuddle as we wind down this year. And a bit of time to reflect. And hope.

Here is the reflection part:

What did we learn this year about ourselves and about our country?

I don't mean you finally figured out how to take the kids to soccer practice and also ers is not taking care of children.

have dinner ready. If you have, please contact me off-line.

What did we learn (or fail to learn) this year?

Below is my list.

may sound remarkably familiar to what we teach our children. But this year for certain, I discovered a lot of folks forgot what they learned as kids.

If you have difficulty, included are some **Tip**: Ice melts when it gets too warm. helpful hints.

Tell the Truth. Young children know the difference between truth and lies. Easy peasy. Too many adults have a hard time with this.

Tip: It's easier to tell the truth than remember the lies.

Tip: Repeating a lie again and again does not make it true...even if it is on Twitter. The hidden agenda is to repeat it so often that people take lies for fact.

Be nice to others. That's kindergarten 101. Ok, for those lucky enough to go have I know I can. gone to pre-school, that's THE lesson.

Tip: Calling people names is not nice. **Tip**: Using your power to harm or intimidate those who are weaker is not being

Take Care of Children. This is the most basic responsibility we teach and model for our children.

Tip: Removing children from their mothers is not taking care of children.

Tip: Removing children from their moth-

(I just thought this one was worth repeating.)

Science is real. Contrary to the belief of some, a scientific theory is not a guess. It is an explanation of the natural world that can be repeatedly tested and verified in accordance with the scientific method.

Tip: Hot dry wood can burn out of control.

Tip: Oceans and rivers rise when there is more water.

What's Next?

I am betting everyone has learned something important this past year? What have you learned? What are you going to do about it?

Before I commit to a New Year's resolution on this, I've got one more book to finish with the four-year-old: The Little *Engine that Could.*

I think I can. I think I can. I think I can.

Carol Kocivar is a children's advocate and lives in the Westside. Feedback: kocivar@ westsideobserver.com



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