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Kill the Affordable Housing Bonus Plan

By George Wooding

It's time for the City and the neighborhoods to kill the Planning Department's Affordable Housing Bonus Plan (AHBP) and start over with citizen involvement.

Don't be fooled by the term "affordable housing." AHBP was designed by pro-development forces to gain housing concessions for developers. The program tries to improve on a State plan that has existed since 1979.

For over a year, the Planning Department, the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development (MOHCD), the Mayor, developers and their lobbyists, housing activists, the Housing Action Committee (HAC), Supervisor Katy Tang, and the City's development-friendly "think tank," SPUR, worked together behind closed doors to develop a plan that would allow San Francisco to build 6,000 more affordable housing units than current State law allows.

No San Francisco citizens were ever invited to these planning meetings, nor were San Franciscans told about this project — because

the neighborhoods were considered to be unorganized, have limited funding, and limited knowledge of the future of our City's growth and planning. Being deemed too politically weak, dumb, unorganized, and poor, neighborhood interaction was considered irrelevant, trivial, and unnecessary.

MOHCD and the Planning Department tried quietly to navigate approval of the AHBP legislation



through the Planning Commission during the holiday season. Fortunately, a group of vigilant neighbors were able to force a continuance review of AHBP until January 28 at the Planning Commission.

As regular San Franciscans become aware of the AHBP legislation, many hate it.

On October 29, 2015 Supervisor Katy Tang held a public meeting regarding AHBP. She faced 160 mostly angry and confused District 4 residents. After hearing numerous complaints about increased building heights and bulk increases on major neighborhood streets, Tang promised to have planning meetings in all 11 supervisorial districts. At this time, the

additional neighborhood outreach projects have not been completed.

"We are in no rush to pass this legislation," Tang said.

Tang repeatedly said that San Francisco must act to form a local density program due to a

Cont. p. 5

“Many of these smaller affordable units will be so small that you will be able to make breakfast while you go to the bathroom, taking multi-tasking to a new level.”

Will the "Natural Areas Program" Affect the Future of Our Parks?

By Nancy Wuerfel and Sally Stephens

When most people think of a park, they think of a lush green space with trees and pretty plants, a space where everyone can walk, play or just sit quietly. A few, however, think of a windswept area with no trees and scraggly plants, where people aren't welcome except on a trail. Which vision would you rather see in your neighborhood park?

Any day now, the Recreation and Park Department (RPD) could begin to fully implement its Natural Areas Program (NAP) that will radically change the appearance and usage in 32 RPD parks and open spaces (covering 1,100 acres, one-quarter of RPD's parkland) including Mt. Davidson, Glen Canyon, and McLaren Park.

Cont. p. 17



Nearly every thing in this photo of McLaren Park could be removed, detractors say, by the Natural Areas Program simply because they're not native.

Where Do We Go From Here?

By John Farrell

On Jan 12th I attended a meeting sponsored by the Planning Department on the Affordable Housing Bonus Program (AHBP). AHBP provides incentives for developers to include more affordable housing for very low, low, moderate and middle-income households. Development bonuses include increased density and height based on the number of affordable units.

“The City needs an all-inclusive strategy to handle the increase in population to 1 million and 30,000 new units within the next 5 years and its ramifications on our City and our City Services ... increases in crime, traffic, transportation, homelessness, panhandling, the City's universal health plan, police and fire services, jobs, new businesses, etc.”

We all agree that our City is in drastic need of affordable housing. But one of the main concerns is that the City is in a reactive mode, pushing this through without due diligence, like proper neighborhood input. For example, this legislation would allow one or two story properties along commercial strips to add two or three stories more for affordable housing. The City's one size fits all mentality, allowing for increases in stories in commercial strips throughout the City, is not the way to go. What may work well in one neighborhood commercial strip doesn't always work in another. Further, this legislation opens the door to unlimited demolitions,

changing our neighborhoods.

Today we have over 850,000 residents. Despite the rapid growth in our City's cost of living, the population is projected to increase to 1 million over the next 15 years or much sooner. What is the City's strategy to achieve this 1 million population growth? We have an aging infrastructure and our transit system needs to be addressed. Traffic downtown is horrendous. Our Homeless program is mediocre. Buildings are going up like crazy but our infrastructure and water are at risk. Should I go on?

We all get wrapped up in our worlds,

Cont. p. 4



Photo: David Edstrom

Diversity Brings Controversy Laguna Honda's Nursing Challenge

By Dr. Maria Rivero and Dr. Derek Kerr

In 2002, the Health Commission adopted a Resolution for "Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services" - "to be broadly inclusive of diverse racial, ethnic, sexual and other cultural...groups." The Department of Public Health (DPH) then formulated a Cultural Competency Policy whose principles include; "To Recruit, Retain and Promote at all levels of the Organization, a Diverse Staff and Leadership That Are Representative of the Demographic Characteristics of the Service Area." Subsequently, DPH agencies like Laguna Honda Hospital (LHH), and DPH contractors, had to submit annual Cultural Competency Reports showing their compliance or diversity initiatives. The 2008-9 DPH Annual Report boasted that; "DPH's committed and talented staff reflects the cultural diversity and richness of San Francisco's population." Seemingly, the DPH adheres to the City's 2013 Health Care Services Master Plan guideline for a "workforce that reflects community characteristics".

“... six LHH employees ... risked retaliation by joining 30 other City employees in claiming that favoritism, nepotism and cronyism are sabotaging merit-based hiring and promotions.

Not so, according to six LHH employees who testified before the Civil Service Commission on 11/16/15 and 1/4/16. They risked retaliation by joining 30 other City employees in claiming that favoritism, nepotism and cronyism are sabotaging merit-based hiring and promotions. Here are excerpts;

"Laguna Honda is plagued with isms - favoritism, cronyism, racism - you name it. Every time I turn around, somebody's child is being hired while people that come and apply can't get hired. For the past 3 years, I've seen young people being hired through the back door, despite Civil

Service...then they're pushed into those cushy positions. Those positions haven't been posted for people who have more experience and more seniority." (C.N.A.)

"The workforce is not diverse, it does not reflect San Francisco or the Bay Area. Whoever is in a position to hire, every person who gets hired looks like them, speaks like them, and comes from the same place they come from. And we are the minority. If we are asking questions, and if we are able and articulate to say 'what's going on, I'm qualified for this position, I can do this job', then you are called a troublemaker. So

Cont. p. 4



By the Numbers

Invest In Teachers or Hedge Fund Managers?

By Lou Barberini, CPA

If you work for the city or if you are a city taxpayer, you should be concerned that the ultimate responsibility for the viability of the San Francisco public employees' pension falls on your shoulders. With that in mind, consider this question: Would you prefer 1,000 additional police officers making our streets safer, or would you rather pay that money to Wall Street hedge fund managers? Do a few rich guys on Wall Street contribute more to our city than 1,000 new city employees?

Over the past two years, the Chief Investment Officer for the San Francisco public pension, William Coaker, has advocated allocating 15% of the \$20+ billion city pension plan to hedge funds. His rationalization is that hedge funds provide a cushion during a stock market decline and are less risky than stocks. **Opaqueness, Arbitrary Valuations, and Fees, Fees, Fees**

What is a hedge fund? Let me provide a hypothetical example: As the theoretical manager of the West Portal Hedge Fund, I will use your public pension plan's assets to invest \$100 million in a package of West Portal businesses including the Empire Theater, Papenhausen Hardware, Barbagelata Real Estate, Trattoria de Vitro, and various others.

There will be many costs that you will incur as the beneficiary of my hedge fund. The first layer of fees will be paid to business brokers, property managers, attorneys, accountants, and of course San Francisco's pension plan will have to hire more employees specifically to analyze my West Portal Hedge Fund.

The second drag on your pension's income will be the 2% fee I charge every

year on your \$100 million investment whether the value of the fund goes up or stays flat. The third layer of fees will be my annual 20% cut on the profits on the West Portal Hedge Fund.

Calculating the value of the West Portal businesses is not a simple matter. If the pension invests in stocks or bonds, we can look at any newspaper and determine its exact value. In contrast, how will we determine the Empire Theater's profits and its

value? The ticket and popcorn sales are easy. But, how do we determine whether the theater building appreciated 5%, 10%, or 15% in value?

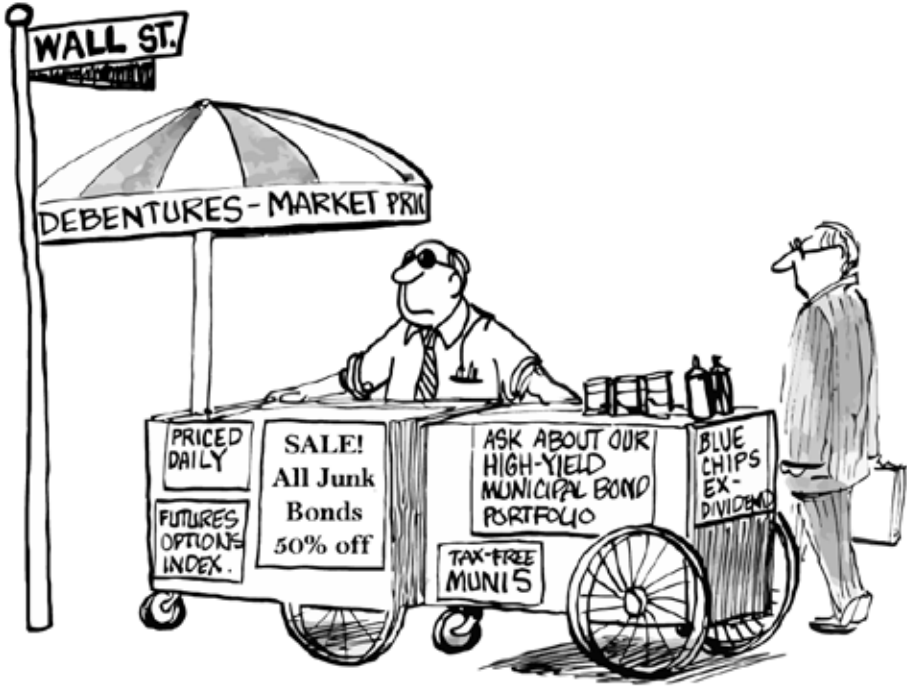
First, drop the "we." As the hedge fund manager, I get to subjectively tell you how much I think the Empire Theater has appreciated. The higher

my personal appraisal, the larger the base for my 20% cut.

Mathematically, if the West Portal Hedge Fund earns a 7.5% profit (4% income and 3.5% based on my evaluation), you get to keep \$4.5 million and I get to keep \$3 million. You risk \$100 million, and I get to keep 2/3rds of what you receive without risking a penny.

A hedge fund is not liquid. Unlike

...does it make sense to spend 2/3rds of the fire department's budget on a few Wall Street hedge fund managers? We could hire a thousand more teachers, or a thousand more gardeners, or a thousand more police officers, or doctors and nurses for Laguna Honda Hospital.



a stock or bond, you can't just sell out of it. And in 20 years, when the West Portal Hedge Fund is liquidated, neither Coaker nor I will be around to answer if the selling price is less than the total of my annual guesses on appreciation.

History of Underperformance:

Mr. Coaker has stated that he will look for the "rock stars" of the hedge fund world that will work for us and continue with a high level of success. This is the same pension plan that recently lost over \$60 million (\$2,000, per employee), investing in currency hedge funds. Mr. Coaker was asked, in retrospect, which hedge funds he wished he had invested in, but he has remained silent. This makes it hard for us to evaluate how hedge funds can help us. It is easy to predict the past. If a basketball expert cannot tell you he wishes he picked the Warriors last season, how can you trust who he will predict this season?

Both CALPERS, the gigantic California pension plan, and Warren Buffett, the greatest investor of our time, disagree with Coaker's strategy. CALPERS recently

decided to dump their entire hedge fund allocation. Buffett claims that an index fund, running on autopilot, can beat hedge funds because hedge fund fees create too strong a headwind to success. Buffett is so confident in his theory that he has waged a bet that the average hedge fund cannot beat a passive index fund. So far Buffett is winning because over the past five years, the average hedge fund has earned less than a 4% annual return.

We gained more context of hedge funds' potential with San Francisco's plan when a union attorney recently published the performance of the "gold standard of institutional investing," the Yale Endowment Fund. In the union newsletter, the attorney claimed that not using the Yale hedge fund approach caused San Francisco's pension plan to underperform over the past five years.

Thus, if we substitute the Yale gold standard numbers into San Francisco's pension, we can compare the Yale performance to Warren Buffett's simpler advice.

Cont. p. 4

BALBOA PARK STATION AREA IMPROVEMENTS COMING SOON!

Construction starting Mid-February 2016 until October 2016

Balboa Park 站區改善工程即將展開。施工時間為2016年 2月 中旬到10月。

¡Mejoramientos en la Estación de Balboa Park Próximamente!
Construcción será de mediados de febrero hasta octubre del 2016

This project is designed to improve the safety, reliability and accessibility for the 24,000 people it serves daily, supporting pedestrians, transit riders and drivers around the Balboa Park Station.

Key improvements include a landscaped median, sidewalk widening and red transit-only lanes on Geneva Ave. installations of pedestrian lighting, ADA-compliant curb ramps and new wayfinding signs around the station and the addition of flashing beacons on the Ocean Ave. I-280 off ramp.

What to Expect During Construction:

Area impacts are expected, including noise, dust and moving vehicles. Other impacts may also include traffic delays, parking restrictions, bus stop relocations, traffic routing, pedestrian detours and transit service changes. General construction working hours are 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Construction is scheduled to avoid disruption of weekday peak-hour congestion. We will consistently work with the contractor to minimize disruptions to the community and mitigate concerns.

For more project details and to receive regular updates please visit www.sfmta.com/BalboaParkArea. 了解更多工程信息, 請上網 www.sfmta.com/BalboaParkArea. Para más información sobre el proyecto, por favor visite www.sfmta.com/BalboaParkArea. For any questions, please contact Cristina Padilla at Cristina.Padilla@sfmta.com; 415-701-2474.

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West Of Twin Peaks Central Council By Mitch Bull

Ruminations From a Former Supervisor By Quentin Kopp



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Where Do We Go? (Cont. from p. 1)

whether it's making our mortgage or rent payments, putting food on the table, raising our children, or taking care of an elderly family member. We take care of the sick, needy and those less fortunate and help in our neighborhoods. We count on our elected officials but it is time people start realizing they are not getting the job done. We need solutions, not rhetoric.

It is all good that our City officials want more affordable housing, to improve services, and to maintain our infrastructure. As concerned citizens we all want that. It is easy to finger point but that is not productive since we are all in this together. So where do we go from here?

First off, let's identify the problem. The City has no game plan or strategy to achieve a 1 million population.

Second. Let's stop being in a reactive mode and formulate a game plan for the future that keeps the integrity of San Francisco and our neighborhoods. The City needs an all-inclusive strategy to handle the increase in population to 1 million, 30,000 new units within the next 5 years, and ramifications on our City and our City Services. These ramifications include increases in crime, traffic, transportation, homelessness, panhandling, the City's universal health plan, police and fire services, jobs, new businesses, etc. All City departments should report on the effect that the proposed increases will have on their service levels.

What will be the effect on our City revenues? For example, what is the projected property tax revenue increase from these 30,000 units once completed? If we took a conservative \$1 million average sales price per home, then the assessed value would be \$30 billion or \$354.78 million annually in property tax revenue (based on the 2015-16 tax rate of 1.1826%). This doesn't even take into account transfer tax revenue of \$225 million from the sales of these 30,000 units (based on the transfer tax rate of \$3.75 for each \$500 portion of \$30 Billion). We are not even looking at increases from other property transfers and new construction, business tax, hotel tax, etc... With this anticipated increase in revenue we should be seeing fewer bond initiatives.

Third. The City must stop spending like a drunken sailor. The Mayor's FY2015-16 budget of \$8.96 billion is \$1 billion more than it was 2 years ago. In good times like now, programs and services are not as scrutinized in the budget process as they would be in a recession or depression. This is the perfect time for the City to do a zero-base budget and start being made accountable before the next bubble bursts. Keep in mind everything is cyclical. The Board of Supervisors should immediately direct the Budget Analyst Harvey Rose to conduct a zero-base budget as of a specific start time. The last zero-based budget was during the Willie Brown administration.

Fourth. In real estate it is "location, location, location." In regard to the City it is "audit, audit, audit." Audit the revenue practices of our revenue generating City Departments to insure all revenue sources are identified. I guarantee they are not. Have Grand Jury and Harvey Rose audit recommendations been implemented?

Hedge Funds (Cont. from p. 2)

While the union's attorney is correct that Yale outperformed our pension plan, *Yale's high priced Wall Street managers could not beat Buffett's robot-S&P 500 Index*. A passive index fund beat the best minds by an average of 1.5% per year. It's like Coaker and his proponents are selling us on replacing our reliable car with a Rolls Royce for our two-block commute; and while we are stuck in traffic, we watch our neighbor leisurely walk past us.

If we continue to apply the Yale performances to Coaker's desired allocation, we can determine how much the Yale style would have cost us in hedge fund fees. For a performance that could not even beat a passive index, we would have paid hedge fund managers \$220 million per

Are all City department lands that are rentable leased out, and if not, why not? Have all backlogs, such as building permits, been addressed? Audit non-profit agencies and City contracts to insure that services are being provided and determine if they are even necessary. Cut unnecessary fat to ensure vital City needs are met. We need to prioritize essential services and programs and ensure they have sufficient funding before lower priority programs are funded.

Fifth. Stop the waste. For example, the January 15 *Chronicle* article,"S.F. budget analyst says city did a poor financial deal on Super Bowl," reported that," San Francisco's budget and legislative analyst has slammed the city for not signing an agreement with the National Football League and the Super Bowl 50 Host Committee for full reimbursement of the city's \$4.8 million in costs." The article further read," that the city of Santa Clara is getting full reimbursement for its \$3.6 million in costs. San Francisco all but gave the Super Bowl 50 Host Committee a pass, the report concludes, and urges the city to renegotiate immediately with the committee for reimbursement of all its costs." There is no excuse for this.

Sixth. Review all our existing City systems to see how tech savvy we can be. We have the top tech minds of the world in our neighborhood so let's take advantage of it.

Seventh and last but not least, let's stop talking and get it done.

If you don't know me than you might say "who is this guy writing this article and what does he know?" First off I am not someone who is here to take from the City. I am a fifth generation San Franciscan. My two daughters are sixth generation. My wife and I are here for the long haul. My family has been in public service for decades. My father is the retired Controller appointed by Joe Alioto, my grandfather was a Muni driver, my uncle was a Sergeant in the Police Department, etc. I have an extensive background of over 35 years in private industry and government. I have worked over the years for the City as a Park Director for the Recreation and Parks Department, a Senior Analyst for Harvey Rose, the Budget Analyst for the Board of Supervisors, a Mayor's Budget Analyst, a Senior Management Assistant to the Port, an Assistant Assessor-Budget and Special Projects and as Financial Director for the Treasure Island Development Authority.

As a public servant, I knew that I worked for you - the taxpayers of the City and County of San Francisco. Every decision I made was in the best interest of the City. I am writing to you as a professional and true public servant who knows the workings of City Hall and knows that business as usual has got to change.

We are the City that knows how. We all need to work together. But let's be proactive and develop a viable plan and stop being reactive.

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

year. That's one billion dollars in fees over five years! The entire San Francisco Fire Department's 2015 budget is \$332 million; does it make sense to spend 2/3rds of the fire department's budget on a few Wall Street hedge fund managers? We could hire a thousand more teachers, or a thousand more gardeners, or a thousand more police officers, or doctors and nurses for Laguna Honda Hospital.

Coaker's final selling point is that a hedge fund will outperform stocks in a year when the stock market really declines. Remarkably, in the most devastating year during the middle of the Great Recession, the Yale Endowment declined 24.6% while San Francisco only declined 22.26%. San Francisco outperformed Yale in a down year!

Impetus for Hedge Funds:

In fairness to the commissioners on the Retirement Board, they have recently voted to cap hedge funds at 5% of the plan's assets. And, in fairness to Mr. Coaker, every pension chief investment officer is trying to leverage his performance to obtain a better gig. If you are trying out for a major league baseball team, and you are a small second baseman, you have to swing for the fences to get discovered.

Laguna Honda (Cont. from p. 1)

you are excluded from discussions in your Unit...and your colleagues are told not to talk to you... It's becoming somebody's living room, somebody's house, somebody's backyard." (LVN)

"Hiring is based on friendships and family. Managerial positions are...set aside for families and friends. Everything is adjusted based on whom it is or who you want to align the job for. There's no consistency...people are not necessarily hired from the eligibility list. They're hired ad hoc. We cannot sit by and accept this because one set of people are being asked to...maintain the rules, and another set can come in and do whatever they want." (C.N.A.)

"Repeatedly at LHH, there are examples of lesser qualified nurses inappropriately installed into supervisory positions because they are in the preferred ethnic group or are related to persons in authority, or they are loyal servants to this group's dominance. Non-Filipino applicants rarely advance within LHH." (RN)

Stunned, the Commission promised to investigate, while noting management's right to organize its work-force. That right can breed disparities. A 2010-11 Whistleblower Program investigation confirmed that an SFGH Nursing Supervisor responsible for staff recruitment committed nepotism. She "resigned" and 3 of her relatives were "released." Though relatively few DPH employees complain to the Civil Service Commission, its 2013-

Employees	%White	%Black	%Hispanic	% Asian	%Filipino	%Amer/Ind
CCSF(23,237)	34.58	12.75	14.51	24.54	13.10	0.49
DPH (5,787)	24.78	11.79	14.69	23.86	24.59	0.29
LHH (1,250)	13	10	9	20	47	---

14 Year-End Report cited; "a notable increase in the number of complaints and/or questions" about employees not meeting minimum job qualifications, while 3 of 8 City departments "did not conduct verification of qualifying work experience for their appointees..." The DPH's 2014 Work Experience Survey found that 43% of 3,220 employees felt professionally stymied. While the surveyors merely urged more "professionalism and respect", it's telling that the DPH responded with "a manager training that reviews hiring and onboarding procedures."Laguna Honda's 2014 Employee Satisfaction Survey identified the main causes of discontent as; "unprofessional" or inexperienced managers, "favoritism, retribution, bullying", and ignoring feedback.

Concerns about diversity and hiring have long-simmered at LHH. Because hospital employees must possess job-related qualifications, their demographics won't exactly match the communities served. Nursing shortages in competitive healthcare environments may require imported skills.

But according to LHH's 2011 Cultural Competency Report, and the Department of Human Resources (DHR) 2013 "Equal Employment Opportunity Workforce Utilization Analysis", there's a striking imbalance;

The 47% Filipino demographic of LHH workers in 2011 didn't reflect the patients who were; 2% Filipino/Other, 37% White, 25% Black, 13% Hispanic, and 23% Asian. It exceeded San Francisco's 5.2% Filipino population. It doubled the DPH's percentage, which itself topped other City departments. Rather, it reflected LHH's Nursing Department that hired 60% of hospital employees. Although trends in

Even if you are not a home run hitter, you have to take great risks and to play over your head to get noticed. Steadiness just does not attract attention. Unfortunately, when chief investment officers of pensions swing for the fences, they are playing with other people's money- ours!!

Lou Barberini is a San Franciscan and a CPA living in West Portal

hiring are indicators of cultural competency, there's no current data on the ethnic distribution among LHH employees, now numbering 1,678. LHH hasn't submitted any Cultural Competency Reports with employee demographics since 2011. Both the DPH and the DHR denied having ethnicity data on Laguna Honda employees.

Nonetheless, ethnicity had been the focus of an internal "Cultural Competency Assessment" produced for LHH executives in 2007. It reported; "Nursing is dominated by Filipinos who comprise 71% of (its) employees", including 80% of Registered Nurses, 81% of Licensed Vocational Nurses, 67% of Certified Nursing Assistants, and 54% of Nurse Managers. Among patients, 3% were Filipino, creating "a great disparity between the ethnic composition of those who give and receive care."Almost 10 years later, LHH nurses say little has changed. Here is a comparison of Filipino Registered Nurses, Licensed Vocational Nurses and Certified Nursing Assistants within the DPH in 2013 versus LHH in 2007, the most recent numbers available;

LHH's 2007 "Cultural Competency Assessment" warned; "Disproportionate representation on one ethnic group among nursing staff causes tension and strife in some units, and makes it difficult for new staff that is not from the majority group to become accepted as a team member and, even more, as a unit leader." Staff interviews revealed examples of marginalization. Further, "In discuss-

ing whether the institution does anything to actively recruit from groups that are underrepresented...the official position was not entirely clear."While priority was given to some applicants who spoke Cantonese or Spanish, monolingual English speakers were not actively recruited. A key recommendation was; "Review recruitment policies - what is the ultimate goal for the composition of LHH's nursing department?"

Caring, competent, and generous, LHH's nursing staff diverges from DPH's cultural competency aspirations. Minority nurses say that lapses in merit-based hiring are perpetuated by workforce disparities - and management preferences. As Civil Service Commissioner Favetti emphasized; "The integrity of the system is directly tied to the individuals who

Filipino Nursing Staff - DPH versus LHH			
Total Nurses	RN	LVN	C.N.A.
DPH (N=1431)	37.5%	54.2%	76.6%
LHH (N=1050)	80%	81%	67%

administer the system."Beyond LHH's control are colonial, political and socioeconomic forces described in Choy's "Empire of Care: Nursing and Migration in Filipino American History", and Rodis' "Why are there so many Filipino nurses in the US?" What's needed in 2016 is Laguna Honda's Cultural Competency Report - with nursing demographics, an assessment, and a plan.

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

AHBP (Cont. from p. 1)
2013 court decision in Napa on affordable density housing. Tang is wrong, since the Napa case isn't relevant to San Francisco.

At the January 12th District 7 neighborhood planning meeting, Supervisor, Norman Yee disagreed with Tang and stated, "I don't believe we should do away with 50 years of extensive planning and zoning work," he added, winning a round of applause. "We need to do better, I cannot support this [AHBP] proposal as it is currently drafted," he said.

AHBP is the biggest change in San Francisco zoning in the last 36 years. It's a developer-friendly program designed to provide cost-savings and zoning incentives for developers to build more on-site affordable housing units in lieu of paying inclusionary housing development fees to the City, and in lieu of building the affordable units off-site.

Citizen input concerning projects and citizen appeals will be severely limited, and the Planning Department's role over project reviews will be diminished. The City will no longer perform Environmental Impact Reviews (EIRs) as it currently does, claiming that *all* AHBP projects will initially be approved under the authority of the 2014 Housing Element EIR.

The Planning Department determined no supplemental or subsequent environmental review will be required for any individual AHBP projects, claiming AHBP is "an implementing program" of the 2014 Housing Element. Planning claims environmental effects of the AHBP have been adequately identified and analyzed under CEQA in the 2004 and 2009 Housing Element FEIR, and any proposed new projects would not result in any new or more severe environmental impacts than were identified in the FEIR.

AHBP moved very quickly after it was introduced by Mayor Ed Lee and co-sponsor Supervisor Tang at the Planning Commission on September 24, 2015. Within three weeks, the Planning Commission

was scheduled to approve the required General Plan amendments required for AHBP implementation.

That changed after members of the Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods (CSFN) and other aware citizens urged Planning Commissioners to wait until the important AHBP Design Guidelines were available for public review and highlighted the need for better public outreach and public review.

Kiersten Dischinger, the Planning Department's liaison, states that there are approximately 35,000 San Francisco sites that will be impacted, but only 240 of these sites are the "soft sites" that the City hopes to build on. A soft site can be open space, a gas station, or a building that has a large amount of frontage that is open and not supported.

What Planning never revealed is that the developer can build affordable housing anywhere on the 35,000 sites; the whole concept of building on only soft sites is a ruse. Also, there is no cap on the number of buildings that can be built, or how much density can be placed in a given building.

Additionally, parcels in residential housing RH-1 (one unit) and residential housing RH-2 (up to three units) are currently not eligible for the State Analyzed and Local AHBP Programs.

To gain concessions, developers must

tear down an existing site and build a minimum of 10 new, on-site units. At least three (30%) of the units must be affordable for the developer to qualify for the AHBP program. This sounds great, but if the existing building already had three or more livable dwellings, the City is giving the developer concessions and not receiving additional on-site affordable housing benefits.

The additional heights and bulk changes throughout the City will homogenize the city. Twenty years from now, "character of neighborhood" will have little meaning.

A H B P concessions to developers will include: adding two to three stories above existing height requirements; the size and bulk of the building can be increased; parking requirements will be reduced; and, a ten percent open space requirement will be added, all in the absence of any project-specific environmental reviews. The developer can receive up to three of these concessions. It is thought conditional-use hearings will vanish for many AHBP projects.

There are so many things wrong with AHBP that the City should stop trying to amend this sinking ship.

Neighborhood businesses will now be targeted for demolition. As buildings throughout the City are torn down to make room for affordable housing units,

the businesses that occupy these units will have to either relocate or go out of business due to high rents.

What will happen to rent-controlled or normal housing units? Originally, AHBP was going to tear down buildings with rent-controlled units, but citizens became so angry that Supervisor London Breed proposed an amendment that would study rent-controlled units until January 1, 2017.

One of the criticisms against the program is that it would displace current residents. This is an important concern and deserves analysis. Supervisor Breed's proposed amendment (supported by Mayor Ed Lee and Supervisor Katy Tang, the AHBP legislation's sponsors) prohibits demolishing, removing, or converting any rent-controlled units until the Planning Department completes a study of the relationship between this program and the City's rent-controlled and affordable housing stock.

The Breed amendment only covers two of the four AHBP programs. It does not cover the 100% affordable housing component or the State individual plan. The state law does require replacement of rent control units with means-tested units for both its 100% program and its "regular" program. Some would consider that to be a pretty big gap.

The State Density Bonus Law does not prohibit the demolition of rent controlled units but requires that any rent-controlled units lost as part of a project using the State law must be replaced with affordable units one for one in the project.

The Planning Department never considers the rising cost of the property to developers nor the impact of inflation throughout the building process.

Per the amendment, the Planning Commission will have to recommend subsequent modifications to the Board of Supervisors by January 1, 2017. There have been some complaints that the proposed



...the City is giving huge subsidies to developers and asking the citizens who already live here to pay massive amounts to subsidize the developers' infrastructure costs.

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Commentary

But Can We Afford Success?

By Steve Lawrence

Two water years ago the city and its wholesale customers were charged with reducing water consumption to 209 mgd (million gallons per day). The system is designed to deliver 265 mgd. We actually reduced to 203 mgd, about three percent better than target. Last water year we reduced three-and-a-half percent further to 196 mgd. City residential use was at 37 mgd, 44 gallons per person per day.



“...it is a good bet that ways will be found to transfer some of the coming cost tsunamis to Westside residents, who are reaping higher property values...”

These are remarkable accomplishments unheralded in fear that drought efforts will slacken off.

One consequence of customers’ excellent conservation is that revenues have fallen short of expectations. As costs are fixed, the shortfall must be made up. That means that when rates rise they will do so more than expected.

Consequently, at their early January meeting, commissioners heard about “long-term financial sustainability.” Something must be done to bring revenues up. Various ideas were discussed.

One idea is to specially recognize storm water costs. Dealing with storm water is part of what the sewage system (wastewater system) does; stormwater cost is now recovered, undifferentiated, in sewage rates. Storm water costs are about twenty percent of all wastewater cost. But there are differences for different parts of the city. Storm water might well be a greater contributor to cost on the Westside. And that cost may grow. Should the Lake Merced Tunnel need to be moved eastward—it is too close to the raging and rising ocean—this large cost might be designated a storm water matter for which the Westside customers should be responsible. If the Commission separates storm water cost from general wastewater treatment cost, future Westside bills might be going up even faster and higher than they are sure to given the present shortfall of funds.

Not only is there a shortfall of funds today, but also the SSIP program, \$6.9 billion, is just getting underway. Debt service cost has risen by multiples over the past few years, and will rise much more. Remember, too, that while \$6.9 billion is a big enough number in and of itself, such programs tend suffer cost overruns. The cost of WSIP (the water upgrade) rose by more than one third. Potential for unexpected trouble may be greater when working in a crowded city environment. Should 6.9 billion rise 40%, that becomes \$9.66 billion. Over twenty years that is close to half a billion dollars per year. (Most will be financed over 30 years, not paid for currently.)

With all the concern that has been raised about unaffordable housing, and with the burden of new housing falling most heavily on the east side of town, it is a

good bet that ways will be found to transfer some of the coming cost tsunamis to Westside residents, who are reaping higher property values and are generally (viewed as) better able to afford higher costs.

Storm water is the first wave of the coming storm. Be prepared.

Affordable housing.

Where are we re the mayor’s quest for affordable housing? The mayor has set a “critical priority” goal of 30,000 housing units by 2020, at least one-third of which are to be “affordable.” Assuming that’s by the end of 2020, proportionally as of last September we’re short by about one-eighth towards reaching the 30k goal; affordable units as a percentage of those built are short by a fifth. The city needs to build faster and more affordable units for the mayor to meet his critical priority.

Maybe one reason the mayor is behind is that of his seven point plan three points do not pertain to building more (affordable) housing. Focus?

The mayor wants more money and more staff. It is government that leads and provides housing; private enterprise is only a necessary evil to tolerate—maybe. That and a cash cow.

San Francisco is suffering symptoms of a surfeit of success. Right now we’re rolling in dough. Yet government wants more. Government has grabbed the role of providing affordable housing. When bust eventually arrives, where will that expansion leave the city?

How does one get affordable housing? Apply, and then be relentless. It’s a new day. No longer do you earn, save, and engage a realtor. Low earnings are good. Luck is too; it’s a lottery system. Pluck is paramount.

First you take a course (see Mayor’s Office of Housing). Then you go to counseling. These first steps are but necessary prerequisites. Determination is next, and lots of applying and follow-through.

The system has been criticized for failing to distribute affordable housing equitably to all groups (disparate impact). Playing the game successfully requires patience and tenacity.

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

The Sunshine Ordinance Is Broken

The Board of Supervisors cannot be trusted to oversee their own transparency

Sixteen years ago voters adopted “the strongest local open government laws in the state”—the Sunshine Ordinance. But bit by bit the Board of Supervisors, the City Attorney and the Ethics Commission have underfunded, understaffed and dismantled the Task Force that is charged with enforcing the voters’ mandate.

The moment of truth came in 2012 regarding the approval of the Parkmerced project. It was the first time a complaint was brought against the Board of Supervisors’ President and several members. Whether you agree with the Task Force’s decision, finding the Supervisors in violation, the Board’s retaliation was wrong—refusing to reappoint any of the members who voted their conscience. They were ‘purged’ from the Task Force and ‘friendly’ advocates were appointed. Even the required disability advocate was not reappointed, making it impossible to convene the Task Force for over five months and exacerbating an already severe backlog of issues before the body. Oddly enough the only noticeable qualification seemed to be membership in the Alice B. Toklas Democratic Club, or a relationship with Supervisor Scott Wiener.

This ‘purge’ behavior—subverting the voters’ will—needs to be fixed. The Supervisors are not above the laws to which all other boards and commissions are held.

Amendments to the Ordinance must be on the ballot this November when the electorate is most likely to pass them. The Westside Observer will continue to cover open government. More: westsideobserver.com/news/sunshine.html

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New Yorkie Values.

To taunt his rival and sow seeds of evangelical doubt, Rafael Edward “Ted” Cruz informed Donald Trump that the rest of the country was concerned about his alarming New York Values. Totally ignoring the greater danger of the real estate developer’s aerodynamic coif toppling over and knocking innocent supporters unconscious with its hard candy shell.



“But is it fair to make sweeping generalizations solely based on longitude and latitude? Well, yes, it is. So...”

The jibe was designed as a sly, wink-wink, nudge-nudge attack resurrecting deeply buried stereotypes about urban areas that also managed to carry a faint whiff of racism and anti-Semitism. A dog-whistle the size of the Louisiana Purchase on steroids.

This geographic schism has been celebrated in literature for centuries and elevated to a hoary trope by politicians in order to highlight their imagined connection to real rural folk. But if Cruz is the country mouse and Trump the city mouse, a lot of people are rooting for large herds of feral cats to make a speedy entrance.

It’s an age-old rivalry. The difference between paths and sidewalks. Simplicity and glamor. Open spaces or 24-hour supermarkets. Porches versus high-rises. Red and blue. Mosquitoes and muggers. Meadows and low-fat caramel macchiatos.

But is it fair to make sweeping generalizations solely based on longitude and latitude? Well, yes, it is. So, besides New York, what other clichés and prejudices do our little minds instantly make when presented with specific locales? Glad you asked. New Yorkie Values involve a lot of yipping and the sound of toenails scratching on linoleum.

New Jersey Values are almost exactly like New Yorkie Values but with bigger hair.

New Mexico Values boil every question down to whether it goes better with red or green chilies.

New Orleans Values mean partying like there’s no tomorrow and encourages yesterday to bleed into tomorrow and the next day.

New Hampshire Values believe in not just the electric chair, but electric bleachers.

New England Patriots Values mean doing anything and everything to win, including the blurring of boundaries that

lesser competitors might consider “the rules.”

New Balance Values take into account sneakers and sneaker accessories.

New Zealand Values revolve around sheep and sheep accessories including effluvium. New Caledonia Values indicate the matrix that occurs when French culture meets the remote South Pacific. Think Tahiti without all the hustle and bustle.

New Delhi Values include not just the hustle and bustle but also cows and cow effluvium where you least expect them.

Washington DC Values are a mix of New Yorkie Values, New England Patriots Values and New Delhi Values.

Hollywood Values are reduced to, “Me. Me. Me. Me. Me. Me. Me.”

Florida Values are indicative of folks who think just plain crazy is not giving it your all.

Texas Values mostly have to do with barbecue, guns and executing people, not necessarily in that order.

Wisconsin Values are totally measured by how the Green Bay Packers are doing. And cheese.

Arkansas Values are more family oriented, and totally understand that fathers can be uncles at the same time.

San Francisco Values are indicative of a tolerance for almost anything, except the intolerant. That we cannot abide.

Berkeley Values are not as restrictive as San Francisco Values.

Madison Values are similar to Berkeley Values but mitigated by snow and cheese and the Packers.

Maine Values are none of your business.

Will Durst is an award-winning, nationally acclaimed columnist, comedian and margarine smuggler. For sample videos and a calendar of personal appearances including an appearance at Zanies in Chicago Jan 25-31, go to willdurst.com.

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Protecting Pedestrians From Scofflaw Cyclists

Pedestrian Safety Not “Worthwhile”?

By Patrick Monette-Shaw



Just as truth typically becomes the first casualty of war, in the ongoing war to enhance San Francisco's pedestrian safety the truth about pedestrian accidents caused by cyclists appears to be a *veracity* casualty of San Francisco Police Department statistics.

The *Chronicle* reported December 14 millennial cyclist Katrina Sostek felt her \$200 fine for running a stop sign at Duboce Avenue and Church Street was unfair. The police officer who ticketed her “could have been doing something worthwhile,” Sostek whined. Puh-leeze, Katrina! Don't want a traffic ticket? Then simply obey State law and come to a full stop.

When did protecting my life from rogue cyclists become unworthwhile? How did preventing cyclists from receiving mere traffic violation citations become more “worthwhile” than protecting pedestrians like me?

Not to be outdone, Board of Supervisors' president London Breed was quoted in the same *Chronicle* article saying “Our limited police resources should be used for more important things” involving public safety. Golly, Supervisor Breed! When did protecting my life become both unworthwhile *and* less important?

Mayor Vetoes the Bicycle Rolling Stop

After the Board of Supervisors passed its first reading of the rolling-stop bicycle ordinance on December 15 with a vote of 6 to 5 allowing cyclists to slow down but not have to come to a full stop, the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition posted a notice on its web site three days later, saying (among other things):

“The question raised by SF's Bike Yield Law remains how best the SFPD can deploy limited traffic enforcement resources. Over 2,000 people have signed our petition in favor of making people biking cautiously and slowly through stop signs the lowest enforcement priority.”

The Bicycle Coalition neglected noting that 2,000 petition signatures seeking “smart enforcement” represents just over two-tenths of one percent — yes, just 0.23% — of San Francisco's 852,469 estimated population in 2014. That's hardly a mandate to change the vehicle code.

Police Chief Greg Suhr also disagrees. Suhr wrote to the Board of Supervisors' Land Use and Public Safety Committee on December 4 saying the proposed “rolling stop” cyclist legislation would encourage illegal behavior by those using one specific mode of transportation [bicycles] to violate California Vehicle Code §22450(a) — prohibiting running stop signs — putting others at risk of injuries, ranging from minor to fatal.

Suhr's December 4 letter documented that in the five-year period between January 1, 2010 and December 31, 2014, cyclists were at fault in San Francisco in 30 percent of injury and fatal collisions — 129 of 427 — due to failure to stop at stop signs, violating CVC §22450(a). Suhr also claimed that during the first nine months of 2015 (January 1 through September 30) there were 447 collisions between bicycles and motor vehicles, including two bicycle fatalities, with cyclists at fault in 46 percent (206) of the incidents.

In an apparent game of “chicken” with the Mayor, the Board of Supervisors voted on January 12 to ignore the Mayor's warning and passed the rolling stop Ordinance on second reading on a vote of 6 to 4, ignoring endangered pedestrians in favor of “convenience” — or “inconvenience” — to a small, but very politically vocal and loud group of cyclists.

The Board had been warned by Mayor Ed Lee as far back as September 28 that if the legislation was passed and reached his desk, he would veto it, writing, in part:

“The so-called ‘Idaho Stop,’ while expedient for some cyclists, directly endangers pedestrians and other cyclists, and I cannot allow it to become law. Trading away safety for convenience is not a policy I can allow this City to endorse.

This legislation represents a step backwards on this shared Vision Zero goal, and if it is sent to my desk, I will veto it.”

On January 19, Mayor Lee carried through, and issued his veto, saying:

“This ordinance does not promote balanced public safety for all the diverse users of our streets; rather, it trades safety for convenience. Therefore, this is not a policy I can allow this City to endorse.

I remain strongly committed to Vision Zero, and this law does not move us towards that goal, so I am vetoing it.”

City Department Records Responses

Records revealed disturbing data.

SFGH Trauma Registry Data

Data generated from SFGH's Trauma Registry database provided by DPH for the five-year period between calendar years 2010 and 2014 showed that although there was a relatively small number of pedestrians — 56 — struck by cyclists and treated at SFGH, their outcomes were disproportionately severe.

Of the 56 pedestrians hit by cyclists, 46.4% (26) were admitted to SFGH, a significantly higher percentage of admissions than either pedestrians hit by autos or cyclists hit by autos. Of the 56 pedestrians hit by cyclists, their two deaths reflected a higher mortality rate than did either pedestrians hit by autos or cyclists hit by autos. That's 56 pedestrians struck by cyclists too many, and two deaths too many.

And of the 56 pedestrians hit by cyclists, 42.9% (24) sustained a higher rate of head/neck/cervical spine injuries than did either pedestrians hit by autos (17 percent lower) or cyclists hit by autos (half as low, at 21.8%). Notably, head/neck/cervical spine injuries were double the rate for pedestrians struck by cyclists — whether or not cyclists were travelling at six miles per hour or more — than for cyclists struck by autos.

Of the 4,050 injuries reported by DPH involving pedestrians vs. cyclists, pedestrians vs. autos, and cyclists vs. autos in this five-year period, fully 67.7% (2,743) involved pedestrians going up against bikes *and* cars; the remaining 32.3% involved cyclists going up against cars. Clearly, pedestrians are at much greater risk of injuries caused by scofflaw auto drivers and scofflaw cyclists, since 81 pedestrians died from being struck by cars or bikes, and only nine cyclists died after being struck by autos.

And that doesn't count pedestrians killed by cyclists or autos and pronounced dead at the scene, and never transported to SFGH, or transported to other hospitals.

The 17 pedestrians killed in 2014 represented 58.6% of all traffic deaths; the 19 pedestrians killed through November 2015 represent 65.5% of all traffic deaths, with 30 days to go. Clearly, with traffic deaths remaining constant between 2014 and 2015 and more pedestrians killed, Vision Zero appears not to be working so well, no matter what the Bicycle Coalition may want you to believe.

There's clearly a public health cost — along with patient trauma — from such injuries, which Ms. Breed must be aware is “important,” despite her protestations. Unfortunately, SFGH's trauma system doesn't capture data on pedestrians injured by cyclists who were transported to private hospitals, so comprehensive data isn't collected citywide.

9–1–1 Dispatch Data

Another records request to San Francisco's Department of Emergency Management revealed the 9–1–1 dispatch system received 3,479 calls between calendar year 2013 and December 21, 2015 regarding automobile vs. motorized/non-motorized two-wheeled vehicle accidents, 56.5 percent of which (1,964) involved

patients transported to hospitals during the three-year period. Of those transported, 76 percent (1,485) were transported to San Francisco General Hospital, and the remainder transported to other Bay Area hospitals.

It should be noted the national medical protocol used by San Francisco 9–1–1 dispatchers doesn't differentiate the type of two-wheel vehicles involved (bikes vs. motorcycles, scooters, etc.), so it's unclear how many of these accidents involved autos vs. cyclists. That said, the call volume clearly places an “important” strain on 9–1–1 dispatchers, as Breed should know, and impacts patient care at SFGH and other hospitals.

SFPD Cyclist Citations Data

A records request to SFPD placed on December 14 revealed troubling data in its initial, flawed responses. After battling with SFPD for over a month, by January it was clear SFPD's cyclist data lacks veracity.

There were nearly 5,000 bike vs. auto collisions across a decade. Wow! There were just 289 such incidents back in 2006, which more than doubled by 2013 to 654 incidents, and despite Vision Zero San Francisco hasn't been able to reverse the trend to pre-2007 levels!

As troubling as SFPD's collision data are, the dismal enforcement with citations issued by SFPD is more troubling. After pressing SFPD between December 14, 2015 and January 11, 2016 for clarification, a paucity of reliable data was provided by SFPD staff.

Data SFPD initially provided shows fully 3,413 citations were issued to cyclists between 2006 and 2015, but SFPD was only able to stratify by the type of violations just 935 citations issued to cyclists. Why was SFPD unable to stratify the difference — fully 2,478, or 72.6%, of citations — by type of violation, and stratified just 935, or 27.4%, by type of violation?

Of the 935 citations issued that PD was able to uncover the type of violation, only six were issued to cyclists across the three years for just two of the five “Focus on Five” strategies (five citations for running red lights and just one citation for failure to stop at stop signs). Seriously?

In stark contrast, 28 citations were issued to cyclists riding on sidewalks, which is *not* one of the five Focus on Five strategies, but a danger to pedestrians walking on sidewalks, nonetheless.

Of great concern, SFPD failed to stratify any of the other three Focus on Five enforcement strategies — including violating pedestrian right-of-way, turning violations, and speeding. Are we to believe SFPD issued zero citations to cyclists for these other three “Focus on the Five” enforcement strategies during the last decade since 2006? Seriously?

Fully 95% of the 935 citations were for violating CVC §21200(a), as if SFPD could not identify and include a specific violation documenting a precise transgression of the State's vehicle code, and simply lumped 95% of all citations issued to cyclists into a broad catch-all category without stratifying which specific vehicle code violation had occurred.

Of note, CVC §21200(a) is not, in itself, a violation of the vehicle code — unless it is documented by an additional violation of some other section of the vehicle code. CVC §21200(a) is simply an identifier that another vehicle code section violation was committed by a cyclist, rather than a motor vehicle driver.

“Seven Ate Nine”: SFPD's Unreliable Crime Stats

As Joe Eskenazi noted in his Dec 2014 article in the *SF Weekly*, titled “Seven Ate Nine: The San Francisco Police Department's Crime Stats Aren't What They Used to Be,” SFPD has a troubled history of fudging its crime stats. Discussing an audit of SFPD performed by the City Controller, which was requested by Chief Suhr, Eskenazi reported, in part:

“So, the numbers — the numbers that reveal whether or not crime is going up or down and by how much — are unreliable. And have been for some time.”

For over a month, SFPD attempted to



uncover the actual moving violations cited on tickets issued to cyclists, but a disappointing January 8 records update from SFPD did not include further stratification about the types of citations issued. Instead, SFPD claimed that although the bicycle citations issued by the Traffic Company — using electronic handheld devices — were thought to be capable of generating a breakout of the type of citations issued, SFPD was unable to do so.

SFPD claimed it would have to manually print the 1,613 tickets issued to cyclists in 2015 and then have to manually tally the types of citations involved for the CVC §21200(a) tickets. This simply suggests sloppy record keeping at SFPD, or a lack of trained information technology staff to extract the data electronically.

By the time SFPD provided revised data on Jan 8, it turns out the Park Station — which includes the “Wiggle” — had issued just 3.2% (108) of tickets between 2013 and 2015 out of the 3,666 tickets issued to cyclists citywide. The Mission District and the Tenderloin District stations issued fully 41.1% of the 3,666 citations, not the Park District station.

The January update did indicate that the number of citations for violating CVC §22450(a) — running stop signs — between January and November 2015 grew from one citation across the entire City, to *three* citations. Really? Just three citations for running stop signs fueled the Bicycle Coalition's drama and angst?

Sadly, the January update illustrated the “Seven Ate Nine” phenomena, since SFPD reported there were only 405 citations issued for CVC §21200(a) — the identifier code, for cyclists subject to same traffic laws as drivers — down from 408 SFPD first reported for this article.

So the “Seven Ate Nine” monster is now nibbling on SFPD's bicycle violation statistics, in addition to SFPD's crime stats, damaging the veracity of SFPD data every step of the way. It's unacceptable that Vision Zero has to rely on unreliable SFPD data.

After all, in the absence of stratifying the volume of citations issued by the particular violation infraction committed, how can there be targeted enforcement or targeted education campaigns to change cyclists' behavior if officials don't know which sections cyclists are violating?

Inconvenient Truth: Risks of Rolling Stops

Bicycle apologists claim it appears most cyclists who caused collisions during that time frame appear to be, for the most part, injuring only themselves. Nonsense.

“Injuring just themselves” — when SFPD data shows 86 pedestrians were involved in collisions with cyclists — appears to be bicycle advocates just making stuff up notwithstanding clearly disproven by DPH and SFPD data.

Educating cyclists on the fines they face may deter their scofflaw behavior.

Has everyone forgotten that when laws are enforced, they'll be obeyed, and when they aren't enforced, they won't be?

Apparently, millennial Katrina Sostek believes enforcement isn't worthwhile and she shouldn't have been singled out for having chosen to disobey the law. Chief Suhr disagreed when he noted it isn't acceptable to encourage folks (like Ms. Sostek) to break a law that can result in injury or death because it is “inconvenient” for cyclists to come to a complete stop.

Given the paucity of data since 2006, the six Supervisors who passed this Ordinance were completely remiss in declaring

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Money Matters By Brandon Miller

Letting Go of Emotional Investing Patterns

When the Fed raised short-term interest rates in December, did you feel obligated to buy, sell or change your investing strategy solely on that knowledge? The urge to make an investment decision is often influenced by media reports and the sentimental value you apply to those investments. This frame of thinking may lead you to make investment decisions based on your emotions, and in the long-term, emotional investing may prevent your portfolio from reaching its true potential.

If you suspect your personal preferences and emotions are interfering with your investment decisions, defer to the experts. Ask a financial professional to conduct an objective review of your portfolio...

Focus on the long-term. Check yourself for news-driven fear or euphoria before you call your financial professional. Remind yourself of what your long-term financial goals are, and ask yourself if making a change would help you reach them. If you still feel you need to make a change, ask your professional for their perspective.

Root out unfitting investments. Do you still have your first stock certificate from mom and dad? Shares inherited from a favorite aunt? Stock from an early employer? There are all kinds of ways to acquire stocks over the years, and over time, some investments may not “fit” with your overall investment goals. It can be hard to detach from stocks with an emotional connection, but like unruly branches in your backyard, portfolios need pruning on a regular basis to perform at their best. Portfolios and individual stocks should be evaluated periodically to determine whether they are still appropriate holdings given your time horizon, risk tolerance and overall portfolio. Keep in mind that sometimes no changes are warranted, but it’s a good habit to regularly review.

Strive for a balanced portfolio. Portfolios often need to be rebalanced over time, as your individual circumstances and the individual holdings’ situation changes. Take an objective look at your portfolio and ensure you are comfortable with the level of risk. If company stock options are available to you, make sure you’re aware of how that may impact your overall investment strategy. While it’s good to have confidence in your company, having too much stock in one company may expose you to more risk than you intend.

Be consistent. Counteract impulse

buying and selling with a consistent approach to investing. Automated investing makes it easy to implement a disciplined approach, such as investing a set amount at regular intervals. This systematic investing can be a way to help minimize the effects of market volatility in a portfolio; however you will still need to review over time to make sure the strategy fits with your overall goals.

Embrace diversity. You’ll be in a better position to hang on to a sentimental favorite if the rest of your portfolio is diversified across a range of industries and assets. Diversity may provide balance in the event one or more sectors are down, but do keep in mind that diversity alone cannot protect against an investment loss.

Sell when the time is right. If you identify a loser that’s not likely to turn around, it may be advantageous to sell it now. Many investors continue to hold an investment with the hope that one day it will pay off to hold it. If you’re unsure about if you should cut your losses and move on, consult a financial professional who can give you an objective opinion.

Request a portfolio review. If you suspect your personal preferences and emotions are interfering with your investment decisions, defer to the experts. Ask a financial professional to conduct an objective review of your portfolio, with an eye to performance and your financial goals. Together you can look for opportunities to grow your earnings through disciplined investing strategies.

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

AHBP (Cont. from p. 5)

amendment is not permanent, and yet the prohibition on sites with rent-controlled units would remain in place indefinitely, unless the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors approve changes to the program in January 2017.

The AHBP program does not have a minimum building threshold, so get ready for some large projects as properties that are side-by-side and will be combined into giant housing units.

Other than the definition of 220-square-foot micro-units, San Francisco has no minimum size requirements for dwelling units. An on-site affordable housing unit must be larger than a micro-unit. Two-bedroom units must be consistent in size with the size of single units. Many of these smaller affordable units will be so small that you will be able to make breakfast while you go to the bathroom, taking multi-tasking to a new level.

Worse yet, how many people will be sharing your unit with you?

Finally, is this a good plan for San Francisco? The foundation of the City’s AHBP plan is based on an obscure report written by Siefel Consulting with the help of SPUR and HAC. The project team chose only three prototypical sites out of the 12

prototypes that were physically evaluated to represent three distinct and likely outcomes of the program under alternative building types, height, and tenure. The City’s whole AHBP program is based on the financial study of only three housing units.

The City’s brightest minds are not that bright. No one at City hall ever questions the supply-side argument that San Francisco can only drive down housing prices by building more housing, and reducing scarcity. According to a 2015 economic study, “Building Cities for People,” written by Joel Kotkin, higher density housing is far more expensive to build—a high rise over five stories costs three times as much as a garden apartment.”

“Even higher construction costs are reported in the San Francisco Bay Area, where townhome developments can cost up to double that of detached houses per square foot to build (excluding land costs), and units in high rise condominium buildings can cost up to 7.5 times as much,” Kotkin says.

There is little profit for developers to build the AHBP buildings. This is why the City is giving huge subsidies to developers and asking the citizens who already live here to pay massive amounts to subsidize the developers’ infrastructure costs.

It is no coincidence that both San Francisco and Manhattan are the two densest

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GOLDEN GATE DOG WALKING

100 Magnolia Trees Brighten Gloomy Winter Days

During the grayest days of winter, nature stages a one-of-a-kind disruption every year at San Francisco Botanical Garden as more than 100 magnolias, many rare and historic, defy the gloom and erupt into a riot of pink and white blossoms. Velvety silver buds on the often bare branches of these elegant trees open into saucer-sized, vibrant flowers, filling the wintry Garden with dramatic splashes of color and sweetly fragrant scents. The breathtaking annual floral spectacle, with trees reaching 80 feet, is at its peak from mid-January through March.

Visitors to the Garden can take advantage of free Magnolia Walk maps, docent-led tours, special signage, a magnolia mobile app and more, as well as unique classes and activities, including Valentine's Day treats and tours for couples and families and special Magnolias by Moonlight tours, to celebrate and learn more about these unique trees. Families can enjoy the collection using a free family-friendly adventure map with activity suggestions for children.



Magnolia campbellii 'Darjeeling'. Photo: Nancy Hwang

SFBG is home to the most significant magnolia collection for conservation purposes outside China, where the majority of species originated. Its current collection includes 44 species, 42 cultivars and 16 hybrids or varieties, including many important specimens from Asia.

This unique and long-standing collection began in 1939 with Eric Walther, who planted the very first magnolia in the Garden and continued to introduce species and cultivars throughout his tenure as the Garden's first Director. One of the most famous species he planted was the cup and saucer magnolia or *Magnolia campbellii*, the first of its kind to bloom in the United States in 1940, attracting huge crowds of excited and curious visitors who stood in long lines to see the magnificent large pink blossoms of this lovely magnolia that still stands in the Garden today. More than a dozen other *M. campbellii* can now also be found throughout the Garden.

"Magnolias have long been the signature flower of San Francisco Botanical Garden," says Don Mahoney, the Garden's Curator Emeritus. "The bloom is absolutely one of the peak experiences of the year here. A towering tree with thousands of large pink flowers held upright against a blue sky is a sight you will remember for the rest of your lifetime."

The Magnolia family – *Magnoliaceae*, named for botanist Pierre Magnol in 1748 – is considered by paleobotanists to be one of the earliest flowering plant families. Magnolia fossils date back nearly 100 million years



Magnolia-stellata-Waterlily Photo: James Gaither



January 15 – March 31, 2016
San Francisco Botanical Garden

Magnolia campbellii Photo: Tom Karlo

to the time of the dinosaurs. The flowers are pollinated by beetles since bees had not yet evolved at that time. Survivors of several ice ages, magnolias thrived in the protected mountains of southern China, the southern United States, southern Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean. Eighty percent of the more than 247 species occur in Asia.

In addition to the flagship *M. campbellii*, some of the other prized magnolias in the Garden's collection include:

Magnolia campbellii 'Darjeeling' – Propagated through cuttings from a tree growing in the Lloyd Botanic Garden in Darjeeling, India, this Himalayan species is thought by many to be the most spectacular of all the magnolias that bloom at the Garden with magnificent deep pink flowers emerging on leafless branches in a dramatic display.

Magnolia campbellii 'Strybing White' – A special white form of *Magnolia campbellii* grown from seed purchased in India in 1934 and propagated at the Golden Gate Park Nursery. Planted in 1940 here, it is the largest magnolia at the Garden towering over 80 feet.

Magnolia denudata – One of the most beloved of all magnolias. Called the "Yulan" or "Jade Lily" by the Chi-

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nese, the exquisite lily shape of the blossoms with their often pure white petals, has the longest history of cultivation going back to the Tang Dynasty - 618 AD. Its beauty was celebrated on ancient Chinese embroideries, scrolls, and porcelains in scenes of the countryside. Its elegant flowers made it a "gift worthy of an emperor." *Magnolia denudata* was the first magnolia from the East introduced to the western world when it was brought to England in 1780, and is one of the parents of many cultivars.

Magnolia zenii – The rarest magnolia in the Garden is listed as critically endangered. Only a few dozen of these plants were discovered in China in 1931.

Magnolia amoena – Also known as charming magnolia, this gift from the Shanghai Botanical Garden was presented to the Garden by then-Mayor Diane Feinstein in 1982. It was discovered on Mt. Hwang in China in 1933, one of the last magnolias discovered in the wild.

Magnolia dawsoniana – This endangered magnolia from China has large pink flowers, up to 10 inches, that droop with age and look like flags blowing in the wind. This magnolia was named after the first superintendent of the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University.

Magnolia campbellii 'Late Pink' – Introduced at the Garden from seed purchased in 1934 from G. Ghose and Co. in Darjeeling, India, the flowers of this magnolia appear two to four weeks later than other *Magnolia*

campbellii, extending the magnolia viewing season at the Garden.

Magnolia sprengeri 'Diva' – This cultivar has particularly dark, rich, rose pink petals. The Garden's tree is one of the very few mature specimens in cultivation.

Magnolia doltsopa – An evergreen magnolia, for-



Magnolia campbellii. Photo: Far Out Flora

merly known as *Michelia doltsopa*, it was discovered near Kathmandu, Nepal around 1803. The highly fragrant white flowers are about six inches across, opening from velvety-brown buds. It is often grown in the Bay Area, sometimes as a street tree, but the specimens in the Garden are some of the largest in cultivation in California.

Magnolia laevifolia 'Strybing Compact' – This species, native to Yunnan province in China, can grow at altitudes as high as 9,000 feet, far higher than most other magnolias can survive. The flowers are fragrant and used to make perfume. This special cultivar is unique for its outstanding dwarf form.

RELATED PROGRAMMING

Free Magnolia Walk maps, highlighting key species and their location within the Garden, are available to the public. In addition, the Garden offers a free Magical Magnolia family adventure map that takes families on either a stroller friendly path or a more adventurous route off the beaten path to search for furry buds and giant flowers on magnolia trees large and small. A free magnolia mobile app is available as well, providing a dynamic, searchable map of the collection. The Garden also offers free magnolia docent tours every Saturday, January 9 through March 26 at 2 PM, and visitors of all ages can ask questions and explore magnolias in more depth at Garden Interpretation Stations on Sundays, January 10 through March 27, from 1:30-3:30 PM.

Visitors can enjoy a special digital exhibition of stunning magnolia illustrations from rare books in the Helen Crocker Russell Library of Horticulture, Northern California's most comprehensive horticultural collection. The Rare Book Room is not open to the public so this is an excellent opportunity to see these beautiful illustrations. In addition, visitors can find over 250 magnolia related items in the publicly accessible book collection, and the library will feature a special magnolia book display during the month of February. Free bibliographies for children and adults will also be available on a variety of magnolia-related themes.

In the Bookstore, visitors enjoy special discounts on magnolia items including greeting cards, books, posters and more.

In addition, the Garden offers these special programs for adults and families:

Children's Story Time in the Library and Family



February 2016

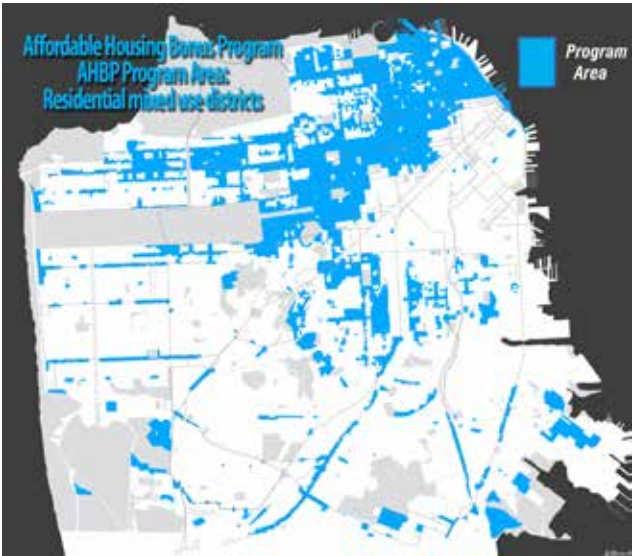
Welcome to “Super Bowl City”... well, the traffic has started and the city is bracing for the crowds of people (at least we hope so) to participate in all of the Super Bowl 50 hoopla and festivities. It’s a much different scene than the last time the Bay Area hosted the biggest single day in American team sports, way back in 1984. Remember those days? The event was at Stanford Stadium on bench style seats, and Apple Computer (as they were known then) provided seat cushions to make the experience a little more comfortable. The 49ers played the Miami Dolphins in the game, and everyone was writing about Miami’s high scoring offense with rookie quarterback Dan Marino. It really didn’t turn out to be much of a contest as Bill Walsh, Joe Montana and the rest of the 49ers steamrolled the Dolphins, 38-16. While we sometimes take the 49ers and Super Bowls for granted, it’s not easy to get there. For Dan Marino, he and the Dolphins never reached another Super Bowl.

This year it’s the Denver Bronco’s turn to try and throttle a high-scoring Carolina Panther’s offense, featuring quarterback Cam Newton. In what will likely be Peyton Manning’s swan song, it will be up to the Denver defense to set the tone.

Even though the game is in Santa Clara, I hope that the stadium, the City (SF, that is) and the Bay Area shine as brightly as the trophy presented to the winners after the game. Let’s hope that “El Nino” holds off on the rain while SF entertains our visitors.

“Manhattanization” is right around the corner...

the Planning Department is taking up legislation from the Board of Supervisors that could give property owners the green light to greatly expand all properties within ¼ mile of our many Neighborhood Commercial Districts. Maybe you have heard of this program, the “Affordable Housing Bonus Program.” If not, you should get familiar with it, as it could be approved without a vote of the citizens, and basically destroy the zoning in most of our commercial corridors and the neighborhoods around them.



Hiding behind the politically favorable concept of providing affordable housing, this ruse gives property owners and developers a “golden ticket” to apply for approval to add 2 stories onto any structure in the Neighborhood Commercial Districts, and possibly all structures up to ¼ mile adjacent to the commercial district. Can you imagine when the property owners queue up to tear down older buildings on Taraval, West Portal Avenue, Hayes Valley, Castro, and Noe to slap up more stories with apartments and condos? It is very possible that the “retail” component that makes up our commercial corridors will be all but snuffed out as present businesses are displaced while their buildings are “improved, enlarged, and modernized.”

While houses zoned as “residential” are not part of this scheme, there is the possibility that properties (including) houses that fall within the ¼ mile of the commercial district could be included, although the language about the ¼ mile rule is unclear. It is not inconceivable that a home next to you could be “remodeled and improved” into the equivalent of a duplex, four plex, or more. (Of course that’s not much different than the “hotels and hostels” being run in neighborhoods through the “legalization” of services such as AirBnB, VRBO and similar programs, another unenforceable piece of legislation foisted upon the citizens by our (all-knowing) Board of Supervisors. And since everyone uses mass transit to get around the city (yes, I am being facetious), there is not a “1 parking space per unit” requirement with this new “bonus” development scheme.

It is true that San Francisco (and the greater Bay Area) is in the midst of an affordable housing crisis, but pushing through legislation without public input, or approval to basically tear up the established zoning regulations to give developers a “free ticket” to



CHASE AWAY THE WINTER BLUES WITH THREE CLIFF HOUSE FAVORITES

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Three courses for \$28.00 4:30 – 9:00 pm

\$5 Moonlight Cocktails

Featured Cocktail Changes Daily

Sunday through Thursday 6:00 – 9:00 pm

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Every Tuesday bottled wines are half price*
all day with purchase of an entrée!

Valet parking every night after 5:00 pm. *Some restrictions apply.
Promotions are not valid on holidays and Valentine’s Day.



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build is yet another ill-conceived idea from supervisors who only offer knee-jerk solutions, and are more interested in election results than with preserving the concept of neighborhoods. It has been said that it is time for the “Westside” to take on its share of building more housing. I’m not sure, but didn’t the approval of the new Parkmerced project count? There are areas where infill housing and apartments make sense, and even limited expansion of properties in commercial districts should be considered (where existing businesses could be protected), however legislation that basically rewrites the zoning statutes of the city without voter input and approval is wrong. The only “Bonus” I see in this plan is for developers, and the property tax rolls of the city – if they ever get around to collecting them, but that’s another story for another time.

Our merchants and small businesses have suffered through replacements of sewer lines, water pipes, sink holes, Muni construction and, not too long ago, a long and deep recession. Now City Hall wants to give property owners an incentive to add two more stories to their buildings. By the way, the “formula” the City has worked out for “affordable housing” would make these units available to families with incomes up to 140% of the median income. What about those at median income or below? I guess the “illegal” (wink-wink) secondary units are the answer, or maybe one of the many “tent cities” that are springing up around town.

Legislation that is transparent, crafted with input from citizens, developers, and housing advocates, where “best practices” are examined should be the normal process. Pushing through poorly crafted legislation, that will not solve the real problem of affordable housing, without voter input, public discussion and approval (even at the ballot box) is not leadership. It’s shortsighted, and just puts a number down where we can all “feel good” about solving the housing shortage at the expense of our neighborhood commercial districts and homeowners. Please let your supervisor and City Hall know what you think about this end run around the citizens. And be sure to read the articles by George Wooding and John Farrel, both on page one of this issue.

Satchmo at the Waldorf... Acclaimed stage actor John Douglas Thompson is terrific in the one-man play, *Satchmo at the Waldorf*, staged by A.C.T.’s Geary Theatre. If you enjoy live theatre, see this play before it closes. Thompson gives an amazing performance as an elderly Louis Armstrong, his manager Joe Glaser, and Miles Davis. He takes us from the Jazz Age to the 1960’s and the examination of what it was like to be black, a jazz musician, and an entertainer, from the point of view of both Armstrong and Davis.

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



Come Celebrate the Opening of Our New NEIGHBORHOOD PLAYGROUND



West Portal Elementary School

5 Lenox Way, San Francisco, CA 94127

Saturday, Feb. 27 from 11 am to 1 pm

www.SFSharedSchoolyard.org



Supervisor
Mark Farrell

Join us for games, food, and kids’ activities to celebrate opening West Portal Elementary as a neighborhood playground on the weekends.



SFUSD Superintendent
Richard Carranza



The Shared Schoolyard Project is a fiscally sponsored program of the San Francisco Parks Alliance



TARAVAL STATION Crime Report



Purse Snatch

Be careful! Several incidents have been reported lately. Purse snatching can be a violent crime. One way to prevent purse snatching is not to carry a purse, or to carry it in a way that makes it quite inaccessible or hidden, such as wearing it under your coat or carrying it like a football. Keeping your purse close to your body with your arm over it makes it a little bit harder for someone to grab at the purse.

Many think that wearing a purse, or a messenger bag, with the strap diagonally across their body is a good idea but this makes it easier for the strap to catch around your neck if somebody decides to grab the purse and tries to run with it.

If someone attempts to snatch your purse, let go of it immediately, especially if there is a weapon involved. When dining out, the only safe place for your purse is in your lap. The back of a chair or the floor is an easy target for a thief.

Be particularly aware of your purse in crowded situations, such as rush-hour trains and buses. If you are jostled in a crowd, be aware that a pickpocket might be responsible. Beware of arguments or commotions designed to distract you while your purse is being picked.

Minimize the amount of money, credit cards and valuables you carry by only taking items that are necessary for the day. Divide money between your purse, your wallet and in your pockets. Carry your keys on your person, separate from your identification.

Use well-populated and well-lit streets. If you suspect you're being followed, stay away from deserted blocks and head for an area where there are people or to the nearest open store. If you're driven home, ask the driver to wait until you are safely inside. Should a motorist bother you while you are walking, reverse your direction. If you are still followed, seek a safe location and yell for help, if possible.

Tips:

- **Thieves will often "shadow" their victim.** Be alert and aware of your surroundings at all times. Know who and what is around you. If you see one suspect, there may be another suspect close by.
- **Trust your instincts.** Your instincts will tell you when someone or something is suspicious.
- **React immediately** and take actions to reduce your risk.
- **Display confidence.** Criminals choose the victim who looks like the easiest target. Walk with your head up and be alert to all that is around you. Show that you are ready to react.
- **Carry only what you need.** Leave a large purse at home and carry a smaller billfold or long strap wallet purse that you can conceal it under a coat. If it is necessary to carry a purse, keep it in front and close to your body.
- **Avoid placing your purse** in a shopping cart.
- **Keep your head up** and your eyes open.

Make eye contact when you are walking or shopping with individuals around you.

- **Look around** the parking lot or the street's parking area before you exit your vehicle or enter your vehicle so you can make a quick exit if necessary.
 - **Have serial numbers,** credit card numbers, phone numbers associated to the those items and any other information ready at home just in case they are stolen. That way you can report the items stolen to the appropriate agency or company quickly to reduce fraudulent charges and any associated fees.
- If you are a victim, call 911** right away.

Liquor Store Inspection

Our Permit Officer conducts periodic inspections of liquor stores and also conduct inspections based on complaints by residents.

Based on a resident's complaint, Permit Officers Dan McLaughlin and Tobias Moore inspected a liquor store on Taraval Street and discovered multiple alcohol license violations, sanitation and building code concerns. The Officers summoned Health and Building Inspectors who found that the violations were so severe that it constituted an "imminent hazard." The liquor store will remain closed until these hazards are corrected.

You can email any liquor store concerns to our Permit Officer, Dan McLaughlin, at TaravalStation.PermitOfficer@sfgov.org

Prevent Burglaries

Be a good neighbor! One of the most important things you can do is to call the police and report a crime or any suspicious activity. To keep our communities safe, you can help by being the eyes of your neighborhood. If you observe a crime or any activity that is not normal for the area, please call the police. Our non emergency number is (415) 553-0123. If there is an emergency, please call 9-1-1 immediately.

When making your call, please provide as much information and as many details as possible. Please refer to our picture below for the examples of information and descriptions that would be the most helpful. Remember, you can always remain anonymous!

Stay Safe! Protect yourself from burglaries:

- Light up your residence, lock your doors at all times and call the Police when you see something suspicious or out of character.
- Make your home look occupied and make it difficult to break in such as keeping all your outside doors locked.
- Double check that all outside doors and windows are locked and secured before you leave the house or go to bed. Even if it is for a short time, lock your doors and make it a habit!
- Leave lights on when you go out. If you are going to be away for a length of time, connect a few lamps to automatic timers and set them to automatically turn on and off during the day and evenings.
- Keep your garage door closed and locked. Also lock any doors that lead from the garage to the main part of the house.
- Don't allow daily deliveries of mail, newspapers or flyers build up while you are away. Arrange with the Post Office to hold your mail, or arrange for a friend or neighbor to take them regularly.
- Routinely check your locks on the doors and windows and replace them with secure devices as necessary.

- Pushbutton locks on doorknobs are easy for burglars to open. Be extra safe and install deadbolt locks on all your outside doors.
- Sliding glass doors are vulnerable! Look into getting special locks for better security.
- Windows may need better locks. Check with a locksmith or hardware store for alternatives.
- Don't forget to secure the backyard area, especially if your house is on the corner and open to public access.

Don't Tempt a Thief:

- Items are best left out of sight and stored indoors. Things such as lawn mowers, barbecues and bicycles are often tempting targets of theft.
- Always lock your garden sheds, garages, and any doors that lead to and from the backyard.
- Use curtains on garage and basement windows as well as other area where suspects can look in and spy on you.
- Never leave notes on your door such as "Leave Package..." for deliveries which would indicate that you aren't home.

Be a good neighbor. If you notice anything suspicious in your neighborhood, call 9-1-1 immediately.

Form a Neighborhood Watch Group. We can help you work with your neighbors to improve security and reduce risk of burglary.

Friday 1/1

Driving while Intoxicated – Arrested

1:49 am | 43rd & Taraval

The driver in an accident said that he missed the brake and accidentally hit the accelerator. The officer smelled the odor of alcoho and conducted a DUI investigation. The driver was arrested for driving while intoxicated.

Saturday 1/2

Vehicle Burglary – Arrest

1:29 am | 1200 18th Ave

A victim said that he heard glass breaking. When he looked outside, he saw the suspect steal something from his vehicle. Officers found a suspect matching the description and the stolen items close by. The victim positively identified the man who. The suspect was arrested.

Sunday 1/3

Arson

2:57 pm | 19th Ave & Banbury Dr

Officers determined that a suspect lit a tree on fire and pulled it out to the middle of the street. The SFFD already responded and had the situation contained.

Robbery

10:26 pm | 3900 Alemany Blvd

Robbery victims told officers two suspects came into the restaurant with a gun and demanded money from the safe. Suspect also took the victim's cell phone.

Monday 1/4

Robbery – Burglary Tools

5:58 pm | 3200 20th Ave

Robbery victim observed the suspect attempt to walk out of the store without paying for items. He attempted to detain the suspect but the suspect threatened him. Officers arrived and located the suspect in possession of tools used to defeat security tags and to break into vehicles. An active warrant was found and he was arrested.

Tuesday 1/5

Possession of Marijuana for Sale – Resisting or Delaying Officers Duty

7:37 pm | 300 Sargent St

Officers approached a suspect with a history of selling marijuana and asked the suspect if he was carrying. The suspect didn't answer but quickened his pace. When officers stopped their car the suspect started running, but tripped, causing a large bag of marijuana to fly out and land on the ground. After further investigation, the suspect was arrested.

Assault – Threats – Arrested

1:28 pm | 19th Ave & Taraval St

A victim was walking when the suspect hit his arm, causing him to drop his drink. The suspect then started following the victim and threatened to kill him and his family. The suspect hit the victim's stomach with his umbrella. He was arrested.

Child Neglect – Public Intoxication

6:29 pm | 19th Ave & Irving St

A witness reported seeing an intoxicated female taking care of a young, 3-4 year old, child. Officers learned that the intoxicated female was taking care of her niece. The child's mother was contacted and the intoxicated female was cited.

Thursday 1/7

Assault

2:15 pm | 19th Ave & Judah St

A victim was stopped at a red light when the suspect rear-ended her. Both parties exited their vehicle and the suspect gave the victim his driver's license which she took a photo of. The suspect told the victim that he didn't have insurance and got into his vehicle to leave but the victim grabbed his door and got her thumb stuck in the door and was dragged a few feet before her thumb was freed. The suspect fled.

Cont. p. 14

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Next Taraval Community Meeting: Wednesday, Jan 20, 2016 • 6 pm – 7 pm
at Minnie and Lovie Ward Recreation Center • 650 Capitol Ave



PIERRE BONNARD • PALACE OF THE LEGION OF HONOR • FEB 6 – MAY 15
Pierre Bonnard: Painting Arcadia is the first major international presentation of Pierre Bonnard’s work to be mounted on the West Coast in half a century. The exhibition will feature approximately 75 works that span the artist’s complete career, from his early Nabi masterpieces, through his experimental photography, to the late interior scenes for which he is best known.
The exhibition celebrates Bonnard (French, 1867–1947) as one of the defining figures of modernism in the transitional period between Impressionism and abstraction.
Rosekrans Court | 9:30 am – 5:15 pm | 100 34th Avenue (at Clement Street).

February

C A L E N D A R

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SATURDAYS • OPEN FILMAKING STUDIO
Every Sat | 2-3 pm | Film some footage or edit videos for Youtube channel? We’ll work on personal projects, workshop projects, or introduce you to the studio and the basics of filmmaking. Questions: dyip@bavc.org Main Library, 100 Larkin St. 2nd Fl.

SATURDAYS • FREE JAZZ CONCERTS

Every Sat | 8:30 pm | Relax in the Heritage Lounge and listen to free jazz performances at 1300 Fillmore St. Check bands /performers www.1300fillmore.com

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

SAT • WEST PORTAL BRANCH IS 100!
Sat Feb 6 | 1-5 pm | West Portal Open House Party Celebrate the 100th Anniversary of this Works Progress Admin building. Woody LeBounty on Local History. 2 minute Open Mic for tales of local history—come share your story. Refreshments. 190 Lenox Way.

SAT • KIRK WALLER/BLACK HISTORY
Sat Feb 6 | 4-5 pm | Kirk Waller: African & African American Stories - An Experience with Movement, Music, and Magic! for an unforgettable storytelling experience. All are welcome! 190 Lenox Way.

SAT • EXPLORE SF: GOLDEN GATE PARK
Sat Feb 6 | 10 am | Meet at Stow Lake, GG Park for a free guided trail and nature walk. Free, no pregristration required. May be cancelled for rain, etc.

SAT • ALICIA KEYS FREE CONCERT
Sat Feb 6 | 15 time Grammy award winner Alicia Keys will headline and close the City Stage events at the Super Bowl City in Sue Bierman Park/Embarcadero. Time to be announced.

SUN • SUPER BOWL
Sun Feb 7 | 3:25 pm | The contest between the NFC and the AFC Champion team at Levi’s Stadium, 490 Marie P. DeBartolo Way, Santa Clara. Many events leading up to the event: www.sfbaysuperbowl.com

SUN • ASIAN ART MUSEUM FREE DAY
Sun Feb 7 | 10 am-5 pm | Every first Sunday is free at the Asian Art Museum (save \$12) -17,000 artworks spanning 6 thousand years. Special exhibitions may require separate charges. 200 Larkin St.

SUN • ACADEMY OF SCIENCES FREE DAY
Sun Feb 7 | 11 am-4 pm | 4 times a year the world-class 400,000 square foot structure that houses an aquarium, a planetarium a natural history museum and a four-story rainforest all under a living roof is FREE. 55 Music Concourse Dr.

TUE • LOCAL NATIVE PLANTS
Tue Feb 9 | 6-8 pm | Join Desmond Murray, Presidio Nursery, to learn about native plants in our landscapes and ecology. Hands-on activities: variety of seeds, plants to touch and fun games. Appropriate for all ages. Main Library, Latino Rm., 100 Larkin St.

TUE • AUTHOR C. W. GORTNER
Tue Feb 9 | 7 pm | Gortner will discuss *The Vatican*

YEAR OF THE MONKEY • FEBRUARY 8, LUNAR YEAR 4714 — GUNG HAY FAT CHOY!

The Monkey is the 9th animal in the Chinese Zodiac. The Year of the Monkey, beginning February 8, will be a year of invention and improvisation with the spirit of the Monkey encouraging us to gamble, speculate and exploit risky but ingenious options. Business is sure to thrive under the Monkey’s optimistic and shrewd influence.

Originating thousands of years ago to celebrate the reawakening of nature, Chinese New Year, also known as Lunar New Year or the Spring Festival, is a time of reunion and thanksgiving. Lunar New Year festivities begin with the new moon on the first day of the New Year and end on the full moon 15 days later.

According to Chinese legend, the Lord Buddha called all the animals to come to him before he departed earth. Only 12 animals came. As a reward, he named a year after each of them in the order that they arrived: Rat, Ox, Tiger, Hare, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Sheep, Monkey, Rooster, Dog and Boar. In Chinese astrology, people take on the characteristics of the animal that rules the year of their birth. Those characteristics can also be seen in the year itself. People born in the Year of the Monkey (1920, 1932, 1944, 1956, 1968, 1980, 1992, 2004, and 2016) are clever, flexible and innovative but can also be selfish and vain. A person born during this year can be successful at whatever they choose to do. The parade will be February 20 - Events: chineseparade.com

PACIFIC ORCHID EXPOSITION • FEBRUARY 26 – 28 • FT. MASON CENTER

The largest orchid show in the US is hosted by the SF Orchid Society, whose mission is to foster the culture and cultivation of orchids and to promote orchid education to its members and the public.

Orchids are one of the oldest plant species and date back thousands of years. Their legacy and importance in society throughout history have been noted in the Aras Pacis of Ancient Rome and in the Materia Medica, which is the oldest known Chinese pharmaceutical text.

The Pacific Orchid Exposition boasts over 150,000 beautiful orchids from around the world and features docent tours, orchid potting demonstrations, cultivation tips and an array of orchids for sale.

Fort Mason Center – Festival Pavilion • 2 Marina Boulevard
Fri & Sat: 9am-6pm, Sun: 10am-5pm • Tickets \$11–14.

Princess: A Novel of Lucrezia Borgia, historical fiction at it’s best, written by a master of the genre. Bookshop West Portal, 80 W. Portal Ave.

SAT • HOUR OF CODE
Sat Feb 13 | 10 am | Join us for a one-hour introduction to computer science, designed to demystify code and show that anybody can learn the basics. Ages 7 & up. A global movement reaching millions of students. W Portal Branch, 190 Lenox Wy.

SAT • CHRONICLE WINE TASTING
Sat Feb 13 | 1:30–5 pm | An annual tradition — a day on the Bay with amazing wines and delicious food. Tasting the best from over six-thousand entries of the country’s finest wines judged by the top professional wine judges. \$70-95. Ft. Mason, 2 Marina Blvd.

SAT • EXPLORE SF: LAKE MERCED
Sat Feb 13 | 10 am | Explore Lake Merced’s natural areas with a free guided nature walk, socialize with new friends, feel fit & find inspiration. The Boathouse, 1 Harding Rd. May be cancelled for rain, etc.

SAT • TULIPMANIA
Sat Feb 13-21 | 10 am – 8 pm | PIER 39 comes alive with the vf more than 39,000 tulips and seasonal garden favorites during Tulipmania! Enjoy the largest display of tulips in the US. Tours and gardening tips FREE. 2 Beach Street. Peir39.com

SAT-MON • LOVE BITES
Sat-Sun Feb 13-14 | 4 pm | Join the SF Lesbian/Gay Chorus’ annual homage to the trials and tribulations of love at Martuni’s Lounge, Valencia & Market.

SUN • MOZART FOR VALENTINES DAY
Sun Feb 14 | 2 pm | Violinist Pinchas Zukerman leads the SF Symphony in Symphony No. 39, Elgar’s Serenade for Strings, and violin solos from the Haffner Serenade. Davies Symphony Hall, Grove/Van Ness.

WED • COMMUNITY SAFETY MEETING
Wed Feb 17 | 7 pm | Meet with Captain Denise Flaherty. 3rd Wed of the month. Minnie and Lovie Ward Recreation Center / 650 Capitol Ave. 759-3100.

WED • BUFFALO SOLDIERS @ 150
Wed Feb 17 | 7-8:30 pm | Park Ranger Rik Pennon the Buffalo Soldier saga - soldiers of color were tasked with moving Indians from their homelands on to inferior reservation lands that amounted to barely more than “holding areas.” Merced Branch, 155 Winston Dr.

THU • AUTHOR ELIZABETH MCKENZIE
Tue Feb 18 | 7 pm | Brilliant *New Yorker* contributor *The Portable Veblen* presents a dazzlingly original novel that’s as big-hearted as it is laugh-out-loud funny. Bookshop West Portal, 80 W. Portal Ave.

FRI-SUN • ACADEMY OF SCIENCES FREE
Fri-Sun Feb 19-21 | 11 am - 4 pm | Free entry days for Zip codes 94127,31 and 32. The world-class 400,000 square foot structure that houses an aquarium, a planetarium a natural history museum and a



four-story rainforest all under a living roof is FREE. 55 Music Concourse Dr.

SAT • CHINESE NEW YEAR PARADE
Sat Feb 20 | 6–8 pm | Gung hay Fat choy! celebrate the Year of the Monkey at the colorful chinese new Year Parade. One of the few remaining night illuminated Parades in the country, started in the 1860’s 986-1370, chineseparade.com

MON • CENTRAL COUNCIL
Mon Feb 22 | 7:30 pm | West of Twin Peaks Central Council meets to discuss topics of interest to Westside residents. No meeting in December. Meets the 4th Mon each month. Forest Hills Clubhouse, 381 Magellan Ave. westoftwinpeaks.org

TUE • ECO-MIND ACTIVISM
Tue Feb 23 | 6:30 pm | Re-Thinking Activism—The Emerging Eco-Mind. Kenn Burrows has taught Holistic Health Studies at SF State for 25 years. Shift from focusing on fear and scarcity to creative engagement with “Seven Core Challenges Facing Humanity.” Self Healing Series at West Portal Branch 190 Lenox Way

FRI-SUN • ACADEMY OF SCIENCES FREE
Fri-Sun Feb 26-28 | 11 am - 4 pm | Free entry days for Zip codes 94116 & 22. The world-class 400,000 square foot structure that houses an aquarium, a planetarium a natural history museum and a four-story rainforest is FREE. 55 Music Concourse Dr.

MON • S.H.A.R.P / DEPRESSION ART
Mon Feb 29 | 7 pm | During the Depression, SF artists showed us their world in vibrant public artworks. Do we still hear the messages? Robert Cherny, history professor emeritus at SF State. 1736 Ninth Avenue (between Moraga and Noriega)

TUE • CONSERVATORY FREE DAY
Tue Mar 1 | 10 am–4:30 pm | An intimate, up-close experience with over 1,700 species of rare, exotic and endangered plants from more than 50 different countries. Opened in 1879, the wood and glass greenhouse is the oldest existing conservatory of its kind in the Western Hemisphere. 100 J F Kennedy Dr.

TUE • DE YOUNG FREE DAY
Tue Mar 1 | 9:30 am - 5:15 pm | Art from 17th-20th centuries, native Americas, Africa, & Pacific. 50 Hagiwara Tea Garden Drive. Free first Tuesdays.

TUE • LEGION OF HONOR FREE DAY
Tue Mar 1 | 9:30 am - 5:15 pm | 4000 years of ancient and European art in the exquisite Beaux-Arts building in an unforgettable setting overlooking Golden Gate Bridge. 100 34th Ave. Free first Tues.

WED • GWPNA MEETING
Wed Mar 2 | 6:30 pm | Greater West Portal Neighborhood Assn meetings are open to all members and to the public, first Wed each Month. Playground Clubhouse, 131 Lenox Way. GWPNA.org.

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

Now At the Movies • By Don Lee Miller



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

James Dunn’s Brilliant *The Diary of Anne Frank*

Ross Valley Players is currently presenting *The Diary of Anne Frank* by Francis Goodrich and Albert Hackett, adapted by Wendy Kesselman. Newly discovered writings from Anne’s diary, as well as survivor accounts, are interwoven in this adaptation to create a contemporary impassioned story of the lives of people persecuted under Nazi rule in Europe.

When the audience enters to see *The Diary of Anne Frank*, the set is in full-view onstage. Ron Krempetz’s recreation of the Amsterdam rooms where the Frank family and four others hid, from 1942-1944, is properly bleak and shabby.

The play is bookended with scenes of Otto (Avi Jacobson) revisiting the attic with family friend Miep Gies (Dana Cherry), who had arranged their hiding place and kept them supplied with provisions for 2 years.

Frank’s story is well-known, thanks to the diary – first published in 1947 – in which she wrote throughout her ordeal. In this moving RVP production, Anne (played by Brigid O’Brien) was 13 when she and her parents, Otto and Edith Frank (Pamela Ciochetti) and her older sister Margot (Hannah Leonard) moved into the upper floors of an office building to hide from the Nazis, who had invaded the Netherlands in 1940. What the Franks hoped would be a short-lived arrangement (because surely the war would end soon), turned into 2 years.

They shared the space with the Van Daan family. Mr. Van Daan (Steve Price) is Otto Frank’s business partner. Mrs. Van Daan (Kristine Anne Lowry) arrives wearing a fur coat, although it is July. Teenage son Peter (Jeremy Ivory-Chambers) arrives with his cat. Later, Mr. Dussel (Jim Fye), a dentist, moves in with them.

Eight people, including five adults, naturally find it challenging to live together in such close quarters. With restrictions on talking and moving about, as well as a constant fear of capture, it’s surprising that their daily life was ever peaceful. In this adaptation, there is a teenage romance. Anne gives out funny homemade gifts at Hanukkah. The adults light Sabbath

candles on Friday night. Brigid O’Brien makes Anne’s transition from a little girl to a young woman believable and a bit sad. She captures both Anne’s innocence as well as her intense charm.

Smoothly directed by James Dunn, the whole cast is a solid, tight-knit ensemble. Steve Price is a standout, making Mr. Van Daan a warm-hearted figure with real strength and a love of life. Kristine Anne Lowry, as Mrs. Van Daan, has some lovely moments. Avi Jacobson makes Otto Frank’s postwar monologue (the plays last speech), absolutely heart-wrenching. The production side is solid throughout, from veteran Director James Dunn’s beautiful blocking to the set design, construction, and scenic designs by Ron Krempetz, Ian Swift, and Dhyanis, as well as Michael Berg’s 40s-styled costumes, Frank Sarubi’s lighting, and Stephen Dietz’s sound design.

This riveting depiction of a horrifying time in the life of young Anne Frank and 8 others began its run January 15th and will continue through Sunday, February 7, 2016. Regular performances are scheduled for Thursdays 7:30 p.m., Fridays 8:00 p.m., Saturdays 8:00 p.m., and Sunday Matinees are at 2:00 p.m. For tickets to *The Diary of Anne Frank*, go online to www.rossvalley-players.com or call 415/456-9555, ext. 3. All performances take place at The Barn, home of the Ross Valley Players, 30 Sir Francis Drake Blvd., Ross.

Photo Images by Robin Jackson

Coming up next at RVP will be *Arches, Balance and Light*, a World Premiere by Mary Spletter and directed by Jay Manley, from February 19 through March 8, 2016.

Flora Lynn Isaacson



Flora Lynn Isaacson

The Nether – A Collision of Technology and Human Desire

It’s well written, it’s well produced, it’s well acted and well designed, so why am I reluctant to recommend *The Nether* currently playing at SF Playhouse? Perhaps the subject matter is overly prettified and undeserving of glorification. Playwright Jennifer Haley crafts a future virtual reality world in which the consequences of living out your private dreams are seemingly nonexistent. That is, until one particular investigator gets involved. But what if that private dream includes pedophilia? And axe-murder where the victim of the murder never really dies? Even if it’s merely “virtual” it makes one wonder if the detailed rendering of this fantasy isn’t enough to encourage someone who has less of a handle on their inclinations to act them out—a subject also considered within the context of the play and strongly denied with the justification that pornography drives technology to begin with.

Directed by SF Playhouse’s Bill English, *The Nether* is billed as a crime drama and sci-fi thriller that explores the moral and psychological implications of human relationships in an ever increasingly technological age.

The play’s opening scene feels derivative of Harold Pinter’s *One for the Road*, in which he so perfectly dramatizes the human rights abuses of totalitarian governments. We soon recognize the same abuses in *The Nether* even by a less easily identifiable “totalitarian” government. This is where Jennifer Haley cleverly gets our allegiance rooting for Sims (Warren David Keith) later identified as “Papa” as we watch him being interrogated by a steely Morris (Ruibio Quian) to give away the location of his server so that they (the ubiquitous realm of the Nether) can destroy it. That is, until in the slow reveal we realize that Sims/Papa is running a “Hideaway” in which clients and presumably himself can live outside of consequences and give

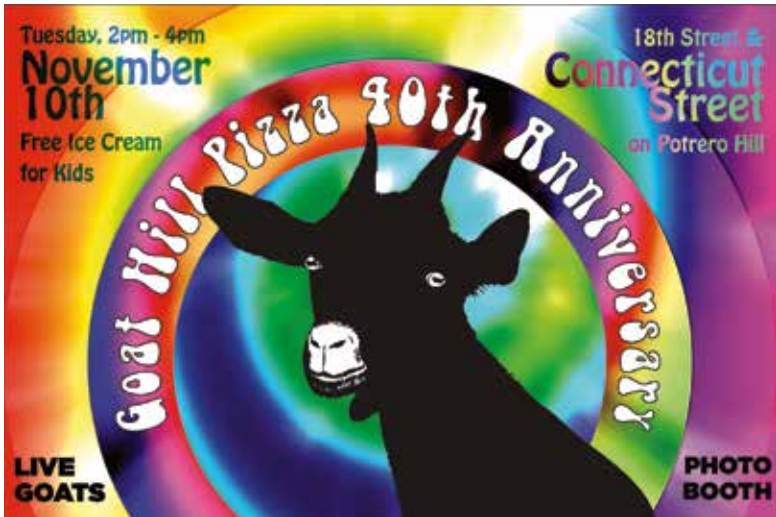
in to their particular proclivity for 11 year old charming girls, his presumed favorite being Iris (a role shared by Carmen Steele—who played opening night—and Matilda Holtz).

Brought into the equation is Doyle (Louis Parnell), who interrogator Morris attempts to get to share information about his participation in the Hideaway. Added to all this are the stakes of what non-compliance would mean for any of those being interrogated: Basic banishment from online access into the “shade” world. What keeps Doyle from capitulating is his perceived sensorial experience at the Hideaway, the realm of smell and touch now missing from his daily life where even a real tree is a rare sight. There, Doyle can give in to his desire to live as someone else.

As the play progresses, realities shift as we are taken to experience the Hideaway in all its Victorian charm. A new client arrives, the dashing handsome young Woodnut (Josh Schell), who finds himself



Linda Ayres-Frederick



All locations for eat in or take out

820 Large Cheese or Pepperoni Pizzas

Goat Hill Pizza

A Better, Safer 19th Avenue for All

We’re hosting community meetings for the 19th Avenue/M Ocean View Project, a proposed major investment to upgrade the reliability of the Muni Metro M-Line and to make 19th Avenue safer for everyone.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4

San Francisco State University
Seven Hills Conference Room
800 Font Blvd
6:00 p.m.– 8:00 p.m.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18

SFMTA
1 South Van Ness Avenue,
2nd Floor Atrium
6:00 p.m.– 8:00 p.m.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16

IT Bookman Community Center
446 Randolph Street
7:00 p.m.– 9:00 p.m.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25

Waldorf High School
470 West Portal Ave
6:00 p.m.– 8:00 p.m.

For more information, visit www.sfmta.com/19thave



SFMTA
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Transportation
Agency



311 Free language assistance / 免費語言協助 / Ayuda gratis con el idioma / Бесплатная помощь переводчиков / Trợ giúp Thông dịch Miễn phí / Assistance linguistique gratuite / 無料の言語支援 / 무료 언어 지원 / Libreng tulong para sa wikang Tagalog / การช่วยเหลือทางภาษาไทยโดย ไม่เสียค่าใช้จ่าย / خط المساعدة المجاني على الرقم

dangerously fond of Iris and she of him. Though she never wishes to betray “Papa” her creator, Iris encourages the shy Woodnut to partake of all that is offered, reassuring him that even the use of the axe will do her no harm. Woodnut, we soon realize, is the investigator sent to get information for the interrogation. Betrayals, jealousy and rule breaking, all emotions from the less-than-virtual world, take their toll on Papa’s creation. And a final redundant scene—for those who haven’t yet gotten the message—feels like a second ending to an already completed journey.

While *The Nether* may not be this reviewer’s cup of tea, it is admirably produced, successfully aiming at the mind, but leaving the heart as unmoved as the cold grey walls of its interrogation room. *The Nether* continues at the SF Playhouse through March 5th at 450 Post Street, San Francisco. 2nd Floor of the Kensington Park Hotel. Tickets \$20-\$120. 415.677.9596, or www.sfplayhouse.org

Police Report (Cont. from p. 11)

Assault – Arrested
5:29 pm | 3200 20th Ave
The victims, employees of a health club, said that the suspect wanted to cancel her membership but retain the free sessions with a personal trainer. If she canceled her membership, she would have 30 days to use the free sessions. The suspect got irate and began throwing various items at the victims. The suspect was arrested.

Burglary – Assault
4:14 am | 00 Serrano Dr
The victim said that he was on his way to meet the suspect, his ex roommate, to collect money for past rent. But he received a phone call from his current roommate that the suspect was at the house with others burglarizing the place. The victim saw the suspect leaving and ran into the street; the suspect attempted to hit him with his vehicle, but he jumped onto the hood of the car hoping to get out of the way. The suspect drove erratically and a second suspect stabbed the victim's hand in to get the victim off the vehicle. When he did the suspects then fled the scene.

Saturday 1/9

Attempted Vehicle Theft
8:10 pm | 45th Ave & Kirkham St
The victim was stopped at a stop sign when two suspects approached his vehicle. One attempted to open the door on the passenger side by pulling on the door handle but the door was locked. The suspect entered a waiting vehicle. No weapons involved.

Robbery
6:30 pm | 2700 San Jose Ave
The victims were walking on the sidewalk when the suspect pushed her sister to the ground and pulled her purse away and fled the scene.

Sunday 1/10

Methamphetamine Offense – Arrested
2:58 pm | John Muir Dr & Skyline Blvd
Several suspects in a vehicle were acting suspiciously around cars in the area.

Officers conducted surveillance on the vehicle. Officers stopped the car for missing a front license plate and a computer check revealed that one of the suspects had a warrant for his arrest. They also found methamphetamine in the vehicle. The suspect was arrested.

Monday 1/11

Battery
2:02 pm | 2100 20th Ave
The victim said that he had attended a house party, but when he and his friends stepped out, a group of strangers confronted them. One of the suspects punched the victim before all the suspects fled.

Tuesday 1/12

Arson of Vehicle
4:16 am | 300 De Montfort Ave
Officers responded to a report of a vehicle fire. SFFD had contained the fire. A witness observed that another vehicle was parked next to the damaged vehicle with a suspect standing next to it.

Robbery
9:02 am | Josiah Ave & Ridge Ln
The victim noticed the suspect walking towards her and felt uncomfortable about him. As the suspect walked by, the suspect grabbed her purse and pulled it off and fled the scene with it.
Editors Note: This is an abbreviated version of the Police Report that can be found at taraval.org

Wednesday 1/13

Assault – Evading Police
9:50 pm | Great Hwy & Lincoln Way
When officers spotted a stolen vehicle the suspect immediately jumped into the vehicle and the officers requested the suspect to stop but the suspect refused. He drove the vehicle knocking officers to the ground as it drove off at an unsafe speed. The officers sustained multiple injuries and were sent to the hospital.

Thursday 1/14

DUI – Vehicle Accident – Arrested

7:42 pm | Lincoln Way & 10th Ave
While the officers were interviewing the drivers, at an accident site, they located an open bottle of wine and the driver of that vehicle exhibited obvious signs of intoxication and also failed the field sobriety test. The driver was arrested for driving under the influence.

Threats – Arrested
3:13 pm | 100 Middlefield Dr
Reportedly, a suspect, who previously had made verbal threats, was back at the location. An officer responded and the suspect confirmed making the comments, but he did not believe they were threatening. The suspect was arrested.

Assault – Arrested
7:05 pm | Address Confidential
At a domestic violence site, the victim said the suspect was angry and accused him of cheating before stabbing him in his arms. The suspect told officers that the victim was trying to make advances after she said “no,” and slapped her so she used the knife to protect herself. After further investigation, the officers arrested the suspect as the primary aggressor.

Assault – Arrested
6:55 | Confidential
In a domestic violence incident, the victim said the suspect came home drunk yesterday and accused the victim of cheating before kicking and pushing her off the bed. Today, the suspect again accused her of cheating and punched her shoulder so hard that she fell backwards. The suspect did want to speak to the officers. The suspect was arrested.

Friday 1/15

Warrant – (Possible Caser) Arrest
6:18 pm | 8th Ave & Ortega St
A suspect was reported ringing the doorbell, a possible caser. A computer check revealed that he had a warrant for his arrest. He was arrested.

Shoplifting – Cited
4:50 pm | 3200 20th Ave
Loss Prevention agent reported that he

observed the suspect select several items and place them in her bag and exited the store without paying. Officers investigated and cited the suspect for shoplifting.

Shoplifting – Warrant Arrest – Arrested
6:51 pm | 3200 20th Ave
Loss Prevention reported that the suspect put watches and perfume in his bag and exited the store without paying. Officers determined he had an outstanding warrant. He was arrested.

Robbery
6:44 am | 9th Ave & Judah St
The victim told officers he had just exited MUNI when the suspect punched him twice in the face, stole his Kindle and fled.

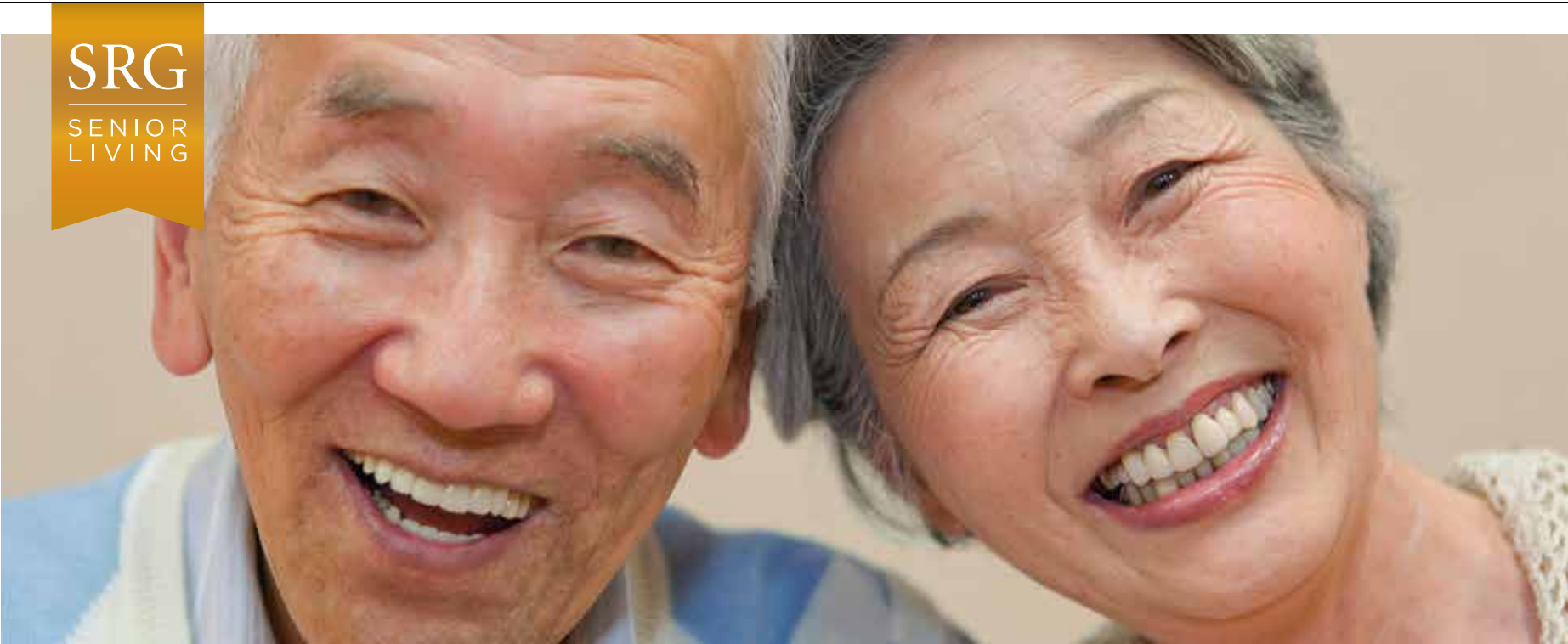
Saturday 1/16

Breaking Windows – Battery – Resisting
1:57 am | West Portal & Sloat Blvd
The witness reported a suspect got angry because “he was not going around the same route again and that everyone needed to leave the bus.” He attempted to punch the window but wasn't able to break it, so he kicked the window to the doors and broke them. When he was told that he was under arrest, he attempted to flee but officers detained and handcuffed him.

Robbery – Resisting – Vandalism
943 am | 700 Taraval St
The witness reported the suspect tried to steal a bottle of wine and confronted the suspect to retrieve it, but the bottle fell on the ground and shattered. The suspect took another bottle and left the store. The witness followed the suspect and the suspect threatened to hurt him if he didn't stop following him. The witness stopped because he was afraid of getting hurt. Officers located the suspect from the description, and he was arrested.

Battery – Arrested
11:48 am | Address Confidential
In a domestic incident, the victim got home from picking up their daughter, when the suspect began yelling, grabbed

Cont. p. 19



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Second Thoughts • By Jack Kaye



Good News

It seems that every time we turn on or read the news, it is bad news. We learn about more violence and suffering in the Middle East. We hear that there was an attack at a school or hospital or workplace by a deranged assailant here in our country. We have daily weather reports of dangerous conditions in different parts of our land and are reminded of the threat from global warming. We are being made aware of more groups of underdogs who are in need of relief: refugees, illegal immigrants, minorities, the aged, the disabled, union members, the middle class, LGBTQ members, the bottom 99% and, most recently, the 320 million American non-billionaires.

All this news can be quite depressing. Here is some good news.

Recent studies have found that world poverty is declining, with fewer people in the world living in the most extreme levels of poverty. Economic situations are improving in Asia and Africa and even in a few parts of Latin America.

In America more than 16 million people have health coverage for the first time, thanks to the Affordable Care Act. The stock market, which gauges the worth of American corporations, has almost tripled since its low at the start of 2009 at 6,000. Large American banks have submitted to and passed stringent tests of viability, making a repeat of the 2008 recession due to bank failure less likely. Home values have bounced back across most of the country, boosted by low mortgage rates and a recovering economy. The American car business is doing better than ever, a far cry from where it was seven years ago when G.M. and Chrysler faced bankruptcy. Middle class wage earners saw a 2.5% increase in wages this year, with inflation pegged at almost 0%, led by gas prices that fell more than half.

The income disparity, called by some the inequality, is less than originally declared by economists. The disparity was magnified by using pre-tax dollars and not considering in-kind benefits. The high income earners have to pay federal, state, local, sales, and property taxes, usually make large charitable contributions, and pay huge interest payments. Their net income is much less than their gross, and should not include future stock options.

Those on the low end of the economic ladder get in-kind benefits from free breakfast and lunch programs for their children in public school, rent subsidies, food stamps, free medical coverage (Medicare or Medicaid), utilities subsidies and Earned Income Tax Credits. These benefits could add significantly to a low income's net. Raising the minimum wage to \$15 an hour within the next few years would help narrow the income gap, as would a simple federal tax code that eliminates all itemized deductions and counts all income sources equally taxable.

Those in the middle have all kinds of untaxed and uncounted fringe benefits from work. People working in large private or public organizations can get half of the FICA payment taken care of by the employer, along with health coverage costs, and the contributions toward a pension or 401k plan. For large city workers, like those in San Francisco, the employee fringe benefits could be 33% of the gross income, but would not be taxed, nor would they be counted as income by these economists.

But still the rich are too rich and the poor are too poor.

The number of homeless is also decreasing, with efforts underway to eliminate the problem in the very near future. It has been our nation's great disgrace that in a land of such plenty, there could be people living outside in parks and on sidewalks.

More is being done to train police officers to be more like guardians than warriors, teaching them methods to de-escalate difficult situations. Police departments are equipping officers with body cameras to document arrests. The cameras will also help make police and suspects more attentive to their responses. Improved education and economic conditions should make minority communities feel more a part of, rather than apart from, the general population, thus reducing the drive for violence.

With cities and states increasing their minimum wages, with some going as high as \$15 an hour, twice the national minimum, the increased income will make individuals and families more able to enjoy the fruits of their labor, while contributing more in taxes and FICA payments that feed our entitlement programs for the aged and disabled.

The nation's abortion rate is at a long-time low, as are the number of teenage pregnancies, down by 60% from their peak.

More than 190 nations have just signed an accord to fight global warming by reducing harmful emissions from fossil fuels. Climate scientists believe that if the promises are kept, the planet could be saved from going over the brink, making life unbearable.

On the local level, global warming or climate change, as it is also known, has brought great weather to San Francisco for the past four years or so. The downside to this great run of sunny days with little wind or fog or rain has been the worst drought in California history. The good news is that the water shortage that affected most of the state will soon be over thanks to El Nino, which will bring much rain for the next three months if predictions hold. Some people will be reluctant to admit that once again, in a few months, a longtime drought will really be over.

So the rich are too rich and the poor are still too poor. We must improve our public education system from K-14, including junior college. We must learn to be much less violent, less narcissistic, and less wasteful. We need to bring manufacturing jobs back to our land so that we can be self-sufficient and self-reliant. We need more integrity, less sensationalism, and a greater sense of unity in our vast diversity.

Feedback: kaye@westsideobserver.com

Cyclists (Cont. from p. 7)

these violations the lowest priority. How could the Board adopt legislation in the face of no data about the types of moving-violation offenses being committed by cyclists and in the face of data from SFGH's Trauma Registry?

The Board of Supervisors now has 30 days to override the Mayor's veto — until February 18 if it can muster the eight votes.

Contact the Board of Supervisors and urge them not to override the Mayor's veto.

Your life — and mine — along with

pedestrian safety, may depend on it.

An expanded version of this article is available on www.stopLHHdownsize.com. Monette-Shaw is an open-government accountability advocate, a patient advocate, and a member of California's First Amendment Coalition. He received a James Madison Freedom of Information Award from the Society of Professional Journalists-Northern California Chapter in 2012. He can be contacted at monette-shaw@westsideobserver.com.

Senior Smarts

By Anise J. Matteson

Aging: Glaucoma and its Effects on the Eyes

Part 4 – Operative Treatment

If you have been following the series, you have a better understanding of why it is important to get tested, diagnosed, and treated early in the disease process. After reading this article, you will definitely realize the seriousness of this disease and two sources for eye surgery.

REASON FOR SURGERY

You may need surgery to treat glaucoma if you can't tolerate medications or if they're ineffective. Sometimes a single surgical procedure may not effectively lower your eye pressure. You may need to continue using eye drops, or you may need another procedure.[1]

COMPLICATIONS

Possible complications from glaucoma surgery include infection, inflammation, bleeding, abnormally high or low eye pressure, and loss of vision. Having eye surgery also may speed up the development of cataracts. Most of these complications can be effectively treated.[2]

LASER SURGERY

Trabeculoplasty:[3] May be performed as an outpatient surgery.

Indication: Open-angle glaucoma.

Procedure: A high-energy laser beam is used to open clogged drainage canals and help fluid drain more easily.

Action: Initially lowers intraocular pressure.

Complications:[4] *Transient:* Blurred vision, irritation and pain, conjunctivitis, iritis, ocular hypertension, photophobia, tearing, corneal opacities. *Permanent:* Peripheral anterior synechiae.

Types of Laser Trabeculoplasty (LP)**Argon Laser Trabeculoplasty (ALT)**

Indication: Open-angle glaucoma that continues to progress despite use of medications. Older adults who are unable to use medicines to treat.[6]

Procedure: An Argon laser beam is directed at the trabecular meshwork.

Action: Facilitate drainage of fluid from the eye. Lowers intraocular pressure.

Complications:[30] Transient rise in IOP. Low grade iritis. Formation of PAS. Corneal edema. Hyphema.

Selective Laser Trabeculoplasty (SLT)[7]

Indication: Primary open-angle glaucoma (POAG). An alternative for those who have been treated unsuccessfully with traditional laser surgery or with pressure lowering eye drops.[25]

Procedure: Uses a combination of frequencies that allow the laser to work at very low levels. It treats specific cells "selectively," leaving untreated portions of the trabecular meshwork intact.

Action: Lowers IOP.

Side Effects: Soreness, redness, blurring of vision. Elevated eye pressure. Peripheral anterior synechia. Inflammation and swelling.

Micropulse Laser Trabeculoplasty (MLT)[8]

Indications: POAG (primary open-angle glaucoma), pigmentary glaucoma, pseudoexfoliation glaucoma.[21]

Procedure: Uses repetitive low-energy laser pulses that are separated by brief rest periods.[15]

Action: Helps to minimize the IOP spikes that can sometimes occur after a laser procedure.

NOTE: This technology is still being evaluated by glaucoma treatment professionals.

Neodymium: YAG laser cyclophotocoagulation (YAG CP)[34]

An alternative to filtering microsurgery.

Neodymium: yttrium-aluminum-garnet (YAG) laser (1064 nm wavelength) has been used either with non-contact or contact methods to achieve cyclodestruction.[16]

Indications: Final and last ditch procedure to save an eye from glaucoma that

are most difficult to control. Severe glaucomas that are resistant to therapies.

Procedure: Destroys part of the ciliary body, the part of the eye that produces intraocular fluid. The procedure may need to be repeated to control glaucoma.[9]

Action: Decreases the amount of fluid made.

Risks: Postop pain, marked inflammation of the outside and inside of the eye, markedly decreased vision for a period of one to six weeks after the procedure.

Complications: Permanent decrease in visual acuity in those with advanced glaucoma or retinas susceptible to swelling with intraocular inflammation.

Laser Peripheral Iridotomy (LPI)

Narrow-angle glaucoma occurs when the angle between the iris and the cornea is too small, causing the iris to block fluid drainage increasing inner eye pressure.[10]

Indication:[11] Narrow-angles and narrow-angle glaucoma. Acute angle-closure glaucoma. Chronic angle-closure glaucoma. Fellow eye of acute angle-closure glaucoma. Miscellaneous conditions, including phacomorphic glaucoma, aqueous misdirection, nanophthalmos, pigmentary dispersion syndrome, and plateau iris syndrome.

Procedure:[12] A small hole is made in the iris, allowing it to fall back from the fluid channel helping the fluid drain.

Action: [27] To prevent another attack of acute angle-closure glaucoma or progression to chronic angle-closure glaucoma. Chronic angle-closure glaucoma: IOP may remain the same or be lowered, depending on the extent of peripheral anterior synechiae.

Contraindications:[28] Conditions causing poor visualization of the iris. Angle closure due to synechial closure of the anterior chamber. Patient who is unable to cooperate.

Complications:[36] Brief blurred vision (common). Swelling of the clear covering (cornea) of the iris. Bleeding. Increased pressure in the eye. Later: Further clouding of the lens (cataract) compared to what the present was before laser treatment. Closure of the opening. Recurrent closed-angle glaucoma. Development of another type of glaucoma. Continued need for medications (depending on the person's condition before laser treatment). Glare or double vision from light entering through the new opening.

RESOURCES

Eye Surgery Center of San Francisco. <http://escsf.org>. (415) 440-1100. Specializes in cataract surgery with intraocular lens placement, corneal transplantation, strabismus, treatment of glaucoma, and ophthalmic plastic and reconstructive surgery.

Glaucoma Clinic. UCSE. (415) 514-6920. TREATMENT: By referral, patients with conditions that have poor prognosis, including those who have had unsuccessful glaucoma surgery or have secondary glaucoma, advanced glaucomatous optic atrophy and patients who have vision only in one eye. SPECIALTY: Congenital, combined mechanism, narrow angle, open angle, and normal tension glaucoma. DIAGNOSTIC: Automated perimetry, darkroom prone provocative testing, specular microscopy testing, tonography, pachymetry, optic disk photography, optic nerve laser scanning, iris fluorescein angiography, A and B scan ultrasonography and ultrasound biomicroscopy.

WEST OF TWIN PEAKS PROPERTIES SOLD SINCE 11/1/15

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

ADDRESS	TYPE	BEDS	BATHS	PK	ASKING	SOLD	%OF ASKING
521 Magellan Ave	Forest Hill	2	1	1	1,195,000	1,509,000	126.28
501 Junipero Serra Blvd	Ingleside Terrace	4	2	6	1,500,000	1,700,000	113.33
574 Dellbrook Ave	Midtown Terrace	3	2	1	949,000	1,175,000	123.81
135 San Benito Way	St. Francis Wood	4	3.5	1	2,395,000	2,926,000	122.17
926 Teresita Blvd	Miraloma Park	3	1	2	1,049,000	1,550,803	147.84
300 Cresta Vista Dr	Miraloma Park	4	4	1	2,550,000	2,575,000	100.98
1562 Portola Dr	West Portal	3	2.5	2	1,695,000	1,975,000	116.5



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OPEN LATE



By Julie Casson

Sudoku-fun!

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

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

Answer:
The answer appears below.

8	9	∟	1	6	∑	2	∅	5
∑	5	1	2	8	∅	6	∟	9
2	6	∅	9	5	∟	1	8	∑
∟	1	6	5	2	9	∅	∑	8
5	2	∑	8	∅	1	9	6	∟
∅	8	9	∟	∑	6	5	1	2
1	∅	8	∑	9	5	∟	2	6
6	∑	5	∅	∟	2	8	9	1
9	∟	2	6	1	8	∑	5	∅

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

BRAIN FUD

The Pope Has It...

The Pope has it but he does not use it.
Your father has it but your mother uses it.
Nuns do not need it.
Arnold Schwarzenegger has a big one,
Michael J. Fox's is quite small.
What is it?

Answer
A last name.

We're On The Web!



westsideobserver.com

Health Matters • By Sharone Franzen

Resolution Requiem

By this time of the year, many of us have already broken our New Year’s resolutions. Roughly half of those who make resolutions on the first of January fail to keep them by month’s end, and only ten percent of people are actually successful at maintaining their new habits permanently. Why is this? Is January just a bad time to make positive changes in our finances or our health? Or are momentous changes impossible to undertake? Is there a way to help us make our resolutions stick?

The stumbling block lies in the limbic system of our brains, the home of our fight-or-flight response. While a well-honed reaction to an attack from, say, a saber-toothed tiger will keep us safe, the limbic system cannot differentiate. It perceives ANY change in our environment on the level of a five-alarm fire. Therefore we’ll cling to our old ways even if they are not in our best interest. Replacing the grand gesture of the New Year’s resolution with setting smaller goals is one way to tip-toe around the limbic sentry. Whether you want better health, less stress, or greater control of your finances (the top resolution themes every year), think about using these simple approaches to making lasting change.

1. Start Small. Microscopically small.

In *One Small Step Can Change Your Life*, Dr Robert Maurer uses Japanese manufacturing and business techniques to affect change on a personal level. His method of taking absurdly small steps toward a goal circumvents our subconscious fear of change, letting our “new” selves creep up slowly behind our old ones.

For example, if you lose, say, 30 pounds in a month, you may suddenly not recognize yourself in the mirror. “Oh my gosh, who is this person in my bathroom!” you might exclaim, just before you run back to the donut shop. If you haven’t given your mind time to “catch up” with the changes in your physique, it’s almost certain that you’ll gain back your weight, plus a bonus of five pounds for good measure.

Rather than scaring yourself, try trusting the process as it unfolds. Instead of drastically cutting calories, make a small change to your diet every week, cook your own meals, and sit down to eat. In our clinic we use a one-page chart that breaks down each type of food into good-better-best categories. Adapting one of the fifty suggestions per week may take a year’s commitment, but most people make these changes permanent. Instead of feeling defeated within a month, they feel healthier, more in control of their eating habits, and REALLY proud of themselves.

2. Make your goals explicit.

Statistics show that those who make clearly stated goals are much more likely to successfully attain them. Saying to yourself something like, “starting after the holidays, I’m going to eat better,” leaves a lot of room for interpretation. Better what? Better pizza? How about, “Today I’ll roast up all of those veggies I bought at the farmer’s

market.” That’s a concrete achievement, after which all that’s left to do is to sit down and eat them!

3. Be patient.

This will help with #1 above. Small steps make slower progress, so you’ll have to be content with that. Just think about all of the time you’ve wasted being in a hurry to see results, only to fall short, and have had to start over. What’s the oft-repeated wisdom on making money in the stock market? Just hold onto your stocks. Don’t sell. Be patient.

4. Enlist help.

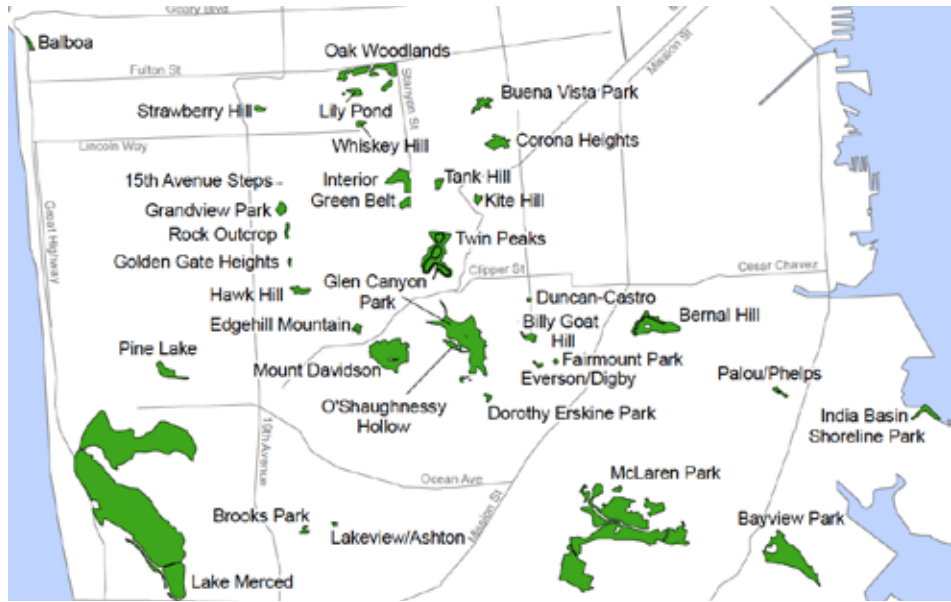
A dear friend who is an addictions counselor once suggested to his clients that if they wanted to quit smoking successfully, they ought to tell all of their friends, family, and coworkers that they were quitting. The purpose was threefold: One, if you’re a bit cranky during your first few withdrawal weeks, those around you will probably say, “Oh, Bob just quit smoking, so he’s probably just having a cigarette craving,” and thus cut you some slack. Two, it’s hard to sneak off for a cigarette if EVERYONE knows your intention. And third, if you blow it, you’ll lose face (“Hey Bob, I thought you’d quit!”).

This tactic does work because we are social creatures, but it’s a bit severe. Twelve-step and other peer-support groups offer a more forgiving approach, and encompass the principles of taking small steps. Each day of abstinence is celebrated, and you are surrounded by people who have been through what you’ve been through, and lived to tell the tale.

In addition to community support, it never hurts to get professional help. Even if you’ve read many books on a given subject, if you are not a professional yourself, you ultimately only have your own experience to rely on. Someone who helps folks for a living (financial planner, yoga instructor, nutritionist) draws from their experience with hundreds or thousands of clients, and therefore has a much wider perspective. A good adviser will offer you strategies you would never have thought of on your own.

In *Overcoming Underearning*, Barbara Stanny writes: “where a goal denotes a desired destination, a decision implies the determination to reach it.” Making that decision a few times a day rather than once a year will turn your pebble into a planet. Good luck!

Sharone Franzen is a licensed acupuncturist and herbalist at Lakeside Village.



Areas in green are subject to the NAP Management Plan

“The NAP Management Plan is currently undergoing an environmental impact review. The Final EIR could be released any day. If the Plan is finally approved, NAP will be free to make any and all of the radical changes the Plan outlines for our parks, limited only by the funds available.

Natural Areas (Cont. from p. 1)

In the “natural areas” it controls, NAP will tear up the existing habitat of plants and trees and replace them with plants that are “native” to San Francisco, i.e., plants that were here before European colonization began in the 1700s, a completely arbitrary date that native plant advocates have adopted as their ideal time.

That means re-creating the 1700s’ habitat of grasslands, sand dunes and scrub, with no trees and raging winds. During half of the year, many native plants are dormant and appear brown and dead. Do we really want treeless, uninviting parks? Is that what we want to leave our grandchildren?

How Natural Are Natural Areas?

Ironically, there is little that’s “natural” about NAP’s “natural areas.” The climate, soil and atmosphere have all changed since the 1700s, and indigenous plants are not necessarily well suited to today’s changing conditions. To keep the often-better-suited non-native trees and plants from growing back, NAP requires repeated applications of large amounts of herbicides. The toxic chemicals are necessary because NAP has taken control of more land than they can maintain manually.

The herbicides used by NAP are known carcinogens, and NAP’s use of them –especially when they’re applied over and over again to the same area –endangers anyone, especially children and pets, who walks or plays in “natural” areas. They have even sprayed the blackberries that birds – and generations of San Franciscans – eat.

Because there were few trees here in the 1700s, the NAP Management Plan calls for the removal of 18,500 trees – 3,400 in city parks (including 1,600 on Mt. Davidson) and 15,100 in Sharp Park in Pacifica. Nearly all those trees are not native (eucalyptus, Monterey Cypress, Monterey Pine, and acacias). Many were planted “only” 150 years ago, not long enough for them to be considered “native” by NAP advocates.

Unlike what NAP advocates say, the NAP Management Plan doesn’t state it will *only* remove dead or dangerous trees. Instead, it describes removing trees as the first step in the gradual conversion of forests to native scrub and grasslands. Clearly, the trees are being targeted because they are not indigenous and because trees don’t fit into NAP’s idea of what should be in a natural area.

No one really knows what will happen when so many trees are cut down. With fewer trees to block the wind, parks like Mt. Davidson and surrounding areas could become much windier. Eucalyptus trees intertwine their roots with those of neighboring trees. Herbicides applied to

the stumps of trees to keep them from resprouting will travel to the roots of the remaining trees. Combine that with the steep hillsides, wind, and erosion, and there’s no way to know what kinds of damage could happen to the homes surrounding the park. Sadly, we may only find out after the trees are gone that it was a big mistake.

Why A Natural Areas Program?

Why are we even talking about this? NAP was inspired by a fad in academic circles in the 1970s and 1980s that native plants are somehow “better” than plants that arrived later. This “nativist” idea no longer has the support of many in academia.

Yet in San Francisco, the nativist fad took root. The original justification for the program was to preserve and protect “undeveloped remnants of the historic landscape.” But, over time, NAP expanded far beyond that and it is now more about wholesale habitat conversion to re-create the idealized, frozen-in-time gardens that NAP prefers, even in places where few native plants exist today.

NAP advocates talk about increasing biodiversity. It is true that the more biologically diverse an ecosystem is, the healthier and more sustainable it is. But for scientists, “biodiversity” includes both native and non-native species. Indeed, San Francisco’s biodiversity has actually increased in the past century; few native plants species have been lost in San Francisco while many, many new species have been added to the mix.

NAP supporters, however, incorrectly define “biodiversity” as “native-plant-only biodiversity.” By destroying many non-native species, NAP may actually decrease the existing biodiversity in San Francisco parks.

Recent research has highlighted the important role non-native plants play in helping ecosystems deal with stressors like climate change. By focusing solely on native plants for biodiversity, NAP advocates may be making large sections of our parks less sustainable and adaptable in the future.

A Law Unto Itself?

NAP has operated for decades with little oversight or accountability. When voters mandated maintenance standards for all parks, NAP opted out of having any standards apply to its natural areas or to allow any yearly independent inspection of those areas.

NAP staff never asked neighbors and park users if they wanted a NAP-controlled natural area in their park. They just claimed the space as theirs.

When told that NAP’s removal of non-native iceplant at Grandview Park

Cont. p. 18



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Native Plants Program (Cont. from p. 17)

had caused damage to surrounding backyards from now-drifting sand, NAP staff responded that they had no responsibility for anything that happened outside park boundaries, even if their actions caused it.

NAP staff intentionally planted poison oak, a native plant, just off trails at Pine Lake Park to limit where people can go. Do they not understand that people in the second-most-dense city in the country need full access to city parks?

Coming Soon To A Park Near You

The NAP Management Plan is currently undergoing an environmental impact review. The Final EIR could be released any day. If the Plan is finally approved, NAP will be free to make any and all of the radical changes the Plan outlines for our parks, limited only by the funds available. And wholesale habitat conversion does not come cheap.

Supervisor Mark Farrell has introduced a charter amendment to secure a more sustainable source of funding for RPD. Protections need to be built into that amendment to ensure that any new money is earmarked for regular park and tree maintenance and rec center programming, which people want funded, not siphoned into NAP’s expansionist plans.

NAP is a gardening preference, not science. NAP’s attempt to freeze the landscape at a single point in time ignores the most basic tenet of biology – things change over time. NAP has few success stories in the relatively small areas they’ve planted so far. If these small-scale projects aren’t sustainable, why should we let them manage one-quarter of RPD’s parkland?

The future of our parks depends on the choices we make today. Will we allow the Natural Areas Program to turn large sections into plant museums that restrict where you can go and what you can do? Once trees are cut down, they’re gone. Once habitat has been destroyed, it’s gone. Our grandchildren and their grandchildren will have to live with our decisions.

Nancy Wuerfel served on the Park, Recreation, Open Space Advisory Committee for nine years. Sally Stephens is Vice-President of West of Twin Peaks Council.



The Checklist No School Should Be Without.

By Carol Kocivar copyright 2016

H

ow do YOU think your school district should spend its money?

- Smaller classes?
- More counselors?
- Summer school?
- Arts and PE?

My bet is that *not* many parents at your school tell the school district how they think it should spend education dollars.

But here’s the deal: School districts are now **required** to find out what parents, students, and community members think as they create their budgets.

For the past year, I have been working on a web resource called Ed100 (www.Ed100.org) to help parents and school communities understand education issues. I want to let you in on a great feature. (Yes, I said “great” just because I like it sooo much.) It is the **Parent Checklist**. You can use it to identify what you have at your school and what you need to make it even better.

Starting this semester, all school districts start to create budgets for next year. The Parent Checklist can help you do YOUR homework so that when it is time for community input, you know the issues.

You can find the Parent Checklist just by doing a quick Google search. (Hint: type in “Ed100 Parent Checklist”) The checklist can be downloaded and shared with your parents and community members.

It asks all the important questions AND it is written just for parents—*NO thick legalese or education jargon*. What issues should you look at?

- How much money does your school actually get?
- Is there time for quality instruction for all students?
- Does your school provide a broad curriculum for ALL students?
- How well are students doing?
- Are families engaged at your school?
- Do students feel safe and supported?

The checklist even links to lessons in Ed100, in English or in Spanish, in case you need more information.

Checklist Sample:

Take a look at the issues covered in the section on *Basic School Services*.

Does Your School Have...	Current Status	What Needs to Be Done? At your school At your district
Fully Credentialed Teachers Check your School Accountability Report Card (SARC) Background: Ed100 lesson 3.2		
Staff Professional Development Check your School Accountability Report Card Ask your school or district leadership		
Instructional materials and instruction aligned to Common Core Standards Background: Ed100 chapter 6		
Safe Facilities Check your SARC Background: Ed100 lesson 5.9		
Access to a library and librarian Background: Ed100 lesson 8.2		
Counselors Background: Ed100 lesson 2.7		
School Nurse Background: Ed100 lesson 2.3		

Does your school have all of these? (With the California teacher shortage and the transition to new education standards, these are particularly important this year.)

Here are some ideas on how to use the Parent Checklist:

1. Share it with your principal and identify issues that are important at your school.
2. Discuss the checklist at your PTA meetings.
3. Involve your School Site Council (SSC), English Language Advisory Committee (ELAC) as well as teachers, staff and service providers.

After getting input from your school community, share the results with your school board and school district administration. (Now that is real parent engagement!)

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



We’re On the Web: WestsideObserver.com

Real Travel By Sergio Nibbi



And the Winner is...

Half truths, exaggerations, deceit and deception! That seems to be the new norm for today's election cycle and it appears that not much has changed in all these years. But was it always that way? After being welcomed home as a national hero, did Dwight D. Eisenhower insist on building a wall to separate our southern neighbors? Wasn't it Ronald Regan that pleaded to "tear down that wall?" And would our affable peanut farmer, Jimmy Carter, turn away millions of refugees during a time of need? I'm sure that George H. W. Bush, a one time director of the CIA, would not have taken on Valdimir Putin, a former senior officer in the KGB, over nukes and political nuts. And speaking of our 41st President, I remember taking a trip quite a few years ago that took us through Kennebunkport, Maine on our way to a 60th birthday party celebration for a very dear friend of ours in Maine.

Our trip started in New York, and after the usual few hectic days in the Big Apple we boarded an Amtrak train for our 5 hour ride to Boston, which was different, unusual and scenic. We arrived at the Westin Copley Place for a pleasant stay before driving off in our Hertz rental to the Spruce Point

Inn, in Boothbay Harbor, Maine. Stopping off in Kennebunkport was opportunistic and gave us a chance to visit the summer home of our newly-elected president. As I recall, we visited the Dock Square area, which was right on the Kennebunkport River and reputed to have the president's



speedboat docked nearby. After a pleasant lunch and a tour of the town, we did get a glimpse of the boat, but also found out that the boat was heavily guarded by the Secret Service on land and with Navy divers protecting the



hull.
Our

reward for the day was a souvenir coffee mug that we still use on occasion. There's also an interesting video on the internet showing the boat pulling away from its mooring and smashing back into the dock as people scrambled around in amazement. That happened years later and hopefully with someone

else at the helm!
A clam bake started off the festivities at the Spruce Point Inn and gave us all the opportunity to meet and greet old friends as well as new. Then came the party, the speeches, great food, and cold drinks, and it was soon time to head home, but not before stopping off in Tamworth, New Hampshire for a night, and then a stay at the Tulip Tree Inn in Chittenden, Vermont, and finally our last night at the Gables Inn in Lenox, Massachusetts. Along the way we did get the opportunity to visit the Norman Rockwell Museum in Stockbridge as well as the nearby home of Edith Wharton just up the road.
We then headed to Boston for our United flight back to the familiar surroundings of the San Francisco International Airport.

So now we'll wait and see how this election unfurls. More stories, more struggles for the top spot, and eventually Election Day. In the meantime all we can say is "may the best man win." OMG, did I really say "man?"

the victim's wrist, punched and slapped him. After speaking to the witness, officers arrested the suspect.

Burglary – Contributing to the Delinquency of a Minor

7:15 pm | 3200 20th Ave
Employees saw two suspects place several items into a basket and walk out of the store. They detained the suspects and after further investigation, officers arrested the adult suspect. The juvenile suspect was transferred the juvenile community assessment center and cited.

Shoplifting – Narcotics Paraphernalia

10:15 pm | 3200 20th Ave
An employee reported that he saw the suspect select two purses, then go into the bathroom and an agent followed her. She smelled smoke and heard banging coming from inside a bathroom stall and the toilet being flushed. She reappeared with the security sensors off the purses and attempted to leave the store. She was detained until officers arrived on scene. A search revealed narcotic paraphernalia and stolen merchandise. Whe was cited.

Monday 1/18

Marijuana for Sale – Possession of Firearm

11:00 am | 3900 Irving St
An off duty officer recognized a known suspect who had a warrant and a history of carrying a firearm. Officers located the suspect. A computer check confirmed the warrant and a search of the suspect revealed marijuana packaged for sale plus a firearm. The suspect was arrested.

Robbery

5:50 pm | 1200 Ulloa St
The victim was walking home two suspects began following her. One of the suspects ran to pull her purse above her head while the second suspect pushed her onto the ground. They stole the purse and fled in a waiting vehicle.

Tuesday 1/19

Threats – Trespassing – Marijuana

11:53 am | 2800 19th Ave
Officers located the reported trespasser matching a description. The suspect threatened to harm the people in the building. Officers found concentrated marijuana on his person, he was arrested.

Robbery

12:10 pm | Bright St & Shields St
The victim said that she was walking when two suspects approached her. One of the suspects pulled the victims purse off of her and both suspects fled the scene.

Wednesday 1/20

Warrant Arrest

1:40 pm | De Montfort Ave & Ashton Ave
A suspect was reported to be acting strangely, standing at the corner, yelling loudly. A computer check revealed a warrant for his arrest. He was arrested.

Robbery

8:26 pm | Ocean Ave & San Fernando Way
The suspect approached the victim from behind and forcefully grabbed her purse. The suspect then fled the scene and got into a waiting vehicle, which was being driven by another suspect.

Bank Robbery

12:50 pm | 2300 Irving St
Numerous units responded reports of a bank robbery and began a search for the suspect. The victims said the suspect walked into the bank, pointed a firearm at an employee demanding money. The employee complied and the suspect fled.

OUTPATIENT PROCEDURES: Contact Ng-Yag transcleral cyclophotocoagulation, endocyclophotocoagulation, Argon-laser trabeculoplasty, selective laser trabeculoplasty, Yag- iridectomies and laser sclerostomies. The Clinic also has extensive experience with surgically implanted valves and non-penetrating glaucoma surgery. www.ucsfhealth.org/clinics/glaucoma/index.html.

Future articles: Filtering Surgery. Cyclodestructive Procedure. Drainage Implants

Reminder: April 16 is National Healthcare Decisions Day. Your decisions matter.

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Anise Matteson is an elder care consultant, retired Registered Health Information Technician and writer of reference books for seniors, and Advocate, National Healthcare Decisions Day. Information is for educational purposes. For specific questions and care, consult an ophthalmologist. mattesonecs@yahoo.com.

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Heidi Wittenberg, MD
March 16, 2016

All classes begin at 5:30 p.m. and are located at Saint Francis Memorial Hospital. Food and beverage will be served and parking is validated. To learn more or to reserve your seat, visit dignityhealth.org/saintfrancis, call 415.353.6755 or email robin.oconnor@dignityhealth.org.

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