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A CALL TO ACTION IS REQUIRED

by Nancy Wuerfel

The Civil Grand Jury (CGJ) just issued a report to the City entitled: *Act Now Before It Is Too Late: Aggressively Expand and Enhance Our High-Pressure Emergency Firefighting Water System*. The title says it all.



"Now" means *now*, as the report cites the experts' prediction that a magnitude 6.0 earthquake is due before 2043 to hit the Bay Area with a probability of 98%. "Aggressively expand" our high-pressure water system reminds us that the entire City is still not protected with a water delivery system able to suppress post-earthquake fires. The last time there was any expansion of the underground Auxiliary Water Supply System (AWSS) was through a 1986 bond promoted by then-Mayor Dianne Feinstein. Since then, AWSS coverage to the western and southern parts of the City has stopped, putting 15 neighborhoods in jeopardy of uncontrollable seismic fires.

Since the great fire of 1906, we have known exactly what to do to fight cataclysmic fires after a big earthquake: build a network of independent high-pressure pipes and hydrants and supply the system with unlimited amounts of non-potable water. The auxiliary system is dedicated exclusively to fire suppression. San Francisco is the only City in the United States that has this unique protection - or that needs it because we are next to three faults AND our City has access to unlimited water on three sides.

The Mayor and the City departments continually refuse to acknowledge that fires that follow earthquakes are just as dangerous as the future of San Francisco as are sea level rise and climate change. Also, they are in lockstep with each other to avoid commitment to covering the entire City with adequate auxiliary infrastructure using non-potable water for fire protection as their top priority. The City's

new plan is to use Sunset Reservoir's drinking water to fight fires in the Sunset and Richmond districts, as if that limited amount of water will be sufficient to fight all the simultaneous conflagrations after the earthquake. Then the SFPUC expects to be able to refill the reservoir in 24 hours with Hetch Hetchy water delivered from 167 miles away. The Mayor responded to the CGJ Recommendation #2 - to protect the entire City within 15 years with an emergency water system plan specifying funding sources - by stating "committing to entirely funding a single program out of context and without regard for the trade-offs of that commitment would be out of step with the City's longstanding and highly regarded capital planning process and likely create significant vulnerabilities elsewhere in the portfolio." What trade-off project could be more important than ensuring that the City is not overwhelmed by massive conflagrations after an earthquake?

The Mayor's response to the CGJ Recommendation #1 - to have the City present a detailed plan by 12/31/20 to the Board of Supervisors - was to push back the timeline to 12/31/21 saying "The City cannot discuss the project and timeline until the [G.O. Bond] ESER 2020 plan passes." Presumably if the voters do not pass the bond, the detailed plan to ensure that the City is well prepared to fight fires will be in jeopardy. This is the kind of bureaucratic action and limited thinking that has delayed the AWSS expansion for the past 33 years. There is no creative financing beyond asking the taxpayers for the money.

Instead of the Mayor directing departments to act now, the response is to conduct more

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Save Tourism: Move the Homeless to the Westside?

by Lou Barberini CPA



If you step back and connect the dots, the reason for the hurried campaign to convert Juvenile Hall to a navigation center (homeless shelter) becomes much clearer.

San Francisco's Hall was both expensive and the demographic composition of arrested juveniles was not perfectly proportional to the demographics of the less population frequently is the butt of national media ridicule, enough so that in July 2018 the American Medical Association pulled its \$40 million, five-day convention from San Francisco because of safety concerns for its members. Our entire \$40 billion tourist industry is currently threatened by the City's years-long dysfunctional handling of its homeless situation.

Here's City Hall's new plan: Why not hide the homeless, away from tourist's view, on the Westside of the city?

Closing Juvenile Hall:

The first step to saving tourism was the *Chronicle's* "Vanishing Juvenile Crime Rate" series, which argued that Juvenile



“Closing Juvenile Hall would hurt kids in San Francisco that have committed serious crimes but need the support of their families and communities. These kids would be shipped off to other counties' facilities and taken out of San Francisco when they need their support networks the most.”

city. The *Chronicle* has never disputed the percentage of juveniles arrested by the San Francisco Police Department (SFPD) directly correlates to the descriptions made by victims and 9-1-1 callers. Instead,

the *Chronicle* messaged that arrest ethnic inequities are more important than the safety of the public.

Just hours after the series was published by the *Chronicle*, without even questioning the newspaper's propaganda, San Francisco Board of Supervisors Shamann Walton, Hillary Ronen, and Matt Haney launched a campaign to close Juvenile Hall, culminating in a 10-to-1 vote on June 4 to close it by 2021.

Ironically, within a month of the Supervisors' vote, the vanishing juvenile crime rate resurfaced in international news reports that two people at the Tanforan Mall were shot by alleged San Francisco juveniles, followed by a very recent San Francisco Juvenile Hall graduate allegedly being involved in the July murder of an Italian police officer, followed by the brazen, indiscriminate

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Vote "No" on Prop. "E," Public Land Re-Zoning!

"Local Control" Excludes Neighborhood Input

by Patrick Monette-Shaw

California cities have long been in a protracted war with the State over who should control housing decisions. Local control over housing and land-use policies were at risk, which the State sought to usurp.

Why would San Francisco seek to usurp hyperlocal (at the neighborhood level) input into local land-use policies? That's essentially what Prop E — to rezone public land (except parks) citywide in San Francisco — on the November ballot seeks to do. Prop E makes things worse, stripping out neighborhood input into local processes. It screams: "We don't want neighborhood input."

As the *Westside Observer* reported in July 2019, news surfaced June 19 that the Elections Department had received two dueling ballot measures to rezone San Francisco's public lands: One submitted by Mayor Breed, and the second submitted by four Supervisors (Supervisors Peskin, Fewer, Walton, and Haney).

Both proposed measures reeked of State Senator Scott Wiener's various legislation designed to strip and override local planning rules by fiat, eliminating local control, like Wiener's misguided SB-50 attempt to rezone



the entire state. Sadly, two bills — AB-1487 (Assemblyman David Chiu) and AB-1486 (Assemblyman Phil Ting) — each contain provisions to allow privatization and appropriation of regional public lands. Both bills are sitting on Governor Gavin Newsom's desk awaiting his signature.

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Developers covet acquiring public land because it provides the private affordable housing industry opportunities for massive financial gain.

No public hearings were held prior to placing either of the dueling measures on the San Francisco ballot. After the Board of Supervisors blocked Breed's separate Charter change ballot measure on July 11, she was forced to negotiate with the Board. Breed eventually backed

down and withdrew her re-zoning Ordinance, leaving the re-zoning Ordinance proposed by four Supervisors on the ballot — now designated as Prop E — but without enough time to work out a compromise to the final ballot language before going to voters.

Clearly, San Francisco neighborhoods need better means for controlling land use, not just adding more housing, and each neighborhood should have input in controlling land-use decisions regarding public land in their own neighborhoods!

Prop. "E's" Origins

Mayor Breed initially claimed to rationalize placing her citywide re-zoning measure on the ballot, *only* because it had taken over two years to re-zone the Francis Scott Key Annex on public property to allow building a teacher housing project. Breed ignored the fact that the project was delayed principally because design wasn't yet completed and wasn't awarded City funding before July 30, 2019. Breed's pretext was laughable.

We debunked Breed's baseless and untruthful claim in the *Westside Observer*. In July we reported

Cont. p. 6



Attempted Assassination of Westside’s Journalist Brandon Lee

by Dr. Derek Kerr

On August 6th, gunmen shot Brandon Lee in the face and back outside his home in Ifugao province in the northern Philippines. On the way to the Baguio City Hospital, he repeatedly shouted that the Philippine Army was responsible for the attack. Internal bleeding required transfusions. Numbness below the waist indicated a spinal cord injury. During surgery to remove a bullet lodged in his jaw, he suffered several cardiac arrests. Weeks later he is responsive but remains in critical condition with 3 bullets in place.

Brandon, age 37, is Chinese-American, born and raised in the Westside, a graduate of Lincoln High School. His mother, Louise Lee, was an always-helpful manager in Laguna Honda Hospital’s Medical Records Department. Inclined toward community service, he served as a YMCA camp leader. At SF State University, he pursued Asian-American Studies under Professor Eric Mar and volunteered with the Chinese Progressive Association where he met now-Supervisor Gordon Mar. However, it was his joining the Filipino Students League that set him on his life’s path.

In 2010, he moved to the Philippines to pursue his passion; helping farmers and indigenous people assert their rights. He became a permanent resident, married Bernice and raised their daughter Jessie, now 8 years old. Soon, he became a correspondent for the *Northern Dispatch*¹, an English-language weekly news outlet. His articles² addressed police and government corruption, military depredations under Martial Law, the framing of political prisoners, land rights and environmental justice. Also, he volunteered as a paralegal for the Ifugao Peasants Movement (IPM). A *Northern Dispatch* open letter³ declared, “The attempt on the life of Brandon is to sow fear and to silence indigenous communities of Ifugao fighting against a corporate-led hydro-electric project and his colleagues in the Cordillera people’s mass movement.”

His writing was fearless. In a May, 2014 article titled; “Phil. Army Desecrates Ifugao Dead,” Brandon described how soldiers raided homes of local farmers at gunpoint and forced them to open the coffins of dead relatives. Those searches were part of the Aquino government’s anti-insurgency program that he labeled “fascist”. That year, Brandon bravely took over some duties of the IPM paralegal officer who had been murdered after being tagged by the Army as a “communist sympathizer”. Per the *Inquirer Northern Luzon*⁴, “In 2015, Lee was among the Ifugao Peasant Movement members accused by the military of supporting the New People’s Army” - the armed wing of the Philippines Communist Party. A slew of Facebook threats and vilifications such as “terrorist” and “communist” ensued. Also, Brandon and 9 colleagues were mailed pictures of Ifugao burial blankets – an implicit death threat. Included were references to “GTFO” (Get the F—k Out) and “NorCal” – pointing to his “outsider” American roots. He described⁵ all this publicly in 2018, after another colleague who campaigned against the hydro-electric plant was assassinated. When Army investigators asked Brandon to name his coworkers, he disclosed just two – those who had been murdered.

In the days and weeks before being shot, soldiers had repeatedly appeared at IPM offices, asking about Brandon’s whereabouts, office hours, and family members. In an e-mail to his brother Aaron, Brandon conveyed worries for the safety of his family and colleagues due to the government surveillance and harassment. After the shooting, local Army commander Maj. Gen. Pablo Lorenzo stated⁶; “As regard the propaganda issue wherein the AFP (Armed Forces

of the Philippines) is behind the alleged shooting incident, this is devoid of logic and factual basis as this is not in the best interests of the government and AFP”. Instead, Lorenzo proposed that the Communist Party sponsored Brandon’s shooting, then blamed the military “to incite the people of Ifugao”. An investigation was promised. Contra, the Committee to Protect Journalists, announced⁷, “Until President Rodrigo Duterte shows he is serious about protecting journalists, all the talk about investigations will come to nothing and violent attacks on the press will continue.”

Brandon Lee led a doubly precarious life as a journalist and an environmental protector. In April 2019, President Duterte’s office endangered journalists by telling⁸ the *Manila Times* that reporters were “blackening the image of the President” and orchestrating a “plot to oust” him. As for environmentalists, a *Global Witness* report⁹ titled “Enemies of the State?” identified the Philippines as the most dangerous country for environmental defenders, with at least 30 murdered in 2018. This April, our own Board of Supervisors passed Resolution 209-19¹⁰ condemning the Duterte-sanctioned extra-judicial killings that had “taken the lives of 29,000 Filipinos”, including many dissidents.

Brandon’s family and friends have stayed with him, given the ominous intrusions of military personnel at the hospital. Supervisor Gordon Mar publicly condemned the “unconscionable human rights abuses” that have “left a son of the Sunset District fighting for his life.” Mar also lobbied the US Embassy to afford Brandon the protections owed to American citizens. Supervisor Matt Haney flew to the Philippines on a fact-finding mission and visited Brandon in the hospital. On 9/10/10 the Board of Supervisors unanimously passed a Resolution calling for Brandon’s “immediate evacuation” for medical care, a Congressional investigation, and suspension of US military aid until his case is resolved. A Go Fund Me campaign¹¹ has been set up to raise money for Brandon’s medical treatment and repatriation via airlift to San Francisco.

Dr. Derek Kerr is a San Francisco investigative reporter
Contact: watchdogs@westsideobserver.com
Endnotes

- 1 <https://www.nordis.net/>
- 2 <https://www.nordis.net/?s=Brandon+Lee>
- 3 <https://www.nordis.net/2019/09/16/article-type/opinion/an-open-letter-to-the-wife-family-and-friends-of-brandon-lee/>
- 4 <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1151027/rights-advocate-attacked-in-ifugao>
- 5 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hPnBYacRByQ&feature=youtu.be>
- 6 <https://www.nordis.net/2019/08/13/videos/brandon-lee-state-agents-have-the-motive-to-harm-ipm/>
- 7 <https://cpj.org/2019/08/american-journalist-shot-critically-wounded-in-phi.php>
- 8 <https://www.manilatimes.net/2019/04/22/news/headlines/oust-duterte-plot-bared/543609/543609/>
- 9 <https://www.globalwitness.org/en/campaigns/environmental-activists/enemies-state/>
- 10 Resolution 209-19 <https://sfbos.org/sites/default/files/r0209-19.pdf>
- 11 <https://www.gofundme.com/f/4btk5-fundraising-for-brandon-lee>



“...soldiers had repeatedly appeared at IPM offices, asking about Brandon’s whereabouts, office hours, and family members. In an e-mail to his brother Aaron, Brandon conveyed worries for the safety of his family and colleagues due to the government surveillance and harassment.”

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Veterans of Foreign Wars Community Service Project

Supervisor Mar Pushes SFPD for Better Crime Stats

by Jonathan Farrell

Instances of certain crimes increasing year over year is in conflict with SFPD’s public statements claiming these crimes have declined, according a Sept. 9 press release from Supervisor Gordon Mar’s office.

“They did give us data for the past six years,” said legislative aide Alan Wong, when he spoke with the *Westside Observer*. The Supervisor had initially requested crime stats going back 10 years. Public Information Office’s Joseph Tomlinson noted “Law enforcement agencies do not study general populations based on age, race, sex, socio-economic position, type of occupation, etc. SFPD is not Pew Research Center or US Census Bureau. SFPD publicly reports on crimes (basically) what are committed and where.”

“In one testimony at the hearing, long-time Sunset District resident, Sunny Chan said that her 90-year-old mother’s home-delivered meals were being stolen.”

Capt. Falvey had been quoted in the news as saying that his general crime unit statistics showed a 10 percent drop in home invasion and burglary between 2015 and 2018. Supervisor Mar disagreed based on information his office had gathered.

Mar’s staff collected info on over 125 burglaries in 2018, with as many as 23-29 a month in the Sunset District alone. In his efforts to work with SFPD, Mar’s request for more specific data prompted a series of public hearings and town halls, which caught the attention of the *Sunset Beacon*. This was only “a first step” to address the issue of increased burglaries and incidents of what he called “porch piracies”

In one testimony at the hearing, long-time Sunset District resident, Sunny Chan said that her 90-year-old mother’s home-delivered meals were being stolen. Noting Supervisor Mar’s concern, Officer Tomlinson said, “The department does not have evidence that supports the feeling that the Chinese community is being targeted in residential crimes like package theft, home burglary, home robbery or ‘hot prowls.’ Supervisor Mar’s district, however, is a residential area with many single-family homes which makes it attractive to home burglars.”

“According to US Census Data,” he said, “84 percent of Taraval District households are either Asian, Pacific Islander or White. Which would mean that it is proportional to have over 50 percent of the victims of residential crimes (hot prowls, home burglaries, home robberies) in the Taraval District involve Asian, Pacific Islander or White households. Of course the goal of SFPD is for all residents to feel safe and to have no victims of residential crimes.”

At the Supervisors’ hearing on April 25, burglaries and breaking and entering crimes impacted every ethnicity, not only Asian/Chinese residents.

Others in the community besides long-time resident Sunny Chan have been victims of theft and insidious burglaries.

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West Of Twin Peaks Central Council by Mitch Bull

The West of Twin Peaks Central Council kicked off their 2019-2020 session in September with a meeting packed with robust discussions of land use, the myriad of Assembly and Senate bills on housing, a crime report from the Taraval station and a discussion of a proposal to build 5-6 very large houses on slide-prone Edgehill Mountain above Kensington Drive.

President Mark Scardina opened the meeting at 7:35. and following the roll call and attaining a quorum invited two members of the SFPD's Taraval Station up to give the delegates and attendees a quick report.

The two SFPD officers gave the delegates a snapshot of the crime statistics (year over year) from September 2018 to 2019 (at the Taraval Station). As of September 11, robberies are down 12%, burglaries are down 39%, while motor vehicle thefts are flat to last year, and motor vehicle robberies are up 9%. The officers stated that most of the vehicle thefts and robberies occur at the Stonestown Mall, with rental cars being targeted over 90% of the time.



Officers from the Taraval Station had good crime statistic news and some not so much

Carolyn Squeri reported that the numbers could be a little skewed as it is very difficult to report a vehicle robbery, as there have been "more than a few" smash and grabs in cars in St. Francis Wood. The officers said that the SFPD doesn't take reports over the phone. but welcome online reporting, coming in person to the Taraval station, or having an officer come out for an investigation. The officers feel that 3 or 4 "boost crews" are responsible for 99% of the break-ins.

Bridget Chernin also spoke to the officers about homeless people breaking her irrigation water faucet trying to get water, and leaving feces in her back yard, and also noted that dispatch didn't feel it could be investigated. The Taraval Officers said that if a citizen doesn't like the answers they are getting from dispatch, they can always ask for a higher up. The website for online reporting is: www.sanfranciscopolice.org. It was also noted that the staffing for the SFPD is still below the targeted staffing numbers as recent academy graduates only offset the number of officers retiring out of the force. The officers estimated that the SFPD is down probably 300 officers from the guidelines. They said it is not only an issue in SF, but all across California.



President Scardina explains the various land use bills facing the Senate

The next discussion was a presentation by WOTPCC President Mark Scardina about the language and impacts of the five State Senate and Assembly bills (regarding land use and Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU's) that have been signed or are awaiting signature by the Governor.

AB670 was signed into law on 8/30/19 and has language that appears to make rules and regulations set by communities and groups such as HOAs null and void. The question is whether the CCRs that have been in place for 100+ years are now unenforceable and voided by this new legislation. It is an important issue, as these pieces of legislation achieve the "rezoning" of California across the board, especially in areas that are currently RH1 and RH2 zoned. Someone asked, "Do these

new laws represent eminent domain and the taking for value from homeowners?" These laws allow ADU's on almost any parcel as long as the ADU is under 50% of the square footage of the owner-occupied home up to 1,200 square feet. One piece of

legislation also allows for the "main" house on the lot to NOT be owner-occupied when applying for an ADU permit.

The discussion also focused on the future plight of Westside seniors, who make up a large percentage of the population of SF, but have no developed "single-story" type of senior apartments for those who may not need "assisted living", but are possibly in a large multi-story home with challenges such as stairs and mobility.

Matt Chamberlain followed with a recap of the 1997 landslide on Edgehill Mountain and the instability of the soil on the slopes. He brought everyone up to date on the new proposal by a developer to build 6 houses on the slope where Kensington meets Vasquez. The houses, planned to be up to 4,500 square feet in size, would require a very large amount of excavation and very large pilings and foundations to be installed to try and stabilize the hillside under the houses.

The Planning Commission is having a preliminary permitting meeting on September 26 at 4 pm at the SF Planning Department (1650 Mission Street, Suite 400) to discuss the project. It is hoped that a large turnout of concerned residents will attend the meeting to voice their concerns about this project.

WOTPCC Vice-President Dena Aslanian-Williams informed the delegates of a new law that requires owners of 3 unit (or larger) parcels to send a letter to and notify SF qualified housing non-profit organizations of any intention to sell property. The nonprofits have 3 days to respond and 28 days to complete financing for purchasing the property. This legislation gives the non-profits an early-leg up on the general public.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM. The next meeting of the WOTPCC will be on Monday, October 28 at 7:30 PM at the historic Forest Hills Clubhouse. For more information see the WOTPCC website (www.westoftwinpeaks.org).

Ruminations From a Former Supervisor by Quentin Kopp



It was H.L. Mencken, the polemicist of my youth and before, who pronounced: "Democracy is the theory that the common people know what they want and deserve to get it good and hard." That's relevant to the November 5 San Francisco election with six ballot measures and a few contested public office elections. The most important is District Attorney, and I repeat my even stronger recommendation of Nancy H. Tung, Esq. for that position. The other three candidates show less than stirring dedication to enforcing criminal laws and respecting police officers who perform dangerous tasks in protecting society. These candidates have uttered policies of constraining San Francisco police in their arduous responsibilities and have miscast, like so many media commentators, the constitutional place of bail in criminal law. Moreover, they've ignored the subject of City Hall corruption, like the incumbent District Attorney who secured taxpayer money in 2017 from a compliant Board of Supervisors and Mayor for his new "Internal Investigation Bureau," consisting of "six attorneys, six investigators, and two support staff" and a \$2,918,078 budget! (Have you seen prosecution of even one corruption case by Gascon?)

There's no contest for City Attorney, Public Defender, Sheriff, Treasurer, or Community College Board. There are three Board of Education aspirants for two seats. None will revitalize a governing board emblemized by disdain for reciting the Pledge of Allegiance at its meetings. I've endorsed Ivy Lee for the Community College Board and recommend Paul

think Proposition D merits support as a "mitigation tax" on giant corporations to lessen traffic congestion, which we suffer traveling downtown, south of Mission, 19th Avenue, Park Presidio, or the Embarcadero. So does Proposition B, which reorganizes a City Hall department for disabled people. I'm pleased to report creation of a new

...they've ignored the subject of City Hall corruption, like the incumbent District Attorney who secured taxpayer money in 2017 from a compliant Board of Supervisors and Mayor for his new "Internal Investigation Bureau," consisting of "six attorneys, six investigators, and two support staff" and a \$2,918,078 budget!

Miyamoto for Sheriff and Jose Cisneros for Treasurer. The Mayor is realistically unopposed, although I note Joel Ventresca of the Sunset and my City Hall past is a candidate. The only supervisorial contest is in the Haight-Ashbury, outside the purview of this newspaper's mission. I don't know the four candidates, two of whom espouse "divorcing" streets from autos so bicyclists can gain complete use!

The most important ballot measure is Proposition F, spearheaded by former Ethics Commission Chairman Peter Keane, Jon Gollinger, Friends of Ethics President Larry Bush, and members Charley Marsteller and Bob Planthold. It achieves what two Ethics Commissioners refused to do last year, preventing 2018 submission of the measure to voters and leading to Keane's instantaneous Commission resignation. It requires reporting of campaign contributions and financial sponsors of campaign advertisements or, piquantly, shedding "Sunshine on Dark Money." Supervisors Mar, Mandelman, Ronen, Fewer, and Haney sponsored Board of Supervisors submission to voters. Please vote "Yes" on F.

I recommend voting No on Propositions A, C, and E. Proposition A constitutes enormous taxpayer debt in the principal amount of \$600,000,000, plus interest for 30 years that'll add another 80%, for general obligation bonds which can't be sold without approval by two-thirds of those voting. It contains the usual "citizens committee" to watch how the money is spent. Such citizen committees are ineffectual in my decades of observing them. Proposition C represents a voracious effort by Juul, a multi-million dollar "e-cigarette" business to induce youth and adults into addiction. As an opponent of "big tobacco" during my legislative years, I've hindered similar efforts and ask voters to do so now. I recommend "No" on Proposition E, which benefits, in complex manner, difficult to understand housing entities that constantly lobby City Hall. I

political party in California, namely, the Common Sense Party. Onetime colleagues Tom Campbell, a former Republican, Steve Peace, a Democrat, John Pimentel, a Menlo Park wind energy entrepreneur, Julie Meier Wright, California Department of Commerce director under Governor Pete Wilson of San Diego, Dan Schnur, an Independent like Campbell and me and Director of the USC School of Public Policy, and others secured Secretary of State approval in August to begin collecting 66,000 voter signatures to qualify for California elections in 2020. It's a party based upon fiscal discipline and social tolerance. Campbell is Acting Party Chairman, and Debbie Benray, a naturalized citizen formerly from Mexico is Acting Vice Chairwoman. We've amassed over 15,000 signatures. There's no deadline, but we aspire to qualify in 2020 to run three or four legislative candidates in districts without incumbents. After qualification, the Common Sense Party will hold a convention, adopt a platform, and elect permanent officers. I cordially invite membership at jpimentel@whitehatrenew.com.

As the son and husband of legal immigrants, I laud a July letter to the Wall Street Journal noting that Congress, especially Democrats, appears "determined to provide taxpayer benefits to illegal immigrants." A 2015 Rasmussen Report demonstrated 53% of registered Democrats would allow tax-paying illegal aliens to vote. That alarms me because another writer points to local, state, and federal government costs of providing education, welfare benefits, healthcare, and detention to illegal aliens. To enforce immigration laws doesn't make us nativists who favor native residents. We support legal immigrants, legal immigration and border control. But, as Henry Adams observed, "Practical politics consist in ignoring facts."

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

A Light and Sound Experience **Night Bloom** Nov 22 – Jan 5 5 – 11 pm
Night Bloom returns shining brighter this holiday season in a limited engagement. Reserve tickets now at conservatoryofflowers.org

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73rd GRAND NATIONAL RODEO

Rides into the Cow Palace

Dust off your hats and get your spurs on! The Wild, Wild, West returns to the Bay Area as the annual Grand National Rodeo, Livestock Exposition and Horse Show opens at the Cow Palace next week. Now in its 72nd year, the Grand National Rodeo will celebrate the time-honored tradition of America’s West by presenting the best of the best in the competitive sport of rodeo.

The two-weekend event, October 11-12 and 18-19, features traditional rodeo events including bareback riding, steer wrestling, team roping, saddle bronc riding, tie-down roping, bull riding and barrel racing.

During the livestock exposition, real farm equipment and animals are on site with interactive displays to learn about how food is grown. Exhibitors will show cattle, pigs, sheep, goats, and rabbits, along with photography and fine art inspired by agriculture and western lifestyle.

Other highlights include:

First Responder Fridays, October 11th and 18th – All First Responders with a valid professional badge/ID can receive up to four (4) free tickets to Friday nights only. Redeem at the box office.

PRCA Rodeo show 7:30-9:30pm, nightly
Western marketplace daily from 2 -11 pm
Classic Western BBQ with down-home comfort food

Nightly LIVE music by Country Music Singer Chad Bushnell.

Equestrian competitions

“Tough Enough to Wear Pink” day in support of breast cancer awareness month
Military Day (GNR partners with organizations that provide services for Veterans)
Mechanical bull rides and more!

Ticket prices are \$25 for adults Dress Circle, \$45 for Box Seats and \$14 for children

and seniors, and can be purchased online at www.grandnationalrodeo.com or in-person at the box office. Although tickets must be purchased for the Grand National Rodeo in the main arena, the Livestock Exposition, Horse Show, Interactive Agricultural Area, and Marketplace are FREE and open to the public. For more details visit www.cowpalace.com or contact info@cowpalace.com or call 415-414-4100.

The Cow Palace is located at 2600 Geneva Avenue, in Daly City.

About the Grand National Rodeo:

The Cow Palace was built in 1941 as the 1-A District Agricultural Association, and as part of its mission produces the annual Grand National Livestock Exposition, Horse Show and Rodeo. It is the West’s most prestigious western lifestyle event attracting thousands of participants and fans from seven western states. www.grandnationalrodeo.com

The Cow Palace Arena & Event Center serves as a venue for a variety of events including concerts, festivals, exhibitions, consumer shows, trade shows and sports; as well as a variety of community, religious and charitable events. Now celebrating their 77th anniversary, the Cow Palace continues to serve the needs of the San Francisco Bay Area, and the State of California.

www.cowpalace.com



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ELLEN LEE ZHOU

FOR MAYOR



San Francisco has a \$12.3 billion budget.

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If you don’t like what you see in this city, vote for Ellen Lee Zhou for Mayor.

Ellen has the practical experience to resolve San Francisco’s ongoing problems — we don’t have to live like this.

San Francisco Voters Guide — Mayoral Election



Ellen Lee Zhou, public servant since 2004, proposes common-sense traditional family solutions to social problems.



London N. Breed, a public servant since 2012, her failing policies are a big part of the City’s many problems.

San Francisco is famous for homelessness, illegal drugs and violence. London Breed is incapable or unwilling, to advance solutions to these long-standing problems. As Mayor, Ellen Lee Zhou will clean up the City and fight for common-sense results. It is time for a change.

Ellen Lee Zhou

London N. Breed

1. Support law enforcement to arrest criminals and drug dealers.	YES	NO
2. Create programs to make 50,000 empty apartments available to teachers and SF families.	YES	NO
3. Support whistleblowers, fight corruption and hold public servants accountable.	YES	NO
4. Top-to-bottom audit of the City’s checkbook and reduce the bloated government.	YES	NO
5. Protect tenants rights and property ownership and local controls over development.	YES	NO
6. Sanctuary City protections for felons and criminals.	NO	YES
7. Protect parental rights from abusive policies.	YES	NO
8. Protect the homeless from drugs and heal with love and hope.	YES	NO
9. Help empty storefront owners to regain their businesses.	YES	NO
10. Reduce the City’s abusive power over residents.	YES	NO

Paid for by Ellen Lee Zhou for Mayor 2019 | FPPC # 1414996 Financial disclosures available at sfethics.org

Utilities Watch

Time for a Change?

Is it time for the Water-Power-Sewer department (SFPUC, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission) to consider hiring a new General Manager?



Today and for the past seven years the GM position has been and is occupied by Harlan Kelly. Under Kelly SFPUC has nearly completed the \$4.9 billion program to renew the water system, and has begun an \$8 billion renewal of our sewer system. CleanPowerSF has been formed to provide greener power (electricity) to San Francisco. These are impressive accomplishments.

But time takes its toll. Circumstances change. A leader for one time may not be optimal for another.

Kelly and SFPUC are no strangers to procrastination. The agency he presently leads, and the city, can ill afford costly delays.

The largest project of sewer system renewal, building new digesters, is off to a bad start. Right out of the box the billion dollar job is delayed a year, at least. If we get it done at a loss of less than a billion we should consider ourselves lucky. Too, there will be delay in having new up-to-date digesters. With each month of delay there is risk that the old ones fail, causing damage and more expense. As it is, the new digesters are only sufficient until 2045, for less than twenty years.

The delay to digesters comes on top of the long delay to the largest project of the water system renewal, Calaveras Dam. This job is still not complete. By its end will have overrun by more than five years, and more than \$300 million; it has more than doubled in cost.

In addition to project delays there is dealing with problems within the agency. Or rather failure to deal with same. It is alleged in a legal complaint that one of Kelly's employees wrongfully terminated an older, black employee three days before his probationary period expired. Further detailed allegations of this complaint paint a grim picture of employment within Kelly's SFPUC. If allegations are even partly true, there are reasons to question his stewardship.

More questions are raised in the area of community benefits. These are payments, usually through contractors, to organizations said to be doing good works in San Francisco. Under Kelly's leadership the employee in charge, one who has had her troubles with ethics and been fined, has remained in charge despite questions and allegations. Community benefits are too easy to corrupt; special diligence is wanted.

In 2003 Kelly came to the organization from

within the City family. He soon got in trouble by repainting his brand new SUV at a cost of more than \$5000. While a second chance for this peccadillo was warranted, it is not forgotten.

Kelly serves at the pleasure of the Commission. Commissioners are given their positions by the mayor as a political plum. Absent direction from the mayor, it is probably unlikely that the Commission will take the initiative. But it should.

Civic organizations benefit from periodic renewal.

Today challenges abound. A \$2.5 billion offer has been made to acquire PG&E power facilities in the City. This would require major expansion of an already large organization. The City and PG&E have been in litigation for years. Whatever deal is made, expect pay-back. Will PG&E's best employees be transferred to the City? Should the deal go through, not only will City employees service your power outage, but also new employees, hired

in a tight labor market, when cost of housing nearby is high, will do the servicing.

The State has announced plans to seize a portion of the City's Sierra water supply. While SFPUC continues to try to talk the State out of some of this water grab (to protect fish), hoping for a Voluntary Agreement, SFPUC's customers are already whipping the agency into line to find replacement water.

Kelly seems tired. One sees that in his demeanor during Commission meetings. Work is likely to grow harder with the \$8 billion sewer renewal program, including the already delayed digesters, and possibly a whole new set of electrical facilities and employees to manage. It is time to review options.

If removal were desired, the procedure seems to be that the mayor recommends removal of a department head to the Commission, which acts within thirty days. Then the Commission submits at least three qualified candidates for replacement, and the mayor chooses or rejects; BOS may nix on two-thirds vote. Kelly's employment contract is at-will.

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

Crime Stats (Cont. from p. 2)

General contractor Charlie Vaughan of Buteo Builders and some of his crew said that he and his crew have been victims of repeated thefts. Some of the thefts resulted in the loss of tools and equipment over the past year costing up to \$80,000. He noted that while empathetic, few SFPD investigators followed up. Taking initiative, Vaughan said he and his crew provided surveillance video of a perpetrator's car and license plate, and at one point followed a suspect-perpetrator to what Vaughan presumed was a hangout of thieves near the Caltrans station at 4th Street, downtown. "It seems there is a head to this snake (of burglary cases)..." said Vaughan, but catching and prosecuting culprits should not be the job of ordinary citizens.

The fear that victims are being ignored and that possible hate crimes have occurred pops up several times in the hearing. According to Officer Tomlinson, "Law Enforcement agencies pursue suspects and crime trends related to those suspects. SFPD is driven by crime patterns and building strategies related to those crime patterns," Tomlinson said. "Law Enforcement's primary concern is around the suspects committing crimes. While basic victim demographic information may currently be captured in incident reports, there is no crime enforcement reason to create and publish reports around that data."

"Hate Crimes are not separate, distinct crimes, but rather traditional offenses motivated by offender's bias," according to the Criminal Justice Information Services Division

UCR Hate Crime Data Collection Manual. Hate crime is an enhancement to a crime and is not considered a crime that the SFPD online Dashboards report. SFPD reports hate crimes to the FBI via Uniform Crime Reports annual reporting (delegated by the Attorney General)."

Mar's hearing in highlighted an increase in blatant burglaries in the Avenues. He mentioned that increased home delivery and online shopping, has also increased theft from porches, doorsteps and mailboxes. Better technology, tracking and statistics of these incidents will bring culprits to justice, Mar observed. Supervisor Mar is currently drafting legislation to require SFPD to report these statistics annually with additional categories, including race, gender identity, age, sexual orientation, disability status, and religious preference, and has also funded new programs to expand security cameras and safe package delivery. "Better data means better strategies. I'm concerned it took so long for us to get this data, and that it doesn't seem to match what SFPD has been saying. Now that we have it, we need to keep tracking these numbers going forward, and work together and in solidarity with all the communities impacted by crime, including and especially the African American community," said Mar.

Mar will continue to meet with stakeholders in the community for feedback on what they would like SFPD to provide in their crime statistics data. "At this point a draft of the proposed legislation could be finalized sometime in November," Wong said.

Jonathan Farrell is a local reporter.



My 2nd • Will Durst © 2019

HOW THEY SPENT THEIR SUMMER VACATION.



Alert! Alert! This is a test. This is only a test. A test of the Congressional Re-Arrival Warning System. Residents of the District of Colombia should remain on the lookout for male and female politicians walking the streets disguised as normal citizens. Although expert at camouflage, they can be recognized, notably by the crisp lines of their plumage, consisting mostly of dark business suits, but also by the incessant habit of spending every waking hour dialing district donors for dark dirty dollars.

The second week of September traditionally when all 535 members of the 116th Congress reconvene, ostensibly refreshed for the arduous 33 days of work scheduled between now and Thanksgiving.

Caution: Do not approach or attempt to interact with these seemingly mild-mannered bureaucrats, as they are often irritable and unpredictable after spending lengthy periods amongst family and constituents, depending on which vacation ventures were undertaken.

Donald Trump Jr. took a hurricane-tracking course in order to better advise his father.

National Security Advisor John Bolton got his talons sharpened.

Beto O'Rourke spent 3 weeks in physical therapy learning to talk with his hands stapled to the outside of his thighs.

Wisconsin Congressman James

Caution: Do not approach or attempt to interact with these seemingly mild-mannered bureaucrats, as they are often irritable and unpredictable after spending lengthy periods amongst family and constituents, depending on which vacation ventures were undertaken.

dictable after spending lengthy periods amongst family and constituents, depending on which vacation ventures were undertaken.

Fortunately, through a complex network of research grants, internet searches and educated guesses, we here at Durstco were able to determine the recreational activities engaged in by many of America's movers and shakers these past couple of months and are proud to present them now in a feature we like to call: HOW THEY SPENT THEIR SUMMER VACATIONS.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell went to vocabulary camp, learning how to say "no" in 23 different languages.

Vice President Joe Biden traveled to Switzerland for a charisma implant but, alas, his system rejected it and the donor died.

Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren binge-watched all 8 seasons of Game of Thrones. But didn't get it.

President Donald Trump managed to bring his golf handicap below his body temperature for the first time since contracting malaria. Malaria, not Melania.

Vice President Mike Pence spent a lot of time being seen reading the Bible in the presence of his wife.

Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders held a series of mock debates with himself and lost to Kamala Harris every time.

Former Congressman Mark Sanford hiked another Appalachian Trail where he was hit by a bolt of Republican lightning.

Sensenbrenner achieved higher consciousness after two weeks in an Oneida sweat lodge.

Eric Trump was sent on a month-long snipe hunt by White House handlers.

Andrew Yang practiced casting a reflection in a mirror.

Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi had a sleep-over at Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's house and the two got into a pillow fight resulting in 2 broken lamps and a quick trip to the emergency room.

Cory Booker added Antonio Brown to his fantasy football team.

Marianne Williamson presented a spirited defense of her Summer League Competitive Yoga title.

Tom Steyer built a phone tree filled with recalcitrant billionaires.

Amy Klobuchar organized sensitivity training retreats in various yurts around northern Minnesota.

Mayor Pete Buttigieg baked and froze a series of casseroles for the South Bend Indiana Police Lodge's Annual Autumn Pot-Luck Dinner.

And finally, Melania, not malaria, Melania Trump wandered the Northern Mediterranean Coast scoping out possible new rich daddies for Barron.

Will Durst is an award-winning, nationally acclaimed comedian, columnist, and former bus boy at the Bright Angel Lodge in Grand Canyon. Columns, commentaries and personal appearances please visit willdurst.com, the Improv @ Harvey's Lake Tahoe, visit willdurst.com.

Westside's Fire System (Cont. from p. 1) studies before decisions are made, to kick the can down the road, and to fit the projects into the next 10 year capital plan, thereby delaying AWSS planning until December 2021. Then, we have to wait in line for the AWSS number to come up for funding through G.O. bonds. We already know how, what, and where to build the pipeline network; we just need the leadership to explore state and federal funding sources to deliver completed citywide projects without more delays.

Mayor Edwin Lee knew how to get things done. On September 27, 2017 he issued Executive Directive 17-02, effective immediately and to remain in place until rescinded, *"charging all City Departments to work collaboratively toward faster approvals for housing development projects..."* and to develop a plan and implementation outline. He charged departments with submitting to him by December 1, 2017 a plan outlining the needed process improvement measures. He demanded action in 65 days after issuing the order and that included the Thanksgiving holidays.

The Mayor Lee level of leadership is

what the Civil Grand Jury is asking for. I remind everyone that we put a man on the moon in ten years after President Kennedy made that a goal. We should not have to wait until 2049 before we finish building out a citywide plumbing network with three non-potable water pump stations.

The City is in grave danger of facing a major earthquake with fires without the means to save lives and property. We have wasted valuable time over the past 33 years not preparing for this certainty. A call to action is required now. Tell Mayor London Breed to provide the leadership expected of her to protect the City now, by issuing an Executive Directive to charge all City Departments to work collaboratively to submit to her by December 31, 2019 a plan, funding sources, and implementation outline for project completion by 2030, making the AWSS expansion with unlimited water the City's top priority. No more excuses!

Nancy Wuerfel is a government fiscal analyst and served as a member of the Park, Recreation, Open Space Advisory Committee (PROSAC) for 9 years.

Local Controls (Cont. from p. 1)

that re-zoning — even if zoning changes take 6 to 12 months — occurs during Environmental Review while the developer works *simultaneously* on detailed design, permitting, and financing that can take up to 24 months. Eliminating re-zoning will *not* shorten the 24-month concurrent processes.

In our September¹ article, even Supervisor Shamann Walton (D-10) noted on July 11, 2019 that the Annex should have been

Awarding public land so private developers can enhance profits is against the interests of the people."

re-zoned *"a couple of years ago."* Walton added, *"We should not be giving away publicly owned land for market rate developments calling it affordable teacher housing."*

The Board promised trailing legislation would be written to reconcile differences between the two dueling measures. Now at the end of September, no trailing legislation has been presented during Board of Supervisors hearings. Adding to the insult that no public hearings were held beforehand, voters will also likely not see the trailing legislation before voting on Prop E.

Still unclear is whether developers will be given public land at no cost, whether they'll purchase land outright at market-rates (income to the City), or if they'll get long-term leases of the land. The ballot measure contains no discussion of whether developers will acquire public lands through fee simple sale, long-term ground lease, or prices below market-rate appraisal value. That issue wasn't even included in the ballot measure, and a City Hall source thinks the issue won't be clarified in the trailing legislation, either

It's also unclear if the re-zoning measure will eliminate full CEQA review on each project, or whether the CEQA reviews will remain on a case-by-case basis. That likely also won't be addressed in the trailing legislation, which may focus only on a peripheral issue involving 50% pass-through to tenants.

Prop E could deprive your ability and rights to improve projects through local jurisdiction appeal process hearings and may eliminate the Planning Commission's discretionary review process to alter, change, or disapprove re-zoning of each parcel zoned "P – Public."

Alphanumeric State Soup

Seven recent State legislative bills aim at eliminating local control over land-use and housing decisions. Two are discussed here briefly:

AB-1487, *San Francisco Bay Area Housing Development Financing*, Assembly-member David Chiu, Assembly District 17, co-authored by Senator Wiener. AB-1487 would allow for Bay Area regional ballot measures to raise money for affordable housing, perhaps through a parcel tax, gross receipts tax, employee head tax, commercial linkage fees, and bonds, or a combination of the sources.

Zelda Bronstein published a terrific article² exploring AB-1487. I highly recommend reading her in-depth article. She noted pro-growth advocates view the bill as an opportunity to *"facilitate the private appropriation and exploitation of the region's public lands."*

Bronstein uncovered documents that show in early December 2018 the MTC and San Francisco Foundation helped fund a secret 42-person delegate, three-day junket to New York City, including Assemblyman Chiu and Chiu's then-Chief of Staff, Judson True. The trip claimed to be *"a learning session on New York's housing funding and finance system."*

Bronstein reported that shortly after True returned from the New York jaunt, Mayor Breed announced on December 18 that she was appointing him as her *Director of Housing Delivery*. [True earned \$108,084 in 2018 as Chiu's Chief of staff; his salary working for Breed starting January 2019 jumped to \$188,000 annually.] True's job for Breed mainly involves

streamlining the City's permitting processes, which explains, in part, why Breed placed her competing measure to re-zone public lands citywide in one fell swoop to allow housing on public parcels.

After all, True helped craft the AB-1487 provision to allow privatization, appropriation, and exploitation of the region's public lands.

Bronstein noted that acquiring public land presents key opportunities for developers to defer land acquisition costs, pro-

vides a possibility of receiving discounted land prices, and a chance to leverage the public land contribution or discount as a "local match" for competitive funding programs — all for financial gain — by acquiring land through fee simple sale, long-term ground lease, or prices below market-rate appraisal value.

Mayor Breed reportedly supports AB-1487. It was submitted to Governor Newsom for signature, which he will likely sign into law.

AB-1486, *Surplus Land*, Assembly-member Phil Ting, Assembly District 19, co-authored by Senator Nancy Skinner. AB-1486 is designed to ease privatization of public land, mirroring AB-1487's goal of facilitating the private-sector appropriation of regional public land.

AB-1486 will require public agencies to offer their "surplus" land for development before leasing their property. It requires local agencies to offer the *right of first refusal* to affordable housing developers, schools, and parks before selling, leasing, or otherwise conveying their public land.

It was submitted to the Governor, which he may also sign into law.

Prop E Ain't Necessary

Planning Department staffer AnMarie Rogers has noted that public land must be rezoned for residential uses, re-zoning to a density zone of RH-2 or greater. But Prop E doesn't actually re-zone the Public land from "P – Public" to RH-2 or above; it simply expands Planning Code Section 211.1 by adding a new subparagraph "(i)" to expand principally-permitted uses in "P Zones" to include residential uses for 100% Affordable or Educator Housing projects. "P Zones" currently prohibit residential housing of any type.

Proponents assert Prop E *"unlocks"* and *"repurposes"* public *"underutilized"* lands to build affordable housing.

City Supervisors have already allowed placing housing on parcels zoned "Public" via case-by-case variances or creating *Public Use Districts*. Prop E ain't necessary!

San Francisco's 2006 voter guide included former City Attorney Louise Renne's paid argument against Prop D to re-zone Laguna Honda Hospital, arguing it would permit private facilities on public lands. Calvin Welch's argument against D worried it might allow private developers to build for-profit facilities on public land in public use districts.

Awarding public land so private developers can enhance profits is against the interests of the people.

Keep public lands in neighborhoods' — people's — hands. Vote "No" on Prop E.

The expanded version of this article available at stopLHHdownsize.com contains additional brief discussion of SB-728, SB-50, SB-167, SB-330, SB-592, AB-1487, and AB-1486, four of which Senator Wiener authored or co-authored.

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

Endnotes

1. www.westsideobserver.com/news/patrick.html#sep19
2. 48hills.org/2019/08/facebook-money-pushes-chiu-housing-bill/



EMERGENCY

Donors of all blood types, races and ethnicities needed

The American Red Cross urges people of all races and ethnicities to give blood or platelets to help increase the diversity of the blood supply.

The vast majority of blood types fall into one of the major blood groups. However, for patients with rare blood types or those who receive regular blood transfusions, blood must be matched closely – beyond the primary A, B, O and AB blood types – to reduce the risk of developing complications from transfusion therapy. The best match may be someone of the same racial or ethnic group.

San Francisco

2/8/: 10 am - 4 pm, DOXIMITY, 500 3rd Street, #510

2/19/: 10 am - 4 pm, American Red Cross Bay Area Chapter, 1667 Market St.

2/22/: 12 p.m. - 5 pm, Lighthouse for the Blind, 1155 Market St, Room 1064



American Red Cross

Blood Services

WESTSIDE OBSERVER

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Award Winning News for the Neighborhood

Society of Professional Journalists, Nor Cal Chapter



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Homeless Center (Cont. from p. 1)
August rush hour shooting on Market Street involving at least one alleged juvenile (captured on [KTVU](#)). Vanishing juvenile crime rate?
After Identifying Homeless Centric Zones, Ignore Reality

The second step to saving San Francisco's tourism was to sell the conversion of Juvenile Hall



into a homeless center. In the August 27, 2019 *Chronicle*, District Attorney (DA) candidate Leif Dautch [stated](#) his desire for repurposing Juvenile Hall into a 150-bed mental health treatment center.

Consider the illogic of Dautch's hypocrisy of not rewarding a homeless shelter to his own Cow Hollow neighborhood, and instead gifting it to the Westside. In January 2018, the City recognized and mapped the five most homeless-centric population "zones" in the city and organized the Healthy Streets Operation Center (HSOC) to provide services to those concentrations of homeless. The HSOC maps cover just nine-square-miles of the 49-square mile city.

This initial City survey of the most concentrated homeless "zones" perfectly matches the nationally-famous "poop maps."

Comparing the HSOC "zones" and "poop map" confirms few homeless folks are living on the streets anywhere near Juvenile Hall.

San Francisco's current homeless "zones" share three necessary common requirements:

1. All the zones are proximate to commercial retail stores, where larceny and successful panhandling can, and does, occur.
2. With the slight exception of the Castro, all of the zones are in flat, low-lying areas conducive to moving one's belongings.
3. The zones are close to either BART or MUNI lines, with direct connections to other homeless zones.

Although Juvenile Hall does have a commercial area 1/8 of a mile away, it misses the other two important requirements: 1) The facility is at 565 feet in altitude, and 2) There are no direct MUNI lines connecting to other homeless zones. By contrast, given the potential for extending the Central Subway to the Marina, Dautch's Cow Hollow neighborhood is obviously a much superior site than Juvenile Hall for building a homeless shelter.

All of the above make the unexplainable rush to create a large homeless shelter where the homeless currently don't

congregate — and to completely contradict the entire 2018 HSOC surveys and the two-year HSOC manpower surge — rather curious. By connecting these dots, it points to a city trying to protect tourism by exporting the homeless through designating Juvenile Hall a magnet facility.

Typically-Amateurish SFPD Crime Statistics

A new homeless shelter on Woodside Avenue should be of concern to Westside residents because it will expose children attending St. Brendan's Elementary School (three-tenths a mile away) and Ruth Asawa School of the Arts students directly across the street, to both the mentally unstable and substance abusers committing larcenies to support their habits.

To assuage the fears of residents inheriting the increased crime of the City's homeless migration strategies, both Director Jeff Kositsky of the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (HSH) and Mayor London Breed recently issued identical public statements:

"In general, we know the data shows there is no link between the creation of a Navigation Center and an increase in crime in the surrounding area."

Identical public record requests were submitted to both Kositsky and the Mayor requesting the crime data they had cited.

The Mayor's office immediately provided the SFPD crime data and the email chain transmitting the data. HSH mysteriously contends it somehow received the SFPD crime data with absolutely no accompanying email communications. Evidently, the data *just fell out of the sky* onto Kositsky's desk.

There were many glaring problems with the "in general" crime stats SFPD assembled:

1. SFPD's stats compared crimes that occurred within 1/8 of a mile (660 feet) to 1/4 of a mile (1,320 feet) for only four of existing homeless Navigation Centers. This ridiculously small distance assumes the homeless are mobile enough to arrive at the proposed Juvenile Hall facility via walking or several MUNI transfers, but are incapable of wandering more than 1,320 feet from the facility. The Juvenile Hall campus itself exceeds 660 feet in length!
2. SFPD double-counted crime stats that occurred within 660 feet of a Navigation Center with crimes that occurred between 660 feet and 1,320 feet. Thus, the crimes within the 1,320 feet radius are definitely an inaccurate number.
3. SFPD aggregated some Navigation Center data using 12-month periods with other Centers using 4-month periods of data. When grouped together, this means the 4-month periods were incorrectly given the same weight as 12-month periods, skewing data results.
4. The SFPD crime stats included all crime statistics, many of which aren't germane to the homeless, because larcenies are, by far, the most frequent crime committed by the homeless.
5. Crime is seasonal, with increased crime occurring during the tourist season and Christmas. For the Bryant Street Navigation Center, SFPD compared the last two months of 2018 when San Francisco received two inches of rain to the first two months of 2019, when we experienced 8.8 inches (400% more) of rain that suppressed crime.

To account for seasonality, a real statistician would have compared January/February 2018 to January/February 2019. Applying this professional comparison to the Central Waterfront

Education Carol Kocivar ©2019

Don't Be Juuled.

Here is a short quiz that tests your analytical abilities.

Ready?

Imagine a company whose mission is "to improve the lives of the world's one billion adult smokers by eliminating cigarettes". Now guess who owns a big stake in this company?

- A. Healthy California
- B. One of the world's largest producers and marketers of tobacco, cigarettes and related products.

If you guessed "Healthy California", you've been Juuled.

Ready for another one?

Now imagine a campaign promising to "stop youth vaping" in San Francisco—with ads like this:

- Who is a major funder?
- A. Healthy California
 - B. A vaping company whose stockholders include some of the world's largest producers and marketers of tobacco, cigarettes and related products?

If you picked "Healthy California", you've been Juuled—again.

Do you see a pattern here?

Now we come to the serious part. There really is a measure on the San Francisco ballot on vaping.

And guess who is pouring millions of dollars into the YES campaign? That San Francisco based vaping company owned in large part by big tobacco.

While lots of funding is coming from Juul, you wouldn't know it from reading the proponent's argument in the ballot pamphlet.

C Vapor Products

Shall the City overturn the law passed by the Board of Supervisors suspending the sale of electronic cigarettes until they receive FDA authorization, and adopt new regulations on the sale, manufacture, distribution and advertising of electronic cigarettes in San Francisco?

YES ☐

NO ☐

Navigation Center at 600 25th Street shows larcenies increased 78% after the shelter was opened, not the 33% decrease for all crimes within 1/8 of a mile reported to the Mayor and Kositsky.

6. Importantly, SFPD did not provide the Mayor or Kositsky crime data surrounding the fifth Navigation Center at the Civic Center, the City's longest-operated Center in a known high-crime area.

A "Solution" That Solves Nothing:

Media [reports](#) show three DA candidates Chesa Boudin, Suzie Loftus, and Leif Dautch all support closure of Juvenile Hall.

The fourth DA candidate, Nancy Tung, does not support the conversion stating: "Creating a navigation center/mental health center at Juvenile Hall doesn't solve the issues we have. Mental health beds are going unused at SFGH already and the City hasn't done enough to use the laws we have on the books to get people into treatment. Moving the problem to the Westside doesn't change anything, unless homeless people are accepting treatment for mental health or drug issues [because] they're not mandated into treatment now."

"Closing Juvenile Hall would hurt

Who signed the proponents' ballot argument? Not Juul. It is signed by that well known organization, the "Coalition for Reasonable Vaping Regulation, Including Neighborhood Grocers", a committee created to support Prop. C.

Hmmm. Wonder why.

You need to read the footnotes in the ballot pamphlet to find out what is really happening.

Paid Argument IN FAVOR of Proposition C

Over and over it says:

The true source(s) of funds for the printing fee of this argument: Yes on C - Coalition for Reasonable Vaping Regulation.

The three largest contributors to the true source recipient committee: 1. Juul Labs, 2. Chinese American Democratic Club, 3. Keith Baraka.

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So just one more question:

How would you vote if you were knew:

Proposition C is funded by Juul

Proposition C is opposed by the American Heart Association, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network Tobacco-Free Kids Action Fund, San Francisco-Marin Medical Society, Mayor London Breed.

Don't be Juuled. Here is my vote:

NO ON C

PROP C

SFKIDS VS BIG TOBACCO

Children's advocate Carol Kocivar lives in the Westside: kocivar@westsideobserver.com

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Taraval Station Community Meeting

Tuesday, September 17 • 6 pm – 7 pm at Taraval Police Station • taraval.org

TARAVAL STATION Crime Report

Sunday | September 1

Battery

1:21 am | 400 Plymouth Ave

A man was walking home when he was approached by the suspect who asked for money and cigarettes. He said “no” before continuing to walk away, and the suspect slapped him and walked away.

Stolen Vehicle – Arrested

6:34 pm | Dorantes Ave & Cortes Ave

A man said his car was stolen and that it was being followed by a witness and his wife. Officers found the car abandoned and the suspect. With positive identification, the suspect was arrested.

Tuesday | September 3

Robbery

7:43 am | 25th Ave & Irving St

A woman was on her way home when the suspect demanded her purse while holding a fake BB gun. When she refused, a struggle ensued in which she fell and was dragged along the ground until the suspect fled with the purse.

Thursday | September 5

Assault

4:17 pm | Wawona St & 24th Ave

A dog walker said she was working with a client’s dog when the suspect began video recording her on a cell phone, claiming she was mistreating the dog. When she pushed the his phone away, he began punching and kicking her.

Saturday | September 7

Package theft – Cited

8:53 am | 700 Judah St

A man said his package was just stolen and provided a security video of the incident. Officers found the suspect who was no longer in possession of the package, but a nearby search located the package and items in a portable toilet. He was cited.

Sunday | September 8

Burglary – Shoplifting

4:05 pm | 3200 20th Ave

The witness said the suspects, who were observed taking a laptop from a display area at the same time SF State Police received a call regarding two people, with matching descriptions, knocking on a Parkmerced resident’s door—asking for help. Officers found and detained them, and one was cited and other was arrested.

Traffic Collision – DUI – Arrested

2:45 am | 19th Ave & Sloat Blvd

Officers were driving across 19th Avenue when a car, traveling along Sloat Avenue, collided with them. Determining he was intoxicated, the driver was arrested. The officers were admitted to a hospital with minor injuries.

Monday | September 9

Stolen Vehicle – Arrested

5:56 pm | 17th Ave & Taraval St

The witness suspected that a car, stalled in the middle of the road did not belong to the suspect and the suspect asked for help to push it to the side of the road. The suspect told responding officers he found the car in a field with the key inside when it was determined that the suspect did not have a license, he was arrested.

Wednesday | September 11

Burglary – Marijuana Cultivation

5:28 pm | 300 Lakeview Ave

A witness saw three suspects, all wearing masks, run out of a building. Officers conducted a safety check inside the building and found a large amount of marijuana growing inside the home.

Friday | September 13

Assault with a Gun – Arrested

11:58 am | 3200 Serrano Dr

A man said the suspect, who owed him money pulled a gun, put a bullet in the chamber and pointing it at him. Officers detained the suspect, who t was arrested.

Attempted Robbery

7:23 pm | 00 Harold Ave

A woman was walking when two suspects walking past suddenly pushed her on to the ground while the other unsuccessfully pulled on her purse. She screamed for help and both suspects fled.

Sunday | September 15

Traffic Collision – Hit & Run – Transporting Marijuana

7:13 pm | 19th Ave & Judah St

The witness said a speeding car rear ended another car, then struck a home and several other parked cars—narrowly missing a pedestrian, who jumped to avoid being hit. The driver and passenger fled. A check revealed it was a rental car and a search found a large amount of cash and marijuana inside. It was towed.

Robbery with a Gun

12:10 am | Shields St & Ramsell St

The victim said he to a friend of a friend’s house when two suspects took personal items from his pocket while one suspect held a gun, putting it in his face several times. Then they took his keys to open the trunk and stole his marijuana then fled.

Monday | September 16

Robbery

5:54 pm | 1700 Great Hwy

An employee for a medical marijuana delivery service, said she was at the delivery location when the suspect asked if she worked for the delivery service and then demanded the package of marijuana, then pepper sprayed her and stole the package.

Tuesday | September 17

Robbery

7:45 pm | 3200 20th Ave

A man was standing in front of the mall when six or seven suspects demanded his money. He said he didn’t have any money and they pushed him down and kicked him, reached into his pockets, then fled with the stolen property.

Wednesday | September 18

Shooting Into a Home

1:26 am | 200 Font Blvd

A woman said she was asleep on her couch when somebody knocked on her door. She ignored it, but walked upstairs to her bedroom and saw a parked car and two suspects standing outside. Then she heard loud noises — like fireworks. When she investigated later, there were holes in her downstairs walls.

Thursday | September 19

Theft form a Vehicle – Stolen property

5:51 am | 25th Ave & Eucalyptus Dr

Hearing a suspicious banging noise from the street, a man reported a suspect breaking into cars when he saw the suspect standing at the back of a car with a shattered window. Officers found the suspect and retrieved property belonging to the witness, inside the suspect’s vehicle. Further investigation revealed that the suspect was also involved in an earlier incident of robbery. The suspect was arrested.

Friday | September 20

Breaking Windows

9:45 pm | 1900 29th Ave

A man said he had been speaking to the victim about his broken window when the suspect walked by. He asked the suspect if he knew anything about the broken window and the suspect admitted he broke the window—then threw a glass bottle down. He was arrested.

Monday | September 23

Robbery – Arrest

6:59 pm | Ocean Ave & Plymouth Ave

A man at a MUNI bus stop was checking his phone when the suspect walked up and snatched at it. in a struggle a second suspect appeared to help, then they fled with the stolen phone. Officers detained the suspects and they were arrested.

Tuesday | September 24

Battery

11:29 pm | 1300 46th Ave

A woman was in front of a store when the suspect approached and pushed her, and she fell to the floor. The suspect then fled.

Wednesday | September 25

Vehicle Burglary – Stolen Property

5:33 pm | Junipero Serra & Stratford Dr

The witness reported a suspect inside a car, putting items into a bag before fleeing. Officers found him and stolen property in his possession. He was arrested.

Thursday | September 26

Stolen Vehicle – Resisting Arrest

8:00 pm | Ocean Ave & Capitol Ave

A victim told officers he was following behind his stolen car. Officers found the car and stopped and arrested the suspect.

Friday | September 27

Stolen Vehicle – Evading Police Officer

11:18 pm Jules Ave & Ocean Ave

A driver left his car running to pick something up. The suspect drove off. Officers failed to stop the speeding car until it hit another car. They arrested the suspect.

Editors Note: This feature is an abbreviated version of the Taraval Police Report found at www.taraval.org

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Call to Action

Save Juvenile Hall

by George Wooding

Westside neighborhoods, schools, churches, and businesses need to stop the San Francisco Board of Supervisors (BOS) from closing down the Youth Guidance Center (YGC) and converting it into a Navigation Center.

The Juvenile Probation Department's calendar year 2018 Annual Report shows there were 695 bookings (detentions) of minors — involving just 331 separate individuals — into Juvenile Hall. Of the 331, 269 were booked only once, 39 were booked twice, 10 were booked three times, and 13 were booked four or more times.

The 269 booked only once represents 81.3% of the 331; the remaining 62 booked multiple times represents an 18.7% recidivist rate during a single year.

Of the bookings, 259 of were not for new crime offenses, but for other reasons such as probation violations, home supervision violations, warrants, court-ordered holds, in-custody transfer cases from other jurisdictions, etc. The remaining 436 YGC bookings were for Part I or Part II crimes listed in the FBI's *Uniform Crime Reporting* nomenclature.

Of the 436 bookings, 326 (75%) involved Part I crimes, which are felonies; the remaining 110 (25%) were Part II crimes that can be booked as felonies or misdemeanors. Of the 326 Part I crimes, 164 (50%) involved robbery, 59 (18%) were burglaries, and 53 (16%) involved aggravated assault. Two of the 326 Part I crimes were booked as willful homicide. Of the 110 Part II bookings, a total of 61 (55%) involved weapons offenses, assault/battery, or drug abuse violations, including narcotics (not marijuana).

In 2018, the YGC averaged housing 40 juvenile offenders a day; each stays an average of 23 days. The 695 bookings in 2018 involved at least 15,985 nights of services.



A view of the Division Circle Navigation Center, Photos courtesy of Sprung Structures

Mayor London Breed appointed a task force to plan for the future uses of the YGC for juveniles after the *San Francisco Chronicle* published¹ a series of articles titled “*Vanishing Violence*.” The articles showed juvenile felony crime had fallen 86% between 1980 and 2016.

How could this massive drop in Juvenile crime happen, the report pondered? No explanation was put forward or answered.

Many believe a combination of new state laws to reduce felonies to misdemeanors and San Francisco's permissive prosecution rates have decreased the YGC's population.

San Francisco has the highest crime rate among the 20 largest cities in the country. Burglary, larceny, shoplifting, and vandalism are included in this category. The rate of car break-ins is out of control: In 2017 over 30,000 reports were filed. Other low-level offenses — including drug dealing, street harassment, encampments, indecent exposure, public intoxication, simple assault, and disorderly conduct — are also rampant. Mercifully, crime is slightly on the decline in 2019.

All of this crime, yet the YGC population continues to fall.

California law enforcement blames much of the crime wave on Proposition

47, which in 2014 downgraded possession of illegal narcotics for personal use and theft of anything under \$950 in value from felonies to misdemeanors. Theft is indisputably booming, and narcotics activity is epidemic on sidewalks, parks, and playgrounds.

When City police now catch youths committing crimes, the minor is given what amounts to a parking ticket for their offense. The next day, the minor may be back out on the streets committing additional crimes. In San Francisco, youth crime is a revolving door, with few juvenile offenders being prosecuted.

The lack of enforcement for these crimes is a conscious choice by the D.A.'s office,

“The City needs this facility for offending-youth rehabilitation. There are many more wayward youth — at least 331 involved in 695 bookings in 2018 alone. With a strong District Attorney, the YGC population will increase. If we don't write to City supervisors in protest, \$80 million will have gone up in smoke and the YGC will soon become an \$80 million homeless Navigation Center.”

not always a limitation in existing law. A stay at the YGC could help many of our young offenders through rehabilitation. Thankfully, current D.A. George Gascón has announced his retirement.

The historic closure of San Francisco Juvenile Hall (by 2021) does not have the support of District Attorney candidate Nancy Tung. According to *Mission Local*, Tung stated² that “The problem that

I have with closing down our secured facilities (YGC) completely is that there are still going to be minors [who] are found by a judge that need confinement ...” Tung also worried about “farming out” convicted minors outside of their communities.

Although critics keep stating that there are 150 beds at YGC, the facility was only designed to house 79 offending youth. The rooms are extremely small.

According to testimony³ submitted by Chief Probation Officer Allen Nance to the BOS on May 14, 2019 prior to the Board's June 4 vote to close the YGC, “*The rooms designed for two youths can hardly be characterized as ideally suited for two teens given their size and the presence of a toilet which the youths would be expected to use in the presence of their peers. For the past five years, all youth in SF's juvenile hall are on single room status.*”

Nance further testified, “*Most youths involved in San Francisco's juvenile justice system do not require secure custody. However, for the approximately 40 youths housed at Juvenile Hall on any given day, the facility represents a safe, secure, nurturing and necessary environment where their needs can be assessed, and a plan for their return to the community can be developed, meeting their best interests and in the furtherance*



of public safety. As such, judges, probation officers, and other practitioners must weigh the benefits and consequences of its use. The highest JH census thus far this year was on 01/22/2019.”

Nance also testified, “*Closing the existing facility without a clear alternative denies these marginalized, disenfranchised, and vulnerable youths, the very interventions collectively designed to meet their needs.*”

He also wrote that African American



A view inside one of the tents at the Division Circle Navigation Center, which houses 126 homeless

and LatinX youth would be impacted the most. The more than two-thirds reduction in juvenile court referrals is a clear indication that our youth are better off today than a decade ago. Since closing the cur-

State and Community Corrections in state regulations Title 15 and Title 24.

Chief Nance's testimony noted that of 50 juveniles in the YGC on March 31, 2019, 30 (60%) were there for felony offenses.

Probation officials responded to the BOS 10-to-1 vote for YGC closure by offering a new plan called “*Commitment to Success*.”

The “Commitment to Success” proposal targets male offending juveniles age 16 to 18, and would require youths to spend at least six months in the maximum security setting, participating in a range of programs including anger management, financial literacy, health education, vocational training and social skills development, according to an overview submitted to the Juvenile Probation Commission.

The program would target young people who have escalating criminal behavior and for whom other interventions have failed.

A rehabilitative program in juvenile hall would fill the void, probation officials said, providing an alternative to out-of-state placements and long-term sentences to juvenile hall — a facility designed for short-term stays.

Within two months, the BOS passed legislation on June 4 with a veto-proof vote of 10-to-1 to get rid of the YGC. Only District 2 Supervisor Catherine Stefani voted against closing the YGC. What were the other Supervisors thinking?

A confidential source has stated Breed was “furious” that the vote was designed to undermine her own YGC Task Force. Breed was against the YGC closure and stated, “she is concerned that if juvenile hall is closed, San Francisco would have to send young people to another county when a judge orders detention.”

The BOS — particularly Hillary Ronen (D-8), Matt Haney D-6) and Shamann Walton (D-10) — were ecstatic. San Francisco is now the first major municipality in the country to close its Youth Guidance Center. Another BOS farce involving “political correctness” — albeit, minus common sense.

The qualified or unqualified San Francisco non-profits who work with troubled youth are also ecstatic at the windfall largess in City money that they now may receive. San Francisco taxpayers will subsidize these non-profits' high costs and fee

Cont. p. 10

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This land is your land . . .

Our National Forest System comprises over 188 million acres of forests, all of them managed by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). About 20 million acres of those forests are in California. Since 1980 the Forest Service has been required to come up with plans every 15 years to manage them. These plans are the best opportunity for public input into how our forests are managed. Recently, the plans for two nearby forests you may have visited, the Sierra and Sequoia National Forests (2.1 million acres combined, stretching from Yosemite almost to Bakersfield), were under review.

Faced with the complexity of dealing with 2.1 million acres of forests, streams, watersheds, and habitats, I contacted Vicky Hoover, a local Sierra Club member. Hoover has been involved with the Sierra Club since the 1960's, working on issues from



nia outings to editing the Alaska and Wilderness newsletters. Nowadays she employs her considerable energy working to get more support in Congress for two bills to fund deferred maintenance in our national parks and to expand protected wilderness areas. But she also keeps up with our California forests.

What is a forest plan supposed to do? The 2012 Planning Rule for our forests "requires that land management plans provide for ecological sustainability and contribute to social and economic sustainability, using public input and the best available scientific information to inform plan decisions. The rule contains a strong emphasis on protecting and enhancing



water resources, restoring land and water ecosystems, and providing ecological conditions to support the diversity of plant and animal communities, while providing for ecosystem services and multiple uses."

The specific goals of the current forest plans for the Sequoia and Sierra forests are described in detail in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) released in June for public review. The



Draft EIS presented a range of alternatives for managing both forests and analyzed the environmental, social, and economic effects of the plans. A Draft EIS was first published two years ago, but after much public comment, the Forest Service decided that the plans needed revision. As a result, the current Draft EIS has more information on fire management (not a surprise given the events of the last two years), ecological integrity, and sustainable recreation and designated areas.

The Draft EIS outlined five alternatives — five choices for the direction that the

into Navigation Centers."

The BOS are also scheming to replace San Francisco's troubled youth with a Navigation Center homeless population. This population bait-and-switcheroo must be done quietly and out of public view. The BOS wants to appear blameless. Replacing troubled youth with the homeless is nothing to be proud of. It's cowardly.

Now, with no plan for the care of San Francisco's juvenile offenders in place, the BOS is vaguely mumbling about keeping offending youth in the community and building another "hidden" YGC for the more violent offenders. Many of these Juvenile offenders will undoubtedly be shipped out of county, away from their families, at substantial tax-payer expense.

Please help save San Francisco's YGC. The City needs this facility for offending-youth rehabilitation. There are many more wayward youth — at least 331 involved in 695 bookings in 2018 alone. With a strong District Attorney, the YGC population will increase. If we don't write to City supervisors in protest, \$80 million will have gone up in smoke and the YGC will soon become an \$80 million homeless Navigation Center.

George Wooding, Neighborhood Emeritus

Endnotes

- 1 projects.sfchronicle.com/2019/vanishing-violence/
- 2 missionlocal.org/2019/05/district-attorney-candidates-cross-swords-in-the-mission/
- 3 sfgov.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=7225188&GUID=3165791E-D5C1-4D53-AC63-F86CD-B3A18F7
- 4 www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/williesworld/article/Time-to-help-SF-s-homeless-and-time-to-get-14421005.php?psid=peLOe



Forest Service will go in its care and feeding of these forests. I'm not going to go into them here — they're all in the (1,900 plus) pages of the report (as well as additional reports for background data.) However, it is clear that a great many people have spent a lot of time trying to figure out what would be the best approach to protecting the major resource that is our forests.

Reading the Draft EIS is of course the preferable way to learn about this plan. But most people, short of the serious forest fanciers, have neither the time nor the background to do this effectively. So I turned to Hoover for her suggestions.

The wilderness designation is the strongest protection our laws offer for keeping lands wild. Hoover wants to see more wilderness areas added to the National



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remote wilderness experience, with pinyon-covered mountains and flowing streams, challenging terrain, and mixed vegetation.

Other suggestions: For the Sequoia National Forest, Hoover recommended also adding the Golden Trout Wilderness Addition, Stormy Canyon, Oat Mountain and Cannell Peak.

For the Sierra National Forest, the most important areas to recommend as wilderness were the Kings River-Monarch Wilderness Addition and Devils Gulch-Ferguson Ridge. And we might as well throw in Sycamore Springs, the San Joaquin River-Ansel Adams Wilderness Addition, and Bear Mountain.

The wilderness designation is the strongest protection our laws offer for keeping lands wild...With our population and development pressures, the sooner we can preserve our wild lands, the better it will be for future generations."

pressures, the sooner we can preserve our wild lands, the better it will be for future generations.

Congress has to designate the lands, but the forest plans are the first place to start this process. If a government agency such as the Forest Service recommends the addition of wilderness lands, then those recommendations weigh heavily with Congress. According to Hoover, these two new plans are woefully skimpy on any wilderness recommendations.

Here are just a few of the areas that are worthy of wilderness designation. In the Sierra National Forest, the Hite Cove Trail area is known for its beautiful

you can do to keep our forests safe, contact Vicky Hoover at vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org

According to Hoover, "No one can do everything, but everyone can do something."

Katherine Howard is a local open space and environmental advocate.

"This land is your land and this land is my land

From California to the New York island
From the redwood forest to the Gulf Stream waters

This land was made for you and me."

Woody Guthrie

Save YGC (Cont. from p. 9)

increases.

Obviously, the BOS wants the YGC building for other purposes. Construction of Juvenile Hall was funded using Certificates of Participation (COP's), not bond money. City Hall can issue COP's without voter approval. The 30-year COP's were issued in September 2003 for \$41.96 million, plus \$37.5 million in interest, for a total of \$79.5 million, which won't be paid off until June 2034. The building was completed in 2007 to be a juvenile detention center, not a Navigation Center for the homeless.

Navigation Centers are different from traditional homeless shelters in that they have few barriers to entry and intensive case management. Unlike traditional shelters, people with partners, pets, and possessions are welcome at Navigation Centers. Drug users and alcoholics are also welcome. Clean syringes are passed out freely and often.

Homeless shelter residents aren't prisoners and have total access to surrounding neighborhoods. Locating a Navigation Center at the YGC will allow easy access to Westside schools, neighborhoods, businesses, and churches.

Former Mayor Willie Brown was quick to state in his September 7 *San Francisco Chronicle* column⁴ Time to Help SF's Homeless: "Here's a thought: San Francisco's progressives appear committed to cutting back on the number of people incarcerated in the city's justice system. We've even set a 2021 closure date for juvenile hall. So let's turn it and underused jail space



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San Francisco and all Hospitals Need to Provide Subacute SNF Care for San Franciscans NOW

by Dr. Teresa Palmer

Since at least 2016, any San Francisco resident who requires Subacute Skilled Nursing Care has to leave the county. Subacute Skilled Nursing Care is an intensive form of long term care for people who require ventilators and other forms of complex nursing care to survive. It is best done in a hospital setting, as those who need this care can get critically ill quickly and then need to go straight to an intensive care unit.

The last Subacute SNF in San Francisco was at St. Luke's Hospital run by CPMC/Sutter. In 2012 the corporation shut down admissions from outside its hospitals for those needing subacute care. In 2016-2017 all new admissions stopped, and Subacute SNF and regular SNF patients were pressured to leave, as a prelude to total shut-down of these units, in anticipation of a new hospital that would not offer this service.

In late 2017, CPMC/Sutter grudgingly agreed to care for remaining Subacute SNF patients at CPMC Davies (until they died or left) after an intense family/community outcry. In 2018, 17 spaces were retrofitted in the CPMC Davies SNF unit, and the 17 remaining patients were transferred from St. Luke's to Davies. Eight have now died, and one was discharged home. The discharged patient required readmission to subacute SNF care, which CPMC/Davies refused to provide, and is now in Sacramento, the closest unit the family could find.

Just this year, Department of Public Health has restarted an effort to identify and secure adequate numbers of Subacute

SNF beds in San Francisco under public-private partnerships with facility and financial support proportionately provided and contributed by private sector entities. This has been a slow process with a delay due to the change in Medical Directors at the Department of Public Health. This must go forward quickly. Co-operation from all hospitals, whose patients will use the service, is currently incomplete (thus the need for legislation and community pressure.)

By opening the total 70 Subacute SNF beds that San Franciscans need, we will prevent the dangerous exile from family and community in this most vulnerable part of a life journey. This has been going on since 2016. Enough is enough.

The Board of Supervisors must generate and support legislation to force institutional co-operation with identifying and collecting data on all out-of-county transfers of San Franciscans from hospitals and post-acute setting (including SNFs, RCFES, SROs, and behavioral health acute, subacute and residential settings) due to inadequate availability of safe long-term care settings



in San Francisco. This data is needed to determine the real gap in services in San Francisco to those in need.

PROFIT MOTIVE: At St. Luke's, CPMC/Sutter shut down its Subacute SNF beds to increase its profit margin and serve fewer Medi-Cal patients. This had nothing to do with the need by people for such beds in San Francisco. Most long-term subacute care patients are on Medi-Cal. Charity care reports show that CPMC's Medi-Cal shortfall is less in 2017 compared to 2013, with the drop almost in half for St. Luke's. The drop in the Medi-Cal shortfall represents a reduction in the number of and services provided to Medi-Cal patients. In 2016-2017, CPMC/Sutter stopped admitting new patients to the 40 bed Subacute SNF at St. Luke's and began to push for transfers of these remaining very sick patients out-of-county since there was no in-county Subacute SNF elsewhere. NOTHING in the 2013 CPMC/Sutter development agreement required the shutdown of its hospital-based subacute SNF and other regular SNFs, although CPMC/Sutter has repeatedly implied this. The closures were a success financially, as CPMC/Sutter's revenue has continually

risen. The move was purely to enhance profitability despite CPMC/Sutter's non-profit status.

HIGH DEATH RATE: It is important to ascertain that there is adequate and safe staffing at CPMC Davies Subacute SNF for those left alive.

It is of note that the initial plans for transfer from St. Luke's to Davies in 2018 were so disorderly that the families had to call the State to mediate and make sure patient safety and family counseling and notification were adequate.

The death rate at CPMC/Davies is very high considering that many of these patients lived for many years at St. Luke's hospital. Aside from the reality of transfer trauma in these delicate people, quality of care at Davies is an issue. RNs at Davies are not unionized and so have limited whistleblower protections. Families and skilled observers note that it is difficult to recruit LVNs and RNs for a temporary (but very skilled) placement like this. Staffing appears overly lean with very green licensed staff and a lot of discontinuity. Managerial staff have been unable to tell us what training the staff has been

Cont. p. 12

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The illusion of oversight is worse than no oversight by Brian Browne

The independent (supposedly) Revenue Bond Oversight Committee (RBOC) was created in 2002 by Proposition P. It was intended to provide independent oversight of all revenue bonds issued by the SFPUC. Before 2002 all revenue bonds issued by the SFPUC had to be approved by the voters. In 2002 Proposition E transferred that right to the Board of Supervisors for water and sewerage revenue bonds (we the people need to recover this right). In 2018 Proposition A gave the RBOC the right to allow the SFPUC to approve of all Hetch Hetchy power bonds issued by the SFPUC, and oversight over water and sewer bonds and authority to issue Hetch Hetchy power bonds.

As a member of the RBOC I was continually marginalized and ignored by my committee. This effective process to nullify my responsibilities to the ratepayers caused me to seek an outlet with the 4th Estate; mainly the valiant and courageous *Westside Observer*.

Through Sunshine I found an email from Charles Perl (Deputy Director – Finance SFPUC) to Aimee Brown (then Chair of the independent RBOC), dated September 08, 2011 2:54 PM, entitled “Response to Browne article,” which read; “I think it would be best to coordinate with our communications staff who are already working on a draft response. Mike (Mike Brown, SFPUC) please work with Aimee (Brown) to coordinate a conference-call in the next few days for the 4 of us. Thks. Charles Perl 415-215-3786.” On September 8, 2011, at 2:42 PM, Aimee Brown had written, “Can we schedule a time to discuss. I think I want to put in at least a small response to some points and want to know what you are doing so we don’t cover the same topics. Give me some times that are good for you. Thanks. Aimee.”

I found these exchanges noxious to the concept of an independent oversight body. This was clear cooperation by the regulator with the regulated. In writing 2002’s Proposition P (creating the RBOC) we absolutely intended that there could be no collusion. There were many other incidents that a person somewhat versed in statistics could not statistically ignore (If it looks like a duck...). For me the above type actions were just the tip of the derailed iceberg. The RBOC was birthed in good will and high expectations by Rich Bodisco’s Infrastructure Taskforce. A major disappointment.

Kevin Cheng was appointed to the Revenue Bond Oversight Committee on May 19, 2010. He remains in place as of 9/19/19. He has never been reappointed. When I questioned the City Attorney about this situation; I received the following response.

“A request that a department answer a question or series of questions is not a public record request, and neither the Public Records Act nor the Sunshine Ordinance require a department to reply to

written interrogatories.” (Good Government Guide¹ at p. 89.) Nevertheless, as a courtesy we are responding to your question as follows. Charter Section 4.101.5 imposes a 60-day holdover limit on members of Charter-created boards and commissions. The RBOC was created by initiative ordinance, as codified in Administrative Code Chapter 5, Article V, and therefore is not a Charter body subject to Charter Section 4.101.5’s limitations. The language in Administrative Code Section 5.33 does not impose any limitations on holdovers following expiration of their term.

Accordingly, the common law doctrine of holdover applies to the RBOC, which means that its members may continue to serve following the expiration of their term until such time as the appointing authority appoints a new member and that new member assumes office.”

I responded to the City Attorney that in writing term-limits into Proposition P, we meant two four-year terms. Not two four years terms and 1 day, etc. Certainly not one nine-year term without being reappointed.

The RBOC must be disbanded immediately along with possibly other like regulatory failures. The illusion of oversight is worse than no oversight. Far worse. In a mayoral debate, then candidate Tony Hall, who put Proposition P on the ballot, said the RBOC was acting illegally. Supervisor Hall regarded Proposition P as the jewel in his extensive crown of legislative achievements.

The RBOC will probably oversee the expenditure of approximately \$10 billion dollars (water and sewer bonds) and be the authorizing agent for the issuance of \$5 billion dollars for power purposes by the SFPUC. It is essential that public oversight of this behemoth be restored to conform to the intent of voter approved Prop P.

Brian Browne was coauthor of 2002 Prop P and former member of the Revenue Bond Oversight Committee it created. Feedback: browne@westsideobserver.com

Endnotes
1 www.sfcityattorney.org/good-government/good-government-guide

Subacute Care (Cont. from p. 11)

given. There appear to be even more inadequate staff physically on the unit during breaks and hard-to-fill shifts. As these patients live with tracheostomies, very frequent suctioning is needed. Alert patients have complained that the call bell is not answered, and those patients unable to call are at even higher risk.

At a minimum, CPMC/Sutter should obtain the licensing for and staff 17 permanent Subacute SNF beds at Davies. The rooms already have been retrofitted. Recruitment of permanent and well-trained dedicated staff will lower the death rate, increase patient safety, and prevent other San Franciscans from out-of-county transfer for this service. As the Department of Public Health estimates that 70 Subacute SNF beds are needed in San Francisco, this

bed number is less than CPMC’s proportional share.

Unfortunately, due to profit-motivated shutdowns of hospital-based post acute SNFs (“rehab”) all over the city, these Subacute SNF beds are and will use a portion of the 38 remaining Hospital SNF beds left at Davies unless the hospital provides for more beds.

We have a long way to go in providing adequate longterm care for low-and moderate-income folks in San Francisco—but the least we could do is offer those who must live on life support a chance to live in their own city.

Dr. Teresa Palmer is a geriatrician/family physician who has worked in San Francisco for over 30 years, including at Laguna Honda Hospital, at UCSF and at On Lok, a program of all inclusive care for the elderly.

Do you have a pinched nerve? We can help.

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

Let me start by explaining the photo in this letter. You know when I meet people in town they usually say, “Oh yeah, I know you, you are Doctor Meakim. You have been on the corner of Beach and Jones for years”...(and we just moved to our new office on Clement Street). Well, that’s me. I’m also the woman hugging her niece at the Jersey Shore in the picture.

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

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

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

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

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

In an average year, the World Health Organization (WHO) reports over 1.5

million hospitalizations due to medication. Last year the WHO reported 350,000 deaths due to medication people took... and 160,000 were when the drugs were



prescribed correctly. More people died last year from medication than at Pearl Harbor and Vietnam. Amazing huh?

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

Many people are beginning to understand that health comes from within. This is why chiropractic helps so many people. You see, your

body can heal itself. Your body doesn’t need any help; it just can’t have any interference. With chiropractic, we don’t add anything to the body or take anything from it. We find interference in the nervous system and remove it, thus enhancing the healing capacities of the body.

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

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

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

Here is what some of your neighbors have said:

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

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

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

My qualifications:

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

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

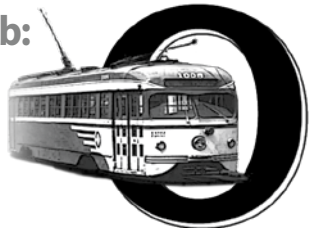
Thank you.—Dr. Christina Meakim D.C.

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

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

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

We’re On The Web:



www.westsideobserver.com



Midtown Terrace May 26, 1958 Newscopy: "LATEST BIG S.F. HOME DEVELOPMENT—Scene of San Francisco's latest major home development now under construction on the western slopes of Twin Peaks and Sutro Forest. First of the new Sun-stream Homes in the Midtown Terrace project will be opened to the public June 4. Mayor Christopher will officiate at the opening ceremonies." *Permission from the San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library.*

Preserving Neighborhood Characteristics and Build More Housing

by Howard Strassner

Last month we described the essential Westside neighborhood characteristics which should be mostly preserved. Now we will describe how additional housing and services might fit into our neighborhood while preserving these characteristics for the surrounding neighborhood. Firstly, this housing must be located near good transit to maintain the characteristic of low congestion levels. For San Francisco good transit means at least the number of 'L' cars, plus the 28s that currently cross in one direction at Taraval and Nineteenth during the morning peak. Since I live only a few blocks from this intersection I feel competent to describe the housing and accept the impacts.

Before we start you must be asking: why do we need more housing for our neighborhood? We are told that San Francisco needs more affordable housing. We may think that our children and grandchildren will not need affordable housing, but they do need housing. Then we should wonder if they can afford to live anywhere near us without a level of support which we may not be able to afford. Beyond our gifted progeny, the people who provide us and them with desired services do need affordable housing. Then we might also wonder where we will live near our neighborhood when we are ready to downsize.

To start, visualize the results of rezoning a block at the intersection of good transit, bounded by Taraval, 20th, Santiago and 19th. Suppose that this block could have twelve story buildings if the developer guaranteed to maintain the essential Westside neighborhood characteristics. The developer will build the economically-proven twelve story with reinforced concrete, used in the original Park Merced and approved again for an expanded Park Merced. My guess that there would be five, 12 story high by 200 foot long by about 60 feet wide apartment houses, spaced about 90 feet apart on the block. The space between the buildings would be filled with five story buildings. Vancouver has some high density areas like this. The lower stories of the taller apartment houses and spaces between would have: minimal parking, to maintain the low congestion characteristic of the neighborhood; some

affordable housing; common, laundry and storage spaces for the apartments; additional ground level commercial to meet the needs of the additional residents and some non-profit and smaller employment sites. Additional child care might also be a useful addition in this space. Commercial spaces and neighborhood services will fit under the building side facing Taraval. The roof of the space between the taller buildings will be private open space for the residents. The lower stories of the apartment houses, but above the open space level, would have some of the required affordable units. Some of the buildings might have assisted living units for seniors. These and the smaller units on upper stories might be attractive living sites for many of the older people now living in the area or surrounding neighborhoods. There will be very few curb cuts to garage openings in order to provide additional parking for shoppers and visitors.

The developer of the site described above will have to acquire buffer space around the project to preserve the neighborhood characteristics of the nearby remaining property owners. In this way the new buildings will be about 300 feet away from the nearest windows of nearby neighbors and so it should not impact neighborhood characteristics. This buffer space will also provide some of the required affordable housing. The developer will have a problem to acquire the space at reasonable prices and imminent domain may be required. We will also have



to allow the developer some time to acquire the additional buffer space if we want this project to happen at reasonable cost. The additional space will first provide some affordable housing but be available in the future for a larger but still limited project so that the residents of a larger project would still have short walks to transit.

San Francisco's need for more affordable housing and the above apparently gratuitous up zoning should lead to setting a minimum inclusionary affordable housing requirement that is large enough to remove all of a developer's excess profit, but also small enough to encourage the developer to buy up a block of building sites from current home owners with some profit. The market rate units will help fund the affordable units with less need for public subsidy. We will also have to preserve the rights of tenants in any existing rent-controlled units.

With this exercise in writing we can begin to assess the potential impacts on the Westside and San Francisco: 1) Visual: Most people will barely see the projects; others will say that it is offensive, and some will see a place to move to when they get a little older. 2) Numbers: Projects like the above and others along Nineteenth, and other sites at intersection with good transit could add 25,000 additional units to San Francisco's total supply while maintaining the neighborhood characteristics of the remaining areas. This will not provide enough housing to meet all of San Francisco's demand and so most new housing will continue to be in other areas. Hopefully, if many of the units, described above, are purchased by seniors, who have too much space; want to sell a single family house and avoid the capital gains tax, the secondary effects may create an additional useful number of units and secondary units. In addition San Francisco may need methods of demand limitation. We can talk about this next month.

Howard Strassner is a former President of the Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods

Senior Smarts / Anise J. Mattison

Convalence

By Anise J. Matteson, CBF

I am convalescing from a sudden illness. Thus, the topic for an upcoming article: Sudden Illness.

Every year I assume the role of Advocate for National Health Care Decisions Day (nhdd.org) and advance care planning.

You should not wait until April to discuss your health care and financial planning decisions.

Anise J. Matteson, CBF is a Certified Bereavement Facilitator, retired Registered Health Information Technician, and writer of reference books for senior (Elder Diary: Starter Kit available at www.caring-boomers.blogspot.com).

REMINDER: October 26 is Make A Difference Day. A day when people in the United States perform acts of kindness. Maybe you know a senior who would welcome an act of kindness.



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OCTOBER 2019

Oct is here and with it we welcome Autumn and some of the best weather and events in San Francisco and the Bay Area. From Fleet Week to Hardly Strictly Bluegrass to the Italian American Festival to Halloween, there is something for everyone in the city.. Here are a few things to check out this month:

Over to hill to Castro Street... Take the trek (or the Muni) over Portola or through the tunnel on Sunday, Oct 6 for the annual Castro Street Fair. Live bands, great food and art await. It's free to enter and the fun goes from 10am – 6pm.



Music in the Park (with thousands of your friends)... Hardly Strictly Bluegrass 2019 returns for its 19th annual festival in Golden Gate Park on Oct 4-5 and 6 in the area around the Hellman Hollow (formerly Speedway Meadow). Booths, food and three stages filled with bands make this one of the great SF Events. The festival can draw as many as 700,000 over the 3-day event.

SF Fleet Week is back...the bay and the skies are filled with ships and planes alike as the U.S. Navy makes their annual visit to the SF waterfront for the Fleet Week festival and celebrations. This year the dates are from Oct 9-14. You can tour the ships starting on Wednesday, 10/9 from 10am-2pm. On 10/11 the Festival Center opens at Marina Green from 10-5 with a parade of ships from 11am-12pm, and an airshow from 12 noon – 4 pm, with the acrobatic Blue Angels performing Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 3pm – 4pm daily. (Please note: The Blue Angels may have their practice runs on Thursday 10/10, so listen for the jets over the city!)

Peter Frampton's Finale... Rock icon and Blues guitarist Peter Frampton is making his "Farewell Tour" to promote his newest album, All Blues with The Peter Frampton Band. Frampton has announced that he will retire from regular touring at the end of this year due to recent diagnosis of Inclusion Body Myositis (IBM). The Farewell Tour's last show is at Concord Pavilion on Oct 12. Catch him while you can. Additionally, his new album continues to chart at #1 on the Billboard Blues Albums Chart after 14 weeks.

Viva Italia!...Sunday, Oct 13 is the date of this years' Italian-American Parade. Starting at 12:30pm, the parade moves from its start at Fisherman's Wharf through the city to the finale in North Beach. The parade (celebrated in conjunction with Columbus Day) is the nation's oldest, dating to 1868.



Get your spurs and lassos dusted off...The Rodeo is coming to town... the 73rd Grand National Rodeo returns to the Cow Palace (2600 Geneva Ave.) on Oct 11-12 and 18-19. Now in its 73rd year, the Grand National Rodeo will celebrate the time-honored tradition of America's West by presenting the best of the best in the competitive sport of rodeo. Ticket prices are \$25 for adults Dress Circle, \$45 for Box Seats and \$14 for children and seniors, and can be purchased online at www.grandnationalrodeo.com or in-person at the box office. Although tickets must be purchased for the Grand National Rodeo, the Livestock Exposition, Horse Shows, Interactive Agricultural Area, and Marketplace are FREE and open to the public. For more details visit www.cowpalace.com , contact info@cowpalace.com or call 415-414-4100.

Boo!... don't forget the end of Oct and Halloween! There will be ghosts and goblins aplenty throughout the city. Here are a few Halloween-based celebrations for adults and kids alike:

Halloween Hoopla at the Yerba Buena Gardens -10/27 from 12pm – 2pm. Free admission with Music, crafts and a costume parade. Located in the Children's Garden in the Yerba Buena Gardens at 221 4th St.

Clancy's Pumpkin Patch – the patch is open from 10/1 to 10/31 from 9am to 9pm every day. Clancy's has a large variety of pumpkins that are unique and not often found in other patches. You can crawl through the hay maze or even take a hay ride through San Francisco. "Hey, we're riding on hay!!" All the fun is at 2101 Sloat Blvd. Visit their website to learn more



California Academy of Arts and Sciences – A supernatural Halloween event will take place on Sat, Oct 26 from 5 – 9pm. Trick-or-treating, dancing, face painting, magic shows, live animal shows, pumpkins carving, crafts and food/beverages Note: The museum does close at 3pm, to prepare for the event. General admission tickets (6:30pm entry) are \$55 for adults and \$40 for children.



Film Showing: Eleanor, First Lady of the World – Wed, Oct 23, 6:30 to 8:30 pm. This film follows the storied life of United States First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt (Jean Stapleton in an Emmy-nominated role) after the death of her husband, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, in 1945. At the request of the new president, Harry Truman, Eleanor serves as a United Nations delegate, spending much of her time contending with dedicated anti-FDR politico John Foster Dulles. She goes on to champion the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Celebrate UN Week and the 135th birthday of Eleanor Roosevelt. Merced Branch Library, 155 Winston Dr. Light refreshments will be served. G, 120 mins., 1982.

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.

Money Matters By Brandon Miller



How to Cope With a Financial Industry That Doesn't Get You

I'll let you in on a little secret. The financial industry has an extremely traditional focus—even though many people don't fit the conventional mom, dad and 1.9 kids mold.

The problem with the industry being out of step with reality is that real regular people may have to work harder to find money solutions and strategies that apply to them. Many financial professionals, and even robo-tools, may not be geared to use out-of-the-box thinking for less-than-conventional clients.

Such a pity, as that's one of the really fun parts of financial planning. After 20 years of helping the LGBTQ+ community manage their money, I've seen more variety in the human condition than most anthropologists. My feeling is that you don't hire me to judge you; you hire me for my judgment about how to optimize your finances so you can live the life you want. In other words, I don't care if you have a penchant for the ponies and Texas hold 'em. I just need to know how much you spend on them so we can figure that into your financial plan.

If you're hiring a financial professional to advise you, they typically should think about all the angles that need covering to make your money work for you—no matter how unique your goals. Let me give you a few examples:

- **Unmarried couple.** Gay or straight, couples have many reasons for not wanting to get married. Laws most often protect only state-sanctioned "I do's." So you have to work-around things such as cash flow (you can't "give" an unmarried partner more than \$14k per year), the loss of the double step-up in cost basis for real estate that married couples get, or having children from a previous marriage kick your lover out of the home after you're gone.

- **Long-term mistress—or mister.**

Maybe you're married, but have been spicing up your love life with a side dish for years. Do you pay for their apartment? Is that impacting your retirement savings? Do you want to want to make special provisions for your lover after you're gone?

- **Throuples, quintouples and other 'ouples.** U.S. laws don't allow bigamy, so if you're in a committed relationship with more than one person, it's up to you to protect yourself and your partners. The more people involved, the more complicated it gets. Some things to think about include how to handle cash flow and shared expenses, will you keep one or multiple households and long-term impacts of things like different retirement ages.

- **Blended families.** We're not talking the Brady Bunch here (though Carol and Greg's real-life affair shows even they weren't traditional). These days, families can include stepkids, half-siblings, adoptees, surrogacies, even uncles/aunties/de facto parents that may not have blood ties or legal rights, but lots of emotional ties. Inheritance can get ugly easily. Make sure you work with someone who can save your loved ones from that fate.

- **Special-needs dependents.** Some financial products expect that you'll have kids—just not ones who may need lifelong care because of physical or mental challenges. Special-needs trusts, 529 plans and government assistance can help. But you also have to think about your own retirement and how to keep from burdening other kids.

- **Start-up winner.** Talk about not

Cont. p. 16

We're Different, Too.

Let's see if we click.

**19 Sutter Street
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HARDLY STRICTLY BLUEGRASS • OCT 4-6 GOLDEN GATE PARK • FREE LIVE MUSIC

Fri Oct 4 | Noon – 7pm • Sat Oct 5 | 11am – 7pm | Sun Oct 6 | 11am – 7pm at Hellman Hollow (formerly Speedway Meadows), Lindley & Marx meadows | It's that time of year again when the organizers behind the free, BYOB, Fall music festival in Golden Gate Park.

Acts this year will include Emmylou Harris, Joan Collins, Caexico with Iron and Wine, Kurt Vile and the Violators, Mercury Rev with Beth Orton, Tanya Tucker and more.

Respect Neighborhoods The festival will, as usual, impact neighboring Richmond and Sunset neighborhoods as well as those farther afield; here's what you need to know.

Rules, equipment There's a blanket ban on all kegs, large coolers, and "chairs that disrupt your neighbors." Small bags, clear backpacks and cooler bags smaller than 16 x 16", and 2.5L or less water bottles are all permitted. Blankets and short chairs are fine, but all bags and equipment will be subject to search upon entry.

All entrances will remain closed and barred until 9 a.m. Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Food & drink A full host of food vendors will be open for business, but Hardly Strictly reports that no alcohol will be available for sale in the park. Instead, attendees are welcome to bring beer or wine (no hard alcohol) in cans or plastic—no glass bottles allowed. No ATMs will be onsite for cash needs, but all vendors will accept card payment.

Traffic and transportation Hardly Strictly will take up Hellman Hollow, Lindley meadow, and Marx meadow in Golden Gate Park. Starting Monday, Sept. 30, traffic on JFK will be restricted while crews set up. During the festival, entrances will be available at JFK and Transverse, Fulton and 30th Ave., JFK and 36th Ave., and the South Polo Field.

Driving to the festival is strongly discouraged if you can help it. If you have to, avoid parking in driveways (you will likely be towed). Hardly Strictly recommends trying early bird spots in local schools for paid parking: "Similar to last year, we expect paid parking to be available on a first come first serve basis at a few lots."

George Washington High School – 600 32nd Ave. | Argonne 680 18th Ave. | Lafayette (Sat & Sun) 4545 Anza St. @ 36th Avenue | Jefferson Elementary School (Sat & Sun) 1725 Irving St. | Lawton Alternative School (Sat & Sun) 1570 31st Ave. Bike parking will be available on JFK Drive east of Crossover and at Fulton and 26th Avenue.

If you plan to take public transit, give yourself plenty of time; lines adjacent to the park (5-Fulton, 7-Haight, 29-Sunset) all get packed early, especially towards the end of the day. (Adapted from Camden Avery on Hoodline.com)

October 2019
C A L E N D A R

EVERY SUNDAY • FARMERS MARKET

Farmers Market | Every Sun | 9 am–1 pm | Fresh fruits and vegetables stars in this popular market, rear parking lot: Stonestown (19th Ave @ Winston).



EVERY SUNDAY • VICTORIAN TOUR

Sundays | 2 pm | Victorian era architecture Lafayette Square. SF's illustrious history, steep streets & fabulous views! 1801 Bush St. garden. Donations MUNI 1, 3. Check out many tours of SF: INFO: sfcityguides.org

SUNDAYS • FREE COMMUNITY YOGA

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

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). calacademy.org/nightlife.

FRIDAYS • TEEN COMPUTER CORPS

Fri | 4-5:30 pm | Trouble with Technology? We can help with kindles, email, laptops, tablets, cell phones and other electronic gadgets at the Parkside Branch, 1200 Taraval. Info: 415-355-5770.

SATURDAYS • COMPUTER HELP



Sat | 2-4 pm | Drop-in help with a teen tech savvy volunteer! Bring your laptop, eReaders, gadgets, digital cameras, tablets or cell phones and we can help you learn how to use it. West Portal Branch, 190 Lenox.

EVERY FRI • OFF THE GRID FOOD TRUCKS

Every Fri | 5-10 pm | More than 30 food vendors in a huge circle with a full bar, bands and DJs? Now that's a party; California's largest weekly street food market. Fort Mason Center 2 Marina Blvd. Thru Oct. 25th.

WED - SUN • HOT MIKADO

Thru Oct 13 | 6 pm | Wed-Thu 7 pm | Fri 8 pm | Sat 6 pm | Sun 3pm | Hot Mikado amps up the Gilbert and Sullivan masterpiece with a killer jazz interpretation performed by a multicultural cast who will have you dancing in the aisles!. Gateway Theatre, 215 Jackson St. TIX \$30-75 at 42ndstmoon.org or (415) 255-8207

FRI • OVERLAND TO CALIFORNIA



Ongoing Thru Oct 20 | 11 am - 5 pm | Overland to California -vast archival and photographic collections to consider the railroad's impact on the industry and culture of California. Featuring photographs, stereocards, historical objects, and ephemera. It also examines the complex labor history, the immigrant populations who built it & the scandals. Calif. Historical Society, 678 Mission St., 415.357.1848

THU • OUTER RESIDENTS

Thu Oct 3 | 6:30 - 8:30 pm | Outer Sunset Parkside Residents Assn. (OSPRA). New management for Stonestown - wants input from the community about what they would like to see in the future. Ortega Library, 3223 Ortega St. mediasusan2@gmail.com

THU • PEOPLE OF PARKSIDE

Thu Oct 3 | 7 pm | Prop C and opposition to offshore oil drilling as well as Sup. Gordon Mar will present at the POPS meeting is at the Taraval Police Station, 2345 24th Ave. POPs meets very first Thursday of the month.

FRI • MARY POPPINS RETURNS

Fri Oct 4 | 6:15 Kids Activities - 7pm Show | Movies at McCoppin Square, the magic show. 1200 Taraval St.

FRI • JOHN KALLEEN GROUP

Fri Oct 4 | 7-11 pm | It's a hot version of "Summer-



time," a cool version of "Footsteps" and beautifully crafted originals! The JKG is a jazz quartet in the classic style. Cliff House, 1090 Point Lobos.



VISIT THE ICONIC CLIFF HOUSE

Join us for these Cliff House Weekly Favorites

- Zinc Bar Happy Hour, Monday – Friday, 4:00 to 6:00 pm
- Wine Lovers' Tuesday – Half Priced Bottled Wines*
- Bistro Wednesday Nights – \$35 Three-Course Prix Fixe
- Friday Night Jazz in the Balcony Lounge
- Sunday Champagne Brunch Buffet

*Some restrictions apply. Promotions are not valid on holidays.

Guided Historical Walks

Spend a memorable Saturday morning exploring Lands End. Start with a continental breakfast at the historic Cliff House then walk through Adolph Sutro's magical 'kingdom by the sea' with historian guide John A. Martini. John's walks will be offered in September and October.



For more information and to make reservations visit cliffhouse.com/history-walk.

1090 Point Lobos 415-386-3330 CliffHouse.com

TUE • LIFE ALONG THE PT. LOBOS ROAD



Tue Oct 8 | 7:30 - 9 pm | Life Along The Pt. Lobos Road: Early SF Life West Of Masonic. Map aficionado Jim Schein examines early maps and photos of developments and road heading west from Masonic out to Ocean beach. SF Historical Society, \$10, \$5 seniors, students, teachers, and people with disabilities. sfhistory.org. At Roosevelt Middle School, 460 Arguello Blvd. On-site parking -Palm Ave.

WED • SEISMIC SAFETY



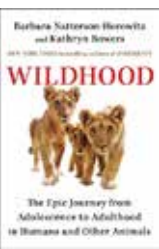
Wed Oct 9 | 3 pm | The Seismic Safety Outreach team will provide hands-on training and education on how residents, both young and old, can prepare before, during and after an earthquake. Conducted with Cantonese translation request. This 3-week workshop meets on Oct 2, 9 and 16. Ocean View Branch, 345 Randolph St.

THU/ONGOING • LITQUAKE

Oct 10-19 | Various venues | SF's literary festival, now in its 19th year. Events are all-ages unless noted otherwise. Book sales are offered when and where appropriate. Events without ticket reservations are first-come first served. Info: litquake.org

THU • WILDHOOD AUTHORS

Thu Oct 10 | 7 pm | Barbara Natterson-Horowitz & Kathryn Bowers. authors of *Wildhood*. a revelatory investigation of human and animal adolescence and young adulthood from the New York Times bestselling authors of *Zoobiquity*. Bookshop West Portal, 80 West Portal.



FRI • GRAND NATIONAL ROPEO



Fri-Sat Oct 11-12 & 18-19 | One of the largest rodeos in the US. Held annually in the Cow Palace, it brings rodeo to an urban audience. It is also a county agricultural fair,

run by the California Department of Food and Agriculture. 4-H club / Future Farmers of America events include sheep, cattle, goats, rabbits, and pigs are judged and open to the public. 2600 Geneva Ave, Daly City

FRI • CRAZY RICH ASIANS

Fri Oct 11 | 6:15 Kids Activities - 7pm Show | Movies at McCoppin Square, Asian pageant Queens + Lion dance. 1200 Taraval St.

FRI • LUNA VISTA QUARTET



Fri Oct 11 | 7-11 pm | LVQ features flute, congas, and a group of fantastic Bay area musicians that span from Cuba, Peru, Canada and Mexico. Mambos, cha-chas, boleros and Latin standards delight the listener. Cliff House, 1090 Pt. Lobos

SAT-SUN • 100TH COLUMBUS DAY BAZAAR

Sat-Sun Oct 12-13 | 10 am-7pm | Iconic American, Italian, and Asian foods; an abundance of Carnival games and activities; plus great entertainment and community fun. Spend the weekend in North Beach enjoying the Italian Heritage Parade. Peter and Paul, 660 Filbert St.

SAT • OCEAN BEACH FESTIVAL

Sat Oct 12 | 11am - 5pm | Celebrate the amazing neighborhood and community we live and work in, the Outer Sunset!!! We will have live music, art, crafts, beer/wine booths, pumpkin patch, kids activities, food trucks and more! at Noriega & 45th Ave.

SUN • 151ST ITALIAN HERITAGE PARADE

Sun Oct 13 | 12:30 pm | The Parade action begins at the foot of Jefferson and Powell Streets in Fisher-

BOOKSHOP
WEST PORTAL

September '19
BESTSELLERS

1. The Testaments Margaret Atwood
2. Something Deeply Hidden: Quantum Worlds and the Emergence of Spacetime Sean Carroll *
3. Talking to Strangers: What We Should Know about the People We Don't Know Malcolm Gladwell
4. Akin Emma Donoghue *
5. A Better Man Louise Penny
6. Call Sign Chaos: Learning to Lead Jim Mattis
7. The Water Dancer Ta-Nehisi Coates
8. Permanent Record Edward Snowden
9. Rebooting AI: Building Artificial Intelligence We Can Trust Gary Marcus & Ernest Davis *
10. Nickel Boys Colson Whitehead
11. Equality: An American Dilemma, 1866-1896 Charles Postel *
12. The Dutch House Ann Patchett
13. The Institute Stephen King
14. Becoming Michelle Obama
15. Educated: A Memoir Tara Westover

* Spoke at BookShop West Portal; signed copies available

WHAT ARE YOU READING?

man's Wharf, proceeds south through North Beach on Columbus Avenue and ends in Washington Square in front of Saints Peter and Paul Church.

TUE • FOOD OF THE GODS - CHOCOLATE



Tue Oct 15 | 6:30 | Author and food educator, KJ Landis will introduce the history and health benefits of chocolate. Sample a spectrum, from inexpensive milk chocolates to luxurious and healthy extra dark chocolates. West Portal Branch, 190 Lenox.

TUE • ANNUAL POOL TOSS

Tue Oct 15 | 6-9:30 pm | Fabulous food and a wet-and-wild celebrity auction pool toss, benefiting Tenderloin After-School Program (TASP)! Every October, local leaders take the plunge at the Phoenix Hotel to raise funds that help families thrive. \$125 & up, tndc.org, 601 Eddy. Phoenix Hotel 601 Eddy St

THU • AUTHOR LESLIE CAROL ROBERTS

Thu Oct 17 | 7 pm | In this eco-memoir, each place provides exactly the scaffolding needed to survive, with nature serving as the tonic. *Here is Where I Walk* shows how we can find our place, not only in nature but within ourselves. Bookshop West Portal, 80 West Portal.



FRI • ANT MAN & THE WASP

Fri Oct 18 | 6:15 Kids Activities - 7pm Show | Movies at McCoppin Square, Film Crew talks about the making of the movie + insects. 1200 Taraval St.

FRI • MARK SOWLAKIS, CLARINET & SAX



Fri Oct 18 | 7-11 pm | Mark is an active freelance musician in the Bay Area and maintains a busy private teaching practice in the Bay Area. He has three recordings to his credit. Cliff House, 1090 Pt. Lobos.

SAT • SFUSD ENROLLMENT FAIR

Sat Oct 19 | 9 am – 2 pm | This is an opportunity for families to meet representatives from all SFUSD schools in one place. Learn about language programs, special education, how to apply and more. This family-friendly event is open to the public (no registration required). Bilingual staff can assist in English, Spanish and Chinese. John O'Connell High, 2355 Folsom St. (19th & 20th St.)

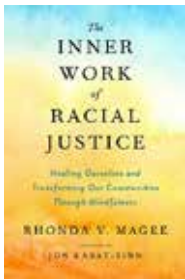
SAT • CORGI CON



Sat Oct 19 | 10am-2pm | Ocean Beach in San Francisco. Between Stairwell 2 and 5. Close to the Cliff House. Lookin Furword to it!

THU • AUTHOR RHONDA V. MAGEE

Thu Oct 24 | 7 pm | It is only by healing from injustices and dissolving our personal barriers to connection that we develop the ability to view others with compassion and to live in community with people of vastly different backgrounds and viewpoints.



The Inner Work of Racial Justice offers a road map to a more peaceful world. Bookshop West Portal, 80 West Portal..

THU • OMI NEIGHBORS IN ACTION

Thu Oct 24 | 7 pm | OMI-NIA General Meeting at Temple UMC, 65 Beverly. (Every 4th Thu)

FRI-SUN • FREE DAY @ ACAD OF SCIENCES

Fri-Sat Oct 25-27 | Fri – Sat: 9:30 am – 5 pm | Sun: 11 am – 5 pm | Free admission on designated week-



ends for Neighborhoods: Zip Codes: 94114, 94116, 94122, 94127, 94131, 94132 Visiting adults are limited to six children free entry. For proof of residency requirements: calacademy.org/neighborhood-free-weekends. California Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park.

FRI • INCREDIBLES 2

Fri Oct 4 | 6:15 Kids Activities - 7pm Show | Movies at McCoppin Square, Costume Contest! 1200 Taraval St

FRI • HARD BOP COLLECTIVE



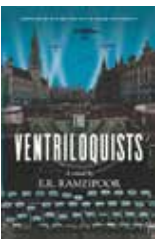
Fri Oct 25 | 7 pm | Hard Bop Collective was formed in 2011 to make energetic, swinging music with a strong sense of tradition accessible and fun for the audience. Featuring Daniel Casares, Jordan Samuels, Tomoko Funaki & Austin Lee Harris! Cliffhouse, 1090 Point Lobos.

MON • CENTRAL COUNCIL

Mon Oct 28 | 7:30 pm | West of Twin Peaks Central Council meets to discuss local topics on the 4th Mon each month. Forest Hills Clubhouse, 381 Magellan Ave. westoftwinpeaks.org

TUE • AUTHORS CLAYTON & RAMZIPOOR

Tue Oct 29 | 7 pm | In Meg Waite Clayton's *"The Last Train to London"*, Tante Truus, sets off in a race against time to lead hundreds of children on a perilous journey to freedom, determined to save as many children as she can.



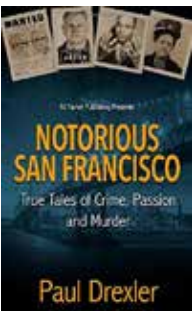
In E. R. Ramzipoor's *"The Ventriloquists"* An unforgettable cast of characters and stunning historical detail of extraordinary acts of courage to undermine the Reich by unlikely heroes who orchestrated the most stunning feats of journalism in modern history.

SAT • AUTHOR WENDY GORTON

Sat Nov 2 | 7 pm | California is a magnificent natural playground, and Gorton helps them explore its beaches, deserts, mountains, and forests. Scavenger hunts make it fun. *50 Hikes With Kids: California* includes a detailed map, trustworthy and intuitive directions, a difficulty rating, restroom info, and places to grab a snack nearby for every trip. Bookshop West Portal, 80 West Portal.



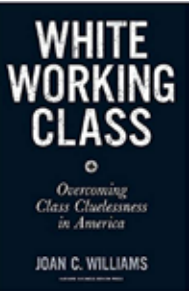
SAT • AUTHOR PAUL DREXLER



Sat Nov 2 | 2 pm | Paul Drexler, a celebrated San Francisco crime historian and writer, will present his book *Notorious San Francisco: True Tales of Crime, Passion, and Murder*, which contains 20 tales of serial killers, deadly women, con-men, masters of escape, and unsolved mysteries.

TUES • AUTHOR JOAN C. WILLIAMS

Tue Nov 5 | 7 pm | Around the world, populist movements are gaining traction. Meanwhile, members of the professional elite—journalists, managers, and establishment politicians—are on the outside looking in. *White Working Class*, Overcoming Class Cluelessness In America, examines in detail. Bookshop West Portal, 80 West Portal.



Got An Event? Westside Events Get Priority
editor@westsideobserver.com



Real Travel By Sergio Nibbi

Keeping My Powder Dry

The first time I saw Hamilton was in San Francisco and after yawning my way through it, I quietly asked the question, “What’s all the fuss about? You could buy a round trip ticket to Europe for the price of admission and the wait for a ticket is endless. I’m not much of a theater goer but I’ve certainly seen a few of the well-known productions. Phantom of the Opera, Fiddler on the Roof, and my all-time favorite, Les Miserables to name a few. So in all fairness I thought I would give Hamilton one more try and what better opportunity than during our recent visit to Chicago.

The theater was not as crowded, the world-renowned artists such as Vincent Van Gogh, Grant Wood, Edward Hopper, Henri Matisse and Claude Monet. Claude Monet? Didn’t we see him recently at the de Young museum in San Francisco? The paintings were from his later years and again it brought back so many fond memories of our visit to his home and gardens in Giverny where we got a chance to take a few photos standing on his Japanese Bridge spanning his infamous water lily pond and then followed the arbor-covered pathway to the main entrance of his house. From Hamilton to Manet to Monet. Quite a range of talent as we went from bullets to bulbs,



and largest museums in the United States. The exhibits were beautifully displayed and I managed to take endless photos but one of his most famous paintings and most scandalous “Lunch on the Grass”, was to be admired only in book form.



The museum has an endless display of from lasting impressions to impressionists. So much fun but that song still rings in my ears.

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

Money Matters (Cont. from p. 14)

normal. Who earns millions in their twenties? But hey, if you’re one of those fortunate ones, be smart. Know it won’t last, and plan for your future. Yes, you can afford the house and boat and motorcycle. But did you plan for ongoing maintenance, taxes, insurance and all the other expenses these toys come with? How many friends and family can you really help? Best to work with someone right off the bat to help protect that fortune before it vanishes.

This barely touches on the variety of less-than-traditional lifestyles and the challenges they present. My point is to illustrate that 1) whoever you are should be perfectly fine with whomever is advising you and 2) the industry’s conventional bent won’t hamstring you if your financial

advisor takes the time to listen and think in new ways to make your dreams come true. Even if that is miles away from a life with a picket fence and 1.9 kids.

The opinions expressed in this article are for general informational purposes only and are not intended to provide specific advice or recommendations for any individual or on any specific security.

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san francisco chamber orchestra

Ben Simon,
music director

Priceless Music, Absolutely Free

MAINSTAGE CONCERTS
The Most Famous Symphony Ever Written
FRI OCT 25, 2019
@ 7:30PM
Herbst Theater
401 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco

THE SFCO.ORG

Beethoven's Fifth Symphony is a revolutionary work that has thrilled audiences since its premiere in 1808. Find out why, and deepen your understanding and appreciation of this masterpiece with a guided musical tour led by Ben Simon and the SFCO, followed by a full performance. Plus a dramatic overture by Emilie Mayer, 19th century Germany's most popular and prolific woman composer.