

SUPERVISOR CARMEN CHU

JUNE / JULY 2008

MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERVISOR

As we head into summer and look for fun activities to enjoy with family and friends, I would like to announce that my office is hosting a FREE museum day for District 4 residents at the de Young Museum on **Sunday - July 27.**

This is a great opportunity to view the museum's collections of American art from the 17th through 20th centuries, as well as artwork of the native Americas, Africa and the Pacific. We are happy to partner with the de Young Museum to offer our community this great experience.



free admission to the de Young. Please wait for

If you are interested in participating in this free museum day and live in District 4, please contact my office and the first 200 to respond will receive

confirmation from our office and further details on how to claim your tickets.

There will be a welcome reception on the free museum day for ticket recipients at **10:30am** at the Piazoni Room near Woolsey Court. The de Young Museum is open on Sunday from 9:30am to 5:15pm.

By Email

Send an email to chustaff@sfgov.org

Subject line: de Young

Include in email: Your first and last name, phone number, home address and number of tickets you are requesting

By Phone

Call (415) 554-7460

If you are leaving a voicemail, please make sure to include your name and contact information

I look forward to seeing you at the museum!

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OCEAN BEACH TOWN HALL



Many of you have expressed an interest in providing input on how to improve Ocean Beach. On July 10, Supervisor Chu held a public community meeting at the San Francisco Zoo with members of the Ocean Beach Vision Council to discuss the goals of the Council. Over 150 community members

attended the meeting and provided great feedback to the council members.

The purpose of the Council is to build a long-term strategy to protect and enhance the unique character of Ocean Beach. Through a combination of technical work

and public meetings, the Council aims to propose sustainable alternatives and present a draft master plan outlining a long-term vision for Ocean Beach.

The Council will continue to hold regular public meetings in the community, with the next one to be held in September.



Comments from our meeting will be posted soon on our website at www.sfgov.org/chu – stay tuned.

Please contact our office if you would like to share your input on Ocean Beach or would like to participate in future meetings. (415) 554-7460 or chustaff@sfgov.org.

IMPROVING SUNSET BOULEVARD

Those of you who pass by or live near Sunset Boulevard have probably noticed crews working to clean up the brush and debris along this busy corridor. Crews have been working to maintain clean and safe areas for pedestrians and the surrounding neighbors, including removing fallen tree branches, pruning back dense trees and bushes, and clearing the paths for safe walking or jogging where many residents and students run and walk each day.

We had a successful clean-up effort in June, where dozens of community members came out on a beautiful Saturday morning and improved Sunset Boulevard along Noriega, Moraga and Ortega Streets. Thank you to everyone who came out!

Our office will be hosting another cleaning event on Saturday, **July 19 from 10AM – 12PM**. Please meet at 37th Avenue and Taraval Street. We will be working along Taraval, Ulloa and Vicente. Volunteers will help clear walking paths and remove debris.

If you have any suggestions or questions regarding the work being done along specific segments of Sunset Boulevard, please do not hesitate to contact our office. We look forward to seeing you out there as we work together to improve our neighborhood.



CLEANING UP WEST SUNSET PLAYGROUND

Supervisor Chu joined the Friends of West Sunset Playground, the Recreation and Parks Department the Neighborhood Parks Council, parents and children who frequent the playground in a community clean-up on June 28. While we continue to work with community members in the effort to rebuild West Sunset Playground, we will also hold ongoing clean-ups to ensure that our children have safe places to play. During the clean-up, volunteers sifted sand for trash and debris and picked up litter in the surrounding play areas. We would like to thank everyone who took time out of their Saturday to help clean the playground! If you are interested in joining the Friends of West Sunset Playground, please contact our office for more information.



CITY BUDGET UPDATE

During the last two weeks of June, the Board of Supervisors Budget Committee deliberated on the city's annual budget. As your representative on the Board of Supervisors and as a member of the Budget Committee, Supervisor Chu carried forth many of the suggestions from community members during those budget meetings.

The Budget Committee sent the budget forward to the full Board. It is expected that the Board of Supervisors as a whole will vote on the budget on July 15 and July 22. The final budget will be approved by August 1. Stay tuned for more on the budget.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Improving construction contracting with the city

Supervisor Chu introduced legislation earlier this year to make working with the city easier. The Board of Supervisors passed this legislation unanimously at the July 8th meeting.

Due to a cumbersome city contracting and payment process, companies are frequently discouraged from bidding on work for city projects. This drives up the cost to the City, and it is not uncommon for projects to receive no bidders – causing project delays and cost increases. The legislation primarily relaxes the amount the City can withhold in payment from contractors. When the project is substantially complete, the City has the option to pay contractors for work completed and only withhold an amount adequate to finish the job.

The legislation was developed in concert with contractors and many city departments and encourages participation of all contractors, including small businesses.

The legislation also allows the City to encourage quality bids by short-listing from a list of qualified contractors and provide a stipend for complex projects. On complex projects, the cost of putting together a proposal is often time intensive and costly.

Calling for change in school admission policy

At the July 8th Board of Supervisors meeting, Supervisor Chu introduced legislation urging the San Francisco Unified School District to reconsider the current school assignment process and incorporate geographic considerations to allow students to more easily be assigned to schools closer to their homes.

A recent San Francisco Civil Grand Jury report called the School District's assignment process expensive, confusing and alienating to families.

Under the current system, students are assigned to schools based on several factors, including: extreme poverty, socioeconomic status, academic achievement by both the student and the student's previous school, and home language use. What is not taken into consideration is a school's location relative to a student's home.

This policy has created a tremendous hardship for many families, as parents often face transportation difficulties, tough application deadlines and are unable to fully participate in school activities. The legislation is now pending committee action.

Sharing water costs

Supervisor Chu co-sponsored legislation with Supervisor Alioto-Pier that authorizes landlords to pass through to tenants half of increased water and sewer bill charges resulting from the adoption of water and sewer rates after July 1, 2002. The legislation allows both property owners and tenants to share in the cost of improving our water system since all residents benefit from the improvements. The legislation also encourages water conservation.

Repairing city's aging underground pipes

In response to a broken century-old underground pipe that burst through the surface of Taraval Street and 19th Avenue on July 7th, Supervisor Chu on July 8th called for a hearing to review the Local San Francisco Program component of the Water System Improvement Program, with particular attention to the aging pipes and timelines for replacing them. The breakage created a major disruption along a major neighborhood commercial corridor, which halted water service to local businesses for about five hours and disrupted MUNI service along the L-Taraval. The hearing will also cover the PUC's policy for addressing merchant losses as a result of the disruption. This hearing is pending committee action.

Monitoring city's level of debt

Supervisor Chu, a member of the Board's Budget Committee and former Deputy Budget Director at the Mayor's Office, called for a hearing on July 8th to examine the city's level of debt, including general obligation bonds, revenue bonds and other overlapping debt. The hearing would consider projected debt as well. This hearing is pending committee action.

Examining city tree safety

On July 3rd, the Board of Supervisors' City Operations & Neighborhood Services Committee held a hearing requested by Supervisor Chu on city tree safety. Many community members and representatives of park groups throughout the city attended the hearing and shared their concerns on the safety and maintenance of city trees.

The Recreation and Parks Department oversees about 100,000 trees citywide. In Stern Grove, about 550 of Stern Grove's 2,600 trees are deemed hazardous, according a 2004 report.

Supervisor Chu asked the Recreation & Parks Department to take another look at the location of dangerous trees in Stern Grove and to report back to the committee on the citywide urban forestry program and the 2008 Parks Bond that included about \$4 million for tree reforestation efforts.

To view the complete hearing online, visit: www.sfgov.org/sfgtv → Video on Demand → Board of Supervisors → City Operations & Neighborhood Services Committee → July 3rd meeting → City tree safety

MEET FEATURED SUNSET ARTIST ANNA CONTI

Our office is currently featuring the artwork of Anna Conti, a Sunset resident since 1987. Please feel free to stop by Supervisor Chu's office in room 260 during regular business hours to view her pieces.



Anna L. Conti was born at Patuxent River Naval Air Station in Maryland and has lived all over the United States. Her art career as an illustrator began while she was in high school and she worked in commercial art for six years. By 1975 Conti became disillusioned with the commercial art field. She became interested in a more personally meaningful vocation and went into nursing. Almost two decades later, she retired from nursing to return to her creative beginnings. She has been painting full time as a fine artist since 1994.

Identifying as a realist, the subject matter in her paintings is recognizable and seems "photographic." She takes reference photographs in the initial stages of a painting, but her paintings are not simply copies of photographs. She uses both her training as an illustrator and computer technology to edit, compose and design the images. She then transfers the drawing using the traditional grid method and paints the line work in a deep red color. Her style is labor intensive and her process frequently involves over ten

layers of semi-transparent acrylic paint mixed with glazing medium. This multi-layered process creates glowing color depth and luminosity even in mundane materials like cement. The patient craftsmanship of the work is immediately evident in her fine detail and rendering of texture.

Anna Conti's paintings are deeply influenced by her connection to her neighborhood and her interest in myth and symbolism. Symbolism has always been a strong interest of hers and it is in every painting. However, intentionally subtle use of it ensures the paintings are accessible without knowledge of the symbolism.

Conti often works in series, spending a year or more focusing on a particular concept. Currently she has been working on a series of paintings about urban "caves" such as local parking garages. Her previous series "Trickster Throws the Dice" was featured in a solo exhibit at the Hang Annex in 2004. Her 2006 series will be about the relationship between time, space, and humanity. She works in her studio full time. Once or twice a week she goes out to paint and photograph San Francisco. She is active in the San Francisco art community and publishes a daily Internet arts journal focused on life as a working artist and local art at www.bigcrow.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Free Parenting Instructor Workshops

Thursdays, July 10 – August 12
10:00am – 1:15pm
Sunset Neighborhood Beacon Center
3925 Noriega Street & 46th Avenue
Contact Carol Mo at 759-3690 or
Cmo@smbc.org for info and to register

Financial Literacy Forum

Tuesday, July 15
7:00pm
Taraval Police Station (24th Ave & Taraval)
Workshop sponsored by Sunset
Neighborhood Beacon Center, Safety
Network and Wells Fargo Bank

Art as Meditation Workshop

Wednesday, July 16
7:00 – 8:00pm
Parkside Branch Library
1200 Taraval Street (23rd & 24th Ave)
Therapist-artist Linda Shanti McCabe will work with
adults, children and people recovering from addictions in
this hands-on session.
Call 557-4277 for more information.

Mental Health Focus Group

Thursday, July 17
3:00 – 4:30pm
Sunset Neighborhood Beacon Center
3925 Noriega St at 46th Avenue
San Francisco State University / NICOS Chinese Health
Coalition Health Assessment Project is looking for Chinese
youth to be part of a discussion about mental health. To be
in the group, you must be 13-18 years old, identify yourself
as Chinese and live in San Francisco. Participants will
receive gift certificates and other fun items. Snacks and
drinks to be provided.

Sunset Boulevard Clean-up

Saturday, July 19
10:00am – 12:00pm
Meet at Taraval & 37th Avenue
We will be working along Taraval,
Ulloa and Vicente Streets

Community Youth Center's First Annual Fitness Day

Saturday, July 26
10:00am – 3:00pm
11:00am – opening ceremonies
Sunset Recreation Center
2201 Lawton St & 28th Avenue

Free day at de Young Museum for District 4 residents

Sunday, July 27
10:00am – 5:15pm
Golden Gate Park
50 Hagiwara Tea Garden Drive
Meet at Piazzoni Room

DCYF Free Summer Lunch Program

Lunch available Monday – Friday
12:00 – 1:00pm
For youth under 18 only
Sunset Youth Services
3918 Judah St & 30th
Contact Maria at 665-0255 for information

Surfrider Fire Ring clean-up

Sunday, July 20
10:00 – 11:00am
More info: Barbara@surfrider.org

“Wind in the Bamboo”

Wednesday, July 30
7:00pm
Parkside Branch Library
1200 Taraval Street (23rd & 24th Ave)
Featuring the sounds of the Zen shakuhachi bamboo
flute and classical Japanese koto set to haiku poems by
Japanese poets.

Financial Literacy Forum in Chinese

Thursday, July 31
6:30pm
Taraval Police Station
24th Avenue & Taraval
Workshop sponsored by Sunset
Neighborhood Beacon Center, Safety
Network and Wells Fargo Bank

Naturalist Presentation

Thursday, July 31
Sunset Branch Library
1305 18th Ave & Irving
Naturalist Sharon Heron displays and discusses hissing
cockroaches for youths aged 7 and older.
Call 355-2818 for more information

AT A GLANCE



We joined Assemblywoman Fiona Ma in honoring Mrs. Tanaka after 30 years of teaching kindergarten at Francis Scott Key Elementary School



West Sunset RecConnect hosted a BBQ with balloon tossing, a watermelon eating contest and drumming circle



← Young volunteers help clean West Sunset Playground →



Supervisor Chu joined JROTC cadets at City Hall in support of preserving Physical Education credits for students who participate in the program



Supervisor Chu honored Sgt. Robert Bohanan of the Taraval Police Station for spearheading efforts to ensure victims of crime receive follow-up services →

