



Message from the Supervisor

As chronicled in the local media, many illegal marijuana growers have recently been discovered in the Sunset and other areas of the Taraval Station police district. I would like to commend the men and women of the Taraval Station for their diligent police work. A key component to helping police officers complete their work is neighborhood reporting. Captain Chignell of the Taraval Station credits residents of the Sunset District who have provided important information leading to discoveries of these illegal growth sites in residential homes.

There are a number of warning signs that marijuana may be growing illegally in a home. For example:

- A consistent smell of marijuana in the area
- Individuals coming in and out of the property at all hours of the day
- Lights that are constantly on in the interior of the building
- Windows that are always covered
- The sound of generators that are on constantly
- Unusual extension cords or wiring from PG&E poles

Under local law, individuals who hold a medicinal marijuana card are able to procure marijuana for their medical uses. However, the recent number of situations that have occurred have been illegal grows, not associated with marijuana card holders.

It is important to identify these illegal grows because they often pose public safety risks for the neighborhood. For example, many of these operations may have unwarranted electrical wiring which may lead to potential fires.

In the next few weeks I will be holding a hearing to understand the extent to which illegal marijuana grows have been taking place in the Sunset District and what enforcement action has been taken by local law enforcement agencies.

If you would like to make a report to the Taraval Police Station, please call: (415) 759-3100. You can also contact our office at (415) 554-7460 or chustaff@sfgov.org

Office of Supervisor Carmen Chu

1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244, San Francisco, CA 94102
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CRISIS TO RECOVERY RESOURCE FAIR HELPS OVER 300 FAMILIES



Supervisor Carmen Chu & Congresswoman Jackie Speier co-hosted the resource fair at Dianne Feinstein Elementary School

The tough economic times have posed problems for individuals and families from all walks of life. To address these issues, Supervisor Carmen Chu and Congresswoman Jackie Speier hosted a resource fair, "Crisis to Recovery", to make it easier for everyone to access free counseling and information on July 25th.

"Crisis to Recovery" brought over 350 attendees from all over San Francisco and even beyond.

Participants were able to receive free mortgage and credit counseling from HUD-approved non-profits, as well as free mortgage modification evaluations from the major banking institutions.



Participants listen to speakers share information and provide tips on home mortgages



Over 350 individuals from San Francisco and the Bay Area participated in the resource fair

This was a great local forum for participants to receive the help they needed, free of charge and free of scams. If you were not able to attend the event, but would like information on resources available to you, please contact our office at (415) 554-7460 or chustaff@sfgov.org. You can also visit our office website at www.sfgov.org/chu for a list of resources under "upcoming events."

ORTEGA BRANCH LIBRARY SLATED FOR REBUILD



Current Ortega Branch Library

As early as 2003, the City began reviewing plans for building a new Ortega Branch Library, located at 39th Avenue & Ortega Street. Six years later, after several public meetings to solicit community feedback and after securing approvals from the Planning Department, Library Commission, and Recreation & Park Commission, Ortega Branch closed in May 2009 as the City prepared to break ground on the project.

An appeal was filed to halt the demolition of the old library, and the Board of Appeals held a hearing on the appeal on August 5th. About 80 residents of the Sunset District sent in letters supporting a new building for Ortega Branch to accommodate the community's growing service needs, and over 20 District 4 residents personally came to the Board of Appeals meeting to share their support for the new building. After

much public testimony that demonstrated the community's desire for a new and expanded library, as well as the Planning Department's determination that the old Ortega Branch no longer retains historic integrity, the appeal was rejected by the Board of Appeals.

The new Ortega Branch Library will be located closer to Ortega Street to increase visibility of the library and deter vandalism, will feature a community room, expanded seating areas, designated areas for adults, teens and children, and an expanded library collection. The new building will also be brought into compliance with ADA requirements and seismic safety standards. With Parkside Library also closed for renovation, District 4 residents are currently left without a branch library in the neighborhood. This makes it all the more important that the Ortega Branch project continues to move ahead.



Located between two schools and a heavily used playground, the Ortega Branch Library serves as an important community center for residents of the Sunset. Demolition of the old library was scheduled to coincide with summer break for schools to minimize the impact to community members who frequent the library or the playground area. The project is slated to move forward, and we encourage you to contact our office if you have any questions about the process. Our residents have made it loud and clear their desire for a new Ortega Branch Library, and we are committed to ensuring that our community receives a library that meets their needs.

VOLUNTEER AT SUNDAY STREETS

Celebrate our San Francisco neighborhoods and take pride in the community as a Sunday Streets volunteer. Sunday Streets is a San Francisco city event that opens miles of car-free neighborhood streets to people for walking, biking and recreation – connecting San Francisco neighborhoods on six Sundays in 2009. The final Sunday Streets event for 2009 is **September 6**. Volunteering for Sunday Streets is an easy way to have a great time while making a difference in your community.



Volunteer shifts are about half the length of the event, so your team will have plenty of time to enjoy Sunday Streets and volunteer. A free lunch and t-shirts are provided to all volunteers. There is also a special treat for all volunteers who help on five dates or more. To sign up to volunteer and for more information about dates and routes, go to:

www.sundaystreetsSF.com/volunteer.html

RECAP OF SUNDAY STREETS – AUGUST 9

Route: Golden Gate Park → Great Highway → Zoo
“Penguins to Penguins”



SAVE THE DATE

August 28 – 30

OUTSIDE LANDS MUSIC FESTIVAL

Golden Gate Park
For street closure info
and more, go to
www.sfoutsidelands.com
or call 415-933-6901

September 6

SUNDAY STREETS 10:00am to 2:00pm

Golden Gate Park to the
Great Highway to the Zoo

For information, please visit
www.SundayStreetsSF.com

September 26

SUNSET FESTIVAL

11:00am – 4:00pm
Sunset Recreation Center
(28th & Lawton)

AUTUMN MOON FESTIVAL

10:00am – 5:00pm
Irving Street (22nd – 25th Ave)

GET INVOLVED!

Monthly Pine Lake Park clean-up

Our office started a community clean-up effort at Pine Lake Park to clean and maintain the dog run. We meet every second Saturday of the month from **9:00AM to Noon**. Our next clean up is **September 12**, and we hope to see you there! Supplies are provided.

La Playa Median

A group of community members, led by Brianna Schaefer, Sarab Stewart, Steve Ward and contractor Dennis Webb, have embarked upon a project to enhance the median at La Playa & Great Highway. This project is made possible through a partnership with SF Parks Trust, Department of Public Works, and Surfrider Foundation, and the Community Challenge Grant program. Volunteers have been busy preparing the median and working to turn this under-utilized space into a place where community members can gather. If you are interested in learning more about the project, please visit www.laplayapark.info or contact Steve Ward at (415) 681-4337 / laplayaparkinfo@gmail.com.



Steve Ward working on the median

SUNSET SCOOPS

Changes in the neighborhood....

A new restaurant on Taraval! Welcome to the **Parkside Tavern** at 1940 Taraval (between 29th & 30th Ave). District 4 resident Larry Doyle is the chef serving up steaks, meat and veggie pies and other Tavern favorites.

Sunset District resident and Salon columnist **Cary Tennis** has a very popular **writers' workshop** right here in the neighborhood! Unleash your inner storyteller, you never know where it will take you. Details at <http://www.carytennis.com/workshops.html>

Sunset Co-op Nursery School at Lawton & La Playa has been at the same location for 60 years. On August 1st, Supervisor Chu was there to bid the old nursery school farewell as a new building will be constructed.



SIDEWALK ASTRONOMY IN THE SUNSET

by community guest writer: Duane Frybarger



"Why are you out here?" I hear that question almost every time I take one of my telescopes out on the street to conduct "sidewalk astronomy" in the Sunset District. I've been doing sidewalk astronomy for about 3 ½ years and I am always amazed at how much people enjoy seeing the Moon, Saturn, Jupiter or the Sun through a telescope. Many people express gratitude at the fact that I'm out there sharing my time and the sky with total strangers. However, many strangers quickly become friends when we start discussing the

Solar System or the Universe in general. So until this year, when people asked why I'm out there, I usually responded I'm out there on the sidewalk because I get so much more back than what I give.

This year, however, I have a different response. In answer to the question of why I am out there, I answer "Because this is the International Year of Astronomy, celebrating 400 years since Galileo first aimed a telescope at the Moon." This year, all year long, all around the world, people are celebrating with events ranging from informal sidewalk astronomy to global star parties. For more information about IYA 2009, please visit <http://www.astronomy2009.org/>. For more information on my sidewalk astronomy activities, please visit my website at <http://virtualcolony.com/>. I hope to see you out there one of these days or nights!

If you'd like to be notified when I go out on the street with one of my telescopes, please send an email to duanefrybarger@yahoo.com with the subject of Sidewalk Astronomy and just mention in the body of the email that you'd like to be notified when I'm out on the street. My evening sessions are usually in front of the Blockbuster store at 25th and Irving.

On occasion, I will also conduct evening sessions at 9th & Irving or at Polk & Broadway on Russian Hill. Be advised that the notifications will be on short notice (and sometimes on very short notice) because of weather conditions and other factors beyond my control.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, August 28 – Sunday, August 30

OUTSIDELANDS Music Festival

Golden Gate Park

www.SFoutsidelands.com

Sunday, August 30

Ocean Beach Fire Ring Cleanup

10:00am - noon

1000 Great Highway at Ocean Beach, San Francisco, CA

Held every Sunday at Stairway 17 (across from the Beach Chalet) at 10am sharp. Rain Cancels!

http://www.sfsurfrider.org/prog_firerings.htm

Sunday, Sept. 6

SUNDAY STREETS AT THE GREAT HIGHWAY

10:00am - 2:00pm

The popular Sunday Streets program returns to the Sunset for the final event of 2009. Start on JFK Drive in Golden Gate Park and bike, skate or stroll down to the Great Highway for the Sunset's biggest family friendly street party.

Thursday, Sept. 10

Liz Pepin photography exhibit reception

5:00pm – 7:00pm

City Hall, Room 260 (Supervisor Chu's Office)

Sunset District native Elizabeth Pepin will have her amazing surf photos on exhibit in Supervisor Chu's office through November.

Come be first to see them, and meet the photographer, at this special reception. For more info about Ms. Pepin's work:

<http://www.costavista.net/>

Friday Sept. 11 – Sunday Sept. 13

Neighborhood Free Days at the Academy of Sciences

Free admission for Sunset, Parkside, Stonestown, Lakeshore, and St. Francis Wood residents - zipcodes 94122, 94116, 94127, and 94132.

Neighborhood Free Days 2009 is presented by Bank of America.

Proof of residency is required.

Sunday, Sept. 13

Opera in the Park (Sharon Meadow)

1:30pm – 3:30pm

Sharon Meadow, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, CA

A free concert preview of the upcoming San Francisco Opera season, with performers from the fall season. Arrive early for the best viewing spot, and bring a picnic.

<http://sfopera.com/p/?mID=239>

Tuesday, Sept. 15

Captain Chignell's Community Meeting

7:00 pm

Taraval Station 2345 24th Ave

Captain Chignell discusses public safety and addresses community concerns.

Saturday, Sept. 19

Computer Help Day at the Beacon Center

11:00am – 3:00pm

SNBC Office - 3925 Noriega Street at 46th Avenue.

One-on-one computer and Internet tutoring to help you learn about spyware and viruses, employment opportunities, and get more information about free software. Also come out and recycle old computers, TV's, VCR's, phones, etc.

Saturday, Sept. 26

15TH Annual Sunset Community Festival

Spotlight on the Sunset's Children and Youth

11:00am – 4:00pm

Sunset Recreation Center - 28th & Lawton

sunsetfestival@sbcglobal.net

Saturday, Sept. 26

5th Annual Sunset Autumn Moon Festival

10:00am – 5:00pm

Irving Street, between 22nd & 25th Avenues

<http://www.autumnmoonfestival.org/>

Additional events listed at: www.sfgov.org/chu

You can now follow Supervisor Chu on Twitter!

www.twitter.com/supervisorchu

To subscribe or unsubscribe to this newsletter, please contact us at chustaff@sfgov.org or (415) 554-7460

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