

SUPERVISOR CARMEN CHU



District 4 • Sunset • Parkside

February 2011

MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERVISOR



Assistance to Small Businesses

Last month, I partnered with City departments and other district Supervisors to announce efforts to assist businesses in San Francisco impacted by ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) lawsuits. Often, the expenses of the litigation plus potential repairs mean the difference between staying in business and closing. Many businesses may not have been aware of the Federal requirements or did not have the financial ability to fix the problems.

After working with the Office of Small Business, Mayor's Office on Disability, Treasurer & Tax Collector's Office and the Department of Building Inspection, our office spearheaded an effort to educate businesses of these important issues and to partner with organizations to make loans available. For more information about the Federal requirements and on recently enacted state laws, please visit: <http://sfgsa.org/index.aspx?page=4207>

The City is also partnering with Opportunity Fund, one of the Bay Area's largest micro-lenders, to provide loans for small businesses that need assistance with financing construction costs for ADA improvements. Opportunity Fund has pledged \$1 million to provide small businesses with capital loans ranging from \$1,000 to \$50,000.

If you would like more information regarding ADA requirements or the loan program, please contact the Office of Small Business at (415) 554-6134.

City Budget

Recently, I was appointed to serve as Chair of the Budget & Finance Committee at the Board of Supervisors. Over the next six months, I will be working with city departments, community members and organizations, and the Mayor's Budget Office to develop a balanced budget for the 2011-2012 fiscal year. The City is currently projecting a deficit of \$380 million for the next year. This projection may change depending on new information like state budget impacts or the state of the economy.

The Board of Supervisors Budget Committee will deliberate on the city's budget in May and June, with a formal public comment session to be held in June. We will be providing more information about the budget process in the coming months. Please feel free to contact our office with your feedback or questions: chustaff@sfgov.org or (415) 554-7460.

Office of Supervisor Carmen Chu

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SUNSET CO-OP, BACK TO SCHOOL!

After demolishing its 58-year-old building in August 2009 and spending 16 months at a temporary location on Brotherhood Way, Sunset Cooperative Nursery School has returned to its home on Lawton at the Great Highway. The rebuild project was possible thanks to several extremely generous donations and grants, as well as four years of fundraising and hard work by director Laura Ossa and the preschool's parents, teachers, and alumni. The school is now housed in a beautiful modern structure designed by Rich Gillern and built by Noel Fox, both co-op parents. Most important, the children are happily playing in the wonderful new building and the refurbished play yard. Sunset Co-op celebrated their re-opening with dozens of current and former students and families, and many more supporters from the Sunset District community. The red tower landmark at Lawton and the Great Highway stands taller and prouder than ever. Congratulations Sunset Co-op!



ASIAN ART MUSEUM

San Francisco's Asian Art Museum is one of the largest museums in the western world devoted exclusively to Asian Art. With a rich array of programs, lectures and classes for all ages, the Asian Art Museum is a treasured resource for San Francisco.

Unfortunately, due to the global economic downturn, the Asian Art Museum is facing serious financial



difficulties. The City and the Asian Art Museum Foundation, the private fundraising arm of the Asian Art Museum, recently announced a proposal to restructure the Foundation's \$120 million bond debt. Another component in preserving and sustaining the Asian Art Museum will be a three-year capital campaign, led by members of the Board of Supervisors including Supervisor Carmen Chu, City Attorney Dennis Herrera, and former Mayors Willie Brown and Gavin Newsom.

GGNRA DOG MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA), a Federal agency, recently released their Dog Management Plan/Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The voluminous document and its recommendations would have significant impact on use of Ocean Beach, Fort Funston, Lands End, Sutro Heights, Baker Beach, Fort Point, Fort Mason and Crissy Field. The document is available at all San Francisco Public Libraries and also online at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/dogplan>



The Dog Management Plan/Draft Environmental Impact Statement presents several different alternatives for each park in the GGNRA, ranging from "no dogs" to severely restricting off leash areas. Our office wanted to make you aware that public comment on the plan will be accepted through April 14, and that it is important that the GGNRA and National Park Service (NPS) hear the concerns of San Francisco residents.



How to comment:

- Online at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/dogplan>
- By mail: Frank Dean, General Superintendent, GGNRA
Fort Mason, Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123

Public Meetings:

- March 2, 4 – 8pm , Tamalpais High School, Marin County
- March 5, 11am – 4pm, San Francisco State University, Seven Hills Conference Center
- March 7, 4 – 8pm, Fort Mason Bldg. A, San Francisco
- March 9, 4 – 8pm, Cabrillo School, Pacifica

Comments will be considered during development of the final plan, which is expected to be completed by late Spring/early Summer 2012. When making your comments, please refer to the specific area of the plan you would like to see changed, and your ideas for alternatives.

If you have any further questions about the Dog Management Plan/Draft EIS, please call the GGNRA at 415-561-4728.

The GGNRA is the nation's largest urban national park, and includes areas of San Francisco, San Mateo and Marin Counties.

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE – Your input needed!



The San Francisco County Transportation Authority is in the process of updating the San Francisco Transportation Plan (SFTP), the long-range, comprehensive transportation plan for the city. The SFTP is the city's transportation blueprint, identifying goals, needs and investment priorities for our transportation system for the next 25 years. As such, the SFTP will shape the city's next generation of transportation projects, programs and policies and help the city achieve its broader sustainable development goals.

The Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) predicts that by 2035, San Francisco will have approximately 150,000 additional residents—the current population of Santa Rosa—and a comparable number of jobs. The goals established for the SFTP by the San Francisco County Transportation Authority are:

- ❶ Provide and sustain a world-class transportation infrastructure
- ❷ Strengthen San Francisco's regional competitiveness
- ❸ Create a more livable and equitable city
- ❹ Ensure a healthy environment

The Authority's work on the SFTP is being overseen by a Technical Advisory Committee made up of public agency representatives and a 19-member Community Advisory Committee representing a wide range of interests and neighborhoods. The Authority is also gathering input from the general public on the SFTP. Here are ways in which you can be involved and learn more:

- Fill out a survey on transportation conditions and needs in San Francisco at www.surveymonkey.com/s/sftp.
- Attend public workshops at key phases throughout the process. Check out the project website, www.movesmartsf.com, for upcoming dates and times.
- Email the SFCTA at MoveSmartSF@sfcta.org or call the project hotline at (415) 593-1670 for additional information or to request a special presentation to your neighborhood or civic organization.

HELP IMPROVE THE MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM

The **Mental Health Board of San Francisco** is seeking applicants for several seats on the Mental Health Board including:

- *Consumer Seat*, must be a current or former client of the public mental health system
- *Family Member Seat*, must have a close family member with a serious mental illness
- *Public Interest Seat*, must have an interest in mental illness
- *Mental Health Professional Seat*, you must have a mental health graduate level degree.

For all seats, you must be a resident of San Francisco, a citizen of the United States, over 18 years old, and you cannot work for the City's Community Behavioral Health Services or one of its contractors. Appointments will be made by the Board of Supervisors in San Francisco.

If you are interested in applying to the Board, please call Helynna Brooke or Loy Proffitt at the Mental Health Board office at 415-255-3474.

SUPERVISOR CHU WELCOMES LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL

Supervisor Chu welcomed Ms. Ziegler's government class to City Hall on January 6. As part of the visit, Supervisor Chu discussed current policy conversations at the Board of Supervisors, explained the public process and answered questions directly from students. The Lincoln students also attended a press conference at the Asian Art Museum as part of their visit. If your class is interested in visiting City Hall, please call 415-554-7460.



SFMTA EXTENDS DEADLINE FOR SENIOR & YOUTH CLIPPER CARD

The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA), which operates the Municipal Railway (Muni), announced that the deadline for Muni Youth and Senior discount monthly pass customers to switch to Clipper has been **extended from January to May** in order to provide additional opportunities for Senior and Youth pass customers to apply for and receive their Clipper cards. Senior and Youth Muni customers must begin purchasing their passes on Clipper cards by the end of May. You must apply for a youth or senior card in person at the Muni Customer Service Center, located at 11 South Van Ness Ave., San Francisco. The following forms of identification are accepted as proof of your eligibility:

- Birth Certificate
- Driver's license issued by any state
- Identification card issued by any state
- Alien Registration/Permanent Resident Card
- Matricula Consular/Consular Identification Card
- Passport
- SF City ID Card

MUNI riders may use any of the following outlets to either purchase their monthly pass or to add cash value to their card:

- Muni Ticket Vending Machines in the nine Muni Metro Stations
- Local Clipper retailers, which can be found at www.clippercard.com
- Online at www.clippercard.com
- By Phone: Call Clipper Customer Service at (877) 878.8883

For more information on the Clipper card, please visit www.clippercard.com. Muni customers can learn more about using the Clipper card on Muni and the transition to Clipper by visiting www.sfmta.com/clipper.

TAX HELP IN THE SUNSET

If your family makes less than \$49,000 a year, you may be qualified for free tax preparation from Tax-Aid. Tax-Aid is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that provides free income tax preparation to low-income families, with a special emphasis on increasing access to the Earned Income Credit and the Child Tax Credit. Tax Aid Sunset District locations:

Sunset Neighborhood Beacon Center
3925 Noriega Street @ 46th Avenue
March 19, 26 & April 2, 9 @ 10am – 3pm

Sunset Recreation Center
2201 Lawton Street
March 12 @ 10am – 3pm

For more information about Tax Aid and their events, call 415-963-8633

♥ UPCOMING EVENTS ♥

Wednesday, February 2

Rec & Park Dept Budget Discussion Public Meeting
Richmond Rec Center - 251 18th Ave.
6:00 pm

Thursday, February 10

Anti-Trafficking Event
SF Collaborative Against Human Trafficking hosts discussion at the University of San Francisco. Free and open to the public. www.sfcaht.org
6:00 - 8:00 pm

Saturday, February 12

SFPD Chinese New Year Celebration and Street Fair
Irving Street between 26th and 27th Avenues
11:00 am - 3:00 pm

Saturday, February 12

St. Anne's 1st Annual Dinner Dance Auction
1320 – 14th Avenue (Moriarty Hall @ St. Anne)
Contact: Lisa Marie Garrard 415-664-7977
6:00 pm – 11:00 pm

Saturday, February 12 & Sunday, February 13

San Francisco History Expo
20 neighborhood historical organizations will display artifacts, archival photos, and memorabilia. Presentations, performances and historical films.
Old Mint - 5th & Mission
11:00 am – 4:00 pm

Sunday, February 13

Lunar New Year at the Zoo
Red Panda Acrobats, Chung Ngai Dance Troup,
Chinese zodiac treasure hunt. www.sfzoo.org
10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Tuesday, February 15

Captain Sanford's Community Meeting
Public Safety issues discussed.
Taraval Police Station - 2345 24th Ave.
7:00 pm

Saturday, February 19 & Sunday, February 20

Chinatown Community Street Fair
On Grant, Pacific and Jackson Streets.
Chinese cultural arts such as lantern and kite making, calligraphy, fine arts demonstrations, folk dance, and puppet shows. Enjoy colorful folk dance from throughout Asia, acrobats, lion dancing, and magic demonstrations.
10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Saturday, February 19

Chinese New Year Parade
Begins at 2nd & Market, ends at Washington and Kearny.
5:30 pm

Sunday, February 20

Freedom From Training Wheels
JFK Drive in Golden Gate Park (just west of Rose Garden). SF Bike Coalition teaches kids how to ride two-wheelers
11:00 am – 1:00pm

Saturday, March 5

GGNRA Public Meeting
Golden Gate National Recreation Area meeting regarding Dog Management Plan
San Francisco State University - Seven Hills Building
11:00 am - 4:00 pm

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