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# SUPERVISOR SCOTT WIENER

San Francisco Board of Supervisors, District 8

## October 2013 Newsletter

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## Policy Work

### Housing Affordability Legislation: In-law Units in the Castro

In light of our ongoing housing affordability crisis, today I announced legislation to allow for the [addition of in-law units](#) (also known as secondary units or granny units) in the Castro area. In-law units are perhaps the most affordable, non-luxury kind of housing we can produce without government subsidy. With rents and home prices through the roof - for example, the average one-bedroom apartment is renting for around [\\$3,000 a month](#) - we're at risk of making it impossible for middle and working class people to find housing here. The lack of housing affordability undermines our economy, our diversity, and so much of what makes San Francisco great.

The Castro has been particularly hard hit with evictions, with many long-term residents at risk of displacement. While there is no one solution to our lack of housing affordability, which has grown over decades due to [short-sighted housing policy](#) in our city, allowing people to add in-law units to their buildings is one part of the solution. According to federal housing authorities and other experts, in-law units are significantly more affordable than other units. In addition to investing public resources in building affordable housing and protecting rent control, allowing for in-law units is an important path toward greater affordability.

## Office Hours

Thursday, November 7th  
1:00pm-3:00pm  
City Hall, Room 274

Saturday, November 9th  
11:00am-1:00pm  
Bello Coffee and Tea  
2885 Diamond Street

**NOTE:** Occasionally, we need to reschedule office hours. To ensure that you learn of any changes before making the effort to attend, please check with the office a day or two before or alternatively call the office to put your name on the office hours list so that we can notify you if any changes occur.



Scott at a fundraiser for Animal Care & Control at Noe's Bar with bar owner Nancy Emery and the adorable Penny and Chico

## Transportation Update

In addition to housing, our choices around transportation will help determine San Francisco's future. Our city has under-invested in transit for decades, and we need to turn that around. I'm cautiously optimistic that the Mayor's transportation task force, on which I serve, will produce solid proposals to improve investment in the system's capacity and state of good repair. In the short run, we're working on a number of things:

### *Double parking enforcement hearing*

I recently held a [hearing on double parking enforcement](#), or lack thereof, in San Francisco. Double parking is rampant in our city, and it causes significant transportation problems. It leads to traffic jams, blocks Muni and bikes lanes, impedes fire trucks from getting around, and undermines pedestrian safety by reducing sight lines. At the hearing, we learned that the MTA does very little double parking enforcement outside of downtown. For example, on the entirety of 16th Street, running through half the city and several significant commercial districts, MTA issues on average a mere one double parking ticket a day. Double parking is sometimes necessary - for example, delivery trucks that have nowhere to pull over or paratransit vehicles picking up or dropping off - but we frequently see double parking even when there is a place to pull over. I've requested that the MTA improve its double parking enforcement in order to improve transportation flow for everyone.

### *Next generation of light rail vehicles*

Muni recently began the process to acquire the next generation of light rail vehicles (LRVs). LRVs have been a significant part of Muni's reliability problems. Muni doesn't have enough vehicles, and the vehicles it has break down too frequently. At a hearing I held several months ago, we learned that on two-thirds of weekdays, Muni lacks sufficient LRVs to provide even basic service levels. More recently, I held a [hearing on the state of Muni's LRVs](#) and how Muni plans to make sure the next generation of LRVs are more reliable. Purchasing this next generation is an exciting event for Muni riders, as it will significantly improve system reliability.

### *Purchase of new buses*

I recently introduced legislation to authorize Muni to purchase 50 new buses for surface lines. This measure is part of Muni's gradual replacement of its entire bus fleet.

### *LRV seating hearing*

Supervisor London Breed and I recently asked Muni to consider [reconfiguring its LRV seating to increase standing room](#) without significant reduction in seating. The current seating design minimizes standing room and makes it difficult for passengers to board during rush hour if a train is full. At a recent hearing, Muni expressed a willingness to reconfigure a few trains to determine if this improves capacity. I look forward to the results of this pilot program.

### *Three-car train in subway*

For years, Muni hasn't run any three-car trains in the subway. The reasons are

Muni's vehicle shortage, as well as the Breda light rail vehicles making it difficult for trains to join up and separate as they enter or exit the subway. After having increased the number of usable vehicles through long-overdue rehabilitation, Muni is now running [a rush hour three-car train](#) in the subway. This is a positive step to improve rush hour capacity.

#### *Transit analysis for Warriors project*

The proposed Warriors arena at Piers 30-32 is an exciting project for San Francisco in various ways. It will bring the Warriors back to San Francisco, rehabilitate a failing pier, create a new waterfront public park, and provide San Francisco with a venue for concerts and other events. But, it's critical that we get it right, particularly around the arena's transit impacts. We need to ensure that people can easily get to and from the arena and that events at the arena don't undermine other parts of the transit system. I recently requested an [analysis of the project's transit impacts](#), including projected costs of those impacts. This analysis will help us ensure that the negotiations around the project fully take into account likely transit impacts.



Scott speaking at Hillscrest Elementary School opening of a refurbished library, courtest of Target and Heart of America Foundation

#### Park Operating Hours Legislation

Several months ago, I introduced legislation to [establish citywide park operating hours](#) - 5 a.m. to midnight - to reduce park vandalism and dumping. Vandalism and dumping cost our park system more than \$1 million a year. San Francisco is the only major city in the United States without statutory opening and closing hours. Instead, we have a hodge podge of all-but-unenforceable signs in our parks stating varying operating hours or no hours at all. The legislation, which is supported by the San Francisco Parks Alliance, the Laborers Union Local 261, and numerous neighborhood park groups, will be a solid step toward safer parks. The legislation passed out of committee and will be voted on by the Board of Supervisors on October 29.

#### Resolution Opposing Reduced Dog Access on Federal Park Properties

The Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) manages federal properties on the San Francisco coast, for example, Fort Funston, Ocean Beach, and Crissy Field. GGNRA is proposing to significantly reduce dog access at its properties. The GGNRA dog plan, if adopted, would be so restrictive that it would greatly impact many San Franciscans who rely on these properties to walk their dogs. The plan also would cause many owners and walkers to take their dogs instead to city parks, leading to increased dog crowding in these parks. In light of the significant concern around this plan, I introduced a [resolution opposing the plan](#). The resolution passed out of committee and will be heard at the Board of Supervisors on October 29.





Scott at a pre-Folsom Street Fair breakfast with Donna Sachet and Supervisor David Campos

#### Pension Investments in Russia and Anti-LGBT Russian Law

In light of Russia's recent virulently anti-LGBT law - one reminiscent of anti-Jewish laws in 1930s Germany - I asked for an analysis of whether city departments purchase goods or services from Russia and whether our pension fund invests in Russia. We learned that the city appears not to purchase any Russian goods or services but that the pension fund holds a small amount of Russian securities (two tenths of a percent of the pension fund). I therefore asked the pension fund to [evaluate whether divestment of Russian securities could occur](#) without undermining the pension fund. Senator Mark Leno has proposed a state-level pension fund divestment of Russian securities.

### **Community Spotlight**

#### Angel Van Stark

Recently, I appointed Angel Van Stark to be the District 8 representative on the Youth Commission. Angel is a passionate young man, and I look forward to working with him here in City Hall. Angel is replacing my previous appointee, Rachel Brodwin, who did an exemplary job in the position. With young leaders like Angel and Rachel, San Francisco's future looks bright.



Scott with Youth Commission appointee Angel Van Stark

## Community Updates

### Noe Courts Update

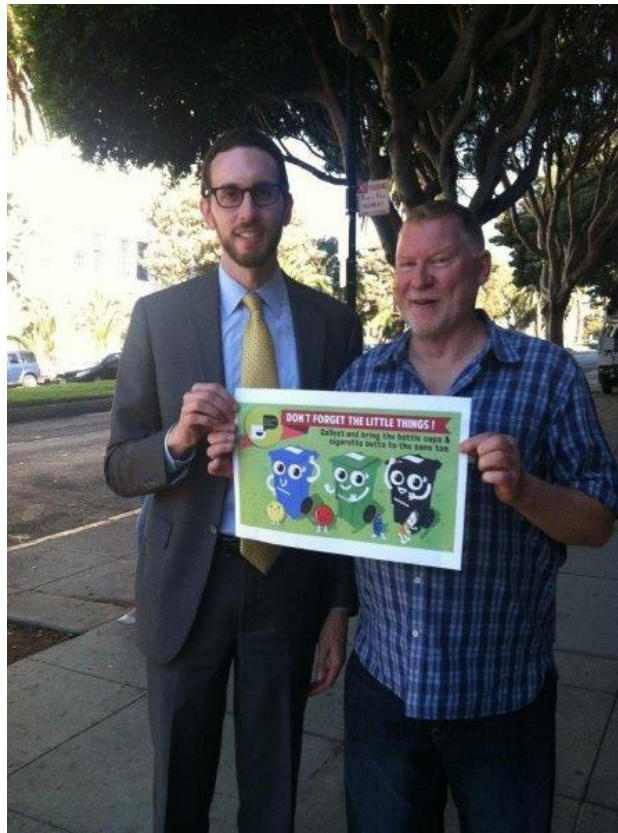
Recreation and Park Department invites you to participate in the fourth and final community meeting to discuss future capital improvements for Noe Courts Park. The meeting is scheduled for November 13, 2013 (Wednesday), 6:00 to 8:00 PM at St. Philip's Church Parish Hall, located at 725 Diamond Street (between 24th/Elizabeth Streets). Also visit [www.sfrecpark.org](http://www.sfrecpark.org) for meeting info. Daycare will be provided at the meeting. Parking is available on site. For more information, please contact Marvin Yee, Project Manager, at [Marvin.Yee@sfgov.org](mailto:Marvin.Yee@sfgov.org) or (415) 581-2541.

### Glen Canyon Improvements

The Glen Canyon Playground and Tennis Court Project is moving along, with the playground and tennis courts taking shape. There will be work done on the paths near the Bosworth Road entrance and the connection to Alms Road, as well as sidewalk improvements near Elk Street over the next few weeks that will cause some temporary closures. As reported in last month's newsletter, some sewer and water issues have arisen, and Rec and Park is still working to address these utility issues. The Department will have a revised completion date for the Rec Center and park soon. For more questions, please contact Karen Mauney-Brodek at [Karen.Mauney-Brodek@sfgov.org](mailto:Karen.Mauney-Brodek@sfgov.org) or (415) 575-5601.

### Dolores Park Update

The Dolores Park project is currently out to bid, with bids due in mid-November. Once this information is in, the Recreation and Parks Department will announce an early December open house to discuss the project. My office will work with Rec and Park to publicize this meeting so that everyone can come together to discuss the exciting future of Dolores Park. For more information, please contact Jake Gilchrist at [Jacob.Gilchrist@sfgov.org](mailto:Jacob.Gilchrist@sfgov.org) or (415) 581-2561.



Scott with Robert Brust of Dolores Park Works at a Dolores Park Clean-up

### Pedestrian and Streetscaping Projects

Several important pedestrian and streetscape projects are about to move forward in the district:

#### *Castro Street Sidewalk Project*

The Castro Street sidewalk widening and streetscape project is now fully approved and funded by pedestrian capital funds that I obtained. Construction will start shortly after the new year. The 400 block (Market to 18th Street), along with the refurbishment of Jane Warner Plaza, will begin first and is expected to be completed by early June. The 500 block (18th to 19th Street) will then begin and is expected to be complete by the end of September or early October.

#### *Glen Park Intersection Improvement at Diamond and Bosworth Streets*

Thanks to federal funding obtained a decade ago, we have funding to improve the very challenging intersection at Diamond and Bosworth Streets. After several community meetings about the intersection, the MTA and Planning Department, with support from my office, have been finalizing a proposal to improve the traffic signals as well as pedestrian safety. A final design will be produced shortly.

#### *Noe Valley Pedestrian Safety Improvements*

I was able to obtain funding to improve pedestrian safety along 24th Street in Noe Valley. The first community meeting on the project will take place on October 30 at 7 pm at the Noe Valley branch library on Jersey Street.

### Military Weddings at City Hall

Recently, the Department of Defense approved leave of up to 7 days for servicemembers to travel to a state where gay marriage is legal. Naturally, San Francisco is a popular destination for these servicemembers who need to travel somewhere to get married. However, in San Francisco it is difficult to get wedding appointments at City Hall on short notice, and many of these servicemembers have small windows of availability due to their deployment dates. That's why I worked with the County Clerk to make a small number of priority wedding slots available for those on active duty who will soon deploy. I'm happy that this small change in the rules has allowed people like Joey Brown and Michael Balisteri (pictured below) to get married here at City Hall.





Scott with Joey Brown and Michael Balistreri right after their wedding ceremony at City Hall

#### Clean Team in District 8

On Saturday October 19, I joined the Department of Public Works for its Community Clean Team effort in District 8. The Clean Team organizes community volunteers to do clean up and gardening projects in our neighborhoods. There were a number of important efforts in the district, including planting the Guerrero Street median between 22nd and 23rd Streets, planting parts of the Diamond Heights Boulevard median, and cleaning up along San Jose Avenue. Thank you DPW and volunteers for the great work!



Scott with District 8 Clean Team volunteers

## Community Calendar

### ***Children's Fund and PEEF Meetings***

We are entering the next phase of the Children's Fund and Public Education and Enrichment Fund (PEEF) Stakeholder Engagement Process: five Community Input. Meetings have been scheduled to take place in different regions of the City during the month of November. The focus of the Stakeholder Engagement Process is to create a shared vision for our children and families. For additional information please visit the Our Children, Our City Stakeholder Engagement [here](#).

### ***Corbett Heights Neighbors***

Thursday, October 24

7:00pm-9:00pm

Bank of America community room

501 Castro Street/ 18 Street

Our guests will be Supervisor Scott Wiener and Assessor-Recorder Carmen Chu. There will be updates on the AT&T survey, traffic calming, the retaining wall going up on the Market St. side of Corbett Slope, and the latest on the Upper Market developments.

### ***Screening -- Mislead: America's Secret Epidemic***

Friday, October 25

San Francisco Main Library

Koret Auditorium

100 Larkin Street

James Lick Middle School Auditorium

1220 Noe Street

The San Francisco Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program and Get the Lead Out invite you to a FREE screening of a new feature-length documentary. The free film events are on Friday October 25th, with a 2:00 pm afternoon screening at the Main Library and a 7:30 pm evening screening at James Lick Middle School. Both events will have a panel discussion with the filmmaker to answer questions from concerned parents and community members. Click [here](#) to view a film trailer. For more information, call 415-252-3956.



Scott at Cinco de Noe, celebrating the 5th Anniversary of the Upper Noe Valley Recreation Center

### ***Free Dental Exams -- Southeast Community Health Fair***

Saturday, October 26th

10:00am-2:00pm

1800 Oakdale Avenue

Bring your children to the UCSF Pediatric Dental Clinic this weekend at the Southeast Community Facility Health Fair. Dental screening and health education services will be provided with free giveaways. UCSF Dental Clinic will be conveniently located inside the Alex Pitcher auditorium. Additionally, there will be a number of vendors and service providers focusing on promoting health, nutrition, fitness, treatment and prevention of



chronic health conditions, cardiovascular disease, mental health, and putting families first.

***Noe Valley Harvest Festival***

*Saturday, October 26*

*10:00am-5:00pm*

This year's family-friendly festival is scheduled for Saturday, October 26th on 24th Street between Sanchez and Church. Over 50 Bay Area artists and crafts people will display and sell their creations just in time for holiday gift giving. Also featured will be non-stop entertainment and activities for adults and kids. That's why we have live bands on two stages, a pumpkin patch (free for the kids!), two jumpy tents, balloon artists, face painters, a henna artist, a dog costume contest - sponsored by Pet Camp, a children's costume contest - sponsored by Whole Foods Market, and a dunk tank to keep you busy!

***Housing Expo***

*Saturday, October 26th*

*10:30am-5:30pm*

*St. Mary's Cathedral*

*1111 Gough Street*

The San Francisco Housing Expo is a partnership with Homeownership SF, the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development and the SF Association of Realtors held at St Mary's Cathedral, 1111 Gough St. The SF Housing Expo will provide FREE valuable resources for current home owners and future home buyers. There will be food, prizes and more. For more information, click [here](#).

***Diamond Heights Community Association Meeting on Muni Service and Other Important Issues***

*Saturday, October 26th*

*4:00pm-5:30pm*

*SF Police Academy*

*350 Amber Drive*

The public is invited to the DHCA Community Meeting. The agenda will feature Supervisor Scott Wiener speaking on neighborhood issues, Sean Kennedy discussing the Muni Transit Effectiveness Project and Mayor Art Agnos explaining Warriors waterfront arena concerns. A particular focus of the meeting will be to hear residents' concerns about Muni service on the 52 and 35 lines. For information about the meeting, please contact Betsy Eddy at [betsy.eddy@gmail.com](mailto:betsy.eddy@gmail.com) or visit the DHCA website - [www.dhcasf.org](http://www.dhcasf.org).



Scott at the Portola Family Connections 20th Anniversary Celebration

***20th Annual Pet Pride Day***

*Sunday, October 27*

*11:00am-3:00pm*

*Sharon Meadow, Golden Gate Park*

Join San Francisco Animal Care and Control and the city of San Francisco at Pet Pride Day 2013 a fun, festive and FREE event. This is ACC's 20th year celebrating the fluffiest-tail-wagging-feathered-scaled-finned citizens and the people that love them. On site adoptions, rescue partners, parade, food, kids activities, pet costumes and pet tricks... they'll have it all. Click [here](#) for more info.

### ***Activate McCoppin***

*November 1st-November 30th*

During the month of November, Activate McCoppin is temporarily transforming the McCoppin Hub, at the intersection of Valencia and McCoppin Streets from a parking lot into a social hub. This is an effort to get people excited for, and determine what programming works prior to, the improvement project that is slated to begin in the McCoppin Hub in 2014. To begin this transformation, and in turn change the perception of the McCoppin Hub, Activate McCoppin will offer opportunities to host programming by providing the public with the space and resources to host their own events. To learn more about the project, [click here](#).

### ***Save Dog Walking in the GGNRA!***

*Saturday, Nov. 2*

*11:00am*

*East Beach, Crissy Field*

March and Rally at the GGNRA Open House Meeting

The Golden Gate National Recreation Area has released a plan to dramatically cut where people can walk with their dogs on GGNRA properties. There will be NO off-leash dog walking anywhere on GGNRA land in San Mateo County. Rodeo Beach will be the ONLY off-leash area in Marin. In San Francisco, the plan will ban dogs entirely from the vast majority of Fort Funston, the East Beach at Crissy Field and most of Ocean Beach. Speak now or forever hold your leash! Meet at East Beach Crissy Field at 11 AM, march to Fort Mason Bldg D for a rally, then submit your comments at the GGNRA open house.

### ***GGNRA Draft Plan Public Open House***

*Saturday, November 2*

*11:00am-4:00pm*

Fort Mason Center, Bldg. D, Fleet Room, 2 Marina Blvd.

Join Supervisor Wiener in submitting your comments on the GGNRA's proposed off-leash dog restrictions. The GGNRA will hold an open house where your comments on the draft plan/SEIS will be heard and accepted as part of the official public comment period. <http://www.nps.gov/goga/seis.htm>



Scott at the Edison Charter Academy school greening planting day

### ***Upper Douglass Dog Park Opening***

*Saturday, November 9*

*10:00a- 11:00am*

Join Supervisor Wiener and the Recreation and Parks Department as they celebrate the re-opening of the Upper Douglass Dog Park.

***Noe Courts Community Meeting***

*Wednesday, November 13*

*6:00pm-8:00pm*

St. Philip's Parish Hall, Intersection of 24th and Diamond Street

This will be the final community meeting on the Noe Courts Improvement Plan. The purpose of the project is to create a Park Improvement Plan to coordinate the two 2008 Clean and Safe Neighborhood Parks Bond funded projects (Restroom Improvements and Community Opportunity Fund Project) and to identify future, potential projects. Click [here](#) for more info.

***Understanding the Bay Area's Tsunami Risk, Preparedness Efforts, and Emergency Response***

*County Fair Building*

*Wednesday, November 13*

*6:30pm-8:30pm*

This presentation will provide an overview of California's tsunami risk, the state's official inundation maps, preparedness efforts, and some lessons learned from past tsunami events. More than eighty tsunamis have been observed or recorded in California in historic times. Fortunately, most of these were small and did little or no damage. Though damaging events have occurred infrequently, they are a possibility that must be considered in coastal communities. Both local and distant tsunami sources are of concern for our state coastline. Please RSVP [here](#).



Scott presenting a Certificate of Honor to Mark McHale in recognition of his efforts to raise \$25,000 for the Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy after it was burglarized

***Castro Farmers' Market***

*Weekly on Wednesdays*

*4:00pm-8:00pm*

*Noe Street at Market Street*

The Castro Farmers Market runs every Wednesday from March 31st to December 18th. For more information, click [here](#).

***Glen Park Farmers' Market***

*Weekly on Sundays*

*10:00am-2:00pm*

Glen Park BART Parking Lot (Bosworth and Diamond)

The Glen Park Farmers' Market runs every Sunday from March 31st to November 24th. Click [here](#) for more information.

***Noe Valley Farmers' Market***

*Weekly on Saturdays*



8:00am-1:00pm

24th Street (between Sanchez and Vicksburg Streets)

The Noe Valley Farmers' Market is a year-round California certified farmers' market operated primarily by community volunteers and run in partnership with the Noe Valley Ministry. Click [here](#) for more information.



Scott with neighbors at the Ames/Quane Alley greening project party

### ***Family and Adult Bicycling Classes***

*Ongoing*

*Locations TBD*

Learn how to ride a bike, practice road safety, develop good traffic skills, bike while pregnant, bike with your child/toddler and much more. Workshops fill up quickly and are offered throughout the year. Click [here](#) for more information

### ***ADA Merchant Committee***

*1st and 3rd Thursdays*

*9:30am*

*Sally Brunn Library (Noe Valley Branch), 451 Jersey Street*

For merchants who are struggling with ADA compliance issues, please attend a meeting hosted by the ADA Merchant Committee. They are seeking the active participation of all merchants and all agencies city-wide to assist small businesses in coping with this very complex situation. The library is closed at that time, so please knock on the door to enter. Any questions, please contact Gwen Sanderson, Video Wave, [nvgwen@gmail.com](mailto:nvgwen@gmail.com), 415-509-6261 or Susan Walia, Castro Computer Services, [susan@modcore.com](mailto:susan@modcore.com), 415-826-6678.

### ***Open Gyms***

*Every Sunday*

*5:00-8:00pm*

*Eureka Valley Recreation Center (100 Collingwood at 18th Street)*

Basketball players of all skill-levels and ages are invited to Open Gyms every Sunday. For \$5, the San Francisco Gay Basketball Association hosts these open-court style games. All are welcome. Bring a dark t-shirt and a white t-shirt to signify which team you are on. Click [here](#) for more information

### ***Free Rapid HIV Testing for Youth***

*Weekly on Tuesdays*

*5:00-7:00pm*

*The SF LGBT Center, 1800 Market Street*

Free Rapid HIV testing for youth 24 and under offered by Larkin Street Youth Services. Click [here](#) for more information

