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SUPERVISOR SCOTT WIENER

San Francisco Board of Supervisors, District 8

November/December 2013 Newsletter

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In this Newsletter

[Policy Work](#)

[Park Hours Passes](#)

[Road Work Hearing](#)

[Housing Update](#)

[Real Foods 24th Street](#)

[Sugary Beverage Tax](#)

[Transportation Update](#)

[Animal Updates](#)

[Streetlight Hearing](#)

[Community Updates](#)

[Glen Canyon](#)

[Noe Courts](#)

[Diamond and Bosworth](#)

[Dolores and Market](#)

[Castro Streetscape](#)

[24th Street Urban Village](#)

[San Jose Avenue](#)

[Facebook and Everett](#)

[Middle School](#)

****Due to a database glitch, some people have not received our newsletter for several months, for which we apologize. We have now resolved the issue. To view past newsletters, you can [click here](#).*

[Greening Funds for Neighborhoods and Public Schools in District 8](#)

In this year's city budget, I secured funds to support community greening efforts in District 8. The funds are intended to support sidewalk landscaping, tree planting, schoolyard greening, and other community-led civic improvements throughout the district. In January, we will be announcing a call for projects ranging from a few hundred dollars up to approximately \$5,000. An independent panel will select projects for funding. If you or a group you know might be interested in this exciting opportunity, please email Andres Power in my office at Andres.Power@sfgov.org so that we can make sure you're notified when the application process begins.

[Community Calendar](#)

[Office Hours](#)

Friday, January 10th
12:30pm-2:00pm
City Hall, Room 274

Saturday, January 11th
9:00am-11:00am
Castro Tarts
564 Castro 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 the Harvey Milk-George Moscone Vigil with friends

Policy Work

Park Hours Legislation Passes

The Board of Supervisors recently passed my legislation [establishing citywide park closure hours](#) between 12 AM and 5 AM, with certain exceptions. The legislation will help combat the significant amount of [vandalism and illegal dumping](#) that occurs in our parks every night. The legislation establishes clear and consistent park closure hours with exceptions for vehicles and pedestrians using streets and adjacent sidewalks to cross Golden Gate Park, McLaren Park, Balboa Park, and Lincoln Park, as well as the bike lane in the Panhandle. There are also exceptions for walking across plaza parks, like Union Square, Justin Herman Plaza, and Civic Center Plaza. The legislation also allows the Recreation and Park Commission to modify hours for specific parks based on neighborhood-specific needs. I worked closely with park advocates from around San Francisco on the legislation, and I particularly want to thank and acknowledge the Rec & Park staff and the San Francisco Parks Alliance for their great work on the issue.

Road Work Oversight Hearing

Many critical road projects - including replacement of the city's century-old sewer system, seismic and other upgrades to the water distribution system, upgrades by PG&E and other private companies to underground gas lines and communications infrastructure, and the record number of blocks being resurfaced - are occurring throughout the city. This unprecedented level of investment in our road and utility infrastructure is vitally important to protect our sewer, water, and natural gas lines from failure due to age, earthquake, or other causes. Yet, these exciting projects dramatically impact and disrupt people's lives and economic activity. It's important for agencies and contractors to improve coordination when doing this work and to avoid unnecessary delays. Residents and businesses also need to know what work is occurring, what the timetable is, if there are delays and why. To examine all of this work and how it affects our neighborhoods, I've [called for an oversight hearing](#) to allow the Department of Public Works, the Public Utilities Commission, and PG&E to shed light on these issues for the public.



Scott with Supervisor Mark Farrell and Fire Chief Joanne Hayes-White at the Veteran's Day Parade

Housing Update

Since I took office in 2011, housing has been a significant focus for me. I helped craft, and campaigned for, the affordable housing trust fund, and I authored legislation to restrict conversion of rent-controlled units to student dorms, to [allow for smaller studios](#), and to improve our planning process for land use decisions. I also recently introduced legislation to allow for in-law units in the Castro area, as described in this [op ed](#) I recently published in the Bay Area reporter. Addressing our housing affordability challenges requires many different approaches, and allowing for in-law units is one of them, given that in-law units are the most affordable type of non-subsidized housing. A [recent opinion piece](#) in the San Francisco Chronicle powerfully argued that allowing new in-law units, along with creating a path for the legalization of existing units, would create thousands of affordable housing units and hundreds of jobs.

Real Foods Update: Road Trip to Utah

Noe Valley's 24th Street is a thriving commercial corridor. One continuing challenge has been the long-term vacancy at the former Real Foods site. This vacancy of more than 10 years has been a continuing frustration for neighbors. In October, I flew to Utah with Carol Yenne, owner of Small Frys, and another committed Noe Valley resident, to meet with senior management of Nutraceutical (Real Foods' parent company) and to convince them to get the space reopened. We had a very productive and collegial meeting of nearly three hours with the CEO and other senior management, who agreed to move forward next year. Click here for a news account [hyperlink to Noe Valley Voice]. The current building is structurally unsound and will need to be replaced. In addition, Nutraceutical indicated that after it replaces the building, it intends to lease out the commercial space to another commercial tenant rather than open up another Real Foods or other Nutraceutical brand. I anticipate that the company will come to the neighborhood early next year to present plans to the community. I'm cautiously optimistic that we will finally see a resolution to this vacancy.

Sugary Beverage Tax to Fund Active Recreation, Nutrition and Public Health

I recently [introduced legislation](#) to create a tax of two cents per ounce on the distribution of soda and other sugar-sweetened beverages in San Francisco. The proceeds of the tax will be legally dedicated to fund active recreation and nutrition programs in schools, parks, and elsewhere, for example, physical education, school lunch, after-school programs, expansion of recreation center hours and physical activity offerings, and programs by community based organizations offering physical activity, health, and nutrition programs. The goal is to have a measure on the ballot in November 2014. I'm working closely on the proposal with several of my colleagues, including Supervisors Eric Mar, Malia Cohen, and John Avalos. [Click here](#) for my statement on the legislation.

We are experiencing an epidemic of health problems caused by sugary beverages - including diabetes and obesity afflicting adults, teenagers, and even young children - and we have a responsibility to act to confront this escalating public health challenge. While researchers,

physicians, and community health advocates have made tremendous strides in educating the public on the negative health effects of sugary beverages, they agree that [more must be done](#).



Scott, Crispin Hollings, Heklina, and Peter at the Castro Country Club Awards Dinner. I was honored to receive an award.

Transportation Update

Transportation continues to be an area of great focus for me. For example:

Muni Quarterly Performance Report

MTA and the City Economic recently delivered the most recent [Quarterly Muni Performance Report](#), which I requested earlier this year as part of a continuing effort to highlight the need for more transit investment. The report provides details on service delivery, vehicle availability, on-time performance, extended line delays, bus crowding, and the economic impact of service disruptions on city productivity. The most recent report shows that many of the same challenges remain for Muni, including underperforming charter-mandated on-time performance, but that there have been periods with more vehicles in service and fewer subway meltdowns. This reduction in service disruptions coincides with an increase in the number of light-rail vehicles available, resulting from MTA's focus on rehabilitating LRVs. You can [view the report](#) here.

Update on Transportation Task Force

Key to the success of our public transportation system is improving our investment in the system's capital needs and state of good repair. For too long, we have allowed the system to deteriorate, leading directly to reliability and capacity problems. Mayor Lee's Transportation Task Force, on which I serve, has issued its [recommendations](#) to shore up the system's funding needs. The recommendations would raise almost \$3 billion over the next 15 years to resurface streets, pay for transit infrastructure needs for Muni, BART and Caltrain, fund improvements to Muni's state of good repair, and make pedestrian and bike improvements in the city. The recommendations are an excellent step forward to ensure that we are meeting the current and future transportation needs of our growing city.

Regional Transit Capital Needs

I represent San Francisco on the regional Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), which plays a key role in regional transit planning and funding. When the [MTC recently adopted Plan Bay Area](#) - the blueprint for transit investments through 2040 - I raised the concern that the plan included a \$17 billion capital funding gap for the Bay Area's transit system, largely related to Muni, BART, and AC Transit. I offered an amendment to the Plan dedicating Cap and Trade funding largely to these transit needs and directing MTC staff to formulate a plan to fill the gap. MTC staff recently proposed a solid plan to address the capital deficit, particularly for Muni, BART, and AC Transit, by providing significant regional matching funds for local agency investment. I'm very encouraged by this proposal and look forward to supporting it.



Scott at the Telegraph Hill Neighborhood Center Thanksgiving Dinner with volunteers

Bike Share Hearing

In November, I held a hearing on the launch and early performance of the [Bay Area Bike Share pilot program](#), which includes 350 (and shortly 500) bikes in San Francisco, and the Municipal Transportation Agency's plans for citywide expansion. Bay Area Bike Share, which launched on August 29th, is concentrated in San Francisco's downtown core between Civic Center and the Embarcadero. At the hearing, we learned that each bike is seeing an average of at least 2.5 bike trips per day within San Francisco, which is better than where Washington D.C. was after its initial bike share launch. With these successful first steps, we need to focus on expanding the program to other neighborhoods like the Castro, Mission, and beyond.

Golden Gate Bridge Toll Update

I serve as one of San Francisco's representatives on the Golden Gate Bridge Highway & Transportation District Board of Directors. We recently began the process to consider whether a [toll increase is warranted](#) to address the bridge's capital needs over the coming years. We are currently projecting a deficit. There will be a series of public meetings to receive feedback on the issue. [Click here](#) for more information.

Animal Updates

San Franciscans are passionate about our animal companions. I've been active on several relevant issues:

Resolution Opposing National Park Service Plan to Limit Dog Access

The Board of Supervisors unanimously passed a resolution I sponsored opposing the National Park Service's proposed plan to limit dog access in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. By restricting dog access at recreation areas such as Fort Funston, Crissy Field, and Ocean Beach, many San Franciscans' daily lives will be impacted. In addition, loss of these spaces will lead to dog over-crowding in our city parks. I look forward to a continuing dialogue with the National Park Service, to formulate a plan that takes into account the various uses of these federal properties.

Animal Care & Control Budget Hearing

Animal Care & Control provides an important safety net for all animals in our city and enforces animal welfare laws. I recently held a [hearing](#) to highlight the duties and budgetary needs of this important City department. Currently, Animal Care & Control's budget is insufficient to fulfill its many shelter, enforcement, and animal welfare functions. It's important to fully evaluate the department's staffing and budget needs to ensure that it can succeed in its important missions.



Scott speaking at rally opposing GGNRA proposed restrictions on dog access

Streetlight Hearing

On Monday, I held a hearing on the state of San Francisco's streetlights. This hearing followed up on a June 2012 hearing I conducted, during which we learned about the poor condition of many of San Francisco's streetlights, including poor response times to fix burned out lights. At that time, PG&E and the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) committed to improving their response time to broken streetlights. At this week's hearing, we learned that response times have improved significantly. We also discussed the need to improve lighting of sidewalks (pedestrian-grade lighting) in addition to lighting roadways and the possibility of consolidating our entire streetlight system under the PUC, as opposed to the current split ownership between PUC and PG&E. I am working on legislation to provide clearer standards for streetlight maintenance and operations in San Francisco.

Community Spotlight

Richard Magary



The Chronicle recently ran a profile on District 8 resident Richard Magary. Richard has been a tireless advocate for Buena Vista Park and other important issues in the District. It's great to see Richard getting recognized for his years of dedication to our parks and our city. [Click here](#) to read the report.

Community Updates

Glen Canyon Renovations

The renovations at Glen Canyon are taking shape, with the tennis courts and playgrounds in place. While there have been some complications that required extra utility work, the Rec Center work will be completed by December, which will allow for the center to reopen for programming beginning in January. The playground and tennis courts and other related park work is anticipated to be completed by late January. The plans to further expand the Rec Center are going through the approval process now, with construction expected to begin in 2015. For more information [click here](#). If you have further questions, please contact Karen Mauney-Brodek at Karen.Mauney-Brodek@sfgov.org or at 415-575-5601.

Noe Courts

Rec and Park has now convened four community meetings about plans for the future of Noe Courts, during which we have had robust discussions about how to best utilize a small neighborhood park. This small park serves a lot of different groups - families, dog owners, tennis players, basketball players and general park users - so any plan will have to accommodate a lot of interests in a small space. One option presented would keep the tennis court and also allow these courts to be used for basketball by placing half courts on either side of the net. Some tennis players expressed concern that this option wouldn't be ideal and could lead to conflict, but one solution could be to dedicate specific times to tennis and other times to mixed-use. This would allow us to keep the tennis court while expanding the amount of green space, creating areas where dogs are allowed and others where they are not. Rec and Park staff will analyze the various options and feedback received from the community and will make a recommendation. The Rec and Park Commission then will conduct a public hearing -- likely to occur this February - and make a decision. For more information about the project and the meetings, [click here](#) or contact Marvin Yee at (415) 581-2541 or at Marvin.Yee@sfgov.org.



Scott with Supervisor David Chiu dropping off relief donations for victims of Philippines typhoon at Westbay Pilipino Multi-Service Center

Diamond and Bosworth Intersection Improvements

After an extended process, the pedestrian and transportation safety improvements for the Diamond and Bosworth intersection are getting closer to becoming a reality. The required engineering for the project is nearly complete. There will be an additional opportunity for feedback when the Department of Public Works presents concepts for the design finishes - landscaping, sidewalk furniture, and other amenities - at an upcoming Glen Park Association meeting, likely in January. Currently we anticipate breaking ground early next year and expect a four-month construction duration. There will be another process to discuss intersection improvements at Bosworth and Arlington and Bosworth at Lyell in the coming months, so stay tuned.

Dolores and Market Pedestrian Plaza

The pedestrian plaza, sidewalk widening, and bulbouts at Dolores and Market are complete. These improvements, which were paid for by the development that includes the Whole Foods and residential housing at 2001 Market Street, have made the intersection a much safer and more welcoming environment for pedestrians.



The new sidewalk and streetscape improvements at Dolores and Market

Castro Streetscape Improvement Project Update

We're happy to report that Castro Streetscape Improvement Project is progressing on schedule. The Department of Public Works has completed its construction drawings, and the project is going through its public bidding process. Construction is anticipated to begin early in 2014 and be completed in October 2014. The Castro/Upper Market Community Benefit District has been working closely with the Department of Public Works and my office to provide community and merchant input on the designs of the streetscape project. Please visit www.castrostreet.org, hosted by the Castro/Upper Market CBD, for more information, updates, and construction alerts when the construction phase begins, or at DPW website at: www.sfdpw.org/castro



Scott with Ken Ring and Ken Cleaveland receiving the BOMA Public Official of the Year Award

24th Street Urban Village Streetscape Project Update

Over 40 people attended the first community meeting to determine the streetscape

improvement priorities of the Noe Valley commercial district along 24th Street on October 30, 2013. Held at the Sally Brunn Public Library, local residents were polled on what improvements they wished to see in their neighborhood. The discussion was lively and beneficial for city staff to begin to prioritize which of the wants and needs of the community might fit within the fixed budget for the project. The next community meeting will be on Thursday, January 23, 2014 at St. Philip Hall. Here the Department of Public Works will summarize the community input thus far and provide an additional opportunity for the community to provide feedback and input before moving to the design stage of the project. The Noe Valley Association has been instrumental in the outreach and logistics of these meetings. Please visit www.noevalleyassociation.org for more information on upcoming community meetings and news, or at SFPDW website at: www.sfdpw.org/noeurbanvillage

San Jose Avenue

After almost a decade of discussions between the City and Caltrans, I am happy to report that pedestrian and bike safety improvements along San Jose Avenue, between Highway 280 and Randall Street, are coming soon. Known affectionately by many as “the Cut,” improvements to this section of San Jose Avenue will be designed to ensure that vehicles are actually traveling at the posted speed limit. In doing so, we’ll be able to provide a safer, protected pathway for bikes and pedestrians. I convened a series of meetings with CalTrans and the MTA over the course of over a year to discuss these improvements and to plan out how to implement them. Because I was able to secure funding in this year’s budget, these safety improvements should be installed very soon. Along with the MTA and with CalTrans, I will be hosting a community meeting in January or early February to discuss the plan and to collect feedback.

Facebook contribution to Everett Middle School

Recently, I worked with Facebook, which donated laptops to students at Everett Middle School and a computer lab at Mission High School. I joined Facebook employees to distribute the laptops to Everett students. This was a [great event](#) to be a part of, and I hope that these computers help our students achieve success.



Scott helping give away laptops to Everett Middle School students

Community Calendar

Sidewalk Inspection and Repair Program Notice: Clarendon Heights

As part of the City's Sidewalk Inspection & Repair Program (SIRP), inspectors from the Department of Public Works-Bureau of Street-Use & Mapping will be conducting inspections on blocks in the Clarendon Heights neighborhood:

SIRP 71 Clarendon Heights A, bordered by
 19th Street on the North;
 Yukon / Stanton / Market on the East;
 Morgan / Corbett / Burnett on the South, and
 Market / Pemberton / Raccoon on the West

As part of the program, inspectors marked sidewalk and curb sections requiring repair and posting the properties to inform property owners that they will be receiving a mailed notification with specific details and information. Upon receiving their mailed notifications, property owners can appeal the report by calling the District Inspector issuing the notice. DPW will arrange to meet onsite with property owners to answer any questions that cannot be resolved over the phone. As a last resort, there will be a departmental public hearing tentatively scheduled for January 8, 2014. If you have any questions regarding the Sidewalk Inspection & Repair Program, please contact me Robert Quan,

Street Inspection Supervisor, at 554-5797 or Robert.Quan@sfdpw.org.



Scott at a College Hill Neighborhood Association Block Party

Arts Commission Town Hall

Saturday, December 14th

10:00am

Golden Gate Park

County Fair Building

1199 9th Avenue

Arts Commission Director of Cultural Affairs Tom DeCaigny will present the agency's vision for the next five years and its goal for getting there. You'll also have an opportunity to ask questions, share comments, and provide input on priorities for arts-related policy in the City.

Diamond Heights Holiday Party

Saturday, December 14th

3:00pm

St. Aidan's Church, 101 Gold Mine Drive

Join neighbors for food and drink, storytelling, children's games and prizes, and a visit from Santa. No reservations required for this free community event. For more information, call (415) 285-9540 x 3 or contact Betsy Eddy at betsy.eddy@gmail.com.

Santa Skivvies Run

Sunday, December 15th

11:00am

The Lookout, 3600 16th Street

The Santa Skivvies Run is a festive romp through the streets of the Castro neighborhood to support the free programs and services of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. [Click here](#) to find out more.



Scott on 24th Street in Noe Valley on Halloween

CMAC Holiday Party and Toy Drive

Tuesday, December 17th

6:00pm-9:00pm

Mezzanine, 444 Jessie Street

Bring a new unwrapped toy or a cash donation of \$20 for the Toy Fund to gain a free entry to this holiday party hosted by the California Muse and Culture Association (CMAC). CMAC is an alliance of venue owner, industry professionals, artists, and fans dedicated to the preservation and enrichment of music and culture. For more information, [click here](#).

NERT : Personal Readiness Training

Wednesday, January 15th

6:30pm-8:30pm

St. Mary Virgin Church

2325 Union Street

The San Francisco Neighborhood Emergency Response Team (NERT) is free training from the San Francisco Fire Department in how to help yourself and your neighbors prepare for and respond to a disaster by working together. The 20-hour training taught by First Responders includes personal preparedness, light search and rescue, disaster medicine, shutting off your utilities, and how to participate as a member of a neighborhood response team. NERT also offers continuing training for graduates and activities that support building robust neighborhood teams. For more information, visit the NERT website at <http://sfgov.org/sfndnert>, or contact Lt. Erica Arteseros at (415)970-2022 or sfndnert@sfgov.org.

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](#).



On December 1, the San Francisco Democratic Party honored past party chairs, including Scott. Also pictured: Mary Jung, Jane Morrison, Fiona Ma, Linda Post, Senator Mark Leno, and Matthew Rothschild

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.

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

LGBT Drop-In Club Weekly Workgroup at The Center

Weekly on Tuesdays

10:00-11:30am

The SF LGBT Center, 1800 Market Street

The Center's Workforce Development Program is pleased to provide a free workgroup open to all job seekers. Come network and get support with your job search. The Job Club is a peer-to-peer discussion group where you can share experiences / best practices and receive ongoing direction and advice from a career coach to help manage a productive job search. One-On-One drop-in is the best first step before attending the workgroup. If you have question regarding the group please contact Clair Farley, clairf@sfcenter.org. If you are interested in One-on-One job search and coaching please contact christinar@sfcenter.org or (415) 865-5614. Please note the building does not open to the public until noon. Job Club attendees please wait at the Center's main door and someone will let you in by 10:00am. Click [here](#) for more information



Scott with visitors from the Russian LGBT Community in the Castro (photo courtesy of Bill Wilson)

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, 415-509-6261 or Susan Walia, Castro Computer Services, 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