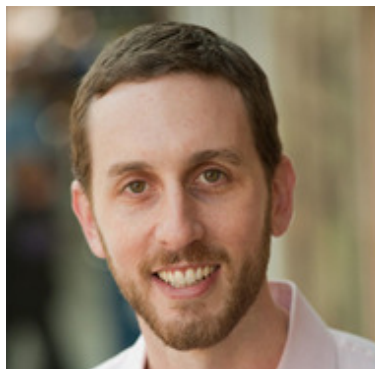




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SUPERVISOR SCOTT WIENER

San Francisco Board of Supervisors, District 8

May 2014 Newsletter

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Friday, June 6th

[March With Me At Pride!](#)

Please join me for the [45th SF Pride Parade on Sunday, June 29th!](#) Don't miss out on all the colorful and outrageous fun that makes Pride a must-attend event every year. For those who have never marched in the Parade before, this will be an unforgettable experience. Friends, families, children and pets are all encouraged to join in the festivities.



Date & time for the start of the parade are as follows:

Sunday, June 30th
10:00am-1:00pm (tentative)

To join us in the celebration, please email your name, and mobile number to Adam Taylor at adam.taylor@sfgov.org or call my office at 415-554-6968 or [click here](#). If you're interested in helping to organize or get other people involved, please contact Adam. Don't miss out on this fantastic, only in San Francisco celebration!

10:00am-12:00pm
City Hall, Room 274

Saturday, June 7th
11:00am-1:00pm
Bello Coffee & Tea
2885 Diamond Street
Glen Park

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.

[Support our Castro Street Merchants During Sidewalk Construction](#)

Castro Street is undergoing a transformative renovation, which is great news for the long-term vibrancy of the neighborhood. I've championed the project, secured its funding, and worked closely with city departments and the community to move it forward. Once completed, this upgrade will be hugely beneficial to merchants, residents, and visitors alike.

Yet, despite the great work of our Department of Public Works and the contractor, sidewalk work is never easy and always disruptive. Until the project is complete, our local businesses on Castro Street need our help to weather this temporary and unavoidable disruption. One of our community's great strengths is our ability to be there for each other when needed, and right now our merchants need us to take that extra step. If you live in or visit the neighborhood, please go out of your way to patronize businesses on Castro Street. I've been going out of my way to do so, and I hope you will join me. The merchants always appreciate your business, but especially now. I want to thank the Castro Biscuit for the idea of [organizing Cash Mobs](#) for our local businesses - it's a great idea to motivate people to rally for our merchants.



Scott with Board President David Chiu and Judge Vaughan Walker (photo credit: Bill Wilson)

Policy Work

Utility Box (eg. AT&T Boxes) Legislation Passes

This week, the Board of Supervisors [unanimously passed my legislation](#) to improve the standards and process for placing utility boxes, such as AT&T's proposed boxes, on our city sidewalks. Under state law, we cannot prohibit these boxes, but we can put standards in place to protect our neighborhoods. After I held a hearing earlier this year, where we heard over two hours of public comment from neighbors frustrated with the process of placing AT&T U-verse cabinets on our streets, I committed to addressing these issues. The legislation, for the first time, puts binding procedures in place to require early and comprehensive outreach to neighborhoods, requires utilities to allow murals on their boxes and plant/maintain greening near the boxes if requested, imposes strict graffiti abatement standards, requires utilities to make meaningful efforts to place the boxes on private property, and mandates an annual assessment of the technical feasibility of undergrounding the boxes. The legislation is a positive step forward.

HIV Funding Update

Since I've been in office, I've worked hard every budget cycle to ensure that we protect funding for HIV care and prevention services and that we backfill in our city budget any federal HIV funding cuts. Since 2011, we've experienced over \$20 million in federal HIV cuts, and thanks to a joint commitment by Mayor Lee and the Board of Supervisors, we've backfilled every penny locally. Last week, I held a hearing at the Budget and Finance Committee on yet additional federal HIV cuts, estimated to be \$2.7 million. At the hearing Mayor Lee's budget staff announced that [the Mayor will propose backfilling 100% of those cuts](#). Lives depend on this funding, and I'm proud that San Francisco is continuing to show unwavering support for those living with and at-risk for HIV. Please take a moment to thank Mayor Lee for his continuing support and leadership on this critical issue.

Keeping our City Green, Safe & Clean

In recent years, San Francisco's parks and other public spaces haven't received the attention they deserve. Our parks are regularly trashed with graffiti, vandalism, and dumping, and our park trees are in poor shape. Our plazas, transit stations, and other public spaces are often filthy, and our public landscaping isn't maintained as frequently as we all would like. Over the past number of years, the City has systematically depleted staffing for park patrol, park tree maintenance, and public space cleaning crews and gardeners.

I recently announced a budget proposal to address these issues by reversing these staffing cuts. Working closely with community organizations San Francisco Parks Alliance, Friends of the Urban Forest, and San Francisco Beautiful, I'm proposing to double the size of park patrol (currently park patrol is so understaffed that there are typically two park patrol officers on duty at any given time for our 220 park properties); to increase Rec & Park's tree maintenance team (Rec & Park currently has enough staffing to perform routine maintenance on park trees every 75 years); and to restore the Department of Public Works' cleaning crew and landscaping staffing to what it was in 2008.



Scott with volunteers and Rec & Park staff at Buena Vista work day

Pedestrian Safety, Street Design and the Fire Department

Making our streets safer is a top policy priority for me, my colleagues, the Mayor, and voters. Too many people are getting hit and killed on our streets, and good street design is key to improving safety. Good street design - particularly streets that aren't overly wide, is key. Wider streets leads to faster traffic. Faster traffic means more accidents and more severe accidents. Wide streets also mean longer crossing distances for pedestrians. For years, we've worked hard to create safer streets, but recently, several city departments, including the fire department, have [been advocating for wider residential streets](#). The fire department has objected to a number of pedestrian safety improvements, and recently, the department has advocated for wide residential side streets in our largest new development, Candlestick Point and Hunters Point. Wider residential streets is a bad idea. Traffic will be faster, more accidents will occur, and this neighborhood will be less walkable and less livable for residents. I'm a big supporter and admirer of our fire department, and I understand the department's desire to facilitate movement of its fire trucks. Yet, in designing our streets, we must take into account both the needs of fire trucks as well as the needs of the community that will reside here and that needs safely designed streets.

Earlier this week, I held an [oversight hearing](#) to shed light for the public on this important issue and, particularly, the terrible precedent that will be set if overly wide streets are implemented in Hunters Point. At the hearing, we heard from city departments and heard from residents and advocates for pedestrian safety and good urban design about how wide streets will negatively impact our city and future street developments. I am working on legislation to clarify and improve our city codes so that we have much clearer street design requirements and oversight of street design in our neighborhoods. We cannot go back to the bad old days where we chose freeway-style streets over walkable and livable neighborhood streets.



Scott and friends getting ready to ride to City Hall on Bike to Work Day

Transportation Work

Improving Late Night Transportation

San Francisco is a world-class city and has a great nightlife, but our late night transportation system does not reflect those facts. Muni subway and BART service end early. Late night bus service is sporadic. We don't have enough cabs. The lack of adequate late night transportation options undermines our \$4.2 billion nighttime economy, which employs over 50,000 people and generates \$55 million in annual taxes. The lack of good options makes it hard for late night patrons to get home, encourages drunk driving, and places a huge burden on late night workers, particularly those who work in San Francisco and live in the East Bay.

Last month, I [held a hearing on the issue](#), where we heard from many businesses, workers, and nightlife advocates. I then [introduced a resolution](#) at the Board of Supervisors - which the Board passed - stating the importance of improving late night transportation and forming a working group to formulate policy recommendations to improve service. Our city has never before crafted a policy framework for improved nighttime transit, and this working group will provide that framework.

Muni Performance Hearing

Last year, I called for a hearing on Muni Performance and Productivity Impacts, and called for subsequent quarterly reports that include details on service delivery, on-time performance, extended line delays, bus crowding, and the economic impact of service disruptions on city productivity. This past month, I [held a hearing](#) to review how these numbers look after a year, and what efforts MTA has made to improve service. There have been some encouraging improvements to address inefficiencies in the subway system, and the new buses we have purchased are helping to improve service on our bus lines. Yet, we still have a long way to go toward improving service. You can view the latest quarterly [report here](#).

Light Rail Vehicle Seat Reconfiguration

Last year, Supervisor London Breed and I requested that MTA explore the feasibility of [reconfiguring the seating in our light rail vehicles](#) to have more standing room in order to increase passenger capacity. By eliminating a few seats, while retaining plenty of seats for those who need them, we can increase the number of people who can fit onto the trains during our crowded rush hours, or when there are gaps in service. Planners estimate we can add 5-8 more passengers per train car with this kind of configuration. This week, Supervisor Breed and I got the opportunity to ride a prototype that MTA built. I want to especially recognize Supervisor Breed's aide Conor Johnston, who did great work helping to make this solution a reality.



Scott riding the newly reconfigured LRV with Supervisor Breed, MTA Director of Transportation Ed Reiskin, and MTA Director of Transit John Haley

Transportation Task Force and November Funding Measures

Due to years of neglect and lack of prioritization of transit funding - resulting in billions in deferred capital needs - fixing our transportation system is going to take a significant capital investment and commitment from City Hall and the city residents. Our city continues to grow, and we must invest aggressively to improve the system's reliability and capacity. Last year, Mayor Lee convened a Transportation Task Force to study these needs and come up with funding solutions. I served on the task force, and we are now [moving forward](#) with our first capital transportation bond and a proposal to return the vehicle license fee (VLF) to its historic level (2% of the value of the vehicle) before Governor Schwarzenegger slashed it in 2004. The bond will fund a number of critical Muni capital needs. The VLF will permanently fund road resurfacing - ensuring steady funding - as well as Muni capital and vehicle needs.

On Wednesday June 4, we will hold a District 8 meeting on these proposals at the LGBT Center (see Calendar below). I encourage everyone to come out and learn more about these important measures.

Soda Tax

Our proposal to place a two penny per ounce tax on the distribution of sodas and other sugary beverages to fund nutrition, health, and physical activity programs in our schools, parks, and health centers continues to move forward at the Board of Supervisors. We have been doing significant outreach to merchants, neighborhood groups, and other organizations to gather feedback and explain the importance of combating the rise of diseases like diabetes by reducing consumption of sugary drinks. We continue to gain broad support from healthcare, education, and community organizations, including recent endorsements by the California Medical Association and the California Nurses Association. More information at www.choosehealthsf.com. We are holding a series of hearings on the measure and the health impacts if soda and other sugary drinks.



Scott and Bea Cardenas speaking about the soda tax on Univision's Al Despertar with Fabiola

Unfortunately the beverage industry persists in spreading misinformation about the measure. The industry has already been [spending a lot of corporate money falsely claiming](#) that certain small businesses are opposing the soda tax, [scaring small businesses with inaccurate claims](#), and mischaracterizing the measure. The industry is even offering free raffle prizes for people who sign up to oppose the soda tax:



I look forward to a continued factual and accurate dialogue at City Hall and in the community about this important public health measure.

Arcade Legislation

Our Municipal Code contains many outdated provisions that can negatively affect our city and small businesses. I've addressed this problem with [previous legislation regarding secondhand stores](#) and [the Tamale Lady](#), and this month I teamed up with Supervisor London Breed to take on another provision in the police code that arbitrarily limited the number of [pinball machines](#) an establishment can have. Doing away with antiquated provisions like these will help our small businesses succeed, create jobs, and grow our tax base.

Community Spotlight

Zoon Nguyen

I honored Castro resident Zoon Nguyen at the Asian Pacific American Month Awards at the Board of Supervisors. Zoon has had a distinguished career in the Assessor-Recorder's Office, most recently serving as the Deputy Assessor-Recorder. I was pleased to recognize Zoon for her years of service to the City.



Scott with Zoon and her family at the Board of Supervisors

Community Updates

Castro Streetscape Construction

The construction work on Castro Street between Market Street and 19th Street is still moving ahead on schedule and soon we will have a more walkable and beautiful street for all to enjoy. By Frameline and Pride in June all of the major renovations including the sidewalk widening will be complete, leaving only mostly aesthetic improvements like planting, painting the rainbow walk, refurbishing Jane Warner Plaza and lightpost installations to be completed afterwards. As I mentioned earlier in the newsletter, we need to all make an extra effort to visit our merchants during this short disruption. For more information about the project design or to contact the Department of Public Works, [click here](#).

24th Street Urban Village Streetscape Project Update

The 24th Street Urban Village Streetscape Improvement Project is moving along on schedule. The scope of the project involves bus-bulbs at the southeast corner of Castro and 24th Streets and the southwest corner of Noe and 24th Streets. Decorative crosswalks between Castro Street and Church Street along 24th Street will also be installed. Each new bus-bulb will have a new bus shelter, seating, and planters. MTA has agreed to fund the bus-bulb along the Castro and 24th Streets corner along Castro Street, so expect a new wrapped corner bus-bulb that will improve efficiency on two different bus lines. DPW has concluded the design phase of the project, with completed construction drawings forthcoming. The design is moving through environmental review. Contract advertising is set for the end of May or beginning of June, with construction start expected in September 2014. The construction duration is two months. This streetscape project will spotlight 24th Street as a community and transit hub, and is part of a greater City initiative to construct safer, greener, and more beautiful streets.



At St Johns Episcopal Church with Nancy Pelosi and labor and community leaders washing feet of undocumented immigrants at risk of family separation

Noe Courts

The SF Recreation and Park Department in collaboration with my office and the Friends of Noe Courts Park held four community meetings from May 2013 to November 2013 to develop a park improvement plan for Noe Courts Park. A common theme that arose in the first two meetings was the need for a clean, green space that is not dominated by dog activity, and a general need for more green space for families to gather and kids to play. The proposed park improvement plan achieves this by combining the basketball and tennis courts to create additional lawn area, and to designate a portion of the lawn to “people only”. I recognize that there isn’t unanimous support in the community for this plan. It became apparent through this process that there were strong, conflicting views about use of this small park space. While I acknowledge and respect that not everyone agrees with the proposed renovation plan, I believe the proposal is a good one.

Dolores Park

Phase I of the Dolores Park renovations are going well. The Recreation and Parks Department is working to manage the amount of dust from construction, and the Department appreciates the neighbors' patience with the work to improve the park. If you would like to volunteer and help keep Dolores Park clean and safe please contact RPD Volunteer Office [here](#). For more information about the project or to contact Rec and Park, [click here](#).

Expanded Hours for Libraries

Effective last week, two libraries in District 8 will [now be open 7 days a week](#). Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Library was previously closed Mondays and Glen Park Library was previously closed on Sundays, but both will now be open every day. This is great news for the District. The expanded hours are being paid for by voter-approved library funds, as well as increased staffing efficiencies.



Scott at Dogfest in Duboce Park with fellow judges and Supervisor London Breed.

Community Calendar

SF72: Emergency Preparedness

San Francisco's new hub for emergency preparedness is SF72 (www.sf72.org). You'll find information about what to do in an emergency, simple steps to get connected, and useful guides to help you get prepared. Share SF72 with a friend—and help your loved ones and your city get prepared. Emergencies are opportunities to come together and support those around you. Sharing a meal, book, or phone charger are even more meaningful in the days after an emergency than before. Sharing experience can go a long way too! Watch sf72.org/stories to see how people in your community are sharing and preparing together. What would you share? Start with your plan and send it to your friends and family: sf72.org/plan

Conflict Resolution Services

Are you having difficulty with someone? A loud neighbor? Disrespectful roommate? Unresponsive landlord? Community Boards' Neighborhood Mediation Plan can assist you with quality of life issues (noise, parking, pets, graffiti, maintenance, etc) or relationship conflicts (family members, roommates, landlords, neighbors, etc). Contact them at 415-920-3820 or www.communityboards.org

School District Parcel Taxes and Possible Homeowner Exemptions

In June 2008 and June 2010, the voters of San Francisco overwhelmingly passed the Quality Teacher Education Act of 2008 and the School Facilities Special Tax of 2010 to provide critically needed funds to the San Francisco Unified School District. In accordance with the language of these ballot measures, homeowners may apply to have certain parcels exempted from one or both of these levies for the 2014-15 tax year, provided they meet specific criteria:

- For the Quality Teacher and Education Act of 2008, the owner of the parcel must occupy it as their primary residence and be 65 years or older on or before June 30, 2015.
- For the School Facilities Special Tax of 2010, the unit must be the primary residence of an occupant (either an owner or tenant) who will be 65 years or older on or before June 30, 2015.

To apply for this exemption or learn more, you can [click here](#) or call (415) 355-2203. The **deadline for the exemption application is June 30, 2014** and homeowners must renew their application every year in order to be exempted for the coming tax year. There is no automatic renewal.



Kids lined up for the Duboce Park Easter Egg Roll

Join Castro Ambassadors!

Do you like to help tourists find their way and learn about the Castro? Join the Castro Ambassadors. The Castro Ambassadors are a great group of volunteers who share their knowledge of the neighborhood with visitors from all over the world. We ask for a minimum commitment of 4 hrs./month. Being an ambassador is a great way to give back to the community, meet new friends and have fun! Interested? Go to: <http://www.castrocbd.org/index.php/our-services/castro-ambassador> to sign up.

GLBT Historical Society Main Gallery Opening

Thursday, May 15th

7:00pm-9:00pm

4127 18th Street

Attend a free grand opening to the first exhibition of "Queer Past Becomes Present" in the remodeled main gallery. [Click here](#) for more information.

Alvarado Elementary School Spring Carnival

Saturday, May 17th

12:00pm-4:00pm

625 Douglass Street

Bring your kids for an afternoon of games, food and fun, all to benefit Alvarado Elementary School.

Harvey Milk Day Celebration

Thursday, May 22nd

5:00pm

Harvey Milk Plaza

Castro Street at Market Street

In honor of Harvey Milk Day, Supervisor Wiener and others will be celebrating Harvey Milk Day by unveiling the USPS brand new Harvey Milk stamp. The first day of sale of the Harvey Milk stamp is May 22nd. This event is sponsored by the Castro/Upper Market Community Benefit District.



With members of the clergy at Easter celebration in the Castro benefitting the San Francisco Night Ministry

Carnaval San Francisco

Friday, May 23rd to Sunday May 25th

Harrison Street between 16th Street and 24th Street

This year's theme of the 36th Annual Carnaval is La Rumba de la Copa Mundial - Celebration of the World Cup. San Francisco's Mission District will be bursting with soccer, international music, dance, global cuisine and arts & crafts from the many countries that celebrate Carnaval. The 2-day Festival takes place on Harrison Street between 16th and 24th Streets and will include all of these and other fun activities and entertainment on every street corner for the entire family to enjoy. For more information, [click here](#).

The Dinner Party III: A Roxie Theater Benefit

Wednesday, May 28th

6:00pm

The Verdi Club

2424 Mariposa Avenue

Attend a fundraiser to support the Roxie Theater. Located in the heart of San Francisco's Mission District, the Roxie exists to showcase the best/coolest/raddest/true-ist/funniest/trippiest/fake-ist movies of the past, present and future! [Click here](#) for more information.

Bike to Work with Supervisor Wiener

Friday, May 30th

7:30am

Jane Warner Plaza

Get your morning bike-commute rolling by joining other riders and commute downtown together in comfort and camaraderie. Join District 8 Supervisor Scott Wiener and SF Bicycle Coalition's Director John Calaway to learn and share ideas on bicycle happenings in your neighborhood.

Stern Grove on the Road

Sunday, June 1st

11:00am-3:00pm

Noe Valley Town Square

Stern Grove Festival has recently begun a project to bring admission-free arts programming to neighborhoods in San Francisco titled Grove on the Road. [Click here](#) for more information.

Transportation 2030 Community Meeting

Wednesday, June 4th

5:00pm-7:30pm

LGBT Center, 1800 Market Street

Join Supervisor Wiener and leaders from MTA and DPW for a presentation on the Transportation 2030 Task Force findings and proposals, followed by a question and answer session.

Buena Vista Park Summer Work Days

Saturday, June 7th

9:00AM-12:00PM

Children's Playground at Waller & BV West

Join neighbors and park lovers for some volunteer work in Buena Vista Park. Tools and gloves are provided but you can bring your own if you prefer. Be sure to wear sturdy shoes and long-sleeved shirt. Individuals kindly RSVP to recparkvolunteers@sfgov.org.

Supervisor Wiener's Diamond Heights and Glen Park Community Meeting

Saturday, June 7th, 4:00 pm

St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, Lower Level

101 Gold Mine Drive at Diamond Heights Blvd.

The public is invited to discuss neighborhood issues directly with the Supervisor. For information, please call Supervisor Wiener's office at 415-554-6968.

2014 SF Housing Expo

Saturday, June 14th, 2014

11:00am-5:00pm

St. Marys Cathedral, 1111 Gough St.

The event is to provide free information and resources for homebuyers, homeowners and tenants. We will feature local services, programs and financial tools to help SF residents achieve and maintain affordable housing in one of the most expensive real estate markets in the nation. Please [click here](#) more information. For further questions, please contact Catalina Valencia at 415-202-5464 or Catalina@homeownershipsf.org.

NERT Training

St. Kevin Church

702 Cortland Ave

Tuesdays, June 17th to July 15th

6:30p-10:00p

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](#), or contact Lt. Erica Arteseros at (415) 970-2022 or sffdert@sfgov.org.



Scott at the UCSF Alliance Health Project's 30th Anniversary Celebration

Thriving in 2014

Tuesday, June 24th

8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Milton Marks Conference Center

445 Golden Gate Avenue

The Positive Resource Center and Senator Mark Leno are co-sponsoring a free, day long program for providers and people living with HIV/AIDS. Thriving in 2014 is comprised of a series of interactive exercises and explorations to encourage participation from the attendees. The morning session will consist of two panels of specialists (the first on access to income, the second on access to healthcare) who will discuss issues raised by the attendees. The afternoon breakout sessions will consist of Community Dialogues in subject areas including, Employment, Disability, Access to Healthcare, Immigrants' Access to Public Benefits, Housing, and HIV & Seniors. Participants will engage in small group discussions on their chosen topics. The groups will reconvene and share their findings. For more information, please contact Vaughn Villaverde at 415.972.0874 or [click here](#).

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.