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SUPERVISOR SCOTT WIENER

SAN FRANCISCO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, DISTRICT 8

September 2014 Newsletter

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Policy Work

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Well-lit streets and sidewalks create a safe and vibrant nighttime environment. For too long we have not prioritized our streetlight system, which lacks a clear policy vision, adequate resources for maintenance, and sufficient coordination. The result is outdated streetlights with massive deferred maintenance and overly long waits to fix burned out lights. To get the system on track, I recently introduced legislation to [set clear standards and mandates around streetlights](#). The legislation will establish standards - such as requiring all burnouts and other simple fixes be addressed within 48 hours, converting to LED lights and installing pedestrian scale lighting. It also requires development of a plan for the city to assume sole ownership and management of all city streetlights. Currently our streetlights are split between the Public Utilities Commission and PG&E, leading to service overlap and confusion.

[Allowing New In-Law Units in Connection With Seismic Retrofits](#)

Ensuring the seismic safety of our housing stock and creating new housing are both pressing needs in our city. To address both, [I introduced legislation](#) allowing building owners who are seismically retrofitting their buildings - whether voluntarily or as mandated by city ordinance - to add in-law units while they're at it. Combining these efforts will make it cheaper and easier to add these units, will incentivize owners to seismically retrofit their buildings, and will add much-needed new housing. In-law units are the most affordable type of non-subsidized housing. As with my previous legislation allowing new in-law units in the Castro, the units will have to be within the existing building envelope, and units added into rent controlled buildings will also be rent controlled.

[Market Street Sewer Replacement](#)
[Earthquake Preparedness](#)
[Market Street Prototype](#)
[7th Annual NEN Awards](#)

[Community Calendar](#)

[Office Hours](#)

Friday, October 3rd
10:00am-12:00pm
City Hall, Room 274

Saturday, October 4th
1:00pm-3:00pm
Church Street Cafe
260 Church Street

NOTE: Please call the office to put your name on the office hours list so that we can notify you if any changes occur. 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.



Scott visiting the Kimochi Senior Center in Japantown

Late Night Transit Survey

We need better and safer late night transit for residents, workers, and visitors to our city. Our late night sector, in addition to being part of our cultural lifeblood, is a \$4.2 billion part of our economy, employs 53,000 people, and generates over \$50 million in tax revenue. Yet, our late night transportation system doesn't reflect the importance of this sector. Late night options are limited or non-existent, which leads to drunk driving and makes it very challenging for workers who get off work or start work late night or early morning.

Earlier this year, I held a hearing at the Board of Supervisors on the need for better late night transit and authored legislation [to create a working group](#) to come up with solutions for this longstanding problem. The working group is working hard and has put together a late night survey to gather data about late night transportation needs.

- [Survey in English](#)
- [Survey in Spanish](#)
- [Survey in Chinese](#)

Please take the survey to help us better understand the problems surrounding late night transit and how we can work to fix them.

Private Schools Seismic Safety Legislation Passes

Last week at the Board of Supervisors, we approved legislation requiring that private schools in San Francisco undergo a seismic evaluation within the next three years. This is not a retrofit requirement, but it will allow everyone to have a better understanding of our private schools' seismic safety and what, if any, work needs to be done to make these buildings safe for our kids, teachers, and staff. When the legislation was first introduced, we heard concerns from the private school community - particularly those schools that serve low income and working class communities - that the legislation might cause schools to close. I then worked closely with representatives from the private school community and the Mayor's office to ensure that the legislation struck the right balance in terms of improving private school safety while allowing the schools to continue to serve the community. We were able to strike a solid balance.



Scott watching as Board President David Chiu swears in District 8 resident Dennis Richards to the Planning Commission

[Envisioning an End to the HIV Epidemic: Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis \(PrEP\)](#)

After 30 years of robust HIV prevention efforts, new infections continue - nearly 400 a year in San Francisco, 50,000 nationally, and 2 million worldwide. In addition, a recent study showed that HIV awareness among gay men is remarkably low. (Link: Sunday Ny times article on kaiser study) PrEP is a recently approved daily pill that reduces the risk of HIV infection by up to 99%, with few if any side effects in most people. PrEP is a key tool in reducing infections, yet awareness of it is limited, as is access. We are exploring various ways of increasing access to this powerful prevention tool. In order to raise awareness and to reduce the stigma surrounding PrEP, I recently announced in a [Huffington Post essay that I'm using PrEP](#). My announcement was covered in the [Chronicle](#), [New York Times](#), and [KQED](#), among other outlets. I hope that by making this disclosure, we can move the conversation forward and make sure that everyone who can benefit from PrEP is aware of it, talks to his or her doctor about it, and has access to it.

Hearing on Towing of Stolen Cars

Anyone who's had his or her car towed knows the pain of having to pay expensive fees and fines. This overly expensive and time consuming process becomes especially troubling when the owner of a stolen car learns that the car has been located and towed and that to recover the car, the owner is required to fork over hundreds or thousands of dollars in fines and towing and storage charges. These fees are part of the city's towing contract with Auto Return, the private business that provides towing service for the City. Under the contract, the owner of a stolen car has little or no time - hours at the most - to learn about and retrieve the car before fees begin to accrue. Auto Return has done a good job cleaning up San Francisco's notoriously corrupt towing contract, and the company deserves a lot of credit. But this aspect of the contract is unfair, and it needs to be changed.

The towing contract will be up for renewal next year, so in advance [I've called for an oversight hearing](#) where Auto Return, MTA, and the Police Department will report on how fees and penalties are structured, how towed stolen cars are handled, and how any new contract can be modified to treat the owners of stolen towed vehicles more fairly. Reform of how we treat owners of stolen vehicles, in my view, is essential to an acceptable contract.

New Light Rail Vehicle Purchase

Muni's light rail vehicles - which are few in number and prone to breakdowns - are the top source of lack of reliability in the system. They cause daily havoc for riders, leading to gaps in service and significant over-crowding. Replacing and expanding the light rail fleet is a top priority. Last week, the Board of Supervisors approved the purchase of the next generation of light rail vehicles from Siemens. These badly needed new LRVs will replace the current defective fleet, while also expanding the size of the fleet significantly. Approval of this contract is a big step forward for our city. Now we need to ensure that it's fully funded over time. The first [new vehicles will come online in 2017](#), with continued rollout thereafter. We need to do everything in our power to accelerate the rollout.



Scott speaking at the annual Pistahan Parade and Festival with Assemblymembers Phil Ting and Rob Bonta, and others

TransBay Terminal and the Downtown Rail Extension

Extending CalTrain and High Speed Rail from 4th and King Streets to the future Transbay Transit Center - which is currently under construction - is an essential part of our transportation and economic future in San Francisco, the region, and the state. Funding for that extension will come from a variety of sources, and one key source is a transportation assessment from new development in the vicinity. Several years ago, we significantly increased height limits in the area - thus dramatically increasing the value of tenant - in exchange for the developments paying an assessment to help fund the transit center and train extension. This was a fair deal, but recently the developers tried to negotiate these payments to be lower - even going so far as to threaten a lawsuit if the city didn't reduce the amount. I vocally opposed a reduction,

given the importance of this transit project, and [the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor held firm.](#)

Giant Sequoia Tree Landmarking Legislation

Last week, the Board of Supervisors unanimously passed my legislation to landmark a Giant Sequoia tree in Corbett Heights. This tree is a vibrant and healthy specimen, at nearly 100 feet tall and 12 feet in diameter, and is visible throughout the neighborhood. Giant Sequoias are native to California, but very few exist in San Francisco. Over the past number of months, I've been working closely with Corbett Heights Neighbors, the local neighborhood association, and various neighbors to move this landmarking forward. We can now ensure that this beautiful tree is preserved for future generations of San Franciscans to enjoy.

Parent PAC Report Card: Straight A's!

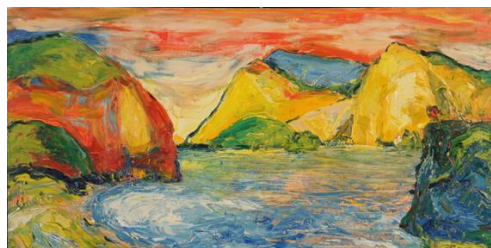
Recently the San Francisco Parent Political Action Committee released its [Report Card for members of the Board of Supervisors](#). I'm happy to report that I received an "A" rating. The Parent PAC based its evaluation on various positions around issues of importance to parents, including school funding, recreational access, and public safety.



Scott with Board President David Chiu, Rec and Park General Manager Phil Ginsburg and Street Soccer USA participants at Civic Center Plaza.

Community Spotlight

Marius Starkey



Alaska

Marius Starkey is an artist and District 8 resident whose beautiful artwork has been gracing the walls of our office here for the last several weeks. We are lucky to have this work temporarily on loan from Marius. You can see more of Marius' art at his website <http://artistmarius.com/>. Or

you can come by the office to see it in person.

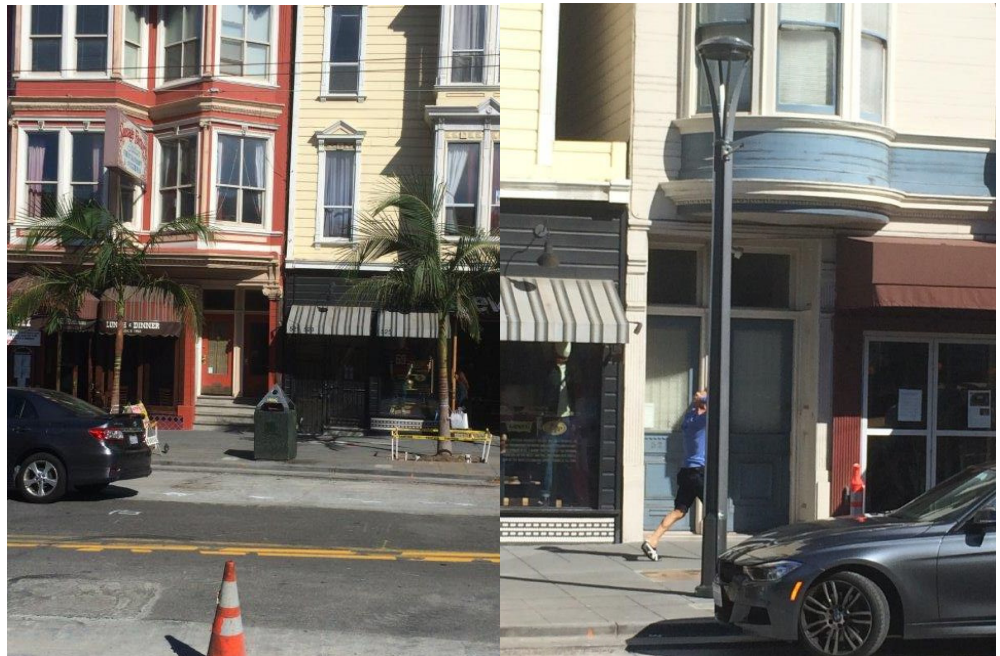


Flame

Community Updates

Castro Street Update

The Castro Street sidewalk and streetscape project is in its home stretch. By the end of this week, the entire project will be done with just a few exceptions, including the arrival of the new Muni overhead wire poles, the refurbishment and upgrade of Jane Warner Plaza, and the repaving of the very degraded Castro/Market intersection. As of today there will be no more overnight heavy construction work. The project is looking great, especially the new trees and streetlights. I know this project has been rough on both merchants and residents. Recently, there's been some overnight work, which has been particularly distressing to neighbors. The worst is behind us, and we are all very grateful for everyone's perseverance. This project will be a major improvement to our treasured Castro Street for many years to come.



The new street trees and streetlights on Castro Street

Public Safety in the Castro and Upper Market Areas

Recently a number of events in the Castro and Upper Market areas - including a shooting on Collingwood Street, violence during Pink Saturday, and the killing of a member of our community on Church Street - have raised very justifiable concern among residents. More broadly, there have been a [range of quality-of-life challenges throughout the area](#) and repeated requests by residents for a stronger police presence. I have been working with the police department to ensure greater attention is given to this area. I also was able to obtain funding in the recently adopted budget to fund the "Castro Cares" pilot program to devote additional enforcement and social work support to the neighborhood. These challenges aren't easy to

address, but we are working hard to make positive change.

Pink Saturday Update

We recently held a large community meeting, with co-hosts the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, to [discuss the future of Pink Saturday](#) (the night before Pride). Pink Saturday has been an institution in the community for years and has traditionally been a fun and festive way for our neighborhood and community to celebrate Pride weekend. Unfortunately, in recent years, the event has grown considerably and become very challenging. Later in the evening, the vibe changes from a community celebration to an alcohol-fueled party having little to do with Pride or the LGBT community. At the community meeting, we discussed various ideas to improve the event, including ending it a few hours earlier. Stay tuned for information as the process for next year moves forward.

Noe Valley Town Square Update

The Noe Valley Town Square is currently in the design phase, with the groundbreaking for permanent improvements scheduled to begin in August of 2015. Last year, I [worked to pass legislation](#) that authorized the purchase of the parking lot on 24th Street to turn it into a public park. Since then the Residents for Noe Valley Town Square and the Recreation and Park Department have been working to secure funding for these improvements from a number of sources. So far we have \$743,500 in federal funding and an additional \$559,000 in state funding. We are waiting to hear on our Community Opportunity Fund from Rec and Park. To date the Residents of Noe Valley Town Square have also collected approximately \$400,000 of community pledges. To learn more about the project or to get involved, [click here](#).

Dolores Park Update

Mission Dolores Park's construction is progressing, with some exciting finish elements being installed recently:

- The concrete at the 19th Street Plaza and 19th Street Promenade is almost complete. The concrete creates a framework for the planting and irrigation to start, including last week's relocation of two large palm trees.
- The Operations Building is quickly growing. The exterior walls are complete and the interior walls and roof are currently being framed. Additional structural elements and finishes are being put in place now to support the basketball court on the roof.
- The North Restroom is looking amazing: the cedar ceiling was installed recently & the final roof materials will go in next. Most importantly, plumbing has started!

The project's next steps include installing the soccer field drainage system - this is a state-of-the-art system that was designed in coordination with the PUC. The new drainage system will ensure that the field drains quickly and efficiently while also meeting the guidelines for sustainable treatment of stormwater.

Despite the active progress at the park, the project has been delayed by a couple unforeseen challenges, and we now expect the first phase of the project to be completed in early 2015. Shortly after the first phase is complete, the second phase of construction will take place on the south side of the park. The Recreation & Park Department appreciates your patience during the construction and apologizes for any inconvenience this may have caused.

You can read more about the delay, see photos, and watch video clips at the [Recreation & Park Department's website for the project](#).



Scott at the American Heart Association's San Francisco Heart Walk

Glen Park Rec Center Public Art Selection Update

The Glen Canyon Art Selection Panel will meet and review a group of shortlisted artists on September 30th. This shortlist of artists will be selected from the pre-qualified and other recent public art project pools, managed by the Art Commission. At the meeting three finalists will be selected from this shortlist to create proposals for the Glen Canyon Recreation Center Public Art Opportunity. This is a public meeting, so please feel free to attend and provide feedback in the public comment portion of the meeting. It will be held: **September 30th, 2-6pm at 25 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 70.** Later in the year a final selection panel will be held to select 1 artist for the commission. The agenda will be posted online 72 hrs before the panel. Further information regarding the art commission's public art policies and procedures [can be found here](#).

Market Street Sewer Replacement Project

The San Francisco Department of Public Works (DPW) is working with the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) to complete much needed infrastructure upgrades in your neighborhood. DPW has hired Esquivel Grading & Paving, Inc. to replace and/or rehabilitate (re-line) the sewer main along several blocks of Market Street between Argent Alley and Castro Street. This contract will also include sewer main replacement work on between Market Street and 18th Street. Construction is scheduled to begin the week of September 8, 2014, with completion scheduled for May 2015. Sewer service will not be interrupted during replacement/rehabilitation work. Please continue to use your household plumbing as usual. For more information, contact Alex Murillo from the Department of Public Works at 437-7009.

Earthquake Preparedness

The Department of Emergency Management wants to remind you to use the Napa Earthquake as a reminder to both build your own earthquake preparedness and to connect with your community. Below are four steps you can take right now:

- Visit www.sf72.org to learn how to be prepared for earthquakes (along with any type of emergency), and ask your neighbors to do the same.
- Register for the City's free e-mail and text-based emergency notification system www.AlertSF.org.
- Follow the Department of Emergency Management's Twitter feeds @SF_Emergency and @SF72org for emergency information and safety tips.
- Sign up for the San Francisco Fire Department's free Neighborhood Emergency Response Team (NERT) training.

Market Street Prototyping Festival

This April, for the first time ever, Market Street will transform into a public platform with the Market Street Prototyping Festival. The goal of the Festival is to unite diverse neighborhoods along Market Street, encouraging these vibrant communities to work together in building a more connected, beautiful San Francisco. This is your chance to improve the livability and beauty of a world-class thoroughfare for the millions of people who use it. The San Francisco Planning Department, the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts and the Knight Foundation are calling on artists, builders, and makers to submit their creative ideas for improving the famed civic boulevard. Winning entries will be given a \$2,000 stipend, workspace, and mentorship necessary to make their visions a reality. Submit your innovative project idea for Market Street online: <http://marketstreetprototyping.org/>. And who knows? Your idea may become San Francisco's newest icon. The submission deadline for the Market Street Prototyping Festival is October 10, 2014. Questions? Email info@marketstreetprototyping.org.

Submit Your District 8 Nominations for the 7th Annual NEN Awards Today

The NEN Awards are an annual tradition that brings the neighborhoods together to celebrate the people and organizations that make our communities great. The nominations window for the 7th Annual NEN Awards is now open and it'd be great to get as many of our District 8 heroes into the running for a NEN Award. So please take a moment and nominate your pick at the site below (a complete list of categories to choose from is on the home page).

<http://empowersf.org/nenawards/> The nomination window closes at 5pm on Friday, November 21st - so don't delay - submit your nominations today!



Scott with 2014 Summer Interns Sarah Swanger, Marissa Dorfler, Kennedy Petersen and Ali Hadwan

Community Calendar

Delivering Innovation in Supportive Housing presents 8th Anniversary Bash!

Thursday, October 2nd

6:00pm-8:00pm

California Historical Society

678 Mission St.

Delivering Innovation in Supportive Housing believes that everyone deserves a home. Every day, we provide high-quality, permanent housing to San Franciscans who suffer from serious health issues—because with our help, they can get off the streets, rebuild their lives, and strengthen our communities. Food - Drink - Silent Auction... all in support for DISH! Tickets are \$100. Purchase [here](#).



Scott at a TechPlantsSF event put on by Friends of the Urban Forest at Twitter. TechPlantsSF is working to get the tech community involved with tree planting efforts in San Francisco.

Castro Street Fair

Sunday October 5th

11:00am-6:00pm

Castro Street and 18th Street

The Fair is located in the heart of San Francisco's Castro District, at the intersection of Market & Castro Streets and the surrounding area.

The Castro Street Fair is a community street celebration that was founded by Harvey Milk in 1974. Hundreds of local artists, vendors, craftspeople, and organizations line the streets and celebrate the diversity of the neighborhood. Stages with live entertainment and dance stages can be found throughout the fairgrounds. [Click here](#) for more information.

Walk and Roll to School Day

Wednesday, October 8th

Please participate in Walk and Roll to School Day, which is open to all SF schools. Walking and biking to school gives you quality time together as a family and helps kids to arrive at school energized and ready to learn. Currently, only half of San Francisco children who live close enough to walk to school actually do. Visit SFSafeRoutes.org to learn more. For more information, click here or contact Genaro Escarza at (415) 431-9255 x5 or via email at genaro@walksf.org.

TNDC's 22nd Annual Celebrity Pool Toss

Wednesday, October 8th

6:30pm-9:30pm

Phoenix Hotel/Chambers Eat and Drink

601 Eddy Street

It's the pool party of the year! With fabulous food, refreshing libations, wacky entertainment and a wet-and-wild celebrity auction pool toss...benefiting TNDC's programs for children and families in the Tenderloin! Join us on October 8, 2014 at the historic Phoenix Hotel/Chambers Eat + Drink. For more information, [click here](#).

SF Beautiful's 43rd Annual Beautification Awards

Wednesday, October 8th

6:00pm-9:00pm

Make Out Room, 3225 22nd Street

Celebrate the unique beauty of San Francisco and honor those who keep San Francisco beautiful at the 43rd Annual Beautification Awards. Meet your fellow placemakers, enjoy food, drinks, live music, and a dynamic program that honors our awardees. For more information, [click here](#).



Scott at Everett Middle School's Back to School Day with public school parent and Department of Public Health employee Christina Goette

Diamond Heights Community Association Fall Meeting

Saturday, October 11th

2:00pm-4:00pm

SF Police Academy

350 Amber Drive

Supervisors David Chiu and David Campos will discuss issues for their District 17 State Assembly race. Speakers will present the pro and con sides of two initiatives on the Nov. 4 ballot: the Transportation and Road Improvement Bond and the Tax on Sugar-Sweetened Beverages to Fund Food and Health Programs. Supervisor Wiener will present the pro side for the soda tax initiative. For information, please call the Diamond Heights Shopping Center Management Office, 415-282-4647 or email Betsy Eddy at dhcasf@gmail.com.

Duboce Triangle Neighborhood Association Meeting

Monday, October 13th

7:30pm

45 Castro Street -- CPMC Davies Campus, Gazebo Room

Supervisor Wiener will join Captain Greg McEachern from Northern Station, Captain Raj Vaswani from Park Station, and Ken Craig from Castro Community on Patrol to discuss public safety and crime in the Duboce Triangle. The Duboce Triangle Neighborhood Association (DTNA) represents residents, businesses and property owners in San Francisco's Duboce Triangle neighborhood, bordered by Market St., Castro St., Divisadero St., Waller St., Webster St. and Duboce Avenue.

Walter Haas Park Community Meeting

Thursday, October 16th

6:00pm

Upper Noe Recreation Center (corner of Day and Sanchez Streets)

Join Supervisor Wiener and the Recreation and Parks Department for a community meeting to discuss proposed improvements to Walter Haas Park, including the Dog Play Area. We're looking for input from park users and neighbors on what ideas you think would benefit the park.

Noe Valley Harvest Festival

Saturday, October 18th

10:00am-5:00pm

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 dog costume contest, a children's costume contest and a dunk tank (whew!) to keep you busy!

[Click here](#) for more info.

NERT Personal Readiness Training

Thursday, October 23rd

7:00pm-9:00pm

St. Philip Church & School

775 Diamond Street

You will learn the basics to take care of yourself and others. SFFD NERT and SAFE want you to have skills to be prepared for emergencies big or small, and get to know your neighbors on your block to maximize resiliency after a disaster. To RSVP or learn more about this and other NERT sessions, [click here](#).



Scott at the Taraval Police Station National Night Out event

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.

Castro Senior Center Lunch Program

100 Diamond Street

11:45am-12:30pm

Join other seniors for a healthy lunch at the Castro Senior Center. Call 863-3507 a day in advance or by 9 AM to guarantee a lunch. [Click here](#) for more information.

30th Street Senior Center Lunch Program

Monday-Friday

12:00pm and 1:00pm

225 30th Street

The 30th Street Dining Room is a popular lunchtime social setting. Located on the first floor of the 30th Street

Senior Center, the Dining Room offers a three-course, nutritious noon meal to seniors in the community. Seniors have an opportunity to socialize and make new friends; that is especially beneficial to seniors who live alone. The 30th Street Dining Room offers two meal seatings daily, at 12:00 PM and 1:00 PM, Monday - Friday, serving over 100 people at each seating. We encourage a donation for each meal (suggested amount: \$2.00). Meal tickets can be obtained at the 30th Street Senior Center on the third floor. For more information about our congregate meals program, call 415-550-2226 or [click here](#).

Diamond Heights Food Pantry

St. Aidan's Church

101 Gold Mine Drive

Fridays from 1:00pm-2:00pm

To learn more about visiting the food pantry or volunteering, [click here](#) or contact Judy Bley at 415-826-8372 or jabley@pacbell.net.



Scott with CalPirg campaign organizer Zach Weinstein at a campaign finance reform rally at City Hall against the Citizens United decision.