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# SUPERVISOR SCOTT WIENER

SAN FRANCISCO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, DISTRICT 8

## October 2014 Newsletter

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Friday, November 7th

## Announcements

### Castro Street Ribbon Cutting

This Thursday October 30 we will be celebrating the completion of the Castro Street sidewalk and streetscape project with a block party on Castro Street! A huge thanks to all of the residents and merchants who so patiently went through the project, with all its disruptions, understanding that this is a permanent and beautiful upgrade to the heart of our neighborhood.

The party starts at 6pm, so please come join us to celebrate with other members of the community and to see some fun live performances. I hope to see you on Thursday.



Call for Volunteers!

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

Saturday, November 8th  
1:00pm-3:00pm  
Martha & Bros Coffee  
3868 24th Street  
Noe Valley

**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.

We're looking for volunteers! If you have a few hours during the workweek and are interested in a volunteer position/internship at City Hall, please contact Adam Taylor at [adam.taylor@sfgov.org](mailto:adam.taylor@sfgov.org)

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## Policy Work

### Adding In-Law Units in Connection with Seismic Retrofits

I recently introduced legislation to relax zoning restrictions [to allow for the construction of new in-law units](#) during mandatory or voluntary seismic retrofitting of apartment buildings. The legislation will incentivize people to retrofit their buildings, and for those mandated to retrofit, the legislation will allow them to add in-law units - the most affordable type of non-subsidized housing - while they're already working with a contractor and architect. The legislation will soon head to the Planning Commission, and then to the Land Use and Economic Development Committee before going to the Board of Supervisors. Meanwhile, property owners are getting notices about completing mandatory seismic retrofits from the Department of Building Inspection. It's important for property owners to be aware of the pending legislation, so they can make informed decisions about the scope of the project. For more information on the status of the legislation, [click here](#) or contact my office.

### Reforming Approach to Towing of Stolen Vehicles

Last week, I held a hearing on the [City's towing policy regarding stolen vehicles](#). Currently, when a car is stolen and then towed, the owner of the vehicle is required to pay for the tow and for storage charges after a four-hour grace period. These fees can add up to hundreds or thousands of dollars, at times more than the value of the vehicle. People who are victimized by auto thieves shouldn't be victimized again by having to pay towing charges. Our towing contract with Auto Return expires next year, and the Municipal Transportation Agency is about to initiate the process for the next contract. At the hearing, I and several colleagues made clear that we expect the contract to provide relief to owners of stolen vehicles, through waiver of fees, a longer grace period, or some other method that no longer penalizes these owners who have done nothing wrong. I'll be introducing a resolution shortly to encourage the MTA to negotiate with this goal in mind. Ultimately, the new contract requires approval by the Board of Supervisors, and having the Board express this perspective early will ensure that MTA keeps it in mind during the contracting process.

### Muni's Future/Better Light Rail Fleet

We recently took a major step forward [by approving the contract](#) to purchase the next generation of Muni light rail vehicles (LRVs). [Please complete this survey](#) to tell Muni what you think should be prioritized in terms of the new LRV interiors.

Muni's current Breda LRVs are the top source of unreliability in the system. We don't have enough LRVs, which leads to gaps in service, too many one-car trains during rush hour, and major snags during events such as Giants games. On top of that shortage, our current LRVs have design defects and are aging, meaning they break down far too often. The Breda LRVs will be phased out over time, and the next generation of vehicles will be produced by Siemens. Siemens has a great reputation around the world for producing high quality light rail vehicles. These vehicles will cost less than the current Breda vehicles, require less maintenance, be better suited to our unique system, and be more reliable overall. Moreover, we will eventually have nearly twice as many vehicles as we have today. It'll take a number of years for the Siemens vehicles to be fully produced and in service, but we are now on a solid path for the future.



Scott joined some enthusiastic community members at his First Annual Pumpkin Carving Contest at the Noe Valley Town Square

### LGBT Access to Affordable Housing

San Francisco's housing crisis impacts everyone and has been hard on our LGBT community. Many people, including many LGBT people, haven't give enough thought to the possibility they'll need affordable housing at some point during their lives. We don't have enough affordable housing, and people need to plan ahead, given the significant waiting lists for these units. Moreover, the process for getting affordable units isn't always straightforward. In the last budget, I obtained funding for [LGBT-focused outreach and education](#) around the city's affordable housing program. The LGBT Community Center and Openhouse (which focuses on the needs of LGBT seniors) are partnering on this important effort.

### Street Tree Relinquishment Oversight Hearing

Yesterday, I held a hearing, along with my colleague Supervisor David Chiu, on the status of the [City's street tree relinquishment program](#). This flawed program dumps maintenance responsibility for street trees on adjacent property owners, whether or not they planted the trees, whether or not they want the trees, and whether or not they know how or can afford to care for the trees. This policy guarantees inconsistent street tree maintenance and a shrinking urban forest. We need to create a dedicated and sustainable funding source that will allow the City to take back responsibility for these trees and relieve property owners of this unreasonable obligation.

### Street Design Legislation

Safe and livable streets start with smart street design reflecting the needs of all users. Earlier this month, the Board of Supervisors [unanimously passed legislation I authored to adopt street design guidelines](#) issued by the National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO). NACTO is an organization representing the transportation needs of urban areas. These new guidelines - reflecting a forward-thinking, progressive approach to urban street design - will extend San Francisco's Better Streets Policy, which focuses on sidewalks, to include the entire cross section of the street, including not only sidewalks but also travel lanes, bike lanes, and intersections. For San Francisco to have a more sustainable future, we need an environment that encourages and allows people to safely and enjoyably walk, bike, and use transit, in addition to driving.



Scott speaking at this year's NACTO Conference, which took place in San Francisco this October

### Drought Hearing and Water Conservation Legislation

Last month we held a hearing on water usage in San Francisco, with a focus on what our city agencies are doing to ensure water conservation efforts during the ongoing drought. Our City departments - including the Public Utilities Commission, the Department of Public Works, the Recreation and Park Department, the Department of the Environment and the Department of Building Inspection - all reported on current policies and procedures to reduce water use. We also discussed possible legislation to require individual water metering of new multi-unit buildings and increasing efforts to expand water recycling and reuse. I'm currently exploring legislation in these areas.

### Open Source Voting Technology Resolution

Free and fair elections are a cornerstone of our democracy, and we need to continually work to improve our voting system to ensure clear and transparent voting practices. Last week, I introduced a resolution that will make San Francisco a member of the California Association of Voting Officials (CAVO), an organization formed to create certified and freely shareable voting technology. Our current system relies on private vendors, which possess proprietary voting technology that can't be examined by the public. By shifting to open source voting technology, we can have free and open voting software that is verifiable by the public. This change will not only make our elections more affordable, by eliminating costly licensing agreements, but also more transparent. I will be holding a hearing on this very important government transparency issue in November.



Scott with MSNBC host Rachel Maddow

### Getting to Zero Hearing

For more than a year, I've been working with a coalition of public health agencies and community based organizations as part of the [Getting to Zero Consortium](#). The consortium is putting together the plan to place the final nail in HIV's coffin in San Francisco, by getting to zero HIV deaths, zero new infections, and zero stigma around the disease. We've been working toward various prevention strategies and strategies to increase testing, ensure quick access to treatment, and keep people in care. Today, I called for a hearing to provide a public update on the consortium's work and progress. There's a lot to report, and we will be holding the hearing later this year or in January.



## Community Spotlight

Brad Levy

Fire Fly Restaurant

This month during Restaurant Appreciation Month, I honored Brad Levy, owner of Firefly. Firefly has been a neighborhood institution for over 20 years on 24th Street in Noe Valley. In addition to serving food that has kept people coming back for two decades, Firefly has been a tremendous supporter of public schools in our community. In January on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays for the past two years and this coming year, Firefly has donated 20% of customers' bills to a local public school. We are lucky to have a great business like Firefly in our neighborhood.



Scott honoring Brad Levy -- along with Brad's two daughters -- at Restaurant Appreciation Month

## Community Updates

### Dolores Park

The construction at Mission Dolores Park is moving ahead steadily. The most exciting recent improvements include:

- The 19th Street Promenade is receiving the concrete pavers that mark the edges and the historic concrete swale. The same concrete pavers will be used on all the pathways throughout the park.
- Other paths throughout the north half of the park are being paved.
- The soccer field has started to receive its new drainage system.
- Footings for the basketball court and multi-use court are almost finished, meaning that we'll soon start to see these courts grow and emerge.

Finally, the Dolores Street sidewalk is almost complete and will reopen shortly. This is an exciting moment as it will be the first time an improved section of the park will be made public. Keep track of the sidewalk reopening and check out the most current construction progress and photos at the Recreation & Park Department's website [here](#).

### Walter Haas Park

On October 16th, I held a community meeting at Upper Noe Recreation Center with Rec and Park staff to discuss potential improvements to Walter Haas Park and the dog play area. The impetus behind the meeting was to discuss the potential replacement of the decomposed granite in the dog play area with organic artificial turf made from natural materials. Upon receiving positive feedback at the meeting, I've asked Rec and Park to come up with a proposal to install the turf at Walter Haas Park dog play area. Once the proposal is ready for presentation to the community, my office will host a follow-up community meeting and work with the Friends of Walter Haas Park and park users to get the word out.

### Upper Douglass Dog Park

Effective October 16th, Rec and Park began closing Upper Douglass Dog Park all day on Thursdays. This will support maintenance staff in improving turf and park management (aerating, irrigation repair, gopher management, top dressing, planting, etc), as the closure is necessary for public and pet safety and for turf recovery. The park will reopen Friday morning at 6:00am.

In addition, below is a list of dog play areas within 1 mile of Upper Douglass Dog Park:

Eureka Valley Dog Play Area  
100 Collingwood St. SF

Walter Haas Dog Play Area  
Addison & Farnum, SF

Upper Noe Dog Play Area  
Day & Sanchez, SF

### Flint Street Tennis Courts

A contract has been awarded to Vintage Contractors to resurface the Flint St. Tennis Courts, and to replace the tennis posts and nets. This project is funded through a budget appropriation that I obtained, as well as Open Space Program funds. Pending dry weather, the project shall be completed by end of the 2014.



At the 30th Street Senior Center's annual Autumn Magic celebration, Scott was honored by the center with its 2014 Leadership Senior Services Award for all of his work supporting seniors in the district and citywide. Here he is accepting the award.

## **Community Calendar**

### ***San Francisco Teacher Residency***

The San Francisco Teacher Residency (SFTR) is recruiting aspiring teachers who are committed to improving equity and access for San Francisco's children. Through SFTR you can earn a teaching credential and a Master's degree from Stanford University or the University of San Francisco at significantly reduced costs. SFTR also provides free healthcare, a yearlong classroom apprenticeship in San Francisco, a teaching position with the SFUSD upon successful completion of the program, and intensive coaching during your first three years in the classroom. And this year all SFTR residents received over \$17,000 in stipends and awards through AmeriCorps! SFTR is now accepting applications. Learn more and apply today at <http://www.sfteacherresidency.org/apply>.

***The San Francisco Nonprofit Displacement Mitigation Program for Arts, Cultural, and Social Service***

### **Sectors**

The Northern California Community Loan Fund (NCCLF), Community Arts Stabilization Trust (CAST) and Urban Solutions (US) announce the availability of technical and financial assistance for San Francisco nonprofits providing arts and cultural programs and/or social services and are at risk of displacement. The Nonprofit Displacement Mitigation Program provides services to support nonprofits facing permanent displacement to find appropriate and affordable office/program space. For more information, please contact Owen Serra, Real Estate Consulting Analyst at [oserra@ncclf.org](mailto:oserra@ncclf.org). Applications must be received by Friday, November 14, 2014 to be considered for the 2014 Technical Assistance and/or Financial Assistance awards.

### **Community Opportunity Fund Workshops**

Are you a group or individual with an idea for how to improve your neighborhood park? Apply for a Community Opportunity Fund (COF) project and help make a difference in your community. The Community Opportunity Fund Program gives neighborhoods, community groups, and park lovers an opportunity to make a difference in their favorite parks. The Recreation and Parks Department and SFPA are hosting 4 workshops over the next 2 months to help you prepare your project and your application. Applications will be due in April 2015. Attend any of these upcoming mandatory applicant workshops to find out how to get started:

- Wednesday, October 29th, 2014 6:00-8:00 pm City Hall - Hearing Room 408
- Thursday, November 6th, 2014 6:00-8:00 pm Minnie and Lovie Ward Recreation Center Auditorium (Capital Ave and Montana)
- Saturday, December 6th, 2014 10:00am-12:00pm County Fair Building - Rec Room
- Thursday, December 11th, 2014 6:00 -8:00pm Joe Lee Recreation Center - Multipurpose Room 2

### **2nd Town Hall for Families with Children in the Mission**

*Tuesday, October 28th*

*6:30pm*

*Everett Middle School, 450 Church Street*

Join me for a town hall to discuss issues our housing and affordability for families in the mission. The event will be opened with a reflection on where we are in the housing crisis. Families will then participate in two 20 minute sessions on Knowing their Housing Rights, Accessing Housing Resources, Advocating and Voting for their Housing. We will then connect the feedback from families to city and school district leaders. Childcare and food provided. [Click here](#) for more information.

### **Estate Planning: How to Navigate Estate Battles Before They Start Free Lunchtime Seminar**

*Wednesday, October 29th*

*12:00-2:00pm*

*1145 Market Street, 4th Floor, Law Library Seminar Room*

Attorney and Mediator John O'Grady will discuss estate planning questions. John O'Grady, of the O'Grady Law Group, APC, has been practicing trusts and estates law in San Francisco for more than twenty-five years. He was the 2012 Chair of The Estate Planning, Trust & Probate Section of The Bar Association of San Francisco. Questions? Please call us at 415-554-1772. [Click here](#) for more information.

### **Castro Streetscape Improvement Project Ribbon Cutting**

*Thursday, October 30th*

*6:00-8:00pm*

*Intersection of 18th and Castro Streets*

This Thursday we will be celebrating the completion of the Castro Street sidewalk project with a block party on Castro Street. Please join us to celebrate this great step forward for our community. It'll be a chance to hang out with neighbors and see some fun live performances. Click here for more information.

<http://www.castrocdbd.org/>



Scott about to go into a super scary haunted house at the Sunnyside Neighborhood Association Halloween Festival

### **Unmasked: The GLBT Historical Society Annual Gala**

*Wednesday, October 29th*

*7:00-9:00pm*

*Contemporary Jewish Museum, 736 Mission Street*

Includes a hosted bar, appetizers, entertainment and silent auction of queer history items and luxury merchandise. <http://www.unmaskedgala.org/>

***Creative Arts Charter School, K-8 School Tours***

*Thursday, November 6th, 6:00pm*

*Friday, November 7th, 8:45-10:15am*

*Friday, November 14th, 8:45-10:15am*

CACS provides hands-on, arts-integrated public education to Kindergarten through 8th-grade students in the San Francisco Unified School District. No need to register for an upcoming tour. Please note: the CACS lottery is a separate lottery from SFUSD. Do not list CACS as a "choice" on your SFUSD enrollment form. All CACS applicants must tour the school in order to apply. Priority application deadline: January 16, 2015 at 3pm (same date as SFUSD, must apply directly to CACS) For more info about Creative Arts Charter School, visit [www.creativeartscharter.org](http://www.creativeartscharter.org), email [jkippp@creativeartscharter.org](mailto:jkippp@creativeartscharter.org) or call 415-749-3509.

***Out & Equal Workplace Advocates City Hall Reception***

*Thursday, November 6th*

*6:00-8:00pm*

*San Francisco City Hall, Rotunda*

Join me for the City Hall Reception of Out & Equal's 2014 Workplace summit. The summit is a place where employees and experts from around the world gather to share strategies and best practices to create workplace equality, inclusive of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and expressions. [Click here](#) for more information.

***Fred Lyon: Photography Exhibit Opening Reception***

*Saturday, November 8th*

*1:00-4:00pm*

*Harvey Milk Photo Center, 50 Scott Street*

Photographer Fred Lyon was born in San Francisco in 1924, and he calls himself a "third or fourth generation native." After stints in DC photographing the navy and the White House, and in New York shooting for the big fashion houses, he moved back to SF in 1946 and starting freelancing for such prestigious and popular magazines as Vogue, Glamour, Life, and Seventeen. He captured a city that was captivating the country, and has ventured into everything from food and fashion to wine, news, and architecture as subjects. His work has morphed from print to fine art, as his gorgeous photos hang on the walls of galleries and in collectors' homes. "But I'm still dancing out on the edge," he jokes, "pushing my luck, and living beyond my means." [Click here](#) for more information.



Scott on a visit to the Immaculate Conception Academy on 24th Street

***Castro/Eureka Valley Neighborhood Association Annual Meeting***

*Wednesday, November 12th*

*7:00pm*

*Castro Community Room, 501 Castro Street (above Bank of America)*

[Click here](#) for more information.

***Lost and Found, A Musical Comedy***

*Friday, November 14th and Saturday, November 15th*

*7:30pm*

*St. Aidan's Church, 101 Gold Mine Drive*

Lost and Found is a zany, fast paced comedy featuring the characters from St. Dymphna's Parish as they race to beat a band of pirates to the buried treasure on the magical Dessert Isle filled with tasty treats, knishes and ganaches. The play offers a mix of favorite Broadway show tunes, pop, classical and gospel music. The play is fun fare for the whole family. Lost and Found is the 11th original musical comedy written and performed by St. Aidan's parishioners and friends. This year's play is written and directed by John Wilk, CCSF Theatre Professor. Scrumby Koldewyn, legendary Cockettes star, returns as the Music Director. The choreography is created by Preeti Mann. Rehearsal accompaniment is by Victoria Tedder. [Click here](#) for more information.

***Annunciation Cathedral Soup Kitchen***

*Tuesday, November 18th*

*5:30-8:30pm*

*Annunciation Cathedral, 245 Valencia Street*

Prep begins at 5:30, with meals served from 6:30-8:30 in the Kytherian Room. Please contact [soupkitchen@annunciation.org](mailto:soupkitchen@annunciation.org) for more details.

***District 8 Neighborhood Business Summit***

*Wednesday, November 19th*



5:30-7:30pm

Location TBD

I'm co-hosting a District 8 Neighborhood Business Summit with the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce. The event will include opportunities for locals and merchants to interact with their Supervisor, meet other businesses and representatives from city departments, and ask direct questions regarding issues specific to their District. Please call my office at (415) 554-6968 with any questions you may have/to confirm the location.



Scott with Laborers Local 261 at the Annual Montoya Awards, which honors workers who embody team work, creativity, and respect for those around them and who perform above and beyond the call of duty.

#### ***Free NERT Training***

*Tuesdays & Thursdays*

*November 18th, 6:00-9:30pm: Class 1*

*November 20th, 6:00-9:30pm: Class 2*

*December 2nd, 6:00-9:30pm: Class 3*

*December 4th, 6:00-9:30pm: Class 4*

*December 9th, 6:00-9:30pm: Class 5*

*December 11th, 6:00-9:30pm: Class 6*

SF Fire Department Training Division, 2324 Folsom Street (enter through the gate on 19th Street)

NERT is a free training program for individuals, neighborhood groups and community-based organizations in San Francisco. Through this program, individuals will learn the basics of personal preparedness and prevention. The training also includes hands-on disaster skills that will help individuals respond to a personal emergency as well as act as members of a neighborhood response team. San Francisco is made up of many neighborhoods. We are training to be one ready community when it counts. The Emergency Response is important but building the Team as a Neighborhood comes first.

[Click here](#) for more information.

#### ***Castro Farmers' Market***

*Weekly on Wednesdays*

*4:00-8:00pm*

*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.



Scott at the Greater Geary Boulevard Merchant Association Awards with Assessor-Recorder Carmen Chu, Supervisor Eric Mar and Assemblymember Phil Ting

***Diamond Dinners***

*St. Aidan's Episcopal Church*

*First Wednesdays of every month*

*8:00am-3:00 pm*

*101 Gold Mine Drive*

Monthly free lunch is offered on the first Wednesday of every month to any seniors (55+) that live in the 94131 and 94114 zip codes. For more information, [click here](#).

***30th Street Senior Center***

*Mondays - Fridays*

*12:00pm and 1:00pm*

*225 30th Street*

Lunch for seniors 60+. They ask for a donation of \$2.00 for lunch. For more information, [click here](#).

***Castro Senior Center***

*Mondays - Fridays*

*11:45am*

*110 Diamond Street*

Lunch for seniors 60+. They ask for a donation of \$2.00 for lunch, and \$6.00 for caretakers.

