

• MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERVISOR •



We're cleaning up Sunset Boulevard! Many of you who pass by or live near Sunset Boulevard have probably noticed crews working to clean up the brush and debris along this busy corridor. Part of this effort includes improving the walking paths along Sunset Boulevard, where many residents and students run and walk everyday. Specifically, crews will be working to maintain clean and safe areas for pedestrians and the surrounding neighbors, including removing dead tree parts that have fallen due to strong winds, pruning back dense trees and bushes, and clearing the paths for safe walking or jogging. This work has already begun and will continue in the next several months.

In addition, our office will be hosting two community clean up events in the next two months. On Saturday, June 21st from 10AM – 12PM, join us at Noriega Street, where we will be concentrating on the segment between Moraga through Ortega. We will have a second community clean up on Saturday, July 19th from 10AM – 12PM, focusing on the segment between Taraval through Vicente.

If you have any suggestions or questions regarding the work being done along specific segments of Sunset Boulevard, please do not hesitate to contact our office. I look forward to seeing you out there as we work together to improve our neighborhood.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carmen Chu". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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19TH AVENUE SPEED REDUCTION TAKES PLACE

As we continue to work on improving pedestrian safety, we would like to share with you the change in speed limit along 19th Avenue. Signs have been updated to reflect the change in speed limit from 35mph to 30mph.

In March, Supervisor Chu co-sponsored a resolution at the Board of Supervisors, urging the SFMTA to support Caltrans' recommendation to lower the speed limit. When combined with other safety measures, including the installation of new pedestrian countdown signals, this reduction in speed limit will help prevent fatalities along this corridor.

Between 2000 and 2005, there were 1,205 injuries and 12 deaths that resulted from 786 collisions along the seven-mile stretch of 19th Avenue.

BOOK DRIVE BEGINS

As part of Supervisor Chu's Community Crew efforts, we are launching a two-week summer book drive for kids. Schools will be collecting books from community members on **Monday, May 19 through Friday, May 30**. Just look for the collection bins at:

- Lawton Alternative School (31st Ave between Lawton & Kirkham)
- Francis Scott Key Elementary School (43rd Ave between Lawton & Kirkham)
- Robert Louis Stevenson Elementary School (34th Ave between Pacheco & Quintara)
- Lincoln High School (24th Ave between Quintara & Rivera)
- AP Giannini Middle School (38th Ave & Ortega)

To donate, visit our website at www.sfgov.org/chu for reading. Each of the participating schools will have bins in front of their main office for donated books.

CELL PHONE DRIVE ENDS



We recently ended our cell phone drive, which was the first activity of Supervisor Chu's Community Crew. A big thank you to everyone who participated and donated their old cell phones for our seniors, as well as those who agreed to serve as a donation center, including: Taraval Police Station, Java Beach Café, Sunset Neighborhood Beacon Center, Ortega Branch Library, Parkside Branch Library and Sunset Youth Services. With your help, **we collected over 200 cell phones** to help senior citizens who may need to call 911 in the case of an emergency.

IMPROVING THE CITY CONTRACTING PROCESS

In February, Supervisor Chu introduced legislation designed to improve the City's contracting process, an important step in saving taxpayer dollars. Due to a cumbersome city contracting and payment process, companies are frequently discouraged from bidding on projects with the City. It is not uncommon for a City project to receive only a few or no bidders, causing project delays or cost increases. The proposed legislation, developed in concert with contractors and many City departments, would allow the City to pay contractors in a more timely way and creates an incentive for contractor participation. The Government Audit & Oversight Committee is slated to consider this legislation in early June.

OCEAN BEACH VISION COUNCIL SEEKS COMMUNITY INPUT

As a member of the Ocean Beach Vision Council, Supervisor Chu will be working collaboratively with council members to develop a draft master plan that outlines how we can support Ocean Beach and the surrounding area. We plan to gain community input and participation in drafting this plan, and will be holding a community meeting in July. Please stay tuned to our newsletter for more details.

PERMIT RENEWAL FOR OUTDOOR DINING AVAILABLE ONLINE

In conjunction with National Public Works Week (May 18 – 24), we have launched a web-based permitting system that allows small businesses to renew their permits for outdoor café tables and chairs. Supervisor Chu sponsored legislation at the Board of Supervisors that reduced business costs for outdoor tables and chairs. The online renewal is more convenient for small business owners. Rather than taking time off to renew at City Hall, businesses can now renew through the Internet. For more information on this new permitting system, contact Christine Falvey from the Department of Public Works at 554-6931 or visit www.sfdpw.com.

VICTORY GARDENS PROGRAM ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

Victory Gardens 2008+ is a pilot project funded by the City to support the transition of backyard, front yard, window boxes, rooftops, and unused land into organic food production areas.



In 2008, 15 households that represent the diversity of San Francisco will be chosen to participate in the program. You can participate regardless of your income, ethnicity, available space, neighborhood, gardening experience, or lifestyle.

As a participant, you will work with the Victory Gardens team to install a garden in your outdoor space. Although you will be the primary caretaker of the garden, the Victory Garden team will provide ongoing support. For more information, visit www.sfvictorygardens.org.

SUPERVISOR CHU ADDRESSES COMMUNITY CONCERNS

To address some concerns expressed by the community, Supervisor Chu called for public hearings related to tree safety and festival preparation.

Tree Safety

Hearing would examine the City's plans for tree maintenance in Stern Grove and throughout the City. The recently passed Parks Bond provides \$4M for reforestation and tree maintenance efforts.

August Concerts in Golden Gate Park

Hearing would examine plans for the Outside Lands Arts & Music Festival in Golden Gate Park from August 22 – 24.

Many neighbors, especially residents bordering Golden Gate Park, have expressed concerns regarding the impacts of the event, including traffic, noise, trash, and parking impacts.

With a high number of expected participants, Supervisor Chu would like to address concerns prior to the event, and has requested that the Police Department, Recreation & Parks Department, Department of Parking & Traffic and Department of Public Works present their roles in preparation for the festival. The plans will be before the Recreation and Parks Commission in early June.

If you are interested in this issue, please contact our office at (415) 554-7460 or chustaff@sfgov.org so that we can address your concerns at the hearing.

SUNSET ARTISTS AT SUPERVISOR CHU'S OFFICE

As part of our efforts to incorporate the district community in our office, we have two new artists whose works are now featured at City Hall in Supervisor Chu's office: Idell Weiss and Clint Waggoner.

Idell Weiss



Idell Weiss, a native Californian, has lived most of her life in San Francisco. While her initial profession was that of physical therapist, she has always been involved in various forms of creative handiwork, not only painting but also jewelry-making and sewing.

At one time, as a physical therapist, she worked at the Northern California School for Cerebral Palsied Children. This position called for creative skills in helping design special equipment and adaptations for wheelchairs, body braces, seating, and crutches for the severely involved patients residing at the school for evaluation. While working there, Idell was drawn to the visual arts utilized by the occupational therapists—painting, weaving, collage, etc., and, as time allowed, she began to take painting classes. This led her to pursue formal art education, and, ultimately, the full time devotion to painting.

She is a graduate of the University of California at Berkeley and the University of California at San Francisco, Curriculum in Physical Therapy. She also studied art at Harvard-Radcliffe College and the Cambridge Center in Cambridge, Massachusetts; and San Francisco City College, the University of California Extension Center, and Fort Mason Art Center in San Francisco.

Illustrations of her work are found in the following books, all of which are published by Alcove Books:

Art of Northern California, 2003, two page display

American Art Collector, Western States, 2005

American Art Collector, Western States, 2006

American Art Collector, Juried Competition of New Work, 2007, nationwide competition

To view Idell's artwork, visit www.idellweiss.com

Clint Waggoner

Clint Waggoner is a 52 year-old artist living with HIV. He creates three-dimensional art pieces, wearable art and jewelry using various techniques including assemblage, collage, and installation. Clint is very much working in the tradition of folk, but within the context of a contemporary urban society. Gay culture and experience, kitsch, and camp are as much a part of his visual vocabulary as the more traditional expressions of beauty.



Artist statement: My art process is akin to meditation. Each piece is intensely personal. Chance and whimsy play a major role in a process that is magical as it is satisfying. This gentle way of making art has become as much about one man's journey towards healing as it is about finding a viable, artistic outlet in the marketplace. For my spirit guide, Zonda, I am grateful for all that she inspires.

MUNI UPDATE

Over 200 people came out on April 26 for our district's community meeting on MUNI and to hear the agency's proposed route changes. Among the many concerns expressed at the meeting were complaints regarding MUNI's proposed elimination of the 66 Quintara bus line and the merger of the 16AX with the 16BX line.



We will continue to work with MUNI to ensure that our residents can rely on public transportation to get to their desired destinations. If you missed the April 26 meeting, please visit www.sftep.com for more information on MUNI's route recommendations. MUNI will not be implementing any changes until after their outreach process has been completed. You can always contact our office to provide us with feedback based on these proposals.



SMALL BUSINESS WEEK – MAY 12-17

As we end the celebration of Small Business Week in San Francisco, we would like to thank our merchants for all their hard work and contributions to District 4 and the City. Many of our residents rely on our local merchants whether we want to have a bite to eat or need to pick up a few items for our homes. We encourage everyone to shop locally and support our small businesses!

TREE PLANTINGS IN SUNSET



On Saturday, May 17, over 70 neighbors living around 41st and Lawton joined Friends of the Urban Forest in greening their streets. About 50 trees will be planted this cycle, thanks to the hard work of the community.

If anyone is interested in getting a tree planted at their home, please visit www.fuf.net and send in the two required forms.



LAWTON STUDENTS VISIT CITY HALL



Students from Lawton Elementary School came to City Hall on May 15 and participated in a mock Board of Supervisors session and debated policy ideas surrounding restroom cleanliness.



ARE YOU AN ASPIRING FILMMAKER?

SCREAM is a high school filmmaking group based at the Sunset Neighborhood Beacon Center, and it is looking for enthusiastic high school-aged youth in the Sunset area to participate. Training in filmmaking is provided in July, and a series of free video production workshops will be offered. SCREAM has produced narrative, documentary and experimental works and offers training and experience for those new to and excited about filmmaking.

For more information, contact SCREAM instructor Mishiara at scream.snbc@gmail.com, call 415-759-3690 or visit www.screamin.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Supervisor Chu Community Book Drive

May 19 -30

Help students achieve their summer reading goals by donating books from their reading lists at the following schools: Francis Scott Key Elementary School, Robert Louis Stevenson Elementary, Lincoln High School, AP Giannini Middle School, Lawton Alternative School. Visit www.sfgov.org/chu for reading lists.

Taraval District's Police and Community Meeting in Chinese

May 29 (Thursday), 7:00pm

Taraval Station – 2345 24th Ave at Taraval St

This meeting, held entirely in Chinese, is an opportunity for Chinese-speaking residents of the Taraval District to express their concerns to and ask questions of Chinese-speaking police officers. This quarter's meeting will feature a presentation about MUNI route changes by Helen Kwan and Judy Tam of the MUNI Transit Effectiveness Project and about Proper Waste Disposal by Wendy Ng of Sunset Scavenger. FREE food will be served.

Neighborhood Empowerment Network Summit

May 31 (Saturday), 9am – 3:30pm

Cesar Chavez Elementary School at 23rd St. and Folsom

Neighborhood Empowerment Network (NEN) is hosting a Clean & Green Summit where you can learn how to reduce your energy intake, soften our streetscapes, generate new forms of energy, grow your own food, and use water more wisely. The 2008 NEN Clean & Green Summit will feature a resource fair with dozens of agencies and non-profits committed to helping you make a difference in your community and sessions on solar power for your home/business, harvesting rainwater for your garden, community grants and how to make your home more earth friendly. Registration is Free and a lunch will be provided to registrants. To learn more about the NEN visit - <http://www.empowersf.org> or email nen@sfgov.org or call 554-7114

Sunset Elementary Dining Fundraiser Nights

Starts May 29 (Thursday)

Families of Sunset PTA and Pasta Pomodoro on Irving Street (9th Ave) have teamed up for great family style food and fun, with 20% of the bill going back to Sunset Elementary. This partnership will take place all day during the last Thursday of every month, starting May 29. Dates: May 29, June 26, July 31, August 28

Supervisor Chu District Office Hours

May 31 (Saturday) 1:00 – 2:30pm

Sheng Kee bakery & café – 1941 Irving Street (bet. 20th & 21st Ave)

Come with ideas/suggestions/questions for Supervisor Chu, or stop by to say hello

Sunset Boulevard Clean-Ups

June 21 (Saturday), 10am – 12pm

Meet at Noriega & Sunset Boulevard for community clean-up along Moraga, Noriega & Ortega Streets. Save the date for July 19 (Saturday) from 10am – 12pm for a second community clean up along Taraval, Ulloa and Vicente Streets.

NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION

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