

SUPERVISOR CARMEN CHU

DISTRICT 4 NEWSLETTER • JANUARY 7, 2008

MESSAGE FROM SUPERVISOR CHU

Happy New Year to everyone! Despite the busy holiday season, about 175 people attended a community meeting sponsored by my office on December 17 to voice their concerns regarding homelessness. I want to thank everyone who came out, as well as the city representatives



who were on hand to

address questions and comments: Captain Paul Chignell from the Taraval Police Station, as well as senior officials from the Recreation & Parks Department, Department of Public Works, Department of Public Health, and the Fire Department. Participants were energized by the healthy dialogue between community members and city officials regarding this citywide issue. If you did not have the opportunity to attend the forum, I want to be sure you are aware of resources secured for the district due to our collective advocacy:

- The Taraval Police Station is now a designated training center, which means our district will benefit from receiving more officers resulting in added protection for our neighborhoods and streets.
- Five new police officers have already joined the Taraval Police Station since our meeting.
- After discussions with representatives from the Human Services Agency, we were also successful in obtaining two new homeless outreach team workers for the Sunset District. HSA will be looking to us for guidance as to where in the Outer Sunset to deploy the workers. These new workers are in addition to the two outreach workers already dedicated to the west side of the city and the two other workers through 311.
- Earlier in December, I asked the Department of Public Works and Recreation & Parks Department to help trim dense bushes along the Great Highway in response to concerns from residents that these enclosed areas attracted homeless encampments. As a result of the trimming, it is now easier for officers to spot



SF HOT / Westside Team

homeless encampments along the Great Highway. At the meeting, Dennis Kern from the Recreation and Parks Department committed to trimming the remaining bushes along the Great Highway, which will occur on Saturday, January 12.

- We are also happy to report a special outreach effort taking place in the Sunset this week. Significant resources are being deployed in the district to contact homeless individuals and offer them services that will help them off the streets.

I look forward to ongoing conversations with you and will continue to advocate to ensure that our district receives the resources needed to address homelessness.

Carmen Chu



Captain Chignell
Taraval Station

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STORM REPORT

Due to the strong weather conditions last week, the city's Emergency Operations Center was activated to respond to address public safety concerns. The Emergency Operations Center worked on restoring utility lifelines and public transportation routes/schedules, clearing debris and mitigating flooding.

The Department of Public Works (DPW) received over 1,000 calls relating to trees throughout the storm. DPW will continue to be out in full force removing, trimming, and responding to the remainder of the requests that came in over the weekend. Residents can check the DPW website to determine if their street tree is maintained by the City, or call 641-2676. If the street tree is privately maintained, property owners should clear any debris adjacent to their properties. Please contact the Bureau of Urban Forestry (BUF) if a privately maintained tree has fallen, so that BUF can document and work with you on a replacement permit.

If residents continue having problems with power outages, call PG&E at 1-800-PGE-5002. For additional city resources or updates, call the city's 3-1-1 hotline. We always welcome your calls to our office for these or any other matters.



SUNSET ARTISTS RECEPTION

Join us for a reception featuring District 4 artists whose works are currently on display in Supervisor Chu's office.

Thursday, January 31
5:30pm
Supervisor Chu's Office
City Hall Room 260

← artwork by Jennifer Wasson

MUNI COMMUNITY MEETING

MUNI is undergoing a system-wide examination of how to better service its passengers. Supervisor Chu has asked that MUNI officials join us for a community meeting in District 4 at the end of January to obtain residents' input before official recommendations for changes to service in the district are proposed. Community members will have the opportunity to express their public transportation needs to city officials working on improving MUNI service. More details to be announced.

WEST SUNSET PLAYGROUND

To address safety measures at West Sunset Playground, Supervisor Chu is coordinating with city department officials to ensure everyone's concerns are addressed. So far, the following have been completed at West Sunset:

- One swing structure that was too rusted to safely support swinging activity was removed and two swing sets remain – one with toddler swings and one with swings for older children.
- The steel slide was removed, repaired and re-installed. New steel pieces were welded on to the slide to replace broken and corroded pieces. The slide is again structurally sound, functional and safe.
- All protruding nails were pounded in and re-sealed in the pressure-treated wood play structure.
- The outside light fixture next to the Clubhouse was re-lamped.
- All sand has been raked / sifted to check for any glass or other hazardous items. Playground sand is checked by gardener staff on a regular basis as well.

In addition to these short-term repairs, we will continue to stay involved with the major renovation of West Sunset Playground and look forward to its completion. If you notice any other structures that need attention or repair, please contact our office.

SCHOOL ENROLLMENT REMINDER

If your child is entering Kindergarten, middle, or high school next fall, turn in an application by Friday, **January 11, 2008**. For more information, visit www.sfusd.edu or call the Educational Placement Center at (415) 241-6085. Chinese-speaking counselors are available upon request.

FAMILY APPRECIATION DAY

San Francisco families with children ages 0 to 18 can enjoy 35 museums and other attractions for FREE on Sunday, **January 13**. Adults must accompany children and provide proof they live in San Francisco. Kids ride MUNI free from 10:00am to 4:00pm that day. For more information, visit the SF Department of Children and Families website at www.dcyf.org

LIBRARY RENOVATIONS

Ortega Branch • There will be a community meeting on Saturday, **January 26** at **2:00pm** at the Ortega Branch where residents can learn more about plans for renovation of the library. The priorities are to reduce seismic risk, meet modern technological needs and current code requirements, and comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The current design, developed with community participation, includes a new building closer to Ortega St. with a large reading area, distinct children's and teen spaces, enclosed study rooms, a reading garden, and a program room with after-hours community access.



Design work is scheduled to begin fall 2007, though additional funds must be identified to finish design and start construction. The Friends of the San Francisco Public Library are also raising funds from private donations for new furniture, fixtures, and equipment for the branch library. For information on the neighborhood capital campaign, call (415) 626-7512.



Parkside Branch • The Parkside Branch Library is also undergoing a renovation to make the branch seismically safe, more functional, accessible and up-to-date technologically. Plans include a small addition to the eastside of the building, a new separate teen area, new accessible restrooms, new furniture and bookshelves, more functional staff areas, and additional computers. The Parkside Branch held a community meeting in December to present plans for the renovation. Construction is expected to begin in early 2009 and completed by early 2010. For more information on the plans for the Ortega or Parkside Branch Library and the Branch Library Improvement Program, visit www.sfpl.org, call

(415) 557-4354, or email BLIP@sfpl.org.



NEW TRASH / RECYCLING CANS

Several of you have mentioned a desire for new trash cans. The Department of Public Works recently installed about 14 new trash/recycling receptacles along the Irving Street merchant corridor, between 19th to 24th Ave. Previously, the receptacles on the Irving Street corridor were only dedicated to trash.



STREET TREE PLANTINGS

A number of you have expressed interest in greening our district. This winter and spring, the Department of Public Works will be planting sidewalk trees in several areas of District 4, including:

- Taraval Street (Claremont – Great Highway)
- Ortega Street (24th Ave – Great Highway)
- Quintara Street (24th Ave – Great Highway)
- Irving Street (2nd Ave – Great Highway)
- Judah Street (6th Ave – 44th Ave)

Street trees not only beautify our neighborhoods, they also clean pollutants from the air, raise the value of adjacent properties by up to 10% and tree-line streets encourage motorists to drive more slowly. The City will be fully responsible for the care, watering

and long-term maintenance of the trees planted as part of this program. Problems, concerns or requests for maintenance can be made through the City's 3-1-1 customer service hotline.

SERVICES FOR FAMILIES

The Department of Children Youth and their Families, Sunset Neighborhood Beacon Center and partners in Sunset Family Service Network are hosting a Sunset community meeting on Saturday, **February 16, 2008** from 10:00am to Noon at AP Giannini Middle School to determine what resources are needed in the district for children and families. Please contact Carol Mo, Sunset Community Convener, at cmo@snbc.org or 415-759-3690 for more information.

COMMUNITY FILM FESTIVAL

Are you, or do you know of, an aspiring filmmaker? The Sunset Neighborhood Beacon Center is accepting all film genres for their 4th annual SNBC Community Film Festival to take place on Friday, March 7, 2008. Deadline is 5:00pm on **January 22, 2008**. Films in DVD format, of 30 second to 8 minute duration, should be submitted to The Sunset Neighborhood Beacon Center, 3925 Noriega, S.F., CA 94122. Please include your name, age, address, phone number, email and the duration of the film. (Note: Submissions will not be returned) For more information, visit www.snbc.org or call 759-3690.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Our office can always use the help of volunteers/interns who can provide time for office work. Volunteers with a desire to help district residents and with clerical or office administrative skills needed. Volunteers would be asked to help during normal business hours (9:00am – 5:30pm). Please call Katy Tang at 554-7460 or email chustaff@sfgov.org.

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