

SUPERVISOR CARMEN CHU

District 4 • Sunset • Parkside

September 2010



Message from the Supervisor

Public safety in the community continues to be a top priority and is an issue that requires ongoing attention and work. Recent work with community organizations have highlighted the importance of collaboration. As I attended the many meetings held in the community, I also heard loud and clear the need to hold individuals responsible for their actions.

In June of this year, I introduced legislation at the Board of Supervisors to amend our local Police Code. Specifically, the ordinance would increase the maximum penalties for two crimes if they take place on Muni vehicles (including buses, trains and cable cars) and around transit stations. The two crimes include: 1) aggressive pursuit, which is defined as the willful, malicious or repeated following or harassment of another person; 2) loitering while carrying a concealed weapon.

I am pleased to announce that the law was passed by the full Board of Supervisors on August 10th and will go into effect in September. Beginning in September, the penalties would be increased to the maximum allowable under state law, which is \$1,000 and/or up to six months in jail if a person is found guilty of those crimes. Areas of the law involving other crimes cannot be changed locally because state laws supercede our jurisdiction.

The legislation also calls on the courts to consider directing youth who are convicted to repaying the community through community service. The intent is to have youth contribute something positive back to the community.

Combined with the many efforts underway, including Muni's partnership with the San Francisco Police Department, we hope this legislation sends a strong message to the community that public safety on our public transportation system is crucial for everyone.

Personal Safety Reminder

With the rise in popularity of small handheld electronic devices, police departments nationwide have seen an increase in thefts of these items. Often, criminals target their victims using their iPhones or other devices while riding Muni, follow them when they depart and then mug them.

The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) is reminding riders to be aware of their surroundings when using these devices, and has launched a new personal safety campaign with billboards at bus stops and in the transit vehicles. Deputy Chief John Murphy, Captain John Sanford and David Chan from S.A.F.E. (Safety Awareness For Everyone) joined me on August 6 to preview the SFMTA campaign and remind all San Franciscans to use caution when using their handheld devices in public.



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SUNDAY STREETS A SUNNY SUCCESS!



*Sunset District artist
Roxanne Worthington*



*Children and families recreate
along the Great Highway*



*Equestrians participated in
Sunday Streets!*

The August 22 Sunday Streets was a complete turnaround from the "Stormy Streets" event in April. The sun burst through the pervasive fog at exactly the right time, providing perfect weather for the thousands of skaters, walkers, cyclists, pedestrians and equestrians to enjoy the car-free event. A special thank you to Sunset District artist Roxanne Worthington for participating and providing a fun photo activity for children and families at the event. The next Sunday Streets is September 19 in the Western Addition. More info at www.sundaystreetssf.com

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT AT WEST SUNSET

The Sunset Neighborhood Beacon Center hosted National Night Out on August 3rd at West Sunset Playground. This program began 27 years ago as an event to generate support for, and



participation in, local anti-crime programs and strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships. In spite of the foggy conditions, West Sunset playground was packed with kids and families enjoying a free bbq, face painting and other activities with officers from Taraval Station, and folks from RecConnect and Sunset Neighborhood Beacon Center.

TARAVAL PARKSIDE STEERING COMMITTEE

As part of the Taraval Corridor Revitalization, a Taraval Parkside Steering Committee has been formed to tackle issues such as cleanliness, greening, and relationship-building. The group will be working alongside the Taraval Parkside Merchants Association and is being headed by Ashley Summers, Taraval Corridor Manager, of the Sunset Neighborhood Beacon Center. Meetings will be held one Tuesday each month at the Taraval Police Station Community Room at 2345 24th Avenue.

Meetings are at 7:00 on the following dates in 2010:

September 13th

November 30th

October 12th

December 28th

If you would like to join, please contact Ashley Summers at 889-7984 or asummers@snbc.org. All levels of participation are welcome and encouraged!

COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENTS AT TARAVAL & GREAT HIGHWAY



Before
After



Dozens of students from Lincoln High School and neighbors joined Supervisor Chu's Office and the Department of Public Works in an effort to revitalize the median garden at Taraval and Great Highway on July 24. We would like to thank all of the volunteers who participated in this neighborhood project.

The median garden not only helps to beautify our neighborhood, it also serves as an important traffic calming measure given the extra long road width along the area.

A big **thank you** to neighbors Tim & son Dylan Breen and Colin Lee, Erika Patterson from Assemblywoman Fiona Ma's Office – as well as Lincoln High School's Change SF volunteer group: Elvina Fan, Cindy Lui, Ryan Teo, Ryan Chiu, Amelia Huynh, Jackie Huang, Kevin Slen, Amy Leung, Jeffrey Lee, Pinky Wong and Norman Chen.

We would also like to thank **Sloat Garden Center** for its generous donation of plants for this project.



Supervisor Chu with the
Department of Public Works



Lincoln High School's
Change SF volunteer group



Dylan, our youngest
volunteer

RESOURCE CENTER FOR SENIORS IN OUTER SUNSET



Supervisor Chu announced return of senior
center to Outer Sunset on August 6

The Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) has returned to the Outer Sunset at its original location: **2436 Judah Street (between 29th & 39th Ave)**. The ADRC is now open on **Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9:30am – 12:30pm**. The ADRC serves seniors and persons with disabilities, and can assist with translations, filling out forms and volunteer opportunities. Interpreters are on site and can provide assistance in English, Cantonese, Mandarin and Russian. *For more information:*
English (415) 487-3370; Spanish (415) 487-3371;
Russian (415) 487-3372; Chinese (415) 487-3373

STUDENT ASSIGNMENT REDESIGN

For many years, there have been discussions about the need to revise the student assignment system to better serve students with neighborhood school assignments while maintaining a level of diversity at schools across the City. On August 18th, the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) Superintendent presented the Board of Education with recommendations for new school attendance area boundaries, elementary to middle school feeder patterns, and a new transportation policy. All of the proposals, including maps and data, are available at www.sfusd.edu/Enroll.

The Board of Education is scheduled to approve boundaries, feeder patterns, and a transportation policy on **September 24, 2010**. Between now and then the School District will host a series of community meetings to share information and gather feedback (see below). They will also gather feedback through their online survey (www.sfusd.edu/Enroll), and will have drop in sessions for principals and community members.

Schedule of Community Meetings

Saturday, August 28 9:30 am - 11:30 am
Francis Scott Key Elementary [1530 43rd Ave](#)

Tuesday, August 31 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Everett Middle School [450 Church St](#)

Wednesday, September 1 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Marina Middle School [3500 Fillmore St](#)

Monday, September 13 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
SFUSD [555 Franklin St](#)
Board of Education's Ad Hoc Committee on Student Assignment

Tuesday, September 28 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
SFUSD Board of Education, [555 Franklin St](#)
Second reading and action.

TRIBUTE TO FORMER SWIM COACH & SAVA POOL MANAGER: ART OCTAVIO



Supervisor Chu joined Octavio family & friends, swimmers and community members in commemorating Art Octavio (1934-2009) for his contributions to swimming and Sava Pool on August 14. The celebration at Sava Pool was highlighted by the unveiling of a plaque in Art's honor, donated by generous community members Jim & Carole Krotzer. Senator Leland Yee, Dennis Kern from the Recreation & Park Department, and swimmers praised Art for his contributions.

During his career, Art worked at every pool in San Francisco. He was instrumental in renaming Larson

Pool to Sava Pool, in honor of his swimming mentor Charlie Sava, and worked as a tireless advocate for the rebuilding of Sava Pool.

As Manager at Sava Pool, Art opened the pool to many groups, and expanded the community use of the pool by offering programs for seniors, the disabled, and masters. Art also welcomed the Red Cross "Learn-to-Swim" program. The result was a positive contribution to the community. Art coached the SFRP Sava Pool Swim Team, the SFRP Sava Masters, and the City College of San Francisco Swim Team in the 1980s and 90s.



One of the highlights of his career was coaching the Lowell High School Varsity Swim Team, which won the All-City Championship for 10 consecutive years (1997-2007) under his tutelage.

CHANGES TO MUNI SERVICE

Conversations around the Municipal Transportation Agency's (MTA) budget have been evolving rapidly over the past year. The MTA's ability to manage and balance the budget changes as new revenue projections come in and as decisions are made at the local, state or regional levels on potential funding sources. Balancing the MTA budget is also impacted by conversations around labor negotiations that attempt to reduce the cost of MTA operations.

On May 1, 2010, the MTA budget was proposed to the Board of Supervisors for consideration. As you may know, part of the budget included service reductions which have already been implemented in May 2010 (worth about 10% of MUNI operating hours).

Recently, however, the MTA announced that it would be able to reverse half of the service reductions because of additional increased funding from the SFCTA and regional MTC and because the MTA cut additional costs within its operations. The restorations of 5% of service cuts for MUNI will become effective September 2010.

Some of the service restorations impacting our neighborhood include:

- The L-Taraval and N-Judah lines will see owl services restored to arrive every 30 minutes just as it had been scheduled before the May reductions (note that the frequency of L and N lines were not changed during the work week even when service reductions were implemented because of the heavy ridership on those lines)
- The May 2010 change for the 29-Sunset was a reduction in frequency beginning at 11PM on weekdays and an earlier last trip time of 11:40PM versus 12:20AM - the restorations would restore the last trip time back to 12:20AM but would not change the frequency that begins 11PM and later

Discounted Monthly Youth Passes

Recently, the Municipal Transportation Agency's (MTA) Board of Directors approved the allocation of \$1.5 million to cover the cost of providing approximately 10,000 low-income youth monthly passes per month to the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD). The monthly passes would be available beginning in September of this year at a cost of \$10 per pass. The SFUSD is currently developing a plan to distribute these passes directly to eligible students.

PARKING METERS

Residents may have heard of initial thoughts by the MTA to extend parking meter hours. At this time, the two-year budget as proposed does not include expansion of metering on Sundays nor does it include extending meter hours to evening hours past 6 pm. In the past, Supervisor Chu has raised concerns over proposals to implement extended meter hours due to feedback from merchants that there could be a negative impact on the many small, local neighborhood merchant areas that are already struggling in this economic climate.

While the budget also does not include across-the-board meter rate increases (possible exception would be to existing SFPark pilot areas that may adjust meter prices up or down depending on demand), the MTA Board of Directors did however vote to allow the department to pursue the placement of additional meters in the City. The locations have not been finalized, however an initial hearing was held in June to receive feedback on the locations of the proposed meters. Based on feedback from the community, a number of proposed new meter sites were removed. It is important to note that the proposed new meter locations did not include sites inside Golden Gate Park. It is anticipated that the MTA Board of Directors will hear the proposal for new meters in select sites in early August. For more details on the specific meter locations, visit www.sfmta.com (no additional meters have been proposed for District 4).

LA PLAYA PARK

AN OCEAN FRIENDLY GARDEN IN THE SUNSET NEIGHBORHOOD



After almost two years in the making, La Playa Park Neighbors' and SurfRider's Ocean Friendly demonstration garden is nearing completion. La Playa Park, as it is locally known, is nearly one block long and has added much desired green space in San Francisco's Sunset neighborhood. The park boasts a productive edibles garden, a flagstone patio for community gathering, native and drought tolerant plants and a demonstration swale to educate people about watersheds and stormwater runoff. As the plants grow and their flowers bloom, birds, butterflies and bees have been visiting the garden in increasing numbers, thus we have been successful in providing habitat for local pollinators and wildlife. A garden maintenance schedule for volunteers will be set up to keep the garden thriving and to keep the community working together. Currently, we are working on adding educational signage throughout the garden in hopes that visitors will come away with a better understanding of their own watershed and how their actions impact it. And hopefully they will take what they learned and will be inspired to create an ocean friendly garden in their own yards. For more information, visit www.laplayapark.info.

--Sarab Stewart, La Playa Park



DISCOVER THE SUNSET THROUGH FREE WALKING TOURS

Lorri Ungaretti will be leading her Inner Sunset walking tour for SF City Guides at **11:00am** on: Saturdays, **September 11, October 9, & November 13**. Discover how this charming neighborhood emerged from the windswept dunes originally deemed hopeless and uninhabitable. Explore the area, see the bustling local color, and hear fascinating history (and an occasional bit of lore).

She will also be leading the **Sigmund Stern Grove** tour at **11:00am on Saturday, September 18**. Explore this 63-acre city park, the jewel of the Sunset District. Learn of the area's colorful history and about the park's free summer concerts held during the past 70 years. One steep hill and some dirt paths; wear sturdy shoes. Rain cancels the tour.

All tours are free and don't require pre-registration. More information at www.sfcityguides.org

UPDATE ON NEIGHBORHOOD PROJECTS

Sunset Recreation Center



The Sunset Recreation Center will be closed beginning January 2011 for its long awaited renovation. This \$13.7 million project is funded by the Clean and Safe Neighborhood Parks Bond passed by voters in 2008. The Recreation & Park Department is working on mitigating the impacts of the closure and will be providing information on alternative sites for activities. Currently the plans include keeping the fields open as long as possible (even after January 2011) before field renovation takes place.

Parkside Branch Library



The Parkside Branch Library, which is currently closed for renovation, is slated for re-opening at the end of this year. Although funding has been secured for the renovation of the building, the Friends of the San Francisco Public Library has been busy raising funds to supplement the project. The funds will go towards the interior of the library, such as purchasing furniture or computers. There's still time to donate! Contact Tamara Gonzales-Scheulov at Friends of the San Francisco Public Library at TScheulov@FriendsSFPL.org for more information.

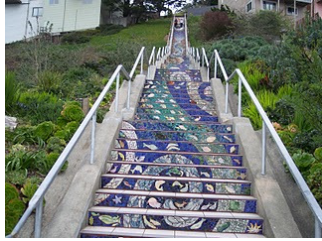
FREE RENOVATIONS FOR LOW INCOME HOUSEHOLDS AND COMMUNITY CENTERS

Rebuilding Together San Francisco is now accepting applications for their FREE renovation program, Rebuilding Day. Each April, teams of volunteers provide repairs and renovation work on the homes of low-income San Franciscans as well as community centers, nonprofits and schools. The type of work depends on what the client needs, but may include: interior painting, landscaping, general cleaning, plumbing, electrical, carpentry, safety modifications, weather stripping and replacing appliances. All the work is done by volunteers on the last Saturday of each April.

Rebuilding Together San Francisco is currently accepting for applications for homeowners in need of repairs as well as nonprofits and community groups and the deadline is **October 31st**. Please tell your friends and neighbors and keep an eye out for community organizations in need of our work.

For more information, call (415) 905-1611. You can download an application, look at pictures from past projects or find out more information by visiting: www.RebuildingTogetherSF.org

TILED STEPS CELEBRATES FIFTH ANNIVERSARY



The Tiled Steps celebrated its fifth anniversary with a party on August 21. Neighbors close by and from further away came to celebrate a public art marvel in the Inner Sunset - the Tiled Steps which span Moraga Street from 16th to 15th Avenue. Kids loved it, especially the questions Alice Xavier (steps organizer) asked: how many stars in the night sky, find the snake, find 2 mushrooms. She said: "I don't know how many stars there are but I wanted all the kids to win."

Senator Leland Yee joined the party and presented a state senate resolution, acknowledging the beautiful steps. Everyone in San Francisco can delight in how the community came together five years ago to create a way to climb from the sea to the sun, right here in San Francisco.

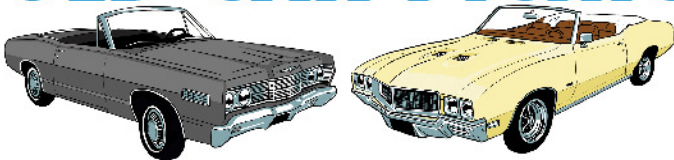
And now the local community is planning to tile another nearby staircase - the Hidden Garden Steps extending 16th Avenue between Kirkham and Lawton. Visit them at www.hiddengardensteps.org.



Children with Tiled Steps organizer Alice Xavier

Jimmy's OLD CAR PICNIC

22nd Annual



Speedway Meadow

Golden Gate Park

SAN FRANCISCO

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2010

7:00 am - 4:00 pm

Park on Speedway Meadow for a **\$40** donation to benefit the Developmentally Disabled. Vehicles must be **1980** or older- year limit **strictly** enforced. **NO VENDORS OR AMPLIFIED MUSIC!** Enter the Meadow from JFK Drive or 30th Avenue from Fulton Street. The SFPD will issue citations for traffic & parking violations.

Bring a picnic lunch or BBQ. No reserving sections- first come, first served. No ins & outs.

Contact us with any questions!

Email: jimmypicnic@gmail.com

Website: www.jimmypicnic.com

Blog: www.jimmypicnic.blogspot.com

Facebook group: "I love Jimmy's Old Car Picnic!"

Jimmy's Annual Old Car Picnic is a non-profit organization that serves to benefit the Developmentally Disabled of San Francisco

JIMMY'S PICNIC IS BACK!

Saturday, October 16

Thanks to the Recreation & Park Department for working with the "Jimmy's" folks to keep the popular picnic going for the 22nd year. This free family event draws vintage car enthusiasts from all over.

New this year:

- Admission fee will be \$40 per vehicle due to increased permit costs. No pre-registration. Spectators are always free.

- The Picnic day will take place on Saturday, NOT Sunday, as in the past. Please remind your friends, especially those without internet access!

- The year limit has been raised, and the show is now open to cars 1980 and older.

- Collectable T-Shirts will be available at Jimmy's online store - the only way to get an official shirt is online.

SOUTH SUNSET PLAYGROUND LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD FRIENDS

Join us October 2 from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm

South Sunset Playground at 40th Avenue and Vicente Street is one of the more popular playgrounds in the City, and one of the few parks that does not have a “Friends of” group to watch over and advocate for it. The Neighborhood Parks Council held a meeting August 25th to gauge community interest in forming a “Friends of South Sunset” group. Even though the play equipment is relatively new, heavy use of the park has led to some general wear and tear. Having a “Friends of South Sunset” group would not only build community, but also create some oversight and advocacy for any problems that could arise around the park.

Some of the issues brought up at the meeting included:

- bathroom access on weekends
- deterioration of rubber ground cover
- rust on swings
- vandalism

On Saturday, October 2, the Neighborhood Parks Council and our office will be at South Sunset Playground for a meet and greet with park users from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. If you are interested in participating in a “Friends of South Sunset”, please stop by for coffee and more information.



OCEAN BEACH UPDATE

The San Francisco Department of Public Works has been finishing their stabilization work along the southern portion of the Great Highway, south of Sloat Blvd. The southbound Great Highway roadway reopening work will start within a few weeks and should be complete in October. Some additional bluff stabilization is needed in two areas to protect the roadway/tunnel infrastructure for enough time for the long-term planning and implementation process to run its course. You can follow the progress of this project at SFPDW's website:

<http://38.106.4.205/index.aspx?page=718>



Meanwhile, the San Francisco Planning and Urban Research Association (SPUR) has been hard at work behind the scenes finalizing the funding and organization of a new Ocean Beach Master Plan process. The recent erosion events South of Sloat and ongoing community efforts have created unprecedented momentum for a sustainable long-range plan. Drawing on the work of the Ocean Beach Vision Council and others, the plan will address the impact of rising seas, the physical and ecological processes shaping the beach, and improved integration with its natural, recreational, and urban contexts. SPUR has been conducting interviews with agency and community stakeholders. This fall, look for a public outreach effort featuring workshops, tours, and a project website to keep local residents up to speed. Stay tuned!

The work will be supported by grants from the State Coastal Conservancy, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, and the National Park Service. SPUR was instrumental in the creation of the GGNRA nearly 40 years ago, and has been a leader in research on sustainable urbanism and climate change adaptation.

For more information, contact project manager Benjamin Grant (bgrant@spur.org)

COEXISTING WITH RACCOONS

Message from Rebecca Katz, Director of Animal Care & Control

Lately, SF Animal Care & Control has received more and more reports of bothersome raccoons in neighborhoods throughout the City. Raccoons are most visible during the late spring and throughout the summer as they forage for food to sustain them through the fall and winter. SF/ACC only resorts to trapping raccoons if they are injured or are truly acting aggressively. Raccoons are curious by nature and will observe humans – and look for handouts. This is not aggressive behavior.

A common misconception is that setting a trap to catch wildlife will take care of the nuisance. However, before too long another raccoon, skunk or opossum will move into the area. Further, here in California, it is illegal to trap and relocate wildlife. If an animal is trapped it must be released on site, or killed. The humane and legal solution for permanently deterring troublesome raccoons requires people to remove the attractant (food, shelter, or water) animals find inviting. If they cannot get a meal at one place they will look elsewhere, and they will remember where they can and cannot expect to have their hunger satisfied.

Other deterrents may include:

- Motion-sensitive lighting kits and motion-sensitive oscillating sprinklers.
- Repellents: Ro-Pel® contains both a bittering agent and a penetrating agent to allow it to better absorb into plant tissue or other material. Get-Away® uses extracts of oil of mustard and capsaicin as both an odor and taste repellent.
- Regular household ammonia stations can be placed around your yard in the areas frequented by raccoons.
- Secure trashcans with a bungee cord.
- Check your property regularly to make sure that screens barring entrance into your home, basement or crawlspace are intact.
- Lock dog and cat doors at night and place ammonia stations in front of the locked door.



Coexisting with wildlife is important. Wild animals living in San Francisco have acclimated to our urban environment and have become familiar with our human habits. Urbanized wildlife may act differently than how we assume wild animals should act. That does not necessarily mean they pose a threat. In fact, there has not been a case of rabies in mammals (other than bats) in SF for more than 60 years.

For more information, please visit SF/ACC's website (www.animalshelter.sfgov.org), www.sfromp.org, or www.wildcarebayarea.org

If you see a sick or injured raccoon, or one that is truly acting aggressively, please call Animal Care & Control at (415) 554-9400.



CHECK OUT THE SAN FRANCISCO 311 APP

In addition to reporting any city problems by calling 3-1-1, residents with iPhones can now download the free **San Francisco 311** app. San Francisco 311 is a real time mobile civic engagement tool. It provides a free, simple, and intuitive tool empowering citizens to identify civic issues (potholes, graffiti, trash, snow removal, etc.) and report them for quicker resolution.

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL



A soggy Dianne Feinstein Elementary School

Supervisor Chu greeted students and parents on the first day of school at Dianne Feinstein Elementary School, Sunset Elementary School and A.P. Giannini Middle School on August 16.



Sunset Elementary School students line up

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 7 (Tue)

PUC Westside Recycled Water & Groundwater Talk

6:30 - 8:00pm

Golden Gate Park Senior Center
Fulton at 37th Avenue

September 8 (Wed)

Open Space Forum with Supervisor Chu

6:00 - 8:00 pm

South Sunset Park Clubhouse (40th Ave and
Vicente St)

Learn more at www.sfnpc.org or call (415) 621-3260

September 11 (Sat)

Autumn Moon Festival

10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Irving St. between 22nd & 24th Ave.

September 11 (Sat)

Inner Sunset Walking tour

11:00 am

Led by Sunset historian Lorri Ungaretti

Meet at Arguello and Hugo. Tour ends at 9th & Lincoln

September 12 (Sun)

Surfrider Beach Clean-up

10:00 am - noon

Noriega Street & Great Hwy

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please email: chustaff@sfgov.org
You can also view previous editions of Supervisor
Chu's newsletter at www.sfgov.org/chu

September 13 (Mon)

Taraval/Parkside Steering Committee

7:00 pm

Be a part of the Taraval Corridor Improvements
Taraval Police Station Community Room at 2345
24th Avenue.

September 21 (Tue)

Taraval Station Public Safety Meeting

7:00 pm

Taraval Police Station

September 25 (Sat)

Sunset Community Festival

11:00 am to 4:00 pm

Sunset Recreation Center

28th & Lawton

sunsetfestival@sbcglobal.net

September 25 (Sat)

FUF Planting

9:00 am - noon

Outer Sunset Community Planting Day

October 1 (Fri)

Lincoln vs. Washington Bell Game

3:00 pm

Lincoln High School football field

October 2 (Sat)

Outreach for "Friends of South Sunset Playground"

11:00 am - 1:00pm

South Sunset Playground

40th Ave between Vicente/Wawona

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