



MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERVISOR

Happy Holidays!



Best wishes to everyone for a safe and happy holiday season!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE TARAVAL PARKSIDE MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION!

Each year, the Neighborhood Empowerment Network (NEN) honors neighborhood organizations and individuals for their outstanding contributions in the community. NEN is a collaboration of community and non-profit organizations, city agencies and academic institutions that work to empower neighborhoods to become cleaner, greener, and a better place to live. On November 17, the Taraval Parkside Merchants Association (TPMA) received a NEN award for "Best Merchant Association" of the year.

The TPMA has been working for years to improve the Taraval corridor with regular clean-up activities, events such as "Tastes of Taraval" to support local businesses, and with the Taraval Police Station to keep our neighborhood safe. TPMA also recently hosted the fourth annual Taraval Street Fair on October 30, where hundreds of families came out to enjoy music and food from local merchants. If you are interested in joining the TPMA, please contact our office at 415-554-7460 or chustaff@sfgov.org for more information.

PROPOSED MEDICAL CANNABIS DISPENSARY PERMIT OVERTURNED

After the Planning Commission approved the permit for the Medical Cannabis Dispensary (MCD) proposed for 2139 Taraval Street in May, several community organizations filed appeals with the city's Board of Permit Appeals in opposition to the cannabis dispensary's opening. The appeal hearing took place on November 17 at City Hall, where the Board of Permit Appeals voted 4-0 to overturn the MCD's permit. The unanimous vote came after two hours of testimony from Sunset District residents, representatives of the San Francisco Unified School District, Edgewood Center for Children and Families, the Taraval Parkside Merchants Association, neighborhood associations, tutoring centers, churches and other nearby facilities. Based on the decision by the Board of Permit Appeals, the MCD is not allowed to operate at this time. There is an opportunity for the project sponsor to request a re-hearing. Please contact our office at (415) 554-7460 for more information.



Office of Supervisor Carmen Chu

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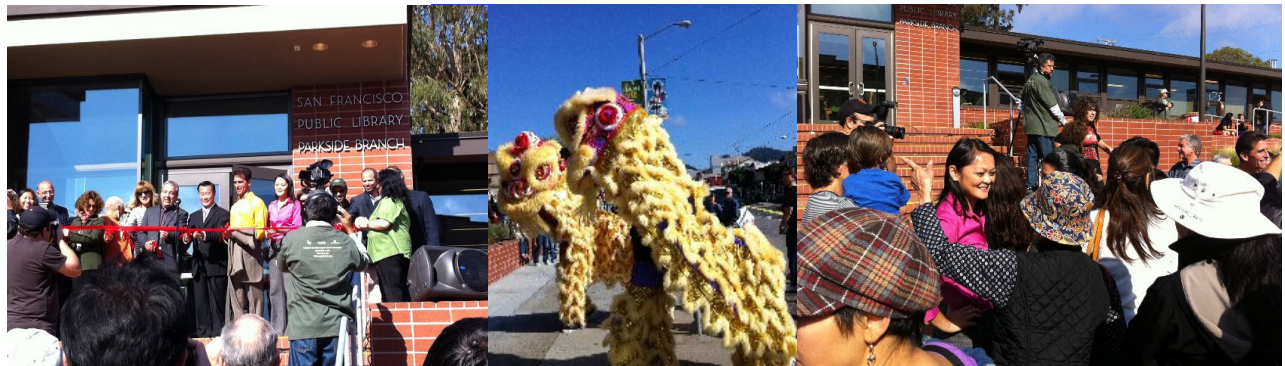
PARKSIDE BRANCH LIBRARY REOPENS!

Dozens of community members joined the San Francisco Public Library (SFPL) for the grand reopening of Parkside Branch Library on November 6. Parkside Branch underwent renovations to bring the library up to date in terms of seismic safety, energy conservation, accessibility for all users, and library service. Parkside Branch is also the first public library renovated to meet Silver standards in Leadership in Energy and Design (LEED).

The improved library includes an additional 1,000 square feet of floor space, new accessible restrooms and entry ramps, a large new teen area, an updated children's section, a refreshed books and materials collection, and a beautifully landscaped outdoor patio. We are excited to welcome Parkside Library back into operation.

Parkside Branch Hours of operation

Mon 1:00pm – 6:00pm
Tue 10:00am – 9:00pm
Wed 1:00pm – 9:00pm
Thurs 10:00am – 6:00pm
Fri 1:00pm – 6:00pm
Sat 10:00am – 6:00pm
Sundays – Closed



MOBILITY, ACCESS AND PRICING STUDY

Many Sunset District residents have been calling our office about a new proposal from the County Transportation Authority that would charge a toll to drive through certain parts of San Francisco. The Mobility, Access and Pricing study, or MAPS, was conducted by the San Francisco Transportation Authority (SFCTA) to examine the feasibility of a congestion pricing program as a way to increase funds for public transportation projects, reduce greenhouse gases citywide, improve transit speed and pedestrian safety, by charging a fee or toll to enter certain parts of the City during peak travel times. Similar programs exist in Rome, Stockholm and London. The MAPS study was recently completed and the SFCTA will present their findings and recommendations to the SFCTA Board on December 14.

Several more steps must happen before this program would go into effect, including a local ordinance, state legislative clearance, an environmental report and other hurdles. The earliest that a pilot project could be put into place is 2015. For more detailed information about the study, visit: <http://www.sfcta.org/content/view/302/148/>



UPCOMING CHANGES TO SCHOOL DISTRICT TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

Beginning with the 2011-12 school year, the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) will be implementing changes to their transportation services. Routes for yellow bus services for general education students attending elementary and middle schools will change and services will be reduced. If you would like more information about SFUSD transportation services, members of the public can attend the Board of Education meeting on **December 14 at 6pm** at 555 Franklin Street (Board Room) and provide feedback. You can also visit www.sfusd.edu/enroll (Enrollment Resources tab).

81ST ANNUAL HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

You are invited to join the Recreation and Park Department for an evening of holiday cheer at the 81st annual Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony on Thursday, **December 9 at 5pm** at McLaren Lodge in Golden Gate Park (501 Stanyan Street & Fell). The ceremony will feature live entertainment, activities for kids, refreshments and train rides. We wish everyone a happy and safe holiday season!



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CAPER CUTTERS

The Caper Cutters Square Dance Club began 60 years ago in the Sunset, and has been "do-si-doeing" Monday nights at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church Hall at 43rd Avenue & Judah ever since. Supervisor Chu honored the Caper Cutters on their 60th anniversary at the November 23rd Board of Supervisors meeting. They're always looking for new members and viewing is free! For more information visit: www.sfsquaredancing.org/



NEW SUNSET REP FOR BIKE CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE: ED NICOLSON



Meet Ed Nicolson, the new District 4 representative to the Bicycle Citizens Advisory Committee. Ed is a long time district resident who commutes daily from his Parkside home to his office downtown and enjoys road racing on the weekends. He believes that the city needs to provide safe bicycle commute options, but also needs to balance the needs of bike riders with those of pedestrians and automobiles. The Bike CAC considers bicycle transportation projects and policies and makes recommendations to the Board of Supervisors, the SFMTA, the County Transportation Authority, and other City agencies. Projects include oversight and facilitation of the five-year Bicycle Plan Update, cooperative initiatives with

bicycle/pedestrian/senior advocacy organizations, recognition of individuals and policies that benefit bicycling, and direct intervention in support of citizen complaints in bicycle-related issues. The Bike CAC is made up of 11 members, one from each supervisorial district, and we are thrilled to have Ed represent our district.

AND SPEAKING OF BIKES....

You have probably noticed the new bike lanes on **Kirkham Street**. Many residents have contacted our office with concerns about the design and purpose of these bike lanes. Kirkham Street, between 6th Avenue and Great Highway is a joint traffic calming and bicycle lane project. This street is part of the official San Francisco Bicycle Route Network and this project was included in the 2009 Bicycle Plan. It was also analyzed as part of the 2009 Bicycle Plan Environmental Impact Report (EIR), and approved by the SFMTA Board in June 2009. In late September/early October 2010, bicycle lanes were added along the entire project length, except between 18th and 20th Avenues, where a combination of sharrows (shared roads between bicycles and vehicles) in the downhill (westbound) direction and a bicycle lane in the uphill (eastbound) direction will be installed as soon as the traffic signal loops have been relocated. In addition, pedestrian islands were constructed at 8th Avenue, and between Funston and 17th Avenues. These islands are designed to reduce vehicular speeds and provide a refuge for pedestrians, by decreasing the crossing distance.



Generally, Kirkham Street now has 9-foot wide parking on each side, a 6-foot wide bicycle lane in each direction, and a 20-foot wide travel way for motorists, which equates to two 10-foot wide lanes and is very common throughout San Francisco. The SFMTA purposely left out the centerline on the majority of Kirkham Street as a traffic calming tool. Although the travel way is wide enough for two vehicles to pass one another side-by-side, the absence of a centerline creates a certain amount of uncertainty for motorists which has the effect of increasing attention and decreasing speeds. The bicycle lanes on Kirkham Street were also striped a little wider than usual -- 6 feet rather than the typical 5 feet -- both to reduce the width of the travel way as described above, and to ensure that the majority of the bicycle lane is outside of the "door zone" where a suddenly opened car door can strike a bicyclist. Beyond the traffic calming and increased safety benefits, the bicycle lanes also create a buffered space for people entering and exiting their parked cars.



REINDEERS RETURN TO THE SF ZOO

Holly, Velvet, Peppermint and Belle are back at the SF Zoo through New Year's Day. And if that's not enough, stop by the Zoo any weekend in December for Winter Goes Wild and see your favorite animals enjoy special holiday-themed enrichment treats all month long. 'Tis the Season for fun and adventure at the San Francisco Zoo!

HOLIDAY SEASON TRANSPORTATION TIPS FROM SFMTA

The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) offers the following tips for getting to and from the Union Square area this holiday season:

- SFMTA provides over 7,000 parking spaces in the Union Square area with weekday and weekend rates designed for short-term parking in the following garages: Ellis-O'Farrell (925 spaces); 5th/Mission (2,585 spaces); Moscone Center (732 spaces); Sutter Stockton (1,865 spaces) and Union Square (985 spaces).
- The cheapest, least crowded place to park near Union Square on weekends: St. Mary's Square Garage, two blocks east and three blocks north of Union Square on Kearny and Pine Streets. Weekend and holiday rates: \$2 for one hour, \$7 per day.
- Parking garages near Union Square that don't fill up on Saturdays: Hearst Garage on 3rd Street between Mission and Market Streets, St. Mary's Square Garage and the Jessie Square Garage on Stevenson Street west of 3rd Street.
- Reduced BART fares: Children age 5-12 and seniors 65 or older can ride BART for one-quarter the normal fare **with discount tickets**. Discount tickets are available at retail vendors, such as Lucky and Safeway, but not at most BART stations. For ticket vendor info, go to: www.BART.gov.
- Best bicycle parking near Union Square: Union Square Garage, top floor.
- Most crowded days to shop at Union Square (in order): Christmas Eve, the Friday and Saturday after Thanksgiving, December 26 and Fridays and Saturdays between Thanksgiving and Christmas.
- Least crowded days of the week to shop at Union Square between Thanksgiving and Christmas: Sundays and Mondays.
- Read all parking signs carefully before parking. Many downtown parking spaces are designated for commercial vehicle parking, and many spaces become tow-away zones after 3 or 4 PM.
- If a parking garage is full, garage attendants will provide maps to nearby garages that have space available. Do not wait outside full garages.





URBAN GLEANING PROGRAM

Gather and Give Back to the Community



The Department of Public Works is working with San Francisco residents and businesses to help collect and distribute food grown from trees and Community Gardens for distribution to shelters, food banks and other communities of need.

GIVE BACK AND HELP ACCESS TO HEALTHY AND NUTRITIOUS FOOD IN THE COMMUNITY

The goal of this program is to:

- Provide all of San Francisco residents access to healthy and nutritious food;
- Reduce waste of locally grown food;
- Create a food distribution system that targets communities who normally do not have access to fresh and healthy foods.

THE URBAN GLEANING PROGRAM

The Department of Public Works is currently working with residents and businesses on a regular basis. Sign up and register your tree!

DPW will provide supplies to gather the fruits and will distribute the collected food to local food banks, shelters, soup kitchens, and hot-meal delivery programs.

For more information or to contact the Urban Gleaning Program to register your tree:

Call: 311

Email: nancy.wong@sfdpw.org

Mail: Nancy Wong

Program Coordinator

Department of Public Works

2323 Cesar Chavez Street

San Francisco, CA 94124-1091

JOIN TODAY!

Q. What type of commitment must I make?

A. You must register your fruit trees and help out your community by providing your neighborhood with healthy and nutritious food.

Q. How do I apply?

A. Fill out and return the application on the back of this flyer and send the information back, or call 3-1-1.

Q. What supplies and support will the city provide if I register my trees?

A. DPW will provide you with buckets, and other tools.

DPW will also help gather and pick the fruit, wash the fruit, and package the food in a nice basket or bags for distribution to the food banks, shelters, soup kitchens, and hot-meal delivery programs.

For more information about the Urban Gleaning Program:
Call 311 or visit sfdpw.org



UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec. 1 (Wed) through Dec. 3 (Fri)

AP Giannini students perform at City Hall

Band performance: Dec. 1

Choir performance: Dec. 2

Orchestra performance: Dec. 3

All concerts begin at noon.

Dec. 3 (Fri) through Dec. 5 (Sun)

Fogbelt Studio's Holiday Arts & Crafts Sale

2528 25th Avenue (Ulloa & Vicente)

28 local artists / craftspeople, wonderful hand made works.

Friday noon - 8pm, Saturday 10am - 6pm,

Sunday noon - 6pm.

Free entry & refreshments. Daily door prizes.

For more information, visit

<http://www.fogbeltstudio.com>

or call (415) 244-8402.

Thursday – December 9

Rec & Park 81st annual Tree Lighting

McLaren Lodge in Golden Gate Park

5:00 pm

Thursday - December 9

A Christmas Party benefitting the Janet Pomeroy Center

The Cliff House 1090 Point Lobos

Donations to The JPC gladly welcomed

6:00 pm – 10:00 pm

Saturday – December 11

Parkmerced History Walk

Join Woody LaBounty on a walk around San Francisco's "city in a city," Parkmerced. This two-hour history stroll will cover part of the almost 200-acre rental community of garden villas and modern towers in a fascinating (if sometimes confusing) landscape beside Lake Merced. The tour is free to Western Neighborhoods Project (WNP) members and their guests, but has a maximum capacity of 30 people. Call Woody to make your reservation and find out the secret meeting place:
415-661-1000.

11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Saturday – December 11

The Riptide's 6th Annual Toy Drive

3639 Taraval Street

Benefitting the SFFD Toy Drive

With Honky Tonk band Red Meat

9:30 pm – midnight

Sunday – December 12

The Mayor's Holiday City Hall Open House

This event is free and open to the public, and will provide guests with an

opportunity to meet the Mayor, tour City Hall and connect with many of the

City's elected officials and departments' staff. Children are welcome. Guests

will be treated to Holiday cookies, hot

cocoa and entertainment by Magik

Magik Orchestra. Please RSVP to:

charlotte.shultz@sfgov.org or 415-554-6164

2:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Saturday – December 18

Holiday Ice Skating Party for Families with Disabilities

Yerba Buena Ice Center

Call 415-920-5040

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Saturday – December 18

Comhaltas Night: Traditional Irish Music and Dancing

United Irish Cultural Center - 2700 45th Ave

Free. Comhaltas (CCÉ) is a worldwide

organization, based in Dublin, Ireland, dedicated to preserving and fostering the

traditions of Ireland, through music, song, dance, storytelling & language. Visit the San

Francisco Cooley-Keegan Branch at:

<http://sf.ccwest.org>

7:30 pm – 11:30 pm

Wednesday – December 22

Officer Brian Tuvera Memorial Event

Time: TBD. Please contact Taraval Police

Station at 415-759-3100 for more details.

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