

# SUPERVISOR CARMEN CHU

District 4 • Sunset • Parkside

January 2011

## *Message from the Supervisor*

### **Public Hearing Called on Practice of Muni Switchbacks**



I have called for a public hearing on the MTA's practice of switching back Muni light rail vehicles (LRVs) like the N-Judah or L-Taraval at the City Operations and Neighborhood Services Committee of the Board of Supervisors.

Recently, a number of residents have called our office to report the early termination of the Muni lines before they reach their advertised final stop. The MTA has argued that the switchbacks are operationally necessary to reduce further delays in the system heading in the opposite direction. However, not only has this practice resulted in a significant inconvenience for the many Muni riders who must exit early and wait for the next train, but also further erodes the public's confidence of the public transportation system's reliability. Additionally, part of the frustration the residents have expressed was the lack of advance notification of the MTA's plans to shorten the route of these lines.

I have asked the MTA to address these concerns and provide options for reducing the prevalence of early switchbacks. To start, the MTA has already committed to implementing immediate changes in their notification procedures for riders. These include ensuring vehicle destination signs display the correct final destination and include operator announcements along the route to advise riders of both the final destination and the location of the next trailing vehicle. So far, the MTA has also committed not to switchback vehicles unless there is a following train within five minutes of the train being turned. It is our goal, however, to find alternatives that will remove the need for short-turning vehicles.

The public hearing is scheduled to take place on **January 10<sup>th</sup> (Monday) at 10:30 am in City Hall** (room 250, Board Chamber). Members of the public are encouraged to attend the hearing. Transit riders are also encouraged to record the four-digit vehicle number located at the front of the train, date, and time if trains do not properly display their final destination, if no announcements are made, and if no train arrives within five minutes of a switchback. You can either report this information to 3-1-1 or our office at (415) 554-7460 or [chustaff@sfgov.org](mailto:chustaff@sfgov.org).



#### **Office of Supervisor Carmen Chu**

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## THE DISTRICT 4 COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The Department of Children Youth and Families (DCYF) wants to hear from parents and community members in District 4 for their Community Needs Assessment (CNA).

DCYF's CNA is conducted every three years marking the beginning of a three-year grant cycle and helps DCYF prioritize and plan for the coming years. The CNA includes a review of city-wide program and administrative data as well as the fielding of community, parent, youth and service provider feedback.

**It is important that DCYF hear from a broad sample of families in our district, so they understand the need for programs, funding and other services in the Sunset.**

Please come to a meeting hosted by our office and the Sunset District Neighborhood Coalition **Thursday, January 13 at 7:00 pm**. Representatives from DCYF will give a brief introduction about the CNA and the work this department does, a survey and discussion of district needs, and some Q & A. The facilitation is being conducted by consultants at Harder & Co. Community Research, and DCYF staff will be available for further questions.

The Sunset needs programming, funding and services for families; let's make sure that DCYF is aware of the needs of our district!

The DCYF/CNA portion of the meeting should last no more than 45 minutes, but the Sunset District Neighborhood Coalition invites you to stay to meet City Assessor Phil Ting.

For more information, please contact our office or the Sunset District Neighborhood Coalition at 415-665-5579.

Details:

**Sunset District Neighborhood  
Coalition Meeting  
Thursday, January 13 at 7:00 pm  
Taraval Police Station Community  
Meeting Room**

## OCEAN BEACH MASTER PLAN PUBLIC WORKSHOP & OPEN HOUSE



SPUR (SF Planning and Urban Research Association) is leading a new long-range planning effort for Ocean Beach and would like your ideas and feedback at a Workshop/Open House **January 15** at the San Francisco Zoo's Great Hall.

You are welcome to attend at any time between **9am and 2pm**, and stay for as long as you wish. The design team will provide project background information and collect your input and ideas for the future of Ocean Beach.

This Workshop will give the public a chance to weigh in on a host of issues, including:

- Improvements to Public Access and Amenities
- Protection of Ecological, Aesthetic, and Historical Resources
- Coastal Management in light of erosion, sea-level rise, and climate change
- Infrastructure Planning
- Interagency Management

For more information, please contact project manager Benjamin Grant - [bgrant@spur.org](mailto:bgrant@spur.org).

## CIDER WITH SANTA



The Friends of West Sunset Playground co-presented their annual Cider with Santa event with the Friends of South Sunset Playground this year, and held it at Sunset Recreation Center. Fueled by coffee from Java Beach, hot cider and delicious

chocolate chip cookies from Devils' Teeth Bakery (opening on Noriega Street soon), dozens of families got in the holiday spirit making ornaments, chatting and having one-on-one visits with Santa himself. Special thanks to Shawna McGrew for her artistic talents, Elvina the Elf, Santa Bob Twomey, Java Beach and Devils' Teeth Bakery.



## SUNSET YOUTH SERVICES CELEBRATES GIANTS CHAMPIONSHIP

Celebrate the San Francisco Giants with "The Giants Are World Champions" from **Upstar Records**, a youth run record label founded by Sunset Youth Services. You can download the song at <http://www.hotnewhiphop.com/en/play/s/c94490a-141010/>. If you like it, check out their first release "Hard To Ignore" on iTunes, Cd Baby, Amazon, and Emusic.

More information available at these sites:

Twitter.com/upstarrecords

Myspace.com/upstarrec

Facebook.com/upstarrec

<http://hotnewhiphop.com/UpstarRecordsHotnewhiphop.com/UpstarRecords>





## SUPERVISOR CHU HONORS SUNSET DISTRICT HERO : **THERESA SHANLEY**

At the Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> Board of Supervisors meeting, Supervisor Carmen Chu gave a special commendation to Sunset District native Theresa Shanley for her assistance in the identification and rescue of a kidnapped girl.



On Friday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, Theresa Shanley was at Safeway on LaPlaya and noticed a man with a young girl sitting in front of the store holding a cardboard sign. After making eye contact with the child, Ms. Shanley knew something wasn't right. "The hair on my arms was standing up," she said. "My intuition was telling me something's wrong."

She then remembered seeing a story about a girl from Virginia, whose mother had been murdered, and was now missing. Ms. Shanley went into the store and called the police. Within minutes, police officers from Richmond Station arrived and

confirmed that the child was indeed Brittany Smith, a twelve year-old missing from Virginia. Her alleged abductor, Jeffrey Easley, was taken into custody.

Supervisor Carmen Chu commended Ms. Shanley for her role in the safe return of Brittany Smith. "It took just a minute for Theresa to notice this child and call the authorities," said Supervisor Chu. "Because of her actions, this story has had a positive conclusion."

Theresa Shanley strongly encouraged citizens to get involved. "Children go missing every day", she said. "If you notice something and it doesn't seem right, call the police."

## HOLIDAY LIGHTS TWINKLE ON IRVING STREET

You may have noticed the new sparkle on Irving Street during the holiday season. Our office worked with the Outer Sunset Merchant & Professional Association (OSMPA) to create a festive merchant corridor during the holidays to encourage residents to shop locally and support small businesses. Over 90 percent of the businesses between 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> Ave participated in the holiday lights project, which has brightened one of the most heavily frequented corridors in the Outer Sunset. We would like to thank the OSMPA for all of their hard work on this project.



Irving Holiday Lights Project  
Between 19<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> Ave

← Supervisor Chu joins Outer Sunset Merchant Association members Angela Tickler (center) & Awadalla Awadalla (right) in official lighting ceremony on Dec. 8 at the Hard Wear Store.



## SUNSET RESERVOIR SOLAR POWER PROJECT IS ON!



In December, the Sunset Reservoir Solar Project was officially powered up. Supervisor Chu, who led the legislation to make this project possible, was on hand to “flick the switch”.

There are nearly 24,000 solar panels installed on top of the North Basin of the Sunset Reservoir, which generates up to 5 megawatts daily of clean, 100 percent renewable energy. Over the 25-year lifetime of the project, the Sunset Reservoir will reduce carbon emissions by approximately 80,000 metric tons, while helping to satisfy the diverse clean energy needs of the City's municipal buildings and facilities.

The Sunset Reservoir Solar Project is a public-private partnership between the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) and Recurrent Energy. The agreement between the SFPUC and Recurrent Energy leveraged a 30% federal tax credit available only to private companies, which dramatically lowered the project's construction costs. The SFPUC will purchase power from Recurrent Energy through a power purchase agreement (PPA) at a discounted rate, saving \$26 million over the 25-year lifetime of the project. Under this agreement, Recurrent Energy has also assumed all of the risk of financing, building and operating the project.

“Strong public policy and government leadership played critical roles in bringing this project online,” said Arno Harris, CEO of Recurrent Energy. “We appreciate everyone that has played a role in this project for their commitment to clean energy and a green economy.”

“The Sunset Reservoir Solar Project is a great example of public-private partnerships working to achieve our City's renewable energy goals,” said Supervisor Carmen Chu. “We are proud that the Sunset District is now home to California's largest municipal solar project.”

## ARTIST OPPORTUNITIES WITH SF ARTS COMMISSION

The San Francisco Arts Commission announced new opportunities for artists in the Public Art Program. Artists working in all mediums are encouraged to apply to the 2011 Prequalified Artist Pool to be considered for upcoming public art projects. This is open to all professional practicing artists or artist teams residing in the Western States (Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming).

### Public Safety Building Public Art Program

The new Public Safety Building will be the first civic building located in the Mission Bay neighborhood. Several art opportunities for both interior and exterior public art projects are available. Multiple projects will be implemented at this site for a total budget of \$2.6 million.

Professional practicing artists or artist teams residing in the United States are eligible.

**Application deadline for both: Tuesday, January 18, 2011, 5:00 PM (PST)**

For questions, contact Zoë Taleporos, Public Art Program Associate at (415) 252-3215 or by email at [zoe.taleporos@sfgov.org](mailto:zoe.taleporos@sfgov.org).

## PREPARING FOR WINTER STORMS

### ***Are You Ready for the Next Storm?***

San Francisco winter storms can cause floods, landslides, uprooted trees, and downed or broken utility lines in almost any neighborhood. The City and County of San Francisco has prepared safety tips to help you have a safe winter and protect yourself and your property. For all emergencies, call 911. To report downed tree limbs, clogged catch basins or localized flooding, call 311.

**FREE SANDBAGS:** You can pick up sandbags at Department of Public Works' Operations Yard to help prevent flooding in your home.

### **How to Prepare for the Next Storm**

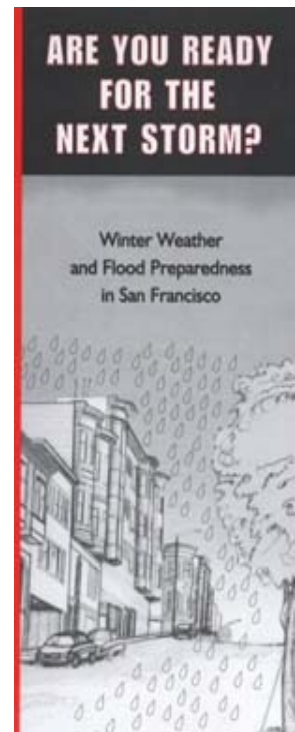
- Be aware of low-elevation spots that could flood.
- Store emergency items such as first aid kits, flashlights and portable radios in a safe, high place.
- Store drinking water in closed, clean containers in case water service is interrupted. Allow one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days.
- Consider installing a back-flow prevention device if any of your inside drains or fixtures are lower than the side sewer vent on the sidewalk.
- Prepare written instructions on how to turn off electricity, gas and water if authorities advise you to do so. (Remember, you'll need a professional to turn them back on.)

### **During the Storm**

- If water has entered a garage or basement, do not walk through it.
- If you are asked to leave your property, disconnect all electrical appliances.
- Tune to KCBS 740 or local TV channels for emergency advisories and instructions.
- Avoid downed power lines and broken gas lines.

### **After the Storm**

- DO NOT TURN GAS BACK ON YOURSELF. Call PG&E (800) 743-5000.
- Avoid direct contact with floodwater. Wear protective clothing, including heavy gloves, to remove wet materials that may be contaminated.
- Follow local instructions regarding the safety of drinking water.
- Do not use fresh foods or canned goods that have come in contact with floodwaters.
- Flooded buildings should be pumped out, disinfected and dried as quickly as possible to prevent mold.
- Do not handle live electrical equipment in wet areas. Have them checked before use.



## CONGESTION PRICING : UPDATE

The San Francisco County Transportation Authority (SFCTA) recently completed a study on congestion pricing and presented their findings to the SFCTA Board in December. At that time, the study contemplated charging a congestion toll in the crowded downtown area or at the southern border between San Francisco and San Mateo counties.

The Board of Supervisors, acting as the SFCTA, voted 8-3, with Carmen Chu, Bevan Duffy and Michaela Alioto-Pier opposed, to continue studying the concept of charging tolls during the most-congested parts of the day in an expanded area of downtown. The SFCTA also decided to end consideration of a proposed toll at the San Mateo County line. This means that there will not be further analysis nor implementation of a San Francisco/San Mateo border fee.

The proposal for congestion pricing cannot be implemented without a lengthy multi-year environmental study, and would require further authorization from both the local and state legislatures before it can move forward. For more information about congestion pricing, visit: <http://www.sfcta.org/content/view/302/148>

## LEAVES CAN BE COMPOSTED, TOO!



Help out the urban environment by sweeping leaves into your green recycle bin! The Department of Public Works' **Turn Brown Leaves Green** campaign aims to motivate folks to clean and green their City, one neighborhood at a time.

Leaves aren't litter and have no purpose on the streets, sidewalks, or in the catch basins (storm drains). The City's new educational campaign, Turn Brown Leaves Green encourages residents to sweep up leaves from the streets, sidewalks, and catch basins.

By depositing leaves in to the green recycle bins, the leaves can eventually transition into rich compost for local farms and gardens. Placing the fallen leaves in the bins also prevents them from clogging the city's catch basins.

Remember, cleanliness of the sidewalks is the responsibility of property owners, and leaves should never

be swept onto the street or near catch basins (storm drains). By law, the property owner or the ground-floor tenant of the building immediately adjacent to the sidewalk is responsible for keeping it clean and free of litter and leaves.

## WANTED: DISTRICT 4 REPRESENTATIVE FOR BART CITIZEN REVIEW BOARD

Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) is looking for a representative to join the BART Citizen Review Board. After the tragic officer involved shooting that took place New Year's Eve 2009, the BART board began a process of making improvements within the BART Police Department. One of these improvements was the creation of an 11 member BART Citizen Review Board, an advisory panel which will provide additional oversight of the BART Police Department and the review major police incidents. If you are interested in being considered for an appointment to this board, please call BART District Secretary Ken Duron at (510) 464-6080 or go to:

<http://www.bart.gov/about/bod/citizenreviewboard.asp>



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Saturday, Jan. 8**

**New Board of Supervisors Inauguration**

City Hall, room 250 (Board Chamber)

Noon

**Tuesday, Jan. 11**

**Bruce Mahoney Basketball Game**

St. Ignatius vs. Sacred Heart Cathedral

University of San Francisco

6:00 pm

**Thursday, Jan. 13**

**District 4 Community Needs Assessment**

Sunset District Neighborhood Coalition meeting will address the district's needs for the Dept. of Children, Youth & Families next 3 years planning and budgeting cycle.

Taraval Police Station Community Room

2345 – 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue

7:00 pm

**Saturday, Jan. 15**

**Ocean Beach Master Plan Open House**

SPUR hosts this public meeting on the Ocean Beach Master Plan. The public is welcome to attend any time between 9:00 am and 2:00 pm to learn about the project and give input.

San Francisco Zoo (1 Zoo Road) - Great Hall

9:00 am – 2:00 pm

**Tuesday, Jan. 18**

**Captain Sanford's Community Meeting**

Monthly community safety meeting

Taraval Police Station

2345 – 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue

7:00 pm



**Saturday, Jan. 22**

**Walking Tour of Golden Gate Park's West End**

City Guides hosts this free two hour tour of the western end of Golden Gate Park. Meet at Queen Wilhelmina's Tulip Garden

1690 John F Kennedy Drive

11:00 am

**Saturday, Jan. 22**

**Parkside Library welcomes the Year of the Rabbit, with Chinese Lion dancers & more**

Parkside Library - 1200 Taraval Street

4:00 pm

**Saturday, Jan. 22**

**Sunset Coop Nursery School**

**"New Building, Same Love" Homecoming**

4245 Lawton & Great Highway

11:00 am – 2:00 pm

**Wednesday, Jan. 26**

**Girls Basketball, Lincoln vs. Lowell**

Lowell High School – 1101 Eucalyptus Drive

4:00 pm

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