



## October 2012 Newsletter

Office Phone: 415-554-6968  
Email: [scott.wiener@sfgov.org](mailto:scott.wiener@sfgov.org)  
Website: [www.scottwiener.com](http://www.scottwiener.com)

**For more regular updates, follow me on Facebook and Twitter:**



### Fundraiser for "Nuns Rock" Memorial Honoring Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence

My office will be hosting a fundraiser for the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence to create a "Nuns Rock" in the National AIDS Memorial Grove, located in Golden Gate Park. Details for the event are as follows:

**Date:** Thursday, November 8th

**Time:** 5:30-7:00pm

**Location:** San Francisco City Hall, Room 274

Currently, there is no community altar to remember those Sisters that have been lost along the way. The Sisters are an invaluable part of our community and have been on the front lines of the HIV/AIDS fight since the beginning. We should do everything we can to support their irreplaceable efforts. If you can't make the fundraiser, please consider donating to honor the Sisters who have passed too early: The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, Inc. (Federal Tax I.D. #:94-3032120) or the National AIDS Memorial Grove (Federal Tax I.D. #:94-3213100).

### My New Legislative Aide: Jeff Cretan

I'm proud to announce the addition of my third legislative aide, Jeff Cretan. Jeff comes to us from the City Attorney's Office, where he worked as an investigator with many city departments on a variety of issues, including litigation and city employment matters. Previous to his work in the City Attorney's Office, Jeff worked as a journalist and in the tech industry. Jeff and his wife live in the Inner Sunset with their baby daughter.



Scott with District 8's newest legislative aide, Jeff Cretan

## Policy Work

### Maintaining Our Urban Forest: Hearing

Our urban forest is an essential part of our city's fabric, and we must do everything we can to protect it. Unfortunately, the maintenance plan for trees on our streets and in our parks isn't working. Recently, the Department of Public Works, which doesn't have adequate funds to maintain our street trees, began transferring maintenance responsibilities of street trees to property owners. This troubles me. I'm concerned that not all property owners have the desire, resources, or knowledge to take care of our trees. To address this, I requested a hearing set for October 25th to discuss options on how to best protect and maintain the trees on our streets, including whether we should identify a sustainable funding source, so the city can assume responsibility for overseeing and maintaining our urban forest. If you're interested in attending the hearing, please contact my office at (415) 554-6968 for details.

### CEQA Reform Legislation

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) serves a vital purpose – protecting our environment – but at times, it can be used as a last minute sandbag tactic by opponents of projects, including important public projects. The purpose of CEQA is to measure the environmental impact of projects like housing developments, park improvements and transportation projects. Unfortunately, the way the law is written, opponents of projects can use CEQA appeals to cause dramatic delays and cost escalations having nothing to do with environmental protection.

On Tuesday, I introduced legislation at the Board changing the timing of CEQA appeals to prevent these abuses. Under the current law, a CEQA appeal can be filed up until a few weeks after the very last approval of a project, even if that occurs years after the CEQA determination was made. My legislation would change that timing so the appeal would have to be filed after

the very first project approval is made. This will establish a clear and transparent time period for CEQA appeals so that those with environmental concerns about a project will have their concerns heard and examined in a timely and orderly way. This will prevent project opponents from using last minute CEQA appeals as a delay tactic that wastes time and money.

### Community Safety Element Update Legislation

Protecting our citizens from disaster is an essential government responsibility that I take very seriously. This month, the Board passed my legislation updating the city's Community Safety Element of the City's General Plan. The Safety Element establishes policies to protect San Francisco from risks associated with natural and human-made disasters, and will facilitate community resiliency if and when disaster strikes. Because we are a city that is naturally vulnerable to earthquakes, the Safety Element focuses on problems that stem from ground failure. These updates are a necessary and important addition to ensure our city will be prepared when disaster strikes.

### Business Week Names SF Top City

Business Week Magazine recently named San Francisco its [top city to live](#) in the United States. These rankings resulted from several factors, including education, leisure, nightlife, economic strength, and air quality. Business Week highlighted San Francisco's diverse entertainment and arts scene, including our restaurants, bars, food trucks and parks, and our music, literary and cultural fairs that take place throughout the year. I'm proud of our city's well-earned reputation, and that's why I've worked on issues like expanding food truck access, crafting a more nightlife-friendly atmosphere, and ensuring that our parks have proper funding.

### Legislation to Restrict Public Nudity to Appropriate Venues

This month I introduced [legislation to restrict public nudity](#) to appropriate venues, like parades, street festivals, and beaches, while prohibiting the display of genitalia in other public places including city plazas, parklets, sidewalks, streets and public transit. This proposed ordinance came about as a result of a sharp increase in public nudity in the Castro, most notably in Jane Warner Plaza at Castro and Market. What was once an occasional sighting has turned into a near-daily nudist colony in what is essentially the Castro's town square. I hadn't planned on pursuing this ban, and I'd hoped this issue would resolve itself, but sentiment in the community, from gay and straight residents, small business owners, and others, has turned against this obnoxious behavior. The goal of this legislation is not to punish people, but to get them to put their clothes back on while in our neighborhoods so that everyone can enjoy our public space.

### Noe Valley Voice Reviews My Term in Office

The Noe Valley Voice published an overview of my first two years in office. Click [here](#) to see a review of my work in the neighborhood, the district and citywide.





Scott and Supervisor Cohen speak at the Salesforce Volunteer Event at McLaren Park.

#### Official Misconduct Vote on the Sheriff

On October 9th, I voted to remove Sheriff Ross Mirkarimi from office as a result of his conviction for false imprisonment relating to a domestic violence episode. The vote on the Board was 7-4 in favor of removing the Sheriff, but because 9 votes were required, the Sheriff kept his position. The office of Sheriff is larger than any one individual, and the actions taken by the Sheriff against his wife and in the ensuing months were beneath the standard of conduct that the office and our

city demand and deserve. It's highly problematic for our chief elected law enforcement officer to have been convicted for domestic violence and to be on probation. While I do believe in the value of restorative justice, I also believe that actions must have consequences. I know that people have varying views on this issue, and I respect other perspectives. I simply want to make sure people understand mine.

### Board Approves Purchase of New Muni Buses & Upgrades to Aging Fleet

Muni needs a lot of help in a number of areas, and many of these problems require long term fixes. However, there are some fixes we can make in the short run to improve Muni service, including upgrading our aging fleet. I'm happy to announce that the Board passed my legislation to buy 45 new low-floor hybrid diesel buses and to upgrade 80 biodiesel buses in Muni's current fleet. By getting older coaches that require constant maintenance off the streets and making structural upgrades to other coaches, we will reduce breakdowns and improve on-time performance. Also, the low floors of the new coaches will allow for quicker boarding. Funding for these improvements will come from federal, state and local funds. Muni service will not be affected during the maintenance work.

### Efficiency Legislation Update

As a response to our city-wide housing shortage, I proposed legislation [to reduce the minimum size of a studio apartment](#) to 220 square feet, including no less than 150 square feet for the living area plus a kitchen, bathroom, and closet. The vote on this legislation is scheduled to take place in November. This legislation will help meet the housing needs of those who can't afford more space, or don't need it. These reduced minimums will still adhere to state requirements and will be in line with those of other cities like San Jose. We need to be more flexible in our approach to housing in order to meet the needs of our population. Click [here](#) for an op-ed I wrote on this issue.

### Solar Panels on Alvarado Elementary

Last Spring, the Board of Supervisors approved my legislation to authorize the PUC to [install solar panels on top of Alvarado Elementary School](#). The panels have now been installed and I've now introduced further legislation to turn the switch on so that the solar panels on top of the school will start running. This is a wonderful step in the process of providing clean, sustainable energy to our schools. It also is a great tool for teaching our children about the importance of sustainable energy by having them see its effects every single day. I will continue to work to expand this program to other schools in the district and throughout the city.

## Community Updates

### Glen Park Canyon Tree Update

I'm a huge advocate for our urban forest, and I'm proud to represent Glen Canyon, one of our most majestic parks and forests. I'm also thrilled that we are about to improve the Canyon's recreational offerings, specifically, improvements to the tennis courts and an expansion of the playground. As part of this project – which resulted from an extensive community process – 58 trees will be removed, some of which are in the way of the project and most of which are either hazardous, dead, or well on their way toward being hazardous or dead. Several of these trees recent fell over in the Canyon. These removed trees will be replaced by 163 trees, that is, almost 3 new trees for every tree removed. This project is not part of the controversial Natural Areas Program, which will come to the Board next year.

In recent weeks, I've received numerous emails from residents expressing concern about the tree removal. Unfortunately, some have received misinformation about the project, including that the project will result in "deforestation," that "most" of the trees in Glen Canyon will be removed, and that 300 or "hundreds" of trees will be removed. These inaccurate statement have caused unnecessary anxiety about our wonderful Canyon and forest. In order to ensure accurate information for the community, in June, I worked with the Glen Park Association and Diamond



Heights Community Association to convene a large community meeting with presentations by Rec & Park, the Forest Alliance, and others. Discussion and dialogue is the best way to ensure that everyone receives accurate information. People then can form their opinions.

I will continue to work closely with the community on this and other tree issues.



Trees that had been marked for removal fell over in Glen Canyon on October 2nd.

### Glen Park Vandal Caught on Tape

For the past two weeks, a vandal has been attacking businesses in Glen Park. After midnight on last Tuesday morning, video cameras from a local business recorded a man spraying a viscous oil on shop windows on the 2900 hundred block of Diamond Street. Glen Park Cleaners, Viking Sub Sandwiches, Osha Thai and the nail salon were all hit by vandal. You can see a link to the video posted by the Glen Park News [here](#), as well as more details on the recent vandalism in the neighborhood.

SFPD officers have viewed the video and interviewed business owners. If anyone has any information on the vandal or witnesses any more acts of vandalism, please contact Ingleside Police Station by calling 404-4000 or emailing [SFPDInglesideStation@sfgov.org](mailto:SFPDInglesideStation@sfgov.org).

### Upper Market Development Status

As you've probably noticed, a lot of development is occurring in the Upper Market area, from Octavia to Castro. A number of these projects were approved in 2007 and 2008, but because of the financial crash, projects weren't able to receive funding. As a result, quite a few projects are moving forward at the same time, now that the financial markets have recovered. The Duboce Triangle Neighborhood Association has an excellent overview of the developments in its newsletter. Click [here](#) and go to page 5 for the most recent news.

### Bike Plan Project: New Left Turn at Market and Valencia

SFMTA will be narrowing the sidewalk at Market and Valencia to accommodate a bicycle bay that will serve as a protected left turn area from Market onto Valencia. The 38 foot wide sidewalk

will be reduced by 5 feet to make room for the queuing area, and a new dedicated bicycle signal phase will control the right of way between through and left-run vehicles and bicycle traffic. Construction is slated to begin late this month and be completed sometime in November. Click [here](#) for more information about this project, as well as other Bike Plan projects.

### Grant Opportunity: California Council for the Blind

The San Francisco Chapter of the California Council for the Blind is offering a \$2,500 Alice Chavez Pardini Education Advancement Grant. This grant is available to a legally-blind student in grades 3-12, college, graduate school, or a certificate program who lives in San Francisco, Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin or San Mateo counties. The grant will be given to the person who can best demonstrate the need to improve his or her educational or employment opportunities. The application must be postmarked by October 31, 2012. To request an application and instruction form or for further details, contact: Charlie Dorris: 415-775-0487, [tyreedorris@aol.com](mailto:tyreedorris@aol.com) or Ellie Lee: 415-378-6079, [ellieleesf@yahoo.com](mailto:ellieleesf@yahoo.com).

### Be a Voter!

The Department of Elections encourages all eligible San Franciscans to be a voter on November 6. To vote on November 6, you must be registered by October 22. Find a wealth of voting information at [sfelections.org](http://sfelections.org) – including an online toolkit where you can look up whether or not you are properly registered to vote, the location of your polling place, how to vote by mail, and what's on your ballot. You can also call the Department of Elections telephone help line with any voting question, even on Election Day, at (415) 554-4375. Be a voter by voting early at City Hall beginning October 9, voting by mail, or voting at your polling place from 7:00 am to 8:00 am on November 6. Be a poll worker! Help the community and earn money by serving as a poll worker on Election Day. To apply, click [here](#).

## Community Spotlight

### **Naomi Akers**

Entertainment Commissioner, Public Health Representative

I was honored to swear Naomi Akers in as a member of the San Francisco Entertainment Commission. Naomi is the Executive Director of St. James Infirmary, where she has worked to provide services and healthcare for male, female and transgender sex workers. By combining this public health background with her experience as a nightlife advocate and enthusiast, Naomi will bring an invaluable viewpoint to the Entertainment Commission. I look forward to working with her to bolster our entertainment industry so that it continues to thrive.



Scott with newly sworn in Entertainment Commissioner Naomi Akers

### Upcoming Events to Remember

#### **Glen Park Association Meeting**

Thursday, October 18th

7:00pm

Glen Park Recreation Center, Auditorium, 70 Elk Street

The Glen Park Association promotes the community interests of the neighborhood. The GPA lobbies for improvement funds, publicizes neighborhood concerns and strives to speak as one



voice on neighborhood and city issues.

[Click here for more information](#)

### **Noe Valley Town Square Community Meeting**

Thursday, October 18th

7:00pm

*St. Philip's Church, Community Hall, 725 Diamond Street*

The Residents for Noe Valley Town Square will kick things off with a detailed update on everything they're working on. Come and find out why the neighborhood is feeling (cautiously) optimistic about making the Town Square a reality! There will be open floor time to share your ideas, concerns and get your questions answered.

[Click here for more information](#)

### **Third Annual "Financial Planning Day"**

Saturday, October 20th

9:00am-4:00pm

*UC Hastings College of the Law, Snodgrass Hall, 198 McAllister Street*

In today's uncertain economy, making smart decisions about money is more important than ever. But how do you know which choices are best for you and your family? The City and County of San Francisco invites you to our third annual Financial Planning Day. Register now for a FREE, no strings attached private consultation with a highly qualified financial planner or a certified credit counselor. You can receive free professional advice on: retirement, budgeting, credit & debt, investing, taxes, foreclosure prevention, homeownership, estate planning, small business and more!

[Click here for more information](#)

### **Castro Country Club 3rd Annual Harvest Feast**

Saturday, October 20th

6:00pm VIP Reception, 7:00pm General Admission

*Patio Café, 531 Castro Street*

The Castro Country Club is a clean & sober gathering place for all people and a home for the queer recovery community. The CCC endeavors to be a space where all can seek wisdom, serenity, courage and joy. The 3rd annual Harvest Feast will begin with a 6:00pm VIP reception featuring hors d'oeuvres, mocktails and silent auction at the famed Patio Café, soon to reopen to the public at 531 Castro Street. The reception will open to general admission at 7:00pm. Dinner seating and entertainment begins at 7:30pm. This year's feast is again a benefit for the Castro Country Club. The CCC is thrilled to have the incomparable chanteuse Veronica Klaus to entertain you, and Precious Moments as Mistress of Ceremonies.

[Click here for more information](#)



Scott with Mayor Lee and Director of Public Health Barbara Garcia at the Bridge HIV Research Center grand opening.

### ***PEPS and LGBT Center Forum on Public School Support***

*Tuesday, October 23rd*

*6:00-8:00pm*

*LGBT Center, 1800 Market Street*

The Public Engagement for Public Schools (PEPS) and the San Francisco LGBT Community Center will be hosting a community conversation about supporting San Francisco public schools. This conversation will focus on developing an understanding of our public schools and exploring ideas of how to support them. Please register in advance by clicking [here](#).

[Click here for more information](#)

### ***Urban Bicycling Workshop: Traffic Skills 101-1***

*Wednesday, October 24th*

*5:30-9:30pm*

*The Urban School, 1563 Page Street*

You - like many other people - may want to start biking in San Francisco, but need a little help. These in-classroom introductory courses are perfect for you. The class will cover the basics on how to choose the right bike, properly fit a helmet, understand the rules of the road and provide tips for the safest ways to ride on city streets. You'll also learn techniques to avoid or handle street hazards, along with the best way to lock up your bike and how to use a bike in combination with public transit, and your rights and responsibilities while bicycling in San Francisco. This free class, hosted by the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition and the SFMTA is open to anyone over 14 years of age; preregistration is required.

[Click here for more information](#)

### ***NERT Personal Readiness Workshop***

*Wednesday, October 24th*

*6:00pm-8:00pm*

### *Intersection for the Arts, 925 Mission Street*

NERT training is a FREE, hands on training for all people who live and work in San Francisco. The training allows individuals, their families, neighbors and friends to be ready for any emergency with confidence in their training if and when we will need to take care of ourselves and our families.

[Click here for more information](#)

### **GLBT Historical Society Gala: Unmasked**

*Thursday, October 25th*

*7:00-9:00pm*

*The Green Room, War Memorial Building, 401 Van Ness Avenue*

Benefiting the GLBT Historical Society & The GLBT History Museum. Festive attire encouraged.

Hosted bar sponsored by Badlands and Toad Hall, Passed food donated by Bisou Bistro, Hot Cookie, Ike's Place and more. Entertainment including: Zachary Gordin (baritone), Cello Street Quartet, Glamamore, and DJs from Hard French. Silent auction offering unique and historic lots. VIP reception 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. with special guests, refreshments and entertainment.

[Click here for more information](#)



Scott works with preschool children at Jumpstart for a Day's "Read for the Record" event.

### **Noe Valley Harvest Festival**

*Saturday, October 27th*

*10:00am-5:00pm*

*24th Street between Sanchez and Church Streets*

Welcome to the 8th Annual Noe Valley Harvest Festival! This year's family-friendly festival! There will be a kids costume contest, petting zoo, pumpkin patch, pets costume contest, balloon artists, Circus Finelli, Dunk Tank, Live Music and Entertainment, Face Painting, Farmers Market, and Arts & Crafts. Admission is free!

[Click here for more information](#)



### **32nd Annual Tree Planting in Buena Vista Park**

*Saturday, November 3rd*

*9:00am-12:00pm*

*Intersection of Buena Vista East/West Avenues at Upper Terrace*

This extra-special annual event brings out neighbors to help plant a section of Buena Vista Park under renovation - this year, the hillside just north of the BVNA meeting point. It's also an annual neighborhood gathering and networking opportunity. If you can help plant over 100 new trees and shrubs, come at 9:00am. Or, just stop by any time during the morning, to say "hello," meet BVPark gardening staff and supervisors, other neighbors and BVPark supporters. BVNA's famous "warm and tasty" refreshments are a further lure.

### **Castro/Eureka Valley Neighborhood Association Meeting**

*Wednesday, November 14th*

*7:00pm*

*Castro Community Room, 501 Castro Street*

The Castro/Eureka Valley Neighborhood Association (EVNA), formed in 1881 as the Eureka Valley Promotion Association (EVPA) provides a public forum for the people who live, work and play in the great Eureka Valley area to discuss common issues and concerns, and help develop solutions to improve the neighborhood.

[Click here for more information](#)

### **Access Viewing Day at the De Young**

*September 15th-December 30th -The William S. Paley Collection: A Taste for Modernism*

*October 6th-February 17th -Rudolf Nureyev: A Life in Dance*

*50 Hagiwara Tea Garden Drive*

On Access Days, people with disabilities have the option of attending the exhibition when the numbers of visitors are reduced and extra seating and other access features are provided. By appointment only, contact [rbradley@famsf.org](mailto:rbradley@famsf.org) or call (415) 750-7645.

### **Paint the Castro Red**

*Saturday, December 1st*

*All Day*

*Castro District Businesses, Restaurants and Bars*

Come out to shop, eat and drink to support people living with HIV this World AIDS Day!

Participating Castro District businesses, restaurants, and bars will donate a percentage of the day's sales to show their support for HIV/AIDS nonprofits and the clients they serve. There will be a free screening at the Castro Theatre of critically-acclaimed *How to Survive the Plague*, a candlelight vigil, and free HIV testing all day. Paint the Castro Red is supported by the Merchants of Upper Market and Castro.

[Click here for more information](#)



Scott presents a proclamation to Ambassadors of The Trevor Project, proclaiming September 27th "Trevor Project Day" in San Francisco.

### **Family and Adult Bicycling Classes**

On-Going

Locations TBD

Learn how to ride a bike, practice road safety, develop good traffic skills, bike while pregnant, bike with your child/toddler and much more. Workshops fill up quickly and are offered throughout the year.

[Click here for more information](#)

### **LGBT Drop-In Club Weekly Workgroup at The Center**

Weekly on Tuesdays

10:00-11:30am

*The SF LGBT Center, 1800 Market Street*

The Center's Workforce Development Program is pleased to provide a free workgroup open to all job seekers. Come network and get support with your job search. The Job Club is a peer to peer discussion group where you can share experiences / best practices and receive ongoing direction and advice from a career coach to help manage a productive job search. One-On-One drop-in is the best first step before attending the workgroup. If you have question regarding the group please contact Clair Farley, [clairf@sfcenter.org](mailto:clairf@sfcenter.org). If you are interested in One-on-One job search and coaching please contact [christinar@sfcenter.org](mailto:christinar@sfcenter.org) or (415) 865-5614. Please note the building does not open to public until noon. Job Club attendees please wait at the Center's main door and someone will let you in by 10:00am.

[Click here for more information](#)

### **ADA Merchant Committee**

1st and 3rd Thursdays

9:30am

*Sally Brunn Library (Noe Valley Branch), 451 Jersey Street*

For merchants who are struggling with ADA compliance issues, please attend a meeting hosted by the ADA Merchant Committee. They are seeking the active participation of all merchants and all agencies city-wide to assist small business in coping with this very complex situation. The library is closed at that time, so please knock on the door to enter. Any questions, please contact Gwen Sanderson, Video Wave, [nvgwen@gmail.com](mailto:nvgwen@gmail.com), 415-509-6261 or Susan Walia, Castro Computer Services, [susan@modcore.com](mailto:susan@modcore.com), 415-826-6678.

### **Open Gyms**

*Every Sunday*

*5:00-8:00pm*

*Eureka Valley Recreation Center (100 Collingwood at 18th Street)*

Basketball players of all skill-levels and ages are invited to Open Gyms every Sunday. For \$5, the San Francisco Gay Basketball Association hosts these open-court style games. All are welcome. Bring a dark t-shirt and a white t-shirt to signify which team you are on.

[Click here for more information](#)

### **Free Rapid HIV Testing for Youth**

*Weekly on Tuesdays*

*5:00-7:00pm*

*The SF LGBT Center, 1800 Market Street*

Free Rapid HIV testing for youth 24 and under offered by Larkin Street Youth Services.

[Click here for more information](#)



Scott celebrates with Julie Newmar at her Diamond Jubilee.

### **Castro Farmers' Market**

*Weekly on Wednesdays (through December 19th)*



4:00-8:00 pm

*Noe Street (between Market and Beaver Streets)*

Every Wednesday night throughout the season Noe Street is abloom with fresh fruits and vegetables as the Castro Farmers' Market brings California's best to the neighborhood!

[Click here for more information](#)

### **Noe Valley Farmers' Market**

*Weekly on Saturdays*

8:00am-1:00pm

*24th Street (between Sanchez and Vicksburg Streets)*

The Noe Valley Farmers' Market is a year-round California certified farmers' market operated primarily by community volunteers and run in partnership with the Noe Valley Ministry.

[Click here for more information](#)

### **Glen Park Village Farmers' Market**

*Weekly on Sundays (through November 25th)*

10:00am-2:00pm

*Glen Park BART Station, Intersection of Bosworth and Diamond Streets*

The partnership of Glen Park Merchants' Association, BART, and the Pacific Coast Farmers' Market Association has brought a farmers' market to the parking lot of the Glen Park BART station. Come enjoy the freshest, locally-grown fruits and vegetables and the company of your friends and neighbors at your farmers' market!

[Click here for more information](#)

## Upcoming Office Hours

My upcoming office hours are listed below:

Friday, November 2nd

9:00am-10:00am

San Francisco City Hall, Room 274

1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place

San Francisco, CA 94102

Saturday, November 3rd

10:00am-12:00pm

780 Café

780 Valencia Street

San Francisco, CA 94110

**\*Please check with my office before attending office hours,  
since they occasionally need to be rescheduled.**



Try it *FREE* today.