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# SUPERVISOR SCOTT WIENER

San Francisco Board of Supervisors, District 8

## February 2014 Newsletter

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## [District 8 Greening Applications Open](#)

I am happy to announce that I'm partnering with Friends of the Urban Forest to help green District 8! With funds I secured through the City's budget process, we've created a District 8 greening grant fund, for neighborhood and school greening projects. If you and your neighbors are interested in pursuing a grant, I encourage you to work with your neighbors to put together a project proposal, and apply for a grant. Eligible projects include greening along neighborhood sidewalks and along sidewalks fronting public schools. A review panel will evaluate applications and recommend projects for funding. All applications are due by March 21st. If you would like an application packet, please email Andres in my office at [Andres.Power@sfgov.org](mailto:Andres.Power@sfgov.org). Thanks for helping us green our neighborhoods!



Scott with children from Room 11 of Bryant Elementary School during the 25th Annual National African-American Read-In

Saturday, March 1st  
10:30am-12:00pm  
Maxfield's House of  
Caffeine  
398 Dolores Street

Friday, March 14th  
12:30pm-2:30pm  
City Hall, Room 274

**NOTE:** Occasionally, we need to reschedule office hours. To ensure that you learn of any changes before making the effort to attend, please check with the office a day or two before or alternatively call the office to put your name on the office hours list so that we can notify you if any changes occur.

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## Policy Work

### Securing Streetlight Funding

This month, [I reached an agreement](#) with the Mayor's Office and the Public Utilities Commission to secure significantly more funding for the large and neglected capital needs of our deteriorating streetlight system. For too many years, City Hall has allowed our streetlights to deteriorate and accumulate huge deferred maintenance. As a result, streetlights frequently fail, which undermines public safety and neighborhood quality of light. The PUC has been spending a paltry \$250,000 a year to maintain nearly 25,000 streetlights, which is unacceptable. The agreement includes a commitment from the Mayor's Office and the PUC to fund \$9 million over the next two years to address streetlight capital needs - a nearly 20-fold increase - and to formulate a global assessment of the capital needs of the system. This result is both a down payment on our streetlights' capital needs and a path forward in assessing and addressing the system's overall needs.

### Code Enforcement Hearing

Our overly complicated and insufficiently coordinated code enforcement system needs improvement. The lack of effective code enforcement has resulted in blighted buildings and other violations that take years to resolve, if they ever are. To better understand how the system is and isn't working, I joined with Supervisor Malia Cohen to hold an [oversight hearing to review city processes](#) for inspecting and enforcing code violations in San Francisco buildings. In the coming months, I will be working with these departments and leaders at City Hall to find ways to address these issues and bring solutions to blight in our neighborhoods.



Scott getting ready to ride in the Chinese New Year Parade with Kory Powell and Gary McCoy

### Nightlife Transportation Hearing

I recently called for a hearing to take a close look at [late night transportation in San Francisco](#). Nightlife is a significant part of our cultural lifeblood, as well as a \$4.2 billion part of our economy, including 50,000 jobs. Despite the significance of nightlife in our city, our transportation systems haven't always been up to the task in terms of late night transit options. Both BART and the Muni underground stop running shortly after midnight - even on Friday and Saturday nights - and Muni's evening subway service is skeletal at best, consistent with the agency's prevailing view that reliable subway service isn't critical outside of business hours.

(Early morning Muni isn't much better, with the subway not even starting to run until 8 am on Sundays.) Muni also doesn't publicize or centrally locate information about which bus lines do run overnight. Taxi service in San Francisco is generally poor - though improving thanks to aggressive efforts by MTA - and even worse when the bars close. Ride sharing services have improved the situation, but there are questions about safety. We need to be sure that people leaving bars or getting off work late at night have reliable, safe, and accessible transit options, so they don't drive drunk or end up waiting in the dark for a bus that comes once an hour. At the hearing, a broad range of transportation providers - including MTA, BART, AC Transit, ride-share companies, and the taxi industry -- as well as nightlife industry leaders will report on the current state of late night transit options and proposals for improving service. The hearing will take place sometime in March.

#### Closing a Loophole in the Transit Development Impact Fee

The Board of Supervisors recently passed legislation I authored to close a loophole in the fee developers pay to account for the transit impacts of new development. San Francisco is experiencing an unprecedented development boom, with significant housing and commercial space being added as our city's population and job base grow. As we add this development, our public transportation infrastructure and capacity must keep up. Muni currently lacks capacity - due to years of short-sighted transit under-investment by policy makers - to meet current demands, let alone future increased demand as our city grows to a million residents and many more jobs, and we must aggressively invest to shore up the system and expand its capacity. Our transit impact development fee contained a loophole that would have allowed some large or insects in Mission Bay to avoid the fee. My legislation closes that loophole and ensures that projects pay their fair share.

#### Proposed Restrictions on Dog Access in Federal Recreation Areas

Recently, I [joined a panel organized by Congresswoman Jackie Speier](#) to discuss the proposal by the National Park Service to severely restrict dog access at federal park properties, including Fort Funston, Crissy Field, and Ocean Beach. Last year, I authored a resolution at the Board of Supervisors, which passed unanimously, putting San Francisco on record opposing the plan. I'm happy that Congresswoman Speier has taken a strong position against the plan as well. You can [read an editorial](#) on this issue by advocate Sally Stephens published in the Chronicle a few weeks ago and [listen to a radio spot](#) I recorded on KFOG.



Scott at the GGNRA Dog Management Plan Public Forum with San Mateo County Parks Director Marlene Fairley, General Manager of San Francisco Rec and Park Phil Ginsburg, GGNRA Superintendent Frank Dean and Congresswoman Jackie Speier

#### In-Law Legislation Update

My legislation to allow the construction of new in-law units in the Castro area will be going to the Planning Commission in early March and will be coming to the Board of Supervisors shortly thereafter. In light of our housing crisis, the legislation will create a low impact path for more affordable housing options in the Castro, as in-law units are the most affordable kind of non-subsidized housing. In-law units also tend to be more accessible for individuals with mobility challenges, including seniors. [Here's an op ed](#) I wrote for the Bay Area Reporter when I introduced the legislation last year. The Eureka Valley Neighborhood Association has also put together a survey to get more feedback about this legislation. [Click here](#) to take the survey.

#### Soda Tax Update

We are experiencing an explosion of diabetes and other health ailments related to consumption of sugary beverages, and for some time, I've been working with a coalition of health, education, and park groups on a soda tax - with funds dedicated to nutrition, physical activity, and health programs in schools, parks, and elsewhere - to reduce consumption and improve public health. 30% of teenagers are currently pre-diabetic, and we are on a path to one in three Americans



having diabetes. This is a huge problem for our health care system as well as insurance rates and tax expenditures, and sugary beverages are a major culprit, as shown by a [growing body of scientific evidence](#). At the first Board of Supervisors meeting in February, I joined five of my colleagues - Supervisors Eric Mar, Malia Cohen, John Avalos, David Chiu and David Campos - to introduce a unified soda tax measure. Support for the measure is growing, including the San Francisco Board of Education, the California Nurses Association, United Educators of San Francisco, the San Francisco Medical Society, the Hospital Council of Northern California, the San Francisco PTA, the Trust for Public Land, the Parent Political Action Committee, Senator Mark Leno, and Assemblymembers Tom Ammiano and Phil Ting. The American Heart Association, American Diabetes Association, American Cancer Society, and American Medical Association have endorsed the concept of a soda tax. This spring, the measure will be heard at the Budget Committee, with the full Board then voting on whether to put it on the ballot.



Scott at Give Kids a Smile Day at SFGH, an event co-sponsored by the San Francisco Dental Hygiene Society, who are official supporters of the Soda Tax

### Pedestrian Safety Update

2014 has started out as an absolutely awful year for pedestrian safety in our city, with numerous people being hit and killed on our streets. We need to improve the conditions on our streets to make them safer for pedestrians. However, even projects driven by neighborhood support [take years to approve and implement](#). An example of both the transformative nature of these projects and the challenges in implementing them can be found in the recently [redesigned Cesar Chavez Street](#). The new Cesar Chavez has a new plaza, bike lanes, bulb-outs and a center median, all creating a more pleasant and safer street for residents and visitors. It's a wonderful improvement on what was previously a dangerous six lane speedway. However, it took nine years for the city to implement these improvements after the residents began pushing for change. These critical public safety projects should not take this long. To improve our neighborhoods and make our streets safer, we must improve the process of delivering these projects. Last year, I authored [several pieces of legislation](#) to streamline the process. I've also [pushed city departments](#) to stop obstructing code complying street safety improvements. Yet, our work isn't complete, and I'll continue to focus on this critical area.

## Community Updates

### Castro Sidewalk Widening Project

The Castro Streetscape Improvement Project is slated to begin construction later this month. The Department of Public Works is working out details with the contractor regarding an exact date for groundbreaking and construction. You may have already seen postings put on trees for their removal and replacement. There will be a moratorium on construction in the last two weeks of June to accommodate the Frameline Film Festival, Pink Saturday, and Pride events. Please visit [www.castrostreet.org](http://www.castrostreet.org), hosted by the Castro/Upper Market CBD, or [www.sfdpw.org/castro](http://www.sfdpw.org/castro), for more information, updates, and construction alerts when the construction phase begins.

### Dolores Park Ground Breaking

After a comprehensive community and departmental process, the renovations to Dolores Park will begin with a ceremonial groundbreaking on Saturday, March 1st at 10 AM. For more information about the project and the groundbreaking, please contact Jake Gilchrist at [Jacob.Gilchrist@sfgov.org](mailto:Jacob.Gilchrist@sfgov.org) or (415) 581-2561.

### Glen Canyon Improvement Plan

The first phase of the Glen Canyon Improvement Plan is complete, including the renovations of the playground and tennis courts, the installation of ADA restrooms, and the heating in the Recreation Center. To celebrate the completion of this work, the Recreation and Park Department will host a celebration at Glen Canyon. Due to the recent and much-needed rains, the concrete area at the park entrance will not be dry in time for the originally scheduled February 22 celebration, and the celebration has been rescheduled to 9:30AM on Saturday, March 15th.



Scott with the Sheet Metal Workers Local 104 and Electrical Workers Local 6

### Bosworth/Diamond Intersection Improvement

My office has been working with MTA, the Planning Department, and the community to formulate a plan for a much needed improvement of the Diamond/Bosworth intersection. The design, which is now being finalized, will add bulbouts to improve pedestrian safety and landscaping to beautify the intersection. It will also improve the intersections traffic signals, including adding a left-turn signal for southbound traffic on Diamond at Bosworth. I want to thank the community for its significant help in providing feedback on the project. We anticipate work on the intersection will begin this June and be completed by October.

### San Jose Avenue Safety Re-Design

For the past year, my office has worked closely with the Municipal Transportation Agency, Cal Trans, and surrounding neighbors to formulate a pilot program to calm traffic on northbound San

Jose Avenue exiting Highway 280. Current conditions on northbound San Jose are awful, with average speeds over 50 MPH and no buffer between speeding traffic and the bike lane. The pilot program - which we presented at a recent community meeting at Glen Park Elementary School - will create a safer environment for motorists, cyclists, and neighbors. San Jose Avenue was created as a freeway that never happened, but many drivers still treat this stretch of road as if it were a highway. The pilot will change northbound San Jose Avenue to mirror the design of the southbound direction, including removing one lane of traffic (going from three lanes to two, as currently exists on the southbound side) and creating a painted buffer between traffic and the bicycle lane. These improvements will improve conditions significantly while still allowing easy access for cars exiting 280.

## Community Calendar

### ***Bilingual Poll Workers Needed***

The San Francisco Department of Elections needs bilingual poll workers for the June 3rd election. Do you speak Spanish, Korean, Tagalog, Japanese, Vietnamese, Cantonese, or Mandarin and also speak English? Use your language talent to serve your community on Election Day, June 3. Poll workers assist people voting at polling places. U.S. Citizens and legal residents may apply. You will receive training and earn between \$135 and \$190 on Election Day. To apply, go to [sfelections.org/pollworker](http://sfelections.org/pollworker) or visit the Department of Elections at City Hall, Room 48.

### ***Paid Internships for High School Students***

Applications for the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's summer internship program for high school students are now being accepted through Friday, February 28. If you're passionate about transportation in your community and curious about career options in the transportation field, this is the gig for you. The hourly rate is \$10.75. Students of all abilities are strongly encouraged to apply, and minority and female applicants are highly desired. More info on the program and applications can be found [here](#). Read about last year's interns [here](#).

### ***MTA Commuter Shuttle Feedback***

The SFMTA Board recently approved new regulations of commuter shuttles and an [18-month pilot](#) to test sharing a limited network of Muni zones with commuter shuttles. The next step is to develop the pilot network of shared stops. Use this [interactive map](#) to suggest locations and provide input quickly and easily. Those who prefer to provide non-digital input can drop in to an open house meeting on [February 22](#) at Mission High School and provide suggestions in person.



Scott at the Cash for College event at Mission High School with Mission High principal Eric Guthertz and College Access Center staff

### ***Civil Grand Jury Applications***

The Superior Court is recruiting members for the 2014 - 2015 Civil Grand Jury. The Civil Grand Jury is charged with investigating the operations of City government. As such, it is vital that the members of the Grand Jury reflect the diversity of San Francisco. The application period closes on April 30, 2014. Applications may be downloaded from <http://civilgrandjury.sfgov.org/join.html> or you may pick one up at San Francisco Superior Court, 400 McAllister Street, Room 007.

### ***Business Tax Change Ahead***

In 2014 San Francisco will phase in a Gross Receipts Tax and reduce the Payroll Expense Tax over the next five years. The Gross Receipts Tax applies to businesses with more than \$1 million in San Francisco gross receipts, exempting most small businesses. Business Registration Fees are also changing for all businesses. The City is providing free seminars to inform businesses about these changes the first Thursday of every month at 2pm in

the San Francisco Main Public Library Latino Room, 100 Larkin Street. For more information, go to [www.sfbiztax.org](http://www.sfbiztax.org), call 311 or (415) 701-2311, or contact your tax professional.

**Noe Valley NERT**

February 20 (First class)

6:30pm-10:00pm

Holy Innocents Church

455 Fair Oaks St @ 26th St

The San Francisco Neighborhood Emergency Response Team (NERT) is free training from the San Francisco Fire Department in how to help yourself and your neighbors prepare for and respond to a disaster by working together. The 20-hour training taught by First Responders includes personal preparedness, light search and rescue, disaster medicine, shutting off your utilities, and how to participate as a member of a neighborhood response team. NERT also offers continuing training for graduates and activities that support building robust neighborhood teams. For more information, visit the NERT website at <http://sfgov.org/sffdnet>, or contact Lt. Erica Arteseros at (415)970-2022 or [sffdnet@sfgov.org](mailto:sffdnet@sfgov.org).

**San Francisco Imperial Coronation 49: A Killer View**

Saturday, February 22nd

5:00pm

San Francisco Design Center

101 Henry Adams Streets

Join the Imperial Council of San Francisco, Emperor Drew Cutler and Empress Patty McGroin for the coronation of the new Emperor and Empress and to celebrate another great year of fundraising. The main floor tickets are sold out, but a limited amount of additional 2nd floor balcony table seating have been added. Tickets available online at <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/533608>. Tickets also available by contacting Board Treasurer and Coronation 49 Ticket Chair Empress Galilea via email at [krislippincott@gmail.com](mailto:krislippincott@gmail.com).



Scott joining community members to remember persecuted LGBT Russians on the eve of the Olympics opening ceremony

**The Nitey Awards**

Monday, February 24th

7:00pm

Castro Theater

429 Castro Street

The Nitey Awards celebrate excellence in creative content and patron experience in the nightlife industry. Awards will be handed out in 23 categories representing the best in San Francisco nightlife as voted on by the entertainment media, night life and industry professionals plus a public vote. Go to <http://www.niteyawards.com/> to buy tickets and learn more.

**Ruth Asawa SF School of the Arts Performing Monty Python's SPAMALOT**

February 27, 28, March 1, 6, 7 and 8 at 7.30pm

March 1 and 8 at 2pm

555 Portola Avenue

Lovingly ripped off from the classic film comedy MONTY PYTHON AND THE HOLY GRAIL, SPAMALOT retells the legend of King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table, and features a bevy of beautiful show girls, not to mention cows, killer rabbits, and French people. Proudly presented by the award winning Technical Theatre Department team who brought you RAGTIME, THE PRODUCERS, TARTUFFE and 42nd STREET featuring students from multiple disciplines. Tickets online at [sfsota.org](http://sfsota.org).

**Dolores Park Groundbreaking**

Saturday, March 1st

10:00am

Dolores Park

Join Supervisor Wiener, SF Rec and Park Department General Manager Phil Ginsburg, Dolores Park Works and park advocates for the groundbreaking ceremony for Mission Dolores Park. For nearly a century San Franciscans have enjoyed the 13.7-acres of recreational opportunities provided by Mission Dolores Park. To help keep up with the use of the park and make much-needed infrastructure improvements, San Francisco voters approved the 2008 Clean and Safe Neighborhood Parks Bond, a \$185 million general obligation bond that includes funding to improve Mission Dolores Park.

**TEP Community Meetings**

Monday, March 3

6pm-8pm



#### *LGBT Center*

*1800 Market Street*

YOUR INPUT IS NEEDED! SFMTA is hosting a new series of public meetings to inform and capture feedback from residents about proposed service and route changes as part of the Transit Effectiveness Project (TEP). There will be a meeting on Monday, March 3 from 6-8pm at the LGBT Community Center to discuss TEP projects within our area. Also, there will be two general, citywide meetings on Thursday, March 6 from 6-8pm and Saturday, March 8 from 10am-12pm at SFMTA. Please visit [www.SFMTA.com/TEP](http://www.SFMTA.com/TEP) to view an up-to-date meeting calendar. If you are unable to attend a meeting, you can also provide your feedback through the online tool at [www.TellMuni.com](http://www.TellMuni.com).



Scott at the Rainbow Run with Team SF and SF Frontrunners in preparation for the Gay Games this summer in Cleveland

#### ***2014 Summer Resource Fair***

*Saturday, March 8th*

*10:00am-2:00pm*

*Balboa High School*

*1000 Cayuga Avenue*

The San Francisco Summer Resource Fair, a one-day showcase of summer camps, classes, presentations, and teen programs, will take place at Balboa High School, 1000 Cayuga Ave, on Saturday, March 8th, 2014 from 10:00am until 2:00pm. Since its inception eight years ago, the Summer Resource Fair has grown from a small event in the corner of a sporting goods store to the City's largest free showcase of summer activities for families. Parents and care providers can meet face-to-face with representatives from nearly 200 organizations offering summer camps, family services, and teen activities. Free workshops on summer learning loss, teen opportunities, and more will be offered throughout the day.

#### ***District 8 Youth Town Hall***

*Thursday, March 13th*

*6:00pm-8:00pm*

*SF LGBT Center, 1800 Market Street*

Join Supervisor Wiener and District 8 Youth Commissioner Angela Van Stark for a town hall meeting to discuss issues related to the youth of District 8. Co-sponsored by the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services and the Youth Commission, this event is free and open to the public. For more information, please contact Adam Taylor at [adam.taylor@sfgov.org](mailto:adam.taylor@sfgov.org).

#### ***Glen Park Canyon Celebration***

*Saturday, March 15th*

*9:30am*

*Glen Canyon Park Recreation Center*

Join Supervisor Wiener, the Recreation and Parks Department and neighbors to celebrate the renovations of the Glen Canyon playgrounds, tennis courts and other recently completed work (see Community Updates above.)

#### ***Estate Planning Seminar for LGBT Couples***

*Saturday, April 26, 2014*

*10:00am to 12:00pm*

*McLaren Lodge*

*501 Stanyan Street*

The Parks Alliance is sponsoring this event that welcomes Deb L. Kinney, a national leader on LGBT issues and local estate planning and tax attorney, for an interactive seminar. She will discuss how recent cases and federal recognition can affect your legal, financial and tax planning in a post-DOMA and Prop 8 world. Bring your questions and your partner. There is no charge for the seminar, but reservations are required. This seminar is for educational purposes only. No financial products will be promoted. RSVP to [stacey@sfparksalliance.org](mailto:stacey@sfparksalliance.org) or 415/621-3260 x104.





Scott at the Hayes Valley Neighborhood Association member appreciation party

**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.](#)

**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 the 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](#)

**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.](#)