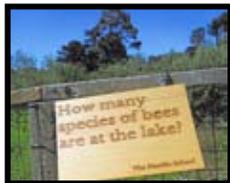


The Richmond is talking . . .

Wooden plaques describing the wildlife at Mountain Lake have been made and installed at the lake by the Hamlin School. The 150-year-old Hamlin School for girls is located at 2120 Broadway Avenue in San Francisco. The signs not only inform park visitors of the wildlife, they inform visitors



of the ecological significance of the flora and fauna. The signs also encourage visitors to invest in taking care of the lake by not feeding the animals or

leaving their unwanted aquatic pets in the lake. Thank you, Hamlin School.

Sewer improvements continue throughout the Richmond. Currently sewer and street improvements such as curb cuts are going on simultaneously south of Geary Boulevard between Seventh and 12th Avenues. For information about street closures, call the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission at 415-551-3000 or go to sfwater.org.

The City is responding to PAR's request for street improvements on Geary Boulevard, reports President Richard Corriea. PAR volunteers have walked Geary Boulevard and assessed the condition of the roadway. They identified specific locations where repairs were needed. The list was sent to the department of public works, and they are starting to make the

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Fall 2016 PAR Meeting

Join the discussion regarding Propositions E, F, I, J, R and V, all of which affect the Richmond District

...

**Wednesday, October 19
7 to 9 p.m.**

Richmond Recreation Center
251 18th Avenue
(between Clement & California Streets)
Limited street parking is available.
Muni: 1 California and 38 Geary



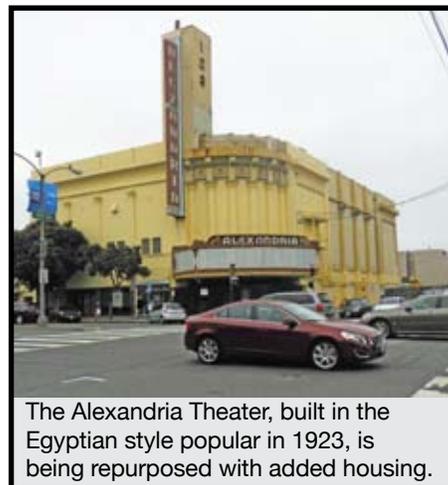
Treasured theater gets makeover

After a 12-year hiatus, changes are coming to the 93-year-old Alexandria Theater. PAR has been one of the community watchdogs on the development of the site since the theater closure in 2004.

Of importance to the community is preservation of the historical, iconic architecture of the original building. Other concerns PAR voiced were adequate parking and affordable housing units in the planned residential units.

The site went through numerous owners and plans. Some owners acted like absentee landlords doing little or nothing to maintain or improve the property while waiting for the financial environment to improve. As the property deteriorated, PAR insisted that the owners live up to their obligation to maintain the property. This resulted in a fence being erected at the entrance and a temporary commercial tenant on Geary Boulevard.

Finally, in the past couple of years, the new owners have gotten plans approved and begun construction at the site. PAR was concerned that construction of the residential portion of the site first would hinder development of the theater portion,



The Alexandria Theater, built in the Egyptian style popular in 1923, is being repurposed with added housing.

asking if there would be less incentive to invest in a lower expectation of revenue in the community portion of the site.

Work has begun on the housing portion of the project. The site permit and the addenda to the project were processed by San Francisco Department of Building Inspection in 2015 and earlier this year.

Due to some difficulties with obtaining permissions for the shoring and complications caused by the wet winter, the developers were not able to complete

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Community rebuilds playground

As the Mountain Lake Park playground project nears ribbon-cutting day, the Richmond District will soon boast a state-of-the-art, accessible playground designed to inspire children of all ages.

Situated adjacent to the only freshwater lake in San Francisco, the playground is located on ground recognized as the birthplace of modern San Francisco.

Last renovated in the mid-1980s, the new playground, designed by Bohlin Cywinski Jackson, features play structures never before seen on the West Coast.

Stay tuned for the announcement of the

playground's completion and join Friends of Mountain Lake Park Playground in celebrating six years of community effort that made this dream a reality.



Letter from the President

Dear PAR Members,
In my role as PAR's president, I am motivated by my values and my commitment to the notion of giving back to the community and my love of the Richmond District. I value the sentiments of our members and seek at all times to advance their particular concerns and interests.

A few weeks ago District One Supervisor Eric Mar and I sat down together at Kawika's Ocean Beach Deli to spend a couple of hours chatting over breakfast.

Eric and I have enjoyed a cordial relationship and have worked well together on things important to the Richmond District. When I was captain of the Richmond Police Station, he and I met regularly to discuss public safety concerns and citywide issues. I always found him well informed and interested in learning about issues affecting the Richmond.

I guess that I am what you might call a compassionate moderate. I'd like to think that, ideologically speaking, Eric and I were often on the same side of the political spectrum when it came to social policy. We are both trained as lawyers and thus likely to have similar analytical discipline. Like

Eric, I find fulfillment in public service. And while people will always have different points of view, those engaged in the noble calling of government work share the notion of service as their guiding touchstone.

Eric has a distinct ideology and vision for the future of the Richmond District that I don't think is embraced by many of the folks who make the district their home. I respect his opinions and, in fact, agree with many of them. However, I think a representative's vision should not eclipse the opinions and desires of his constituents. In a representative democracy, a supervisor should understand his constituents and act on their behalf.

There will always be differing opinions; it is, however, the work of our supervisor to make sense of many perspectives and act accordingly. I conveyed to Supervisor Mar that the future is not for any one person to ordain and suggested that it might be appropriate if he defer advancing or voting on matters that will have long-range impacts on the Richmond, opting instead to leave the future to our next supervisor, who will be seated in about 100 days. He declined.

Eric will face a major decision, perhaps as early as November, when he sits as a member of the board of the San Francisco County Transportation Authority to decide whether to certify the environmental impact report on the Geary Bus Rapid Transit and to approve the project. Leaving aside his bias to approve it, he owes Richmond District residents a challenge to the assumption that the project has been well planned and fully vetted by the community.

The Geary BRT plan is an outdated solution built on flawed assumptions about future transportation needs and, at a cost of \$350 million dollars, is wasteful.

Supervisor Mar should ask how eliminating one-third of the driving space

from cars and trucks will change traffic patterns. And how safe will bicyclists and pedestrians be? How much more traffic will be forced into residential areas? Will it even work?

Buses stopped in the transit-only lane will stop the buses behind them because there will be no passing. How many riders will achieve how many minutes of time saved? Muni does not know because they cannot measure with accuracy the distance riders travel. If it is only a thousand riders, is that worth destroying the tree cover from Masonic Avenue west?

And how does the Geary BRT fit into a larger coordinated transit plan for the City? Supervisor Mar should see to it that the public's demand for efficient transportation is met, that their concerns about the Geary BRT are fully understood and addressed and that alternatives are fully vetted, or he should recuse himself from voting.

When you cast your vote for District One supervisor in the November election, I recommend you choose a candidate who can inculcate a culture of trust and provide the leadership needed to foster consensus. Our next supervisor should have deep roots in this community, be committed to understanding those he or she serves and cast their board votes accordingly.

Moreover, our next supervisor must be able to reconcile the dissonance between their personal ideological bent and the needs of constituents and avoid letting one eclipse the other. We deserve a supervisor who will advance the collective notion of good while focusing on the needs of the District.

Many changes are on the horizon, and we need a supervisor who will represent us and guide us to the best of futures.

Richard Cornea
sfparpresident@gmail.com

Officers & Directors

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Claire Myers
Housing Action Coalition: Dan Baroni
Kaiser Permanente Citizens Task Force:
Peter Winkelstein
Neighborhood Associations for Presidio
Planning: Paul Epstein, Sharon Gadberry,
Ocean Beach Master Planning Committee:
Julie Burns
Richmond Community Coalition: Nick Belloni

PAR honors Rhoda Singer, 1932-2016

Rhoda Singer worked with PAR for the past 13 years. Rhoda loved what she did for her clients, providing administrative services to small nonprofit organizations, so that they were free to do the important work of reaching out to their communities.

Rhoda lived a full and vivacious life enriched by many long-time friends, and close family relationships. She was diagnosed with terminal cancer at the

end of May and lived with her diagnosis for the next two months the way that she had lived the previous 83 years of her life—with a commitment to be upbeat and positive in her outlook.

Surrounded by her family, Rhoda passed at home. She will always be remembered for her love of life, her love of friends and her love of family.

Thank you, Rhoda. Your contribution to PAR is greatly appreciated.

Long-awaited project begins

Commercial space and housing for old Alexandria

continued from front page

the permitting until this spring. The construction schedule is approximately 21 months with completion estimated for early 2018.

The project is similar to the one approved by the San Francisco Planning Commission in 2013. There will be 1,100 square feet of commercial space on the ground floor, with residential units occupying the remaining 3,700 square feet on the ground level. There will be a total of 43 units and two-story underground parking featuring 94 spaces. Five below-market-rate units are included in the plan, meeting the required 12 percent for new housing.

Design for the theater is now taking shape. The owner was hoping that the Richmond YMCA would be an active partner in the development and design. Unfortunately, the YMCA has declined the owner's offer. Concepts such as a swim club and education center are proposed.

Once the design is complete, PAR will provide input and comments. Afterward, the owners will have to go through a new environmental evaluation and planning review. The projects were originally submitted with separate building permits and, as such, were and are being processed separately.

PAR will keep an eye on further developments and make sure that community needs and interests are addressed. Please feel free to contact PAR with your interest or concerns about the Alexandria Theater project.



Excavation is underway at Geary Boulevard and 18th Avenue.

Richmond residents helping shape Presidio future

We are pleased to note that several of our Inner Richmond neighbors serve in influential positions with the Presidio Trust. The Trust oversees the 1500-acre Presidio, which became a national park after the Army stood down in 1998.

In 2015, Inner Richmond neighbor Paula Collins, who was appointed in 2012, ascended to the chairmanship, and Janet Reilly, of Seacliff, joined the board. Both Collins and Reilly have extensive and distinguished careers in business and as community leaders. One member of the seven-member Presidio Trust Board is appointed by the Secretary of the Interior and the other six by the US President.

After a lengthy selection process and national search, the trust board appointed Jean Fraser as chief executive officer. She, too, is a long-term resident of the Inner Richmond, along with her husband and two children. Fraser will lead a staff of 325 employees.

"I am thrilled to join the trust at this important moment in the organization's evolution," said Fraser. "I was fortunate to grow up in communities with great parks. As America becomes a more diverse society, I want to make sure the benefits of parks are available to all. Parks are essential to creating livable, healthy, and equitable communities. It is an honor to be selected to lead the wonderful staff of the Presidio, who work every day to make this former military post a park where people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities can get outside to enjoy the unique beauty of the San Francisco Bay."

For more information, go to presidio.gov/presidio-trust/about/board-and-executive-team or presidio.gov/presidio-trust/press/presidio-trust-board-selects-jean-s-fraser-as-chief-executive-officer.

The Richmond is talking . . .

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long-needed repairs beginning with areas where a quick fix with a light patch of asphalt will suffice. More serious conditions that require grading and ribbon patching are scheduled next. PAR will be monitoring the DPW's work, and we will keep you posted.

A four-way stop sign has been installed at Clement Street and 12th Avenue. This eliminates the problem of cars on 12th Avenue racing through the intersection to avoid cross traffic on Clement Street. Residents and students at Sutro School are now just a little bit safer. Now if we could get drivers to obey the 15-miles-per-hour speed limit in the school zone.

See the world's only aquarium-planetarium-rainforest-living museum! Richmond residents can explore the Academy of Sciences for free on October 14, 15, and 16. Save the dates for Spring Free Days on March 10, 11, and 12, 2017. Eligible zip codes are 94108, 94109, 94115, 94118, 94121, 94123, 94126, 94129 and 94133. For more information, visit calacademy.org/free.

Adopt a storm drain this fall. Autumn is just around the corner, and rain is a blessing, but it can cause excess runoff, clogging the storm drains. Leaves, plastic bags and cardboard can all quickly migrate downstream, and plug up a storm drain. Volunteers are asked to prevent floods by proactively removing debris from the storm drains. Details at sfwater.org.



Keep your landscaping green with gray water. Recycling classes are available at the Urban Farmer (32nd Avenue and Vicente Street). Learn how to save rainwater from your roof or safely divert washing machine wastewater into your backyard. Take the class, save water, save money, and have a beautiful, landscaped yard. Information about rebates for water-saving options is available at urbanfarmerstore.com and sfwater.org.

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Join PAR now and make your voice heard.

Membership is open to all persons living, working, or owning property in the Richmond District of San Francisco. PAR is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. Your contribution is tax-deductible as provided by law.

Yes! I/we want to support the Richmond District.

First name(s)		Last name	
Name of business (for business members)			
Address			
City		State	Zip
Primary phone		Cell/other phone	
E-Mail <i>PAR respects your privacy and will not share your email.</i>			
Membership		<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	<input type="checkbox"/> Business
<input type="checkbox"/> Supporting membership, \$15.00/year and above			
<input type="checkbox"/> Subscribing membership, \$25.00/year and above			
<input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor membership, \$50.00/year and above			
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron membership, \$100.00/year and above			

Please complete and cut out this form and mail it together with your check (payable to the *Planning Association of the Richmond*) to

PAR
5758 Geary Boulevard, Box 356
San Francisco, CA 94121-2112

THANKS for helping to support the quality of life in San Francisco's Richmond District.

Pay Your PAR dues online!
sfpar.org/site/join-par-via-paypal.html
to join, contribute or pay your dues the easy, electronic way!

The Richmond is talking . . .
continued from page 3

Save the Date—Saturday, October 29!
 Plan a safe Halloween for yourself and the kids with your Outer Richmond neighbors for the Second Annual BalBOOa Fright Fest. Last year's event brought 2,000 attendees to the Balboa Village corridor (Balboa Street between 35th and 39th Avenues). Festivities start at 11 a.m. with trick or treating down Balboa Street and a festival in the St. Thomas the Apostle School yard. Local merchants and entertainers will set up on 39th Avenue, and kids will be treated to a petting zoo and games. Game tickets and bracelets will be sold. Revelers will also be able to participate in various contests and games, including a costume contest, guess the weight of the pumpkin, and more! The festivities end at 4 p.m. Email balbooa.fest@gmail.com for more information.

The November ballot for SF residents is a lengthy and complicated one. Voters have to consider Propositions A through X plus RR area-wide and there are 17 statewide propositions to consider. Avoid the rush and lines at the voting precincts by either voting early or voting absentee. Request an absentee ballot, take time to the issues and vote intelligently. Any voter may request to vote by mail, but requests must be received by November 1. To apply to a vote by mail, go online to the San Francisco Department of Elections, sfelections.org/tools/vbmap.

SFPAR.ORG

The date code above your name on the mailing label indicates when your membership expires.

