



under the dome

Volume 4, Issue 5 - Nov/Dec 2008

City Hall Building Management
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A City Hall Building Management newsletter created specifically for City employees

Dear Tenants:

Welcome to the latest edition of Under the Dome!

Well, I warned you. I told you this would happen. Halloween would come and go in a flash, and already it's time to start thinking about your New Year's Resolution!

But I must say, now that the Holiday Season is actually upon us, I am ready to embrace it! So many fun and exciting things are happening in the City in the next few months.

While some of you might want to start working on that annual end-of-year letter that you send out to friends and relatives, you know the one that describes in monotonous detail those endearing little habits of your new kitten; the bad experience you had at the dentist last February; and why your backyard tomato plants didn't produce as many tomatoes this year, others might prefer to test out some new traditions. Consider digging out your ice skates and heading to Union Square, acting out your family emergency plan with your kids, or just strolling through the new California Academy of Sciences for the day.

No matter what you decide, this issue is loaded with ideas!

Happy Harvest and Seasons Greetings.

Lori Mazzola
BUILDING SERVICES SUPERVISOR
CITY HALL BUILDING MANAGEMENT

We Welcome your Feedback!

City employees can send
Under the Dome questions
and suggestions to
Lori.Mazzola@sfgov.org

bookSWAP

Building Management announces its first annual bookSWAP at City Hall!

The bookSWAP will be open to all City Employees who are interested in making some new friends: particularly Tom Clancy, Barbara Taylor Bradford, Dean Koontz, Ken Follett, and John Grisham. Bring your "slightly" used and unwanted books to City Hall so that you can pass along some of your favorite novels to coworkers!

The winter months are best spent cozying up next to a warm fire with a big cup of hot chocolate and a book you just can't stop reading. The bookSWAP is the perfect opportunity to build up your library, while cleaning out your closet and saving some money in the process.

Building Management will collect unwanted books during the month of December for its first annual January bookSWAP! The bookSWAP will take place on January 30th in the North Light Court. Tickets will be issued to each employee who drops off one or more books. Those tickets will allow early access to the bookSWAP so that those who donate books get the first opportunity to peruse and choose from the collected books. Each ticket will be good for one book.

After the ticketed members have a good look at the inventory, from 9AM to 11AM, the bookSWAP will be opened to the entire building, from 11AM to 3PM. During this time, the number of books one can choose will be unlimited.

Beginning December 1st, please bring any unwanted books (in good reading condition) to Building Management, Room 8. Book drop-off can be anytime between 8:00AM and 5:00PM, Monday through Friday.

The best part about bookSWAP is that it supports everyone's interest in reusing, recycling and reducing!





AlertSF Notification System

24/7 text-based emergency information to your wireless device.

Don't be the last to know!

AlertSF is a text-based notification system for San Francisco's residents and visitors. AlertSF is a software application used to send emergency alerts, notifications, and updates to a registered cell phone, pager, BlackBerry, PDA and/or e-mail account. In the event of an emergency, the City and County of San Francisco will be able to send important alerts and updates right to your cell phone or mobile device. All you have to do is sign up for an AlertSF account.

AlertSF will send watches and warnings for tsunamis, flooding, and tornados and Citywide post-disaster information to your registered wireless devices and email accounts. Registrants can also sign up to receive English-language automated information feeds and/or alerts targeted to specific areas of the City.

All AlertSF users may receive:

- Watches and warnings for tsunamis, flooding, and tornados
- Citywide post-disaster messages (i.e., boil water orders)
- Severe transit disruption alerts (i.e., a shutdown of BART or the Bay Bridge)
- Monthly test alerts

Registration for AlertSF is free. Text message charges may apply depending on your wireless carrier and plan. These charges will not be reimbursed by the City and County of San Francisco. When registering your cellular device, make sure it is capable of receiving email generated text messages.

Visit www.alertsf.org to register.

AlertSF is powered by Cooper Notification's Roam Secure Alert Network



Did Someone Say "Free"?

By now you've heard all about the opening of the new California Academy of Sciences in Golden Gate Park, but have you heard about the Neighborhood Free Days?

Aside from offering free admission (presented by Wachovia) on the third Wednesday of each month, the Academy of Sciences is opening its doors for free to San Francisco residents during two weekends next year (presented by Bank of America). So grab your neighbors, and proof of your residency, and look up your zip code to find out which days are free. Be sure to say hi to Bonnie the Gator!

Check out www.calacademy.org for all the information.



BLOOD DRIVE!!!

San Francisco City Hall Building Management and Blood Centers of the Pacific are hosting a BLOOD DRIVE!

December 9, 2008

10:00AM to 2:00PM

located on the Van Ness side of City Hall

Please register online at www.bloodheroes.com click "Find A Location" & enter Sponsor Code: CityHallSF or contact Joanne Alwine at 415-749-6633 or jalwine@bloodcenters.org

Living in one of the most seismically active areas in the world, we are at risk of a devastating earthquake. Our emergency supplies need to be fully stocked for any time of crisis.

The Blood Centers of the Pacific need your help!



HEALTHY HOLIDAY HABITS

Notice how most people join the gym right after New Year's Day in hopes of losing those additional pounds gained over the previous months? Get a head start and work hard to avoid the extra holiday bulk by exercising some healthy holiday habits.

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

- ❖ Tivo the bowl games and enlist the whole family in outdoor activities like hiking, biking, flag football, and basketball. Not only do you all get great exercise, but everyone involved will enjoy a little extra family time!
- ❖ Don't do all of your shopping online! Turn off the computer and head to the mall. The physical activity involved in searching the stores and fighting the crowds will help keep your waistline trim!
- ❖ Turn on your favorite holiday music or newest CD and turn it up! Get to work on those household chores you put off all year long, like floor waxing, window washing, and dusting behind large furniture. While you're at it and your energy level is high: walk your dog, mow your lawn, and wash your car!

NUTRITION

- ❖ Plant yourself right next to the vegetable platter, and far away from the cheese plate and hot artichoke dip at your holiday parties! Munch on crispy fresh vegetables while you visualize yourself fitting into that little black dress or tailored suit for New Year's Eve!
- ❖ Keep a cool bottle of water (reusable of course) with you while you scour the malls looking for that perfect gift for great aunt Sylvia! Keep a nice cold apple in your purse or jacket pocket to snack on while you're standing in those long lines at the check-out counter.
- ❖ When bringing food to a party or potluck, cook a healthy low-fat appetizer or side dish. When wandering through the buffet line, take a big serving of your nutritious contribution and just a small taste of the candied yams, potatoes au gratin, and creamed spinach. Limit your egg nog intake and opt for some spiced apple cider to warm you up instead!



Harvey Milk: Private Life/Public Life

An exhibition of original photographs and archival material drawn from the collections of the James C. Hormel Gay and Lesbian Center and the San Francisco History Center that explores the life of Harvey Milk from his childhood to his days on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. Highlights include family photos, love letters, candid snapshots and political papers.

From October 25, 2008 through January 10, 2009
Main Library, Third Floor, James C. Hormel Gay and Lesbian Center and
Sixth Floor, San Francisco History Center
100 Larkin Street (at Grove)
Free Admission

AFGHANISTAN

Hidden Treasures from the National Museum, Kabul

Both the Asian Art Museum and the San Francisco Public Library have compelling exhibits on Afghanistan currently running. Spend the day in the Civic Center and experience both.



ASIAN ART MUSEUM

200 LARKIN STREET • SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102 • (415) 581-3500

Afghanistan: Hidden Treasures from the National Museum, Kabul

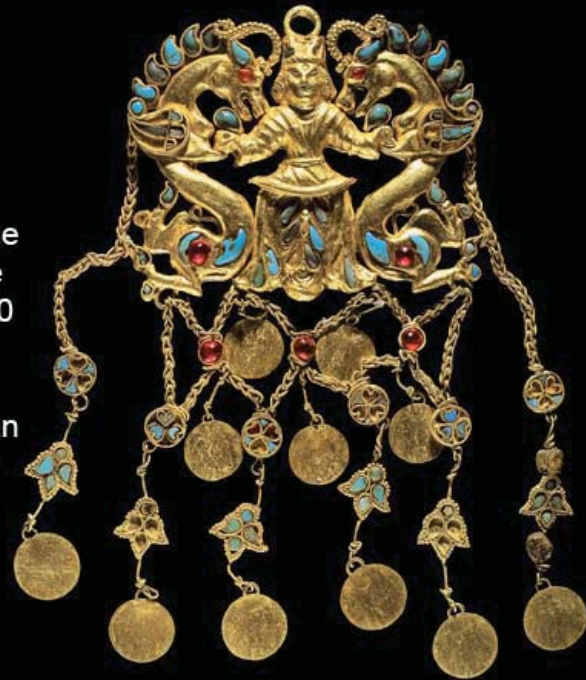
A traveling exhibition of extraordinary archaeological treasures from the National Museum of Afghanistan, Kabul, this exhibition will explore the rich cultural heritage of ancient Afghanistan from the Bronze Age (2500 B.C.) through the rise of trade along the Silk Road in the first century A.D. Among the nearly 230 works on view will be artifacts dating back more than 4,000 years, as well as gold objects from the famed Bactrian hoard, a 2,000-year-old treasure cache discovered in 1978 but hidden from view until 2003.

October 24, 2008-January 25, 2009

Tuesday-Sunday 10:00am-5:00pm, Thursday until 9:00pm

www.asianart.org

Museum admission is free on the first Sunday of each month, courtesy of Target. Admission is on a first-come, first-served basis. Due to capacity restrictions, admission is not guaranteed.



San Francisco Public Library

Afghanistan 1970-1975: Images From An Era of Peace

Striking black and white pre-war 1970s photographs of Afghanistan by Joseph Hoyt depict people of all ages, landscapes and ancient ruins in a poor but culturally and historically rich nation before the start of conflict and turmoil. "The photographs in this collection reveal an Afghanistan very different from the one we hear about today. What we see in these images is not just an Afghanistan at peace, but a people and a country at peace within itself –a remarkable country and its resilient people going about their daily routines," said Hoyt.

October 11, 2008-January 18, 2009

Main Library, Sixth Floor Skylight Gallery

100 Larkin Street (at Grove)

The Role of Women in Afghanistan

Panelists include photographer Joseph Hoyt, award-winning Afghan American journalist Fariba Nawa, Nima Sadati, founder of many refugee programs for women in Afghanistan and entrepreneurial programs for Afghan women in the East Bay, Raelle Myrick-Hodges, Artistic Director for BRAVA Theater Center and Zohra Daoud, Co-Founder of the Afghan Women Association and radio host of Voice of Afghanistan

Sunday, November 16, 2:30-3:30 pm

Koret Auditorium, Main Library,

Let it Snow!!



Hyatt Regency San Francisco
5 Embarcadero Center

The Hyatt Regency's renowned Snow Village will once again be the centerpiece for the season, complementing the hotel's 40-foot high Eclipse geodesic sphere and reflecting pool. Respected collector Len Connacher will again showcase his private collection of the original Snow Village, the largest of its kind in the United States. The amazing display features more than 3,000 handcrafted ceramic collectible pieces, including musical carousels, ice skating rinks, ski slopes, gondolas, chalets, trains and many more limited edition pieces and motion-inspired collectibles.

11/21/2008 through 12/30/2008
www.sanfranciscohyattregency.com
Free Admission

Get Your Skate On

Nothing brings the feeling of wintertime like watching Robby Benson coax Alexis Winston back to the ice after her accident, all while the soundtrack ballad *Through the Eyes of Love* laments in the background. (If you haven't seen *Ice Castles*, add it to your Netflix queue; you're missing out on a cult classic!)

Better start practicing those lutzes, axels, and triple Salchows because this year San Francisco has not one, but two ice skating rinks! Have fun and try not to crash into the boards!

Holiday Ice Rink at Embarcadero Center
presented by Wachovia
November 12, 2008 - January 4, 2009
Justin Herman Plaza
415.772.0753
hhan@bostonproperties.com



Safeway Holiday Ice Rink
presented by Macy's
November 12, 2008 – January 4, 2009
Union Square
50 O'Farrell Street
415.781.7880
www.unionsquaresf.net

New Year's Eve Fireworks

San Francisco Ferry Building Marketplace

One Ferry Building

Free Admission

San Francisco's annual fireworks display begins at midnight on New Years Eve and ends about 18 minutes later on New Years day. The fireworks will be launched from barges on the San Francisco Bay about 1,000 feet from Pier 14. This family event is alcohol free. San Francisco Police will strictly enforce prohibitions on drinking in public during the event. Street closures are not planned however large crowds are expected and public transportation is highly recommended.

Call 311 for any of the following:

- Questions about unexpected street closures
- MUNI/BART schedule and fare information



Mike's Movie Review

W. a life underestimated



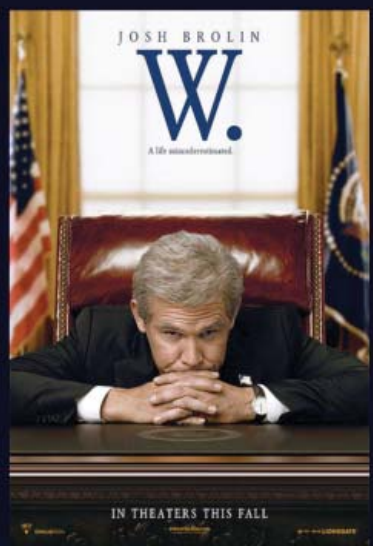
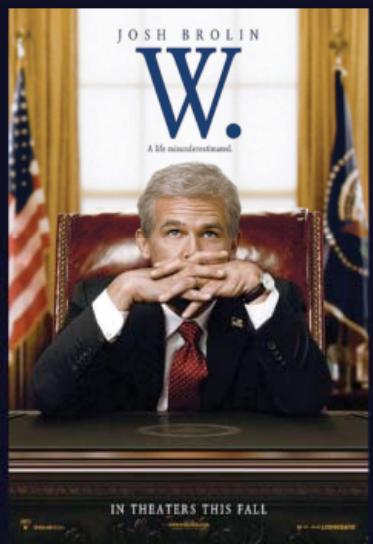
Oliver Stone, the sometimes controversial director who brought us political films, such as JFK and Nixon, as well as dramatic and violent movies, including Scarface and Natural Born Killers, has released yet another film destined for controversy. *W.*, a movie chronicling the life of President George W. Bush, has become Stone's latest edition to a long list of controversial movies. However, the factual basis for the film is not always apparent.

While Stone utilizes actual quotes and events that occurred during the President's two terms in office, the authenticity of some scenes can't help but be called into question. Fear not though, Lionsgate was prepared for the onslaught of questions likely to arise from movie-goers and political pundits alike, and has published a companion website devoted to resolving these questions. In what they have termed "W. The Movie Guide", found at <http://wthefilm.com/guide/>, anyone who is curious can view a breakdown of the movie into 83 footnotes, confirming either the factual basis for a scene or coping to its lack thereof.

Don't go into this movie with the preconception that it is a comedy, however. Despite its comedic tone, it is truly an attempt to be a neutral depiction of the life of George W. Bush. The movie comes across as being funny because the whole time you're watching it, you're saying to yourself, "this guy is the President of the United States?"

One thing the movie does accomplish, and something that was a little surprising, is it humanizes President Bush. While it does poke fun at the seemingly unending line of mishaps and mishandling of the country, it also depicts a man living in his brother's shadow and fighting for the approval of his father. Ultimately, Stone's attempt to bring light to the attitudes of President Bush, as well as his policies surrounding the Iraq War, is successful, and you leave without an ounce of sympathy for the man.

Overall, *W.* is entertaining to watch, despite being slow at times, and raises many questions, including "was there really no exit strategy?"



POP QUIZ!

How much do you really know about earthquake safety?

Test your knowledge about what to do when an earthquake hits...Take the Earthquake Quiz!

<http://quakequizsf.org/>

During the Quake:

- Drop under a table or big piece of furniture
- Cover your head and neck with your arms
- Hold on until the shaking stops

Wheelchair users:

- Apply the brake. Cover your head with your arms

Drivers:

- Pull over. Do not block the street. Stay in your car.

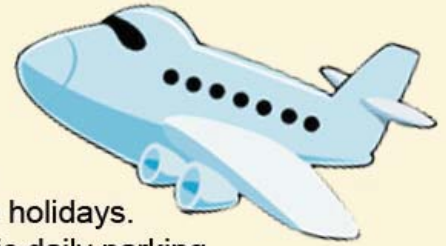
After the Quake:

- Expect aftershocks.
- Each time you feel one DROP, COVER, and HOLD ON
- Watch for falling objects and power lines
- Check and care for injuries to yourself and others
- Check your home and extinguish small fires
- If you smell gas, turn off the gas line and leave the building

Call the City Hall Information Hotline for important and up-to-date information regarding the operational status of City Hall.

CITY HALL HOTLINE
415-554-4799

Travelling for the holidays?



Parking, made a little bit easier.

Lots of City and County of San Francisco (CCSF) employees will take time off this season to visit friends and family across the country to celebrate the holidays. Did you know that as a CCSF employee, you can take advantage of a terrific daily parking rate at SFO? Airport and CCSF employees can park in the Domestic Garage or in the International Garages (A and G) for \$13 per day, with a maximum stay of 30 days. In order to receive the discount, employees must present CCSF identification and must obtain a coupon book from the New South Parking Office in the Domestic Hourly Garage. This coupon book can also be obtained in Room 140 in San Francisco City Hall.

Please note the following:

- Only one coupon per visit is required to receive the discounted parking rate.
- Redemption and payment required at a cashier exit lane. Do NOT detach coupons from book.
- Present photo identification with coupon book to cashier. Sign your name on the discount coupon in front of the cashier at the exit booth.
- Coupons expire 6 months from the date of issuance and must be signed and date stamped to be valid.

Books containing five coupons each can be obtained at San Francisco International Airport's Domestic Hourly Garage - Level 3, at the New South Parking office from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. CCSF employees can obtain coupons at City Hall, Room 140, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Discount parking coupons are not transferable and employees cannot combine this discount with any other parking discount offer. The airport reserves the right to discontinue the employee discount parking program at any time.

Visit www.flysfo.com and click on the employee discounts link on the bottom of the page.

Disney's High School Musical: The Ice Tour Kicks off the Holiday with Embarcadero Center!

The hottest phenomenon is now on ice! *Disney's High School Musical: The Ice Tour* is the one and only live fusion of songs, dance and team-spirited fun inspired by the smash hit Disney Channel Original Movies "High School Musical" and "High School Musical 2." Get'cha head in the game and celebrate the sounds, the songs, the bop and the pop in this all-new ice show starring a cast of world-class skaters. Get a sneak preview of the Wildcat frenzy prior to its stint in the Bay Area, February 28-March 8, at Embarcadero Center's 2008 Building Lighting Ceremony on Friday, November 21st at 5:30 P.M. In addition to the ultimate mega mix of skating, dancing and the songs you love from Disney's High School Musical: The Ice Tour, the event will include performance by local musicians brought to you by KDFC and a spectacular pyrotechnic show finale which will dazzle the City's skyline.

Preceding the Ice Show and Building Lighting, Winter Carnival, a perfect event to share with the family, will feature a host of fun activities for the kids such as carnival games, interactive arts and crafts making booths, card making, balloon twisters, musical performances and more! And those wanting to get a jump start on their holiday shopping, Embarcadero Center retailers will offer holiday gift ideas and special discounts you will not want to miss, with four (4) hours of free parking from 4:00 PM.

Make it a date! Meet family and friends at Embarcadero Center for an evening of fun, entertainment, shopping and great food!

For more information, please contact Helen Han at 415.772.0753 or email hhan@bostonproperties.com.

'Tis the Season to Reduce! Fa la la la la... la la la la!

Reduce Holiday Stress by Reducing Holiday Waste!

This time of year brings so much to be thankful for....friends, family, and traditions: both old and new. However, it also brings so much crumpled up wrapping paper, piled up shipping and gift boxes, and discarded bows and ribbons needlessly filling up our homes.

This season of holidays is the perfect time to implement some new traditions that will not only help our environment, but will reduce the stress of after-gift-exchange clean-up, and save you some money in the process.

In the spirit of giving, we've gathered some quick and easy ideas that create less waste and more memories.

Gift Wrapping

Try to avoid paper gift wrap and use these wrapping alternatives:

- ✓ Fabric, Scarves, Handkerchiefs, or Bandannas
- ✓ Newspapers and Sunday comic pages
- ✓ Pictures or advertisements from magazines and catalogs
- ✓ A plain box decorated with glitter, paint, markers, etc
- ✓ Reusable decorative bags

Bows and Ribbons

These items make an eye-catching final touch:

- ✓ Bows saved from other gifts
- ✓ Reusable items, such ornaments, candy canes, or toys
- ✓ Last year's holiday cards cut up for gift tags
- ✓ Scrap fabric, lace, and yarn
- ✓ Scarves

Party Waste Reduction Tips

These suggestions reduce the amount you have to throw away after a party:

- ✓ Buy baking goods and snack food in bulk or large volumes
- ✓ Use reusable tableware
- ✓ Rent dishes, napkins, cups and saucers, tablecloths and glasses instead of using expensive disposables
- ✓ Place easily identifiable recycling containers at your celebration so guests can recycle their cans, bottles, etc.

After the holidays

- ✓ Save packing material, wrapping and tissue paper for reuse.
- ✓ Cut up leftover wrap to make packing materials for future use
- ✓ Save bows, ribbon, tags, festive bags and boxes for next year
- ✓ Before you throw away or recycle all of those gift catalogs, take a minute to pick out the ones you don't want



THIS WON'T HURT A BIT!!

Flu season is upon us and the Department of Public Health, located at 101 Grove Street, is offering the flu vaccine from September through January to those who wish to be protected from seasonal influenza. Since flu season can begin as early as December, vaccination is recommended before the end of November.

The Flu vaccine is offered daily, during regular business hours. You can drop-in or make an appointment.

Go to www.dph.sf.ca.us to make an appointment at DPH or go to www.sfcdcp.org to find a low cost flu vaccine provider in your neighborhood.

