



## NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2024

By Phil Faroudja

**NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS:** Your GGVNA has been hard at work on several issues, so we thought we would update you ... Allyne Park is in bad shape. It remains a pleasant oasis, but there is dirt where grass should be. Fortunately, our friends at Friends of Allyne Park have raised over \$3000 to fix it and have combined funds with those of SF Rec and Parks. That department will put in new grass, sod and irrigation. The project begins in a few weeks and will take nine months ... Traffic safety has become the number one issue in our area. If you drive in Marin or San Mateo, everything is fine. But venture into SF and cars run red lights, plow through stop signs, and double park on every other street. Pedestrians jaywalk major boulevards like Van Ness and Fillmore, and there have been horrific accidents. Accordingly, we have requested Northern Station police devote more to traffic enforcement, and red light cameras may be installed. We also have asked for a dedicated traffic officer ... The Clay theater on Fillmore has a new owner who will bring it back as a cinema. Seats are being reinstalled. This is a rare win for historical preservation, and Supervisor Stefani deserves much credit for landmarking the building.

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**ELECTION SELECTION:** The late Ed Lee once declared, "In San Francisco, we love everybody" but not much affection has been on display recently in the race for mayor. There's been more mud thrown than at a monster truck rally in the Cow Palace. The current incumbent has been called every name in the book, while a reporter has sneered that a second candidate is "... not only a NIMBY but a YIYBY — as in Yes, In Your Backyard." Another mayoral prospect has been accused of "growing and exploiting the corrupt system at city hall..," selling out taxpayers, and "...issued... the city's largest-ever ethics fine." An additional hopeful

has been characterized as "...unemployed for the past five years," and inexperienced in the event of "...a major earthquake, another pandemic, or god forbid a terrorist attack." Terrorist attack? That's so 2002 ... The entire affair has either been depressing or entertaining, depending on your point of view ... Fortunately, all the *Sturm und Drang* will shortly be silenced. After all that, we may end up where we started.

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*"For mayor, I have decided on my first, second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth choices."*

**NEVER A DULL MOMENT:** There is much entertainment in town, and a good program at SF Opera this fall. Highlights include "Carmen" and "Tristan and Isolde." You'll have to wait until next year, though, for Puccini's "La Bohème" ... The beautifully refurbished theater in the Presidio now shows movies. "Hook" and "Vertigo" will be screened for Halloween, with costume contests ... BATS Improvisation at Fort Mason will present a Charles Dickens musical in November ... And the GGVNA annual dinner is scheduled for November 21 at charming Isa Restaurant. It will feature speakers, updates from law enforcement and more. We hope to see you there!

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