

# EXCELSIOR DISTRICT NEWS

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2      APRIL 2005

## *EXCELSIOR LIBRARY UPDATE*

**Contributed By Grace D'Anca**

Excelsior residents really rallied to support the Excelsior Library renovation and the library is scheduled to open sometime this summer.

This community has raised nearly \$40,000 for furnishings and equipment for the library so far. That includes over \$6,000 raised by the calendar sales, and funds raised the Diane Di Prima poetry reading, the Valentine Dinner Dance, and the party at Wendy Smither's house. And, thanks to solicitations by Supervisor Gerardo Sandoval on behalf of the Excelsior Library, an additional \$5,000 has been pledged.



Another benefit, "Night of New Music" is scheduled for Friday, April 16, 8 PM at the Ocean Avenue Presbyterian Church, 32 Ocean Avenue. Tickets are \$10 regular admission and \$5 for seniors and students. Call (415)587-1100 for more information.

An added value is the Spaghetti Feed fundraiser for the Ocean Avenue Presbyterian Church from 6:30 to 7:30 in the church basement immediately preceding the new music concert on April 16. The cost is \$7 for adults and \$3.50 for children.

There will be couple of other fundraising events the next few months with details at a later

*(Continued on page 3)*

## ***MAYOR OWNERSHIP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM***

**Contributed By Kriztina Palone**

Mayor Newsom outlined several homeownership programs administered by the City. "The City is back in the down payment business", remarked the Mayor, noting that \$8 million in down payment and second loan funds have recently been made available for affordable first-time homeownership opportunities. Additionally, the City offers mortgage credit certificates that make homeownership affordable by reducing a household's total tax owed.

San Francisco's homeownership assistance programs are targeted to low- and moderate-income families. For the down payment programs, families of 4 can earn no more than \$95,000. Families with slightly higher incomes (up to \$158,000) are eligible for the other City homeownership programs. City down payment and second loan assistance programs

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### **SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:**

- ***NEXT EDIA MEETING WILL BE APRIL 26, 2005 AT 7:00 PM***
- ***IF YOU WANT TO BE ON THE EXCELSIOR NEWS MAILING LIST CONTACT US***
- ***EDIA ELECTIONS, YOU SHOULD ATTEND THE NEXT TWO MEETINGS***

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## ***MAYOR GOES ABOVE AND BEYOND—TOWN HALL MEETING***

### **Fellow Excelsoirans**

Since Gavin Newsom took office in January 2004, his administration has focused on a broad range of issues that affect San Franciscans daily, like homelessness, public safety, quality of life, jobs and economic development. He has worked toward one goal: a safer, healthier and stronger San Francisco. He is proud of what he has achieved but he needs to know if he is on the right track. That means listening to San Franciscans like us.

Lionel Brazil, Angeliqne Mahan, Claire Zvanski and David Hardaway and other District 11 residents were given the opportunity to participate in *SFListens*. We were invited to initiate an unprecedented dialogue between City Hall and the people of San Francisco.

Over the course of the four weeks, Mayor Newsom has or will convene four meetings across the city in each of San Francisco's distinct quadrants: west (Districts 1, 4 and 7); southeast (Districts 9, 10 and 11); central (Districts 5, 6 and 8) and north (Districts 2 and 3). Each meeting will be comprised of San Franciscans, invited and selected at random. By the project's end, as many as 600 city residents will have provided direct input on the city's priorities. And in so doing will help shape San Francisco's future.

Historically, public input on the budget has come late in the process - largely happening once the budget has been submitted to the Board of Supervisors. *SFListens* is changing that. *SFListens* will provide Mayor Newsom with our input about budget priorities before he submits the budget to the Board of Supervisors in June.

These issues, familiar to us all, which were presented to us for discussion include:

**Homelessness** - This continues to be among the most pressing problems facing San Francisco. Efforts to address the problem are increasingly focused on moving away from temporary shelter toward permanent housing.

**Housing** - Just as permanent supportive housing is the key to ending homeless as we know it, creating more affordable housing is the key to making San Francisco a more livable city for low-and moderate-income residents.

**Public Safety** - Crime in San Francisco is a real and urgent problem. Every resident of San Francisco deserves to feel safe in their homes and workplace. At this time, San Francisco must be ready to face the on-going threat of natural disasters and terrorism.

**Quality of Life** - Improving the quality of life enjoyed by all residents in every neighborhood will make San Francisco a more livable, vibrant city. This means focusing resources on the clean street and parks, creating more open space, reducing air pollutants, revitalizing neighborhood commercial corridors and developing a sense of community.

**Jobs & Economic Development** - Revitalizing San Francisco's economy through job creating and business growth is essential if we are to make it through these difficult economic times. We must grow an economy that is diverse and stable.

**Education** - Safe, successful schools are an essential part of a strong healthy community. Good public schools translate into strong workforce and help retain families in the City.

**Children, Youth and Families** - Children help make San Francisco a more vibrant and livable city. But the high cost of living, particularly the high cost of home ownership, is making it increasingly difficult for families to live in the City.

**Health Care** - Securing quality, affordable health care is necessity for our City. Uninsured employees most often work for small businesses, work flex-time, are self-employed, or are very low-income wage earners who cannot afford health coverage. Affordable, accessible health care is key component of a healthy city. While San Francisco has made a start at improving health coverage for our residents, much more needs to be done.

As a collective group we were also asked to present any other issues that were not on this list. One area that resonated throughout our quadrant and the Western quadrant was **Government Accountability**. This was quite a surprise to the Mayor.

The goal of *SFListens* is to begin an in-depth conversation across San Francisco about the issues we face, how those issues should be prioritized and which strategies San Franciscans like you believe will make real change. After prioritizing and we could only use the top three, the Southeastern quadrant choices were Housing, Public Safety and Government Accountability.

Unlike average town halls, which are often focused on speeches, question-and-answer sessions or panel presentations, *SFListens* focuses on discussion and deliberation among real San Franciscans, utilizing technology to capture and synthesize this information in real time.

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## ***GIGANTIC SPRING CLEANING IN MAY***

Coming in May there will be a gigantic Spring Cleaning for the district; Excelsior residents can take advantage of Sunset Scavenger's Gigantic 3 boxes. Three large containers will be available for the recycling, composting, and dropping off of bulky items on Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup> at the Crocker-Amazon Playground (Moscow St. at Italy). The event runs from 8 am to noon, and residents may bring any large items (such as mattresses, yard waste, furniture, appliances, etc.) and drop them off free of charge. The Computer Recycling Center will also be on hand to recycle computer equipment (limit 5 computers per household).

Hazardous materials, such as paint, tires, motor oil, and batteries, are not accepted.

We are also excited to introduce the "Clean City Garage Sale" – all reusable items dropped off at the Sunset Scavenger's Gigantic 3 event will immediately be made available to the general public. One person's junk is another person's treasure.

This event coincides with the SF Clean Team's campaign to keep District 11 clean, green, and forever beautiful! The Clean Team, a partnership of the San Francisco Clean City Coalition, the Department of Public Works, and the Recreation and Park Department, clean parks, schools, and neighborhoods of the city district by district. May brings the Clean Team to District 11,

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## **LIBRARY CONT**

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date. And look for Excelsior Library Fundraising Campaign "penny jars" in Excelsior establishments.

Thanks to EDIA members for helping support the Valentine Dinner Dance. Special thanks to Lionel Brazil and David Haraway for donating extra tickets, Jean Carroll for her basket of home made goodies, Rose Ann Harris for a cat basket, and Robert Greco for his donation of a case of wine.

And thanks to other EDIA members for their generous contributions to the library campaign. It takes a village, the village of Excelsior. In the event you would like to support the Excelsior Library renovation, contact Marian Chatfield Taylor at Friends of the Library, at 415-626-7512 X 103 or Email: [marian.ctaylor@friendssfpl.org](mailto:marian.ctaylor@friendssfpl.org)

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## ***OWNERSHIP CONT.***

*(Continued from page 1)*

can provide up to \$100,000 in loans that are deferred for 40 years (or upon sale). City rehabilitation loan programs can provide up to \$150,000 (for a 2-unit residence) or \$75,000 (for a single-unit residence). All programs have additional underwriting and eligibility guidelines.

More information can be found on the Mayor's Office of Housing Website at [www.sfgov.org/moh](http://www.sfgov.org/moh) or by calling 415-252-3177.



**EDIA would like to send out a special thanks to Ernestine Murray for answering our call on Filing Cabinets. Ms. Murray donated three big filing cabinets to EDIA. This will be a big help in keeping our records organized. Thank you Ms. Murray.**

## ***ELECTIONS ARE COMING***

EDIA elections are set for May 24, 2005. At our next meeting, which is on April 26, 2005, nominations will be presented. Anyone interested in nominating a member for office or nominating themselves should contact Angelique Mahan (650) 784-1973, Lucia Paulazzo (415) 584-0852 or Lionel Brazil (415) 334-2670 or email your nominations to [info@ExcelsiorDistrict.org](mailto:info@ExcelsiorDistrict.org) by noon on April 26, 2005 to provide time to ensure the member is in good standing.

The night of the April 26, candidates or supporters will be given the opportunity to tell members why the nominee should be elected to office. Nominees are required to attend this meeting. A Secret Ballot will be provided on May 24 for members at that meeting.

We are looking to elect a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Sergeant-at-Arms, three Trustees and three Executive Board members.

Some of the duties for officers are provided in the bylaws; those duties that are not clear will be defined after the elections. No matter who is elected to office they will be required to take an active part in our Association to keep it strong and active can mean so many things.

If you have any questions please feel free to call Angelique or Lionel.

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**If you are interested in helping improve Our community and create an even stronger voice for The Excelsior Neighborhood at City Hall. The Excelsior District Improvement Association (EDIA) is looking to bring new talent and expand our membership. As a member you can be involved in these very important community improvement areas – Parks & Recreation, Cleaning the Streets, Graffiti, Neighborhood Schools, Public Safety, Excelsior Library, Planning Issues, Neighborhood Revitalization and many more. PLEASE take a moment to fill out one of our membership form insert within this newsletter to apply for membership with EDIA for 2005.**

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### Important Numbers

Dept of Public Works	(415) 28CLEAN
Ingleside Police Station	(415) 404-4000
Police Dispatch	(415) 553-0123
Crime Stoppers	(415) 553-9755
Parking Enforcement	(415) 553-1200
Abandoned Cars	(415) 553-9817
Non operating Cars on Private Property	Yvonne.mere@sfgov.org (415) 554-3874
Burned Out Street Lights	(415) 554-0730
Leaking Fire Hydrants	(415) 558-3403
Supervisor Gerardo Sandoval	(415) 554-6975
Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services	(415) 554-7111

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## *GIGANIC SPRING CONT.*

*(Continued from page 3)*

and cleanup events will be going on throughout the district. On Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, volunteers will meet at Excelsior Youth Center (163 London St. at Excelsior). Volunteers will clean neighborhood streets and schools, remove graffiti, weed sidewalks, and trim trees all over District 11. The second event kicks off at Merced Heights Playground (Shields Street at Byxbee) on Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup> and work on this day will include gardening and beautification projects at Merced Heights Playground and other District 11 parks

Both events begin at 9 am, all supplies are provided, and lunch is served after the event at noon. Various city and community leaders will be on hand, and everyone is encouraged to come out and help clean up the district. Residents also can contact the Clean Team regarding any neighborhood hotspots that need to be cleaned, or if would like to organize a satellite cleanup site on one of these dates.

For more information regarding the volunteer events or the Gigantic 3 recycling program, please contact the Clean Team at (415)-9201 or log onto [www.sfcleancity.com](http://www.sfcleancity.com). EDIA hopes to see everyone cleaning and greening the Excelsior; which is part of the District 11 community this May!

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## **LIVING IN THE "E" SECTION**

### ***INVITATION TO OUR RESIDENTS***

I have been waiting for days for Angelique to submit some stories that she told me she had gathered. I have been waiting so long that I have developed a few more gray hairs, so I am filling in this section, this time, with an invitation to our residents.

I hope everyone knows that I am just kidding! Angelique, David and I have full time jobs, but love this district so much that we have decided to dedicate as much time as possible to the betterment of our community.

We are dedicating this section for stories about our neighborhood from our residents. We want to publish at least a story a month about living in the Excelsior, hence the title Living in the "E". Whether it be from the past or from the present, stories that point out what good neighbors were and what good neighbors can be. Childhood memories of how things were in the past; stories about neighbors coming together to help each other out today. We see so much pain and misfortune in the news today, so let's point out positive things within our neighborhood for others to share.

Stories can be sent to the PO Box, emailed, or just hand them to us when you see us.

I am going to share some good news that I heard on Sunday. Rebecca Silverberg became a proud grandmother again. Her son and daughter-in-law, who live in Nevada, are having somewhat of a miracle baby. They have been trying for many years to have a child of their own, but to no avail. And in their desire to have children they adopted. They presently have three beautiful children and low and behold Rebecca daughter-in-law gets pregnant. Rebecca was heading towards Winnemucca, Nevada on Sunday to be a new Grandmother. It's good to hear her so excited..

Lionel

## ***OUR YOUTH SECTION***

### **EXCELSIOR BOYS & GIRLS CLUB**

#### ***Excelsior Youth Center***

The former director of the Boys & Girls Club, Jane Zimmerman has moved on and Carlton Eichelberger is the new director of the Excelsior Youth Center. The new director has set up a schedule for Youth Center staff to walk around the London/Excelsior/Paris/Avalon block in regular rotations several times per hour between 2:50 PM and center closing time at 8 PM. This action plan is designed to deter any youth loitering around the Center.

Last year the Excelsior Community helped send 25 Excelsior Youth Center kids to Camp Mendocino. It was the first time the Excelsior Branch of the Boys & Girls Club had enough kids enrolled to have a bus pick them up in front of the club. Thanks to this community's support, they got their wish to have their own bus.

Excelsior residents again have an opportunity to help send kids to camp this year. It costs \$85 to send a youth to Camp Mendocino for two weeks. If you would like to donate whatever you can afford to help send a kid to camp, please send your donation to Carlton Eichelberger, Excelsior Youth Center Director, 163 London Street, S.F., CA 94112. You can make checks payable to Boys and Girls Clubs of San Francisco, and be sure to put Excelsior Summer Camp donation in the memo portion of your check.

You can reach Carlton at (415)334-3182 if you have further questions.

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## **YOUTH EMPLOYMENT**

Spring Break has arrived for many students, which means summer is just around the corner! Traditionally, many young people come to City Hall during spring Break searching for information on youth employment. At the Youth Commission website [http://www.sfgov.org/youth\\_commission](http://www.sfgov.org/youth_commission) is a list of organizations that can assist young people with their job search. You may want to print a copy of this and keep it handy in your office.

Information regarding the Mayor's Summer Job Program can be obtained by contacting Aaron Goldsmith at (415) 554-6613, or via e-mail at [aaron.goldsmith@sfgov.org](mailto:aaron.goldsmith@sfgov.org). For young people inquiring about Work Permits, they are available by visiting the School District Office of Student Records at 555 Portola Drive (at Shaugnessy) or by calling (415) 695-5504. The Office of Student Records maintains regular business hours during both spring and summer break.

Also the Youth Commission is now accepting applications for the 2005-2006 term! The application is due by 5:00pm on May 2, 2005 and is available on our website [http://www.sfgov.org/youth\\_commission](http://www.sfgov.org/youth_commission). Please spread the word to anyone whom you think may be interested in becoming a part of the Youth Commission.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Ron S. McCan, Program & Policy Coordinator, San Francisco Youth Commission at 554-6585.

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## **EDIA WANTS YOUTH TO COMMENT**

The Excelsior District News extends an invitation for all schools and youth organizations within the Excelsior to participate in our newsletter. We are looking to provide a conduit for our community to come together and discuss or announce things that are happening at our youth centers and schools. Articles or announcements can be submitted to [lbrazil@ExcelsiorDistrict.org](mailto:lbrazil@ExcelsiorDistrict.org) or mailed to EDIA, P.O. Box 12005, San Francisco CA 94112. Our deadline is the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month and we are looking forward to publishing news that brings our community closer together.

## **TOWN HALL**

(Continued from page 2)

At the conclusion of the final meeting, the information gathered will be compiled into a single report that will detail the collective recommendations of *SFListens* participants from across the city. This report will be then posted on the Mayor's website.

### SOME KEY FACTS ABOUT THE BUDGET:

The Constitution of the State of California and the City Charter require San Francisco to adopt a balanced budget. This simply means that: Total City Revenues = Total Cost of City Services

A slow economy, rising labor costs, and revenue losses due to State budget reductions have generated a \$102M projected deficit for fiscal year 2005-2006.

The Mayor and the Board of Supervisors must reduce expenses and/or increase revenues in order to balance the budget. However, the City Charter and State law restrict how revenue may be generated and specify what the City must spend money on.

Total San Francisco budget: \$5 billion. Most is "non-discretionary" or expenditures mandated by law, such as Muni, the Airport, and the Public Utilities Commission.

Discretionary Amount of San Francisco budget: \$1.15 billion. The part of the budget the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors may control and use to balance the budget.

What's in the Budget? - 52 Departments: Department budgets range from less than \$1 million to over \$100 million; their staffs range from less than 20 to over 1,000. With multiple departments serving a similar need and priority such as public safety, health or infrastructure.

### **WHO IS INVOLVED IN THE BUDGET PROCESS?**

**The Mayor:** The City's Chief Executive who carries out policy through the budget. Must present a balanced budget to the Board of Supervisors each spring.

**The Board of Supervisors:** The City's legislative body that reviews, amends and approves the Mayor's budget, ensures citizen views are part of the budget process, sets policy direction for the City.

**Controller:** The City's Chief Financial Officer who projects how much revenue the City has available to fund the budget, prepares reports and other technical aspects of the budget, and ensures that the City meets financial obligations legally and correctly.

**City Departments:** Department heads and their staffs who deliver public services, carry out policy, and manage the budget. During the budget process they prepare program and financial information and answer questions from policymakers and the public. Public input at the department level is very important for those with concerns about specific programs or spending plans.

**Commissions:** An organization that holds public hearings, approves the department's budget proposal to the Mayor, and advises the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors on policy matters.

**You:** Citizens have a voice in the budget setting process through meetings such as *SFListens*, in public hearings at City Hall and in supervisorial districts. Contact your district supervisor's office to learn when hearings may be held in your district.

**HOW DOES AN AVERAGE CITIZEN VOICE THEIR OPINION ON THE BUDGET?** They can participate in SF Listens! They can call your District Supervisor and participate in public hearings. Or they can write or call your elected official, or the Department providing a service of particular interest to you.

**Do your part and voice your opinion!**

## **Organization**

EXCELSIOR DISTRICT  
IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 12005  
San Francisco CA 94112-0005

Phone: 415-334-2670

E-mail: [info@ExcelsiorDistrict.org](mailto:info@ExcelsiorDistrict.org)

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

[WWW.EXCELSIORDISTRICT.ORG](http://WWW.EXCELSIORDISTRICT.ORG)

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**FOUNDED IN 1942**  
**INCORPORATED 1965**

***SEE YOU AT 45 SANTA ROSA  
AVENUE, APRIL 26, 2005***

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## **EDIA WANTS TO HELP WITH SUMMER CAMP**

EDIA is so please with the work the Excelsior Youth Center has done over the years and we believe that sending kids to camp is a worthwhile endeavor. EDIA would like to assist in this wonderful cause.

EDIA has available some wonderful collector items. Posters from the Jerry Garcia Day 2004 along with a limited number of T-Shirts used to help finance the Crocker Amazon Playground. In the spirit of giving our youth a chance for the great outdoors, EDIA would like proceeds from the sale of these collector items to sponsor 3-5 youth adults and send them to camp.

Purchase one of these Excelsior Neighborhood Collectors Items and help EDIA support the Youth in our Community.

Please make your tax deductible checks payable to EDIA. In the memo section write Excelsior Summer Camp.

**T-Shirts----\$15.00**

**Poster -----\$ 5.00**

If you have any questions, please call Angelique Mahan at (415) 699-6037. Or email her at [amahan@ExcelsiorDistrict.org](mailto:amahan@ExcelsiorDistrict.org). Checks can be sent to EDIA, P.O. Box 12005, San Francisco CA 94112-0005