SAN FRANCISCO’S PARKS NEED YOU!

The City is faced with a monumental budget deficit ($400 million) for the upcoming year beginning July 1st. The Recreation and Park Department may need to cut up to $8.5 million from its already stretched budget. These proposed cuts would include the layoff of 96 positions and reduced maintenance to our already neglected parks and facilities.

Sam Shaw, of ParkScan, outlined an innovative program to EVPA Board members on Tuesday, March 2. ParkScan is a community-based effort to improve standards of park maintenance through the use of technology and volunteers. Groups are formed to perform regular observations in their local conditions is then fed to cutting-edge electronics to the Recreation and other relevant agencies. These “extra eyes” help city residents, businesses or nonprofits in Castro, Upper Market, and Duboce Triangle (Eureka Valley). ParkScan is looking for enthusiastic volunteers who want to make a difference in their park. If you would like to join an existing ParkScan observer group or start a group for your favorite park, please visit their website at www.parkscansf.org. Observer groups are currently conducting surveys in the following parks:

- Rolph Playground (26th St. and Hampshire)
- Precita Park (Precita and Folomni)
- 24th St. Mini Park (24th St. between Bryant and York)
- Argonne Playground (18th Ave. between Arpa and Geary)
- Ina Coolbrith Park (Taylor and Vallejo)
- Boeddeker Park and Clubhouse (Eddy and Jones)
- Sunnyside Playground (Terrisella and Foerster)
- Little Hollywood Park (Tocolecio and Lathrop)
- Duboce Park (Duboce and Shieler)
- Panhandle Park (between Baker and Masonic)
- Moscone Rec. Center (Buchanan and Chestnut)
- West Sunset Playground (39th Ave. and Ortega)
- Crocker Amazon Playground (Geneva and Moscow)

You may have noticed “no parking” signs on Diamond and Collingwood. For the duration of the EVRC remodel, there will be a 40 foot parking strip for the contractor along Diamond Street and 180 foot strip on Collingwood. Much of this is already a no parking zone. Cars found in front of the needed area during operation will be towed. DPW asks that residents note and honor the “no parking” signs.

Because the project team and the contractor understand that parking is very limited in this dense neighborhood, they intend on only posting “no parking” signs and enforcing the “no parking” rule when we have work that entails entering and exiting the site. The contractor will post the “no parking” signs in these areas 72 hours in advance.

Although DPW will continue to free up space in front of the EVRC whenever possible, it is imperative that neighbors pay careful attention to the posted “no parking” signs. The small red and white signs, mounted on a-frames along the curb, will note the times and dates that parking will not be allowed. Once they are posted, they will tow cars if necessary. Keeping this space free of parked cars will allow the contractor to complete the needed work in a timely fashion.

If you have any questions, call Sheri Costa, DPW Project Coordinator, at (415) 437-7000.
Last year Dining Out for Life raised over $110,000 thanks to people like you. Call one of the participating restaurants and make your reservation today. It will be one of the most satisfying meals you ever eat. Be sure to tell everyone you know to eat out on April 29th! The proceeds of this event benefit the Stop AIDS Project in San Francisco.

In addition to a sumptuous meal you can also enter a drawing for fabulous prizes! This year’s prizes include:

- Two round trip coach airline tickets to Hawaii on ATA Airlines.
- Round trip airfare for two (2) to any ATA scheduled service flight destination within the continental US.
- One 3 day vacation package for two to your choice of over 60 resort locations.
- A weekend stay at Sol y Sombra on the coast in Gualala, CA.
- Private winery tour, lunch and barrel tasting with Jeff Stewart, “2002 Winemaker of the Year,” at La Crema Russian River Valley.

If you are unable to join on Thursday, April 29 but would still like to help out financially, you may make a tax-deductible donation by check or money order, payable to Dining Out For Life. Please send payment to Dining Out For Life c/o STOP AIDS Project, 2128 15th St, San Francisco, CA 94550 (attn: Christian Minchillo).