



**The next CNIA General Meeting will be held via Zoom, this Saturday, January 21st, 2023 at 11 am.**

**Presentations:**

**Public Power SF:** Learn about San Francisco's process for moving away from PG&E to city ownership of our power grid  
<https://www.publicpowersf.org/en/about>

**Quit Carbon:** This presentation will focus on consumer driven home energy choices. Quit Carbon's mission is to assist consumers as they develop efficient, economically feasible, & environmentally responsible product choices for their home.  
<https://www.quitcarbon.com/>

Representatives from Supervisor Safai's office and San Francisco Police Dept. will also be in attendance.

*Due to the hours for the above meeting the regularly scheduled monthly neighborhood cleanup will begin at 2 p.m. Please meet Team Leader CNIA member Steve Indig, ([steve@steveindigpr.com](mailto:steve@steveindigpr.com)) and others, at the corner of Ottawa and Alemany. Supplies are provided. Just like planting a tree in front of your home, a clean neighborhood discourages crime and increases property values because it shows we care.*

**From President Chris' Desk:**



Once again we're treading into a New Year! The calendar has suddenly slipped into 2023, while I feel as if I'm racing just to catch up with 2022. This will be a busy year for the CNIA, as we continue to explore how to adapt to a world which has been fundamentally altered by the unanticipated challenge of Covid. As I ponder this column, I find myself 'thinking in bullet points'. Rather than battle for a more fluid presentation, I'll take my cue from outlining, as that is how I've organized my thoughts for much of my life.

**Elections**

Your CNIA board has an **evolving strategic plan, thanks to the leadership of our treasurer, Renee Anderson**. Included in this plan are **elections for officers** which are to be completed in 2023.

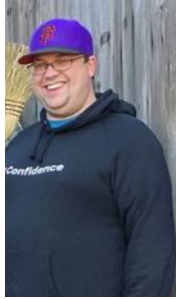
The call for nominations will formally be included in our April quarterly community meeting. The time to begin thinking of nominees is now! The election will be in July and investiture in October.

I will not be running for president. I accepted the board's appointment as interim just days before the Covid SIP derailed our world. The five months I planned to serve have morphed into 3 years! I've been delighted to serve but, as the appointed District 11 representative on the Disability and Aging Services Advisory, I need to focus more on elder care policy and service. This is my professional background and passion. Several other officers have found themselves in a similar situation, serving terms longer than anticipated.

**The following offices are now open for nomination:  
President & Secretary.**

I will send a NewsBlast to all members when the by-laws position description updates are completed.

### **Introducing the CNIAs new Vice President**



I am delighted to announce the appointment of **James Alexander** to the previously empty position of **Vice President!** James has agreed to run for office this year. James is originally from Boston but has lived in either San Francisco or Daly City for 13 years now but moved to Cayuga late last year hoping to set down roots and loves the local community. Outside of CNIA James works in online safety, security and privacy and enjoys hiking, scuba diving and games (both video and board). He can often be found late at his favorite local haunt the Dark Horse Inn and is looking forward to diving into the community even more!

#### **Reminders:**

**Call 311: When you see something - Say Something**

**Silence is consent**

**If you are not a part of the solution, you are a part of the problem**

Your CNIA is willing to help our community attain and maintain the best quality of life for all who live within our boundaries. As engaged community members, you need to actively pursue solutions to challenges. When asking the CNIA to assist you in addressing a concern, please be prepared to show us 3 documented actions which you have taken in seeking a remedy (ex.: 311 report reference numbers, an e-mail sent to the appropriate department &/or to Supervisor Safai's office).

### **Cayuga Park Poll**

Our park fills many roles in our community! Many who live here consider it their sanctuary ~ a sacred space where they can exercise,

meditate, join a tai chi session, play, gather with family and friends, & more. We are all Cayuga Park stakeholders!

I recently received an email from Daniel Choi, SF RPD Parks Service Manager, asking if there were any updates to our Cayuga Park poll. If you visit our park, & you have not completed the poll, please follow the link here to do so. Your insights are valuable!

<https://cayugaimprovementassociation.org/improve-our-park>

### **Ingleside Police Station Community Meeting**

We cannot expect excellent services from our providers in the absence of communication. Captain Lew and SF Safe host a monthly community meeting which is both informative and educational. I encourage all to follow the link here and attend this month's meeting:

<https://www.sanfranciscopolice.org/community/events/ingleside-station-community-meeting-011723?fbclid=IwAR0SUU5I7sJwUEZqJVJHwYV01W5oBh2ikfiQVJNMoDI8VhyqcHE3Xh5iUus>

### **Find someone doing something right, recognize, and reward it!**

This is my favorite CNIA value!



Officer Chan, SF RPD Park Patrol

Our community includes 'unhoused residents'. In seeking to serve these residents, the CNIA has developed an array of expert stakeholders

which include the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing, 311, SF RPD park patrol, SFPD Ingleside Station, Samuel Berensen, Maurice Rivers, & SF RPD. The CNIA encourages community members to interact with these service providers whenever necessary.

One long term, unhoused community member is well known to those who visit Cayuga Park. We've called him Bear for many years, though we now know that his name is Juan. He is young, has a beautiful smile, is unfailingly polite though very shy. Juan is usually non-verbal, though he can speak and understand some Spanish. We've asked community members to call 3-1-1 or non-emergency police services when Juan appears unwell &/or disoriented.

On a recent very cold and stormy afternoon, my partner and I saw Juan slowly entering our park from Alemany. Earlier, we'd seen him walking in the Oceanview area. He was soaked & wearing battered sandals with no socks. We checked where Juan often shelters and found that a kind person had left fresh blankets and a food container. Juan was not there, though he was obviously sheltering somewhere in the park. As we left the park, we were calling 3-1-1 and Park Patrol, when a Park Patrol vehicle passed us heading to the park!

Thus we met Officer Chan! Officer Chan was also checking on Juan, including bringing him supplies which hopefully would provide warmth and some degree of comfort during the challenging storm ahead. He had not left the blankets and food we found, so we know other residents are focused on Juan's quality of life as well. It turns out that SF RPD has a well designed series of interventions related to homeless park users, including welfare checks. We now know that SF RPD park patrol is

actively engaged in a multi-faceted effort to protect both our beautiful park and our unhoused resident, Juan! During each interaction, Park Patrol offers Juan the option to interact with a Homeless Outreach Team member, but Juan does not wish to access any services. He also politely declines offers of shelter, preferring to live outdoors. Services will continue to be offered. Ongoing assessment of Juan will focus on real time determinations as to whether his actions constitute 'a danger to himself'. Interventions will be determined on an as needed basis

**My final entry here is my new year wish for all: May 2023 be filled with blessings both great and simple.**

CNIA member Ken Meisle offers wise advice!



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### **Gold Star or Dog Poop Awards**

**Barbara Fugate – Editor**

**First Gold Star** thank you goes out to our **Supervisor, Ahsha Safai** for Sam. The brilliant idea of giving us a community engagement liaison who can devote themselves to troubleshooting and solving neighborhood quality of life issues. And for the choice of the person who will take on this position. *Please read the interview with Sam later in this newsletter; you will have the opportunity to learn more about Sam's job in an interview with member Steve Indig.*



I am giving **Sam Berenson** a **Gold Star** thank you for taking on the challenges on Alemany. Sam hit the ground running and you can already see a marked improvement. At our “great green wall” Sam has organized the city services needed for that and our other Alemany trouble spot behind Safeway.

Those who participated in the Vehicle Triage Christmas donations may already know Sam because of his participation in that project.

At Sam’s request, the homeless outreach folks contacted those living in their vehicles and Sam organized what is probably the first ever steam cleaning on upper Alemany. Picture attached. You can see for yourself, yes this really happened !!!



Sam has also been working with DPW to devise a plan that addresses the growth brush and trash thrown above the wall.

*The president of one of our adjacent neighborhood associations has suggested Sam should be canonized so we know he has been successful in taking on challenges all over District 11.*

A **Gold Star** thank you to **DPW** for the continued attention to the Alemany green wall

area, sidewalk, wall, and street. We know it’s a challenge with the continuous problems with trash cleanup and graffiti. The following picture shows step two in the cleanup efforts, trim that excessive foliage above the green wall.



And, last but not least, I am following one of President Chris Dillon’s philosophies and giving you a heads up about someone who has been actively pursuing ways to improve the quality of life in our neighborhood. Your editor sees it so I have to say something. I am extending a **Gold Star** thank you to CNIA member **Steve Indig**. As you read this month’s newsletter you will see how active Steve has been. From neighborhood cleanups to a featured interview Steve has been there representing us, the CNIA.

### **News you can use:**

[San Francisco District Attorneys’ Victim Assistance Office](#)

The DA’s office’s goal is to ensure safety; help victims of crime mitigate the trauma of crime, navigate the criminal justice system, and rebuild their lives. They can be reached at: Victim Services Office – 4-350 Rhode Island St. North Building #400N

San Francisco, CA 94103  
Office hours M-F: 8:00 am to 4:00 pm  
Phone: (628)652-4100 Fax: (628) 652-4101  
Email: [victimservices@sfgov.org](mailto:victimservices@sfgov.org)  
[www.sfdistrictattorney.org](http://www.sfdistrictattorney.org)

### Mission Inn Update by Lea Fabro Larkin Street Youth Services

In August 2022, Mission Inn, a housing program for young people experiencing homelessness ages 18 to 24, officially opened its doors. Operated by Dolores Street Community Services and Larkin Street Youth Services, the housing program will have 50 units available and is now currently home to 41 young people. Residents are expected to be in the age range mentioned above and are expected to either be employed or looking for employment.

Each unit has its own bathroom and kitchenette. The building is also under renovation to add laundry access onsite. Residents have access to activities such as wellness groups, life-skills development programs, and case management at least once a week. The program staff encourages youth to prioritize their career, educational goals, and mental health. This means helping them get their GED or high school diploma, support with college applications, and teaching them ways to manage their mental health.

Young people who are interested in applying for the housing program must be assessed at one of the Youth Access Points: Larkin Street Youth Services, 3rd Street Youth Center and Clinic, Lyric, or LGBT.

### Pacific Supermarket is closing.

As reported in the SF Business Times and SFGAT Pacific Supermarket, at 2900 Alemany Blvd., is permanently closing its San Francisco storefront. Pacific Supermarket will terminate its 59 employees on March 10, including 16 cashiers and 10 grocery clerks, among other positions. The San Francisco Business Times reports that Pacific Supermarket informed its employees about the upcoming layoffs sometime this week. It's unclear if Pacific Supermarket offered to transfer current San Francisco employees to its other Bay Area

storefronts. The grocery store has two locations in South San Francisco

The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) directed staff to investigate a multi-benefit alternative approach to a traditional pipe project that could alleviate existing flooding issues in Lower Alemany, while transforming the surface of our city to be more flood resilient and deliver more public benefits to San Franciscans in the Upper Islais Creek Watershed. This approach requires an understanding of what is working well and what is not working. To that end, SFPUC staff would like to reach out to residents, property owners, and businesses, beginning with those most vulnerable to flooding and other environmental burdens. We collected feedback through a Watershed Community Survey (+130 responses) and a series of Community Conversations (+26 participating organizations). At this time, the SFPUC is conducting a Community Survey Across the Upper Islais Creek Watershed. They have identified the top 3 quality-of-life priorities include storm flooding, air quality, and bike and pedestrian safety.

Next Steps: Last November, 2022, SFPUC leadership and the Regional Water Quality Control Board began to assess findings from this study and make recommendations on how to move forward. The SFPUC expects this process to take 3-4 months. You still have time to participate. They have a goal of building a network of community partners to support this effort going forward. You may contact the *SFPUC to schedule a conversation with SFPUC staff. 415-554-2900.*

*En español llame al 415-554-3289.*

For information about how to file a claim for injury, property damage or loss caused by the City and County of San Francisco can be found at [sfcityattorney.org/claims](http://sfcityattorney.org/claims) or by calling (415) 554-3900. Claims filed will be investigated and

evaluated by the City Attorney's Office Claims Division.

*Editor's note: If you have had issues with flooding during the recent Pineapple Express storms, now would be a good time to contact the PUC about any problems. . .*



**Interview with Sam Berenson,  
by CNIA board member Steve Indig**

*Q: What is your current job title, and description of what that title means?*

SAM BERENSON: My current job title is Community Engagement Liaison For District 11, through the San Francisco Police Department. The position got funded in the budget process, where I can focus on District 11 issues that affect quality of life, ranging from neighborhood blight, to crime, to illegal dumping, to graffiti, to preventive crime management [among others]. I follow developments and trends on issues like these, and work with the police captains, and other City departments to work on prevention, in addition to enforcement. The three years I spent working for Supervisor Safai at City Hall showed me how the City works, what

departments to call in various situations, which helps me to get a lot of things done.

*Q: You just mentioned but can you be more specific for my next question - what led you to this position, and what was your specific previous role?*

BERENSON: I worked for Ahsha Safai for many years, first as a volunteer on his campaigns. My first job title at City Hall was Administrative Aide for Supervisor Safai, and later Legislative Aide – in that role, in addition to legislation, the majority of my day-to-day responsibility was constituent requests [on items like] broken sidewalks, trees that need trimming, graffiti that needs cleaning up, the mattress that got dumped on your property, crime, parking enforcement.

*Q: In your current role, talk about some specific things that you've been working on and what you've already accomplished.*

BERENSON: When the supervisor talked to me about this position, I got really excited, because I was going to focus on the whole umbrella of public safety. I'm a firm believer that a clean and well working district will cut down on crime. In my opinion, if I can deliver things like clean streets, landscaped districts, graffiti abatement, getting ahead of crime trends rather than being reactionary – [all these things will help] provide people with a safe, clean, walkable, user-friendly district. We're not there yet, but I'm doing what I can, with the help of a lot of people. I've been working on really large scale DPW [Department of Public Works] projects. A day in my life right starts with driving the district every day Monday through Friday. [For many issues I see needing attention, I use] 311 - a really great tool that everyone in the public can and should use - to report things in real time, using a photo, which provides a record and tracking history - anything from an overflowing public garbage



can, to graffiti on a wall, to a MUNI Transit shelter with missing glass, to shopping cart that needs to get picked up and disposed of, and of course, trash dumping. That's a large chunk of what I do. I report those issues, and then work with DPW on follow-up. DPW does a great job cleaning up the many requests that we give them, not only from me, but from everybody that uses 311.

Q: I'd like to let folks know about items that I know you've made progress on. The CNIA group is really excited about the progress on the Alemany block across from Cayuga Park. I know you've worked on the street sales happening around Ocean and Mission. And the changes in the little triangle up by the BART station on San Jose. Can you comment on these?

BERENSON: The 2800 Alemany block has had a lot of very overgrown brush, and I advocated hard to fix this, which has started, with special trucks from DPW taking it down. Already, it looks more cared for, which we hope will decrease dumping trash, and other bad behavior. I'm also checking and working with SFMTA and SFPD to make sure that the cars parked there are following the rules.

On the illegal street vending, legislation states that someone can sell goods on the street, if they have a permit, and proof of where those goods came from. If someone is not following those requirements, DPW checks for proof of goods and permits, accompanied by SFPD for safety. I organized an effort to look at street selling at Ocean and Mission. We found many vendors that were not in compliance, we proceeded with an enforcement approach, and now Ocean and Mission are clear of illegal street vending, with a small number of permitted vendors that can prove their source of goods - they're free to sell their goods and we support them. But we can't have people

selling liquor, shampoo, etc. on the streets - it's not good for the businesses, who are already having a hard enough time trying to make it, with illegal street sales in front of their stores. I'm proud of that work, and I give a lot of credit to DPW and SFPD for how they handled it.

The triangular piece of land at Mount Vernon, Niagara, and San Jose was constantly getting dumped on. I worked with a neighborhood group and a bunch of volunteers; with tools, paint, and mulch from DPW; and we cleaned out that area, painted over graffiti, and improved aesthetics with mulch.

In general, starting with targeted trouble spots on my radar, I'm convinced that illegal dumping has dropped significantly. I'm not doing all the work myself - I'm organizing and working with City organizations and residents. In taking a proactive approach, I hope we can all provide a safe and friendly neighborhood in District 11, which is my focus.

Q: How can residents work with you?

BERENSON: Residents can always reach out to my email – [sam.berenson@sfgov.org](mailto:sam.berenson@sfgov.org). Also, it would be great for everyone to use 311, especially the smart phone app. This gives me and City agencies the ability to track the request. I'm grateful that I have resources at my disposal where I can follow up on these requests, and we can find out how to properly address them. I've found out some requests were dragging, and I was able to contact the right department to get them resolved. The 311 app really allows me and City agencies to act efficiently, and once someone has used the 311 app a couple times, it's easy and quick.

If you are seeing crime happening in real time, it's very important to call 911, or police non-emergency. Some might be inclined to call the supervisor's office, but it's always best to

call first to police 911 or police non-emergency. You can ask for what's called a CAD number that is a record of that report; maybe the supervisor's office can then follow up with the captain to see how they're doing with that report.

Q: I know the folks at CNIA are very impressed and thankful for your role, and hopefully we'll all continue working together on these issues.

BERENSON: I appreciate it. I really do have a desire to help people, not because it's a favor; it's because you deserve it, and everyone deserves the kind of results I'm shooting for. It hurts me very much when people don't feel comfortable in the district. We deserve better. It's not that anyone's doing a bad job - it's a hard job. Everyone is trying hard – DPW, SFPD, Caltrans, CHP, Rec & Park, SFMTA, Department of Public Health, the Supervisor's office, all the non-profits, others I haven't just thought of - everyone's working hard to do the right thing, because everybody cares. We all want a nice, safe, happy neighborhood, where everyone from young kids to seniors can walk around freely. It's very important that everybody stays involved; we just need to stay on it.

### **The Cayuga Neighborhood Improvement Board**

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Pit Stop Project: Glenda Hope / R. Anderson  
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Please note: articles or submissions to the April 2023 newsletter must reach me by April 4<sup>th</sup> 2023 to be considered for the April issue.

Minutes are posted on the CNIA website  
<https://cayugaimprovementassociation.org/>

### **Useful Phone Numbers**

#### **911 – All Emergencies – police/fire/medical**

415-553-0123 – All non-emergency police calls  
311 – able to take police reports over the phone

#### **Supervisor Safai's Office – 415-554-6975**

Sam Berenson- Community Engagement  
Liaison for DIIC – [sam.berenson@sfgov.org](mailto:sam.berenson@sfgov.org).

**415-554-1200** – Parking complaints, blocked sidewalks, blocked driveways, illegal parking, etc.

**311 – (phone app SF311 ) use to report** graffiti, trash, dumping furniture or large items, abandoned vehicles etc. 311 is a good place to start, they can take a report or refer you to the correct City department for just about any problem.

**Victim's Assistance:** SF District Attorney at  
Phone: (628)652-4100 Fax: (628) 652-4101  
Email: [victimservices@sfgov.org](mailto:victimservices@sfgov.org)  
[www.sfdistrictattorney.org](http://www.sfdistrictattorney.org)



**Animal Care and Control** – injured animals  
emergency situation for animals **415 554-6364**

**Recology** – garbage problems, free pickups  
415-875-1300

**BART 510-464-6000**  
**PGE – 1-800-743-5000**

**Department of Elections-** 1-415-554-4375

**Disaster Preparedness info In the event of a city wide emergency such as the earthquake we all expect to happen, you can listen to current news on the radio. Stations 88.5 FM and 15.30 AM**

Along with the City of San Francisco, your editor would like to acknowledge that *we live and work on the unceded ancestral homeland of the Ramaytush Ohlone peoples, who are the original inhabitants of the San Francisco Peninsula.*