

Treasure Island Community Development (TICD) PHASE ONE CONSTRUCTION ADVISORY

Treasure Island Road Daytime Traffic Control with Flaggers December 17th-19th, 2021

From December 17th to December 19th, 2021, Treasure Island Community Development (TICD) contractors will perform daytime work on Treasure Island Road. One-way traffic control with flaggers will be implemented at the area during work hours. The Island community can expect the following:

Dates/Time of Work:

- December 17th (Friday) to December 19th (Sunday), between 7:00 AM and 3:00 PM

Nature of Work and Traffic Impacts:

- Joint Trench Staking and vault adjustment.
- Vehicles travel only in one lane through work area.
- One-way traffic control with flaggers will be in effect at each end of the work zone
- Please plan accordingly for slight delays along Treasure Island Road through the control area during the work period.

Treasure Island
Road Daytime work
zone



TICD Construction Hotline (888) 469-0797

Please call the TICD Construction Hotline with any questions or concerns related to construction activities associated with the redevelopment of Treasure Island and Yerba Buena Island.

sftreasureisland.org/construction

New Years Eve December 31, 2021



Large numbers of visitors to Treasure Island are expected at the Great lawn area on Friday, December 31, 2021 for viewing of the Fireworks show at midnight.

Expect increased vehicle traffic on the Treasure Island Causeway , Avenue of the Palms, Avenue H and 9th Street between approximately 9:00PM and 1:00AM.

SFPD will have an increased presence on Treasure Island this weekend and Admiral Security will be patrolling the residential area , and can be reached at 415-760-0406 to report suspicious activity. For emergencies, please call 911.

Traffic Flaggers as well as SFMTA PCO personnel will be on Island to assist with traffic control, both pre and post-show.

No access passes will be distributed or required this year, but SFPD may limit access to Treasure Island at some point in the evening in the interest of public safety.

Please contact TIDA with any questions, 415-274-0660.

122721



TREASURE ISLAND
DEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY

Administration Building
One Avenue of the Palms
San Francisco, CA 94130

Phone: 415-274-0660
Fax: 415-274-0299
E-mail: TIDA@sfgov.org

Bob Beck, Treasure
Island Director



Indigenous Permaculture

Treasure Island Community Garden Report

At the end December, 2021

We hope you and your families are doing really well during these challenging times. We appreciate the strong support from the Treasure Island residents that we work with and with whom we share education and practices about urban farming and fresh food. Our work would not be possible if not for your great support as well. We can proudly say we have shared many pounds of fresh tomatoes, zucchini and more with all the residents at our Saturday garden stand and through the Island's food pantry. Understanding the urgent needs of Treasure Island residents and their need for access to outdoor spaces to grow food, and for access to healthy food sources, we see that our work is ongoing and provides value to families on the Island. We are continuously seeking involvement and building interest in new areas, spaces, and levels of engagement.



Our Goals

Indigenous Permaculture has had the following goals this year. 2021

The Garden



- Holding a fresh free produce sharing stand on Saturdays from 10:30am to the last during this winter Dec 11/21
- Continue planting and maintenance of crops based on the seasons
- Implementation of workshops by Zoom and empower the community
- Continue outreach involvement with the residents and celebrate the new seasons
- Implementation of composting and maintenance.

- Woodchips mulch in the area around the greenhouse
- Maintenance of the crops planted and the all area around the greenhouse • Sharing fresh food with the residents.
- Sharing food with the food pantry from the Island

Our goals for the winter season

- Newsletter from the garden to Treasure Island residents 2022

- Zoom classes to residents: Canning, Healthy Cider, Cooking and nutrition, Recipes, Winter crops, community events by Zoom, celebration of the season
- Continue Winter crops sharing fresh food from the garden and greenhouse to the residents on Saturdays
- Establish a native garden around the garden
- Seeds native plants for our native garden area
- Cooking and nutrition class
- Open the garden follow the covid-19 garden guidelines

Things we need to achieve these goals for 2022

- Small container 22 ft long next to the greenhouse we can buy need k from TIDA to put at The green house parking site
- Small budget for plants, seeds, irrigation parts
- Small solar generator, a used one would work also.

Thank you!

Guillermo Vasquez

Indigenous Permaculture

Director

510-5295961

liis.indigenous.permaculture@gmail.com, indigenouspermaculture.org

EMERGENCY PREP WORKSHOPS RETURN IN MARCH

One Treasure Island and SF CARD are so happy to announce our second series of Emergency Prep Workshops that will be offered in March 2022. If you are interested in learning more about how to prep for, survive during or thrive after a disaster, this FREE workshop series is for you! If you attend all 4 workshops, you will receive a 'starter kit' that includes many useful and potentially life-saving items.

Registration will be open soon, so stay tuned!

The workshop dates are:

Mon March 7 from 6:00-7:30pm Mon March 14 from 6:00-7:30pm

Mon March 21 from 6:00-7:30pm Mon March 28 from 6:00-7:30pm

First 3 classes will be via Zoom, if COVID permits, our last class will be in-person.



Do you have an interest in being on the front lines for your community after a disaster? NERT may be for you! Since COVID, the Treasure Island chapter of NERT is looking to rebuild its team.

Are you brand new to the NERT program?

The full NERT training consists of six class sessions that are approximately three hours each. NERT Training is free to anyone who lives or works in San Francisco.

If you are interested in learning more about 2022's trainings, please scan the QR code and register your information.



HOLIDAY SUPPORT AT FOOD PANTRY

One Treasure Island partnered with the YMCA and the Community Youth Center of San Francisco (CYC) to bring LOTS of PPE, toys and other goods to the residents of Treasure Island on Tues Dec 23, the last food pantry of the year. It was amazing to help make ends meet for TI families over another COVID holiday season. What a wonderful way to end the year!



For updates on services and island happenings

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!



Instagram: @onetreasureisland_sf

Facebook: One Treasure Island

Twitter: onetreasureisla



...WHERE COMMUNITY CONNECTS

The Connector

Volume 6 . January 2022



For more information visit:
Onetreasureisland.org
Or call:
(415) 274-0311

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES:

- Mon Jan 31 - Deadline to register to vote for the Feb 2022 election
- Thurs Feb 3 - VITA Tax Site opens for appointments
- Tues Feb 15 - Consolidated Special Municipal Election
- Mon March 7 - Emergency Prep Workshop #1
- Mon March 14 - Emergency Prep Workshop #2
- Mon March 21 - Emergency Prep Workshop #3
- Mon March 28 - Emergency Prep Workshop #4
- Sat April 16 - Oral History Project Launch
- Sat April 30 - Spring Fling/ Health Fair



To learn more about the Tues Feb 15 election, scan here:



TAX SEASON IS HERE!

It's that time of year again! One Treasure Island is happy to host a VITA Tax Site once again for all Treasure Island residents at the Ship Shape Community Center.

Tax Site will be open every Thursday from February 3rd - April 14th from 10 am – 8 pm, BY APPOINTMENT ONLY.

Tax Site will also be open for Super Saturdays: 10 am to 1 pm, NO APPOINTMENT NEEDED

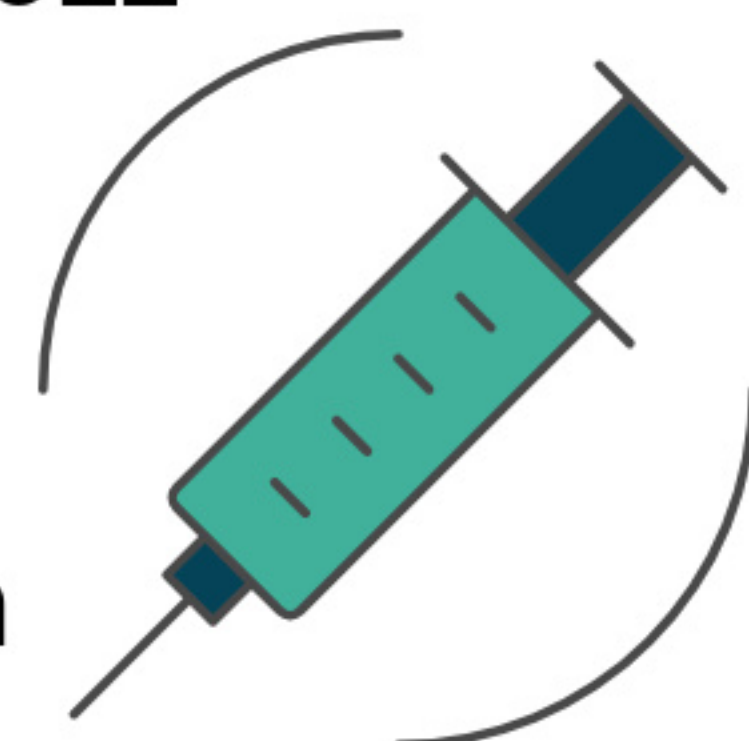
- Saturday, January 29th
- Saturdays, February 12th & 26th
- Saturdays, March 12th & 26th

QUESTIONS? Please call:
Sherryl Hairston
415-274-0311 x 303



COVID Vaccines and Testing Available on Treasure Island

Nurse Clinic : vaccinations
Tuesdays, 2pm-6pm
Please call: 415-767-2011
Location: YMCA



Testing
Tuesdays, 12pm-6pm
Walk-ups welcome
Location: Across from Island Cove Market

COVID NUMBERS ARE UP, HERE ARE SOME REMINDERS ON HOW TO STAY SAFE

Everyone is required to wear masks in the following settings:

- Indoor public spaces (until January 15, 2022)
- Workplaces (until January 15, 2022)
- Public transit
- Healthcare settings (including long term care facilities)
- Adult and senior care facilities
- Indoors in K-12 schools, childcare, and other youth settings
- State and local correctional facilities and detention centers
- Homeless shelters, emergency shelters, and cooling centers

Do

- Get vaccinated
- Wear a mask where required, in public indoor spaces, and on public transit
- Turn on exposure notifications on your phone
- Get tested if you're sick
- Honor mask rules in place at a private business
- Get tested if required by your workplace
- Wear a mask when you travel

Don't

- Lose your proof of vaccination
- Think you can't get the virus or pass it on because you feel well
- Assume everyone is vaccinated
- Expect all COVID-19 rules everywhere to be lifted
- Travel into the U.S. without proof of vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test
- Attend large events if you're sick
- Travel if you're sick



Important Announcement!



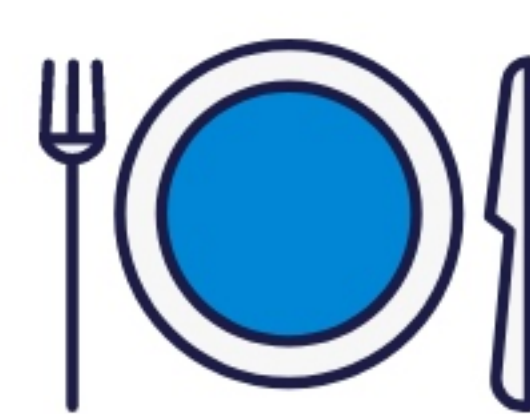
The FOOD PANTRY
will be CLOSED on:

→ **TUES DEC 28** ←

If you need assistance with food
or any other basic needs, please call the

RESIDENT SUPPORT LINE:

415-800-5937



FLU SHOTS

AT THE TI NURSE CLINIC



EVERY TUESDAY
(Closed Nov 30)

WHEN: 2:00-6:00pm



WHERE: 749 9th St. (Inside YMCA)
Enter through doors on 9th St.

WHO: Island residents 18+ years old

no appointments needed

Questions?

Call the Treasure Island RN Clinic at (415)767-2011





Nourish Treasure Island estará

CERRADO

Viernes Dic 24 a Lunes Enero 3

Si necesita ayuda con comida o alguna otra necesidad básica, por favor llame a

LA LÍNEA DE APOYO A RESIDENTES:

415-800-5937

Fecha límite para llamar: Lunes diciembre 20

OR

Venga a la despensa de comida el martes 14 de diciembre, donde estaremos ofreciendo apoyo



Nourish Treasure Island will be

CLOSED

Fri Dec 24 - Mon Jan 3

If you need assistance with food or any other basic needs, please call the

RESIDENT SUPPORT LINE:

415-800-5937

Deadline to call: Mon Dec 20

OR

Stop by the Food Pantry on Tues Dec 14, we will be offering support





LAST CALL!

Treasure Island Oral Histories

1997 - Present

Have you lived or worked on
Treasure Island for a long time?

...

Do you have a positive story to tell about your
experience on Treasure Island?

...

Do you want to be part of history?

...

Do you want to share your memories?

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Please send an email
with a little info about
yourself or someone you
would like to nominate
for the project to:

OR



Deadline: 12/9/21

If you'd like to volunteer and help with the
project we'd also love to hear from you!

Free Meals for Children

Comidas gratis para niños

兒童免費餐

兒童免費餐

وجبات مجانية للأطفال

子供たちに食事を無料提供

Бесплатное питание для детей

아이들을 위한 무료 식사

Mea'ai maua fua mo tamaiti

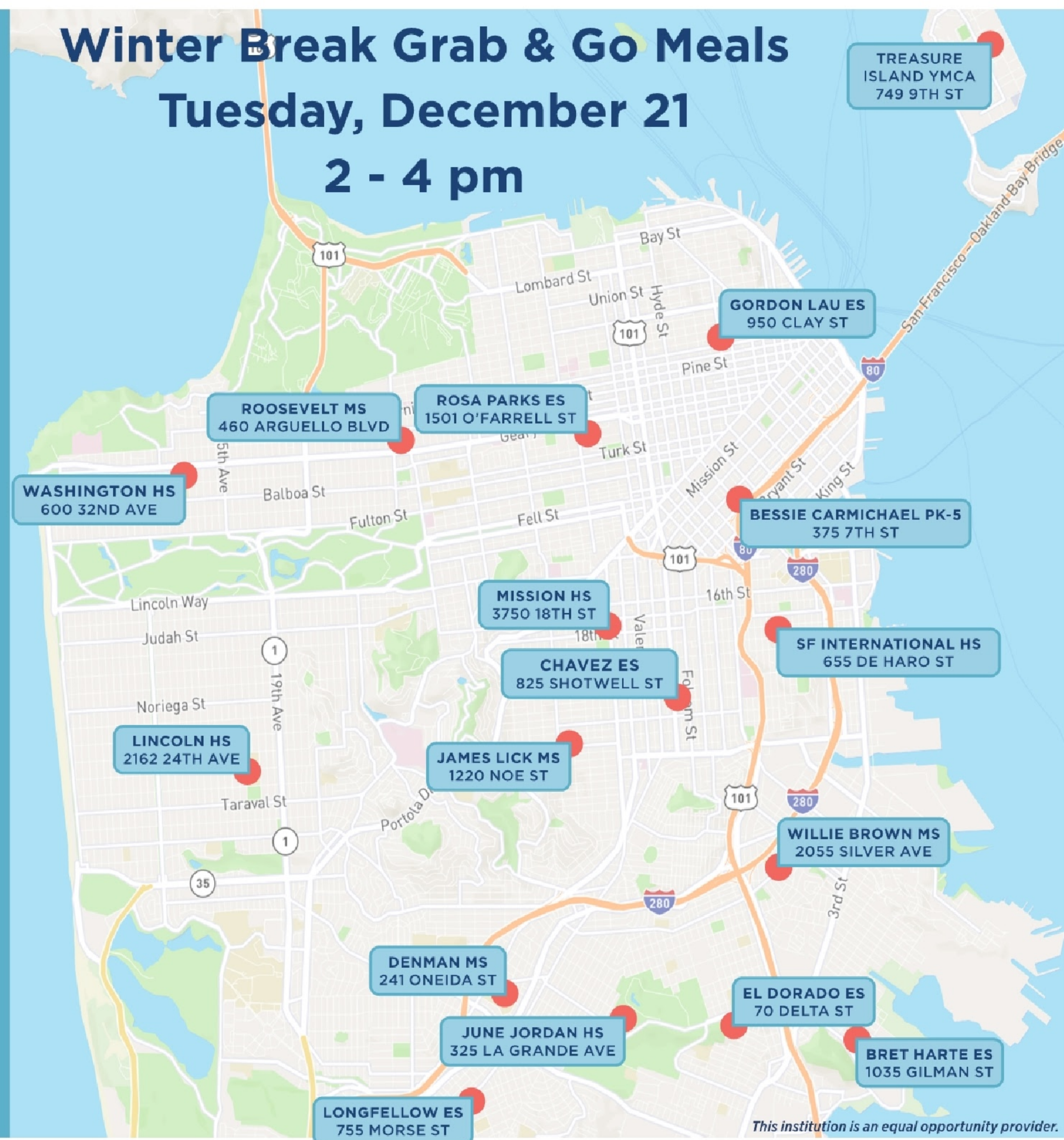
Libreng pagkain para sa mga bata

Bữa ăn miễn phí cho trẻ em



sfusd.edu/schoolfood

Winter Break Grab & Go Meals Tuesday, December 21 2 - 4 pm



This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Free Grab & Go Meals Winter Break Service



Open Tuesday, December 21st, 2-4pm

- On this day only, pick up 10 days worth of Breakfasts and Lunches, including fruit, vegetables and milk.
- Meals are for children 18 & younger. Food is available while supplies last.

Abierto el martes, 21 de diciembre, de 2 a 4 pm

- Éste día solamente, recoge 10 días de desayunos y almuerzos, incluyendo fruta, vegetales y leche.
- La comida es para niños de 18 años o menor. Estará disponible hasta que se agoten las existencias.

於12月21日, 星期二, 下午2-4點開放

- 僅在這一天的, 可領取10天的早餐和午餐, 包括水果、蔬菜和牛奶。
- 餐點只適用於18歲及以下的兒童。食物提供, 送完即止。

Mở cửa Thứ Ba, ngày 21 tháng 12, 2-4 giờ chiều

- Chỉ vào ngày này, hãy chọn bữa sáng và bữa trưa có giá trị trong 10 ngày, bao gồm trái cây, rau và sữa.
- Bữa ăn dành cho trẻ em từ 18 tuổi trở xuống. Thực phẩm sẽ phát cho đến hết đồ ăn cho đến khi nào không còn nữa.

Bukas ng Martes, Disyembre 21, 2-4 ng hapon

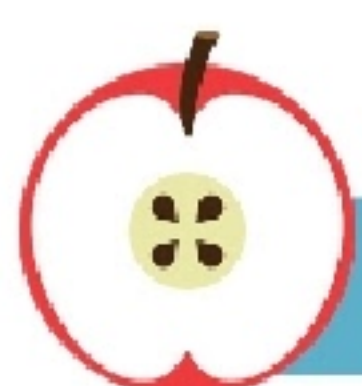
- Sa araw na ito lamng, kumuha ng almusal at tanghalian na pang sampung araw, kasama na rin ang prutas, gulay at gatas.
- Ang mga pagkain ay para sa mga bata 18 gulang o mas bata. Ang mga pagkain ay maaaring kunin hanggang maubusan.

Tatala ile Aso 21 o Tesema, ile Aso Lua mai le 2-4pm auaua nei:

- Maua meataumafa mo le taeo ma le aoauli mo le isi 10 aso e aofia ai fualaau aina, susu, ma fua o fa'atoaga.
- E avanoa nei meataumafa mo fanau uma e 18 agai lalo tausaga, a'o lava le fa'asoa.

مفتوح الثلاثاء 21 ديسمبر، 2-4 مساءً

- في هذا اليوم فقط، اختر 10 أيام من وجبات الإفطار والغداء، بما في ذلك الفاكهة والخضروات والحليب.
- وجبات الطعام للأطفال 18 سنة فما دون. الغذاء متاح حتى نفاد الإمدادات.



sfusd.edu/schoolfood

SchoolLunch@sfusd.edu

[@sfusdschoolfood](https://www.instagram.com/sfusdschoolfood)



Want a job in construction?



FREE!

- CERTIFICATIONS
- JOB PLACEMENT ASSISTANCE
- FINANCIAL SERVICES
- SUPPORTIVE SERVICES
- TOOLS & BOOTS

Learn everything you need to get started in a new construction career in **8 short weeks!**
 The next cohort will begin in February of 2022, which we are actively recruiting for now!



Eligibility Requirements:

- FULLY VACCINATED FOR COVID
- 18 years or older
- DD-214 if a Veteran
- GED or HS Diploma preferred
- Must have verifiable SF address
- Valid Photo ID/Driver's License preferred
- Clean driving record preferred
- Available to attend ALL scheduled online classes: Monday-Friday from 9:00am -5:00pm

Certifications:

- Hazwoper 40
- Confined Space
- Covid-19 Protection
- Fall Protection
- Rigging/Signaling
- Hearing Conservation
- Lockout/Tagout
- Flagging & Traffic Control
- Class B permit Preparation
- CPR/First Aid
- OSHA 10
- NFPA
- Silica
- HAZCOM

We are now offering a \$50 weekly stipend to our Students!

Please contact **(415) 426-6902** to express an interest in participating.
 Or register for an Orientation offered every Wednesday at: **onetreasureisland.org**

Treasure Island residents, women and formerly incarcerated individuals strongly encouraged to apply.





Nourish Treasure Island will be
CLOSED

Fri Dec 24 - Mon Jan 3

Please stop by the **Food Pantry** on

Tues Dec 21

To receive:

- PPE for safe family visits
- Kid's activity bags
- Gift cards
- MORE!

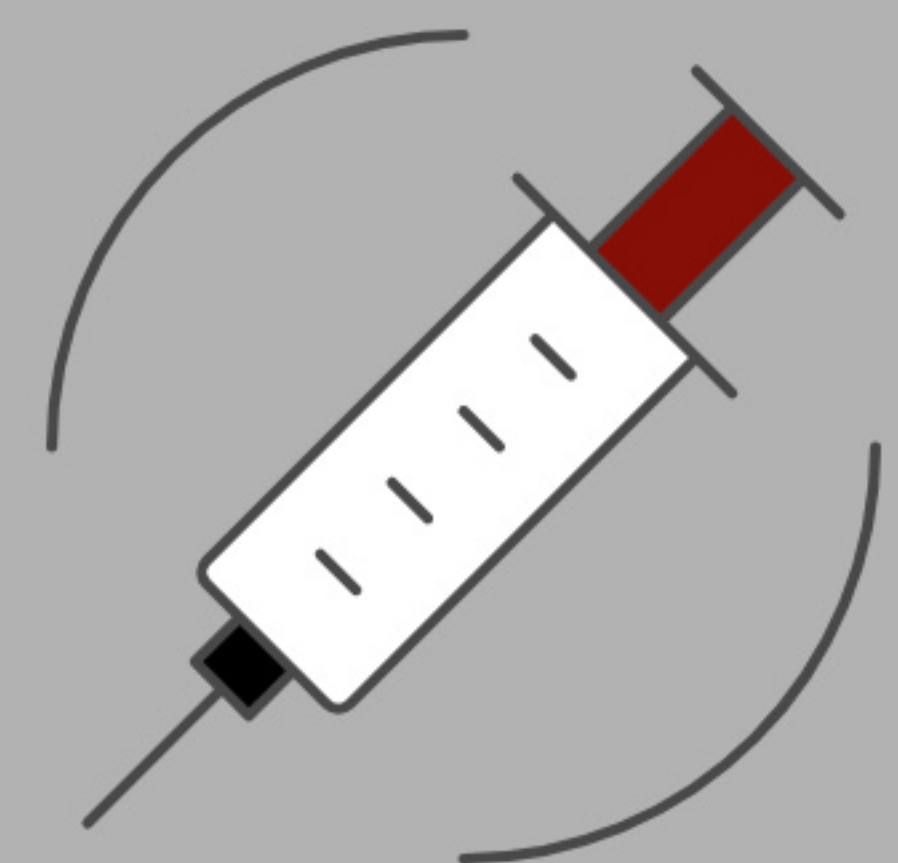
While supplies last!



TREASURE ISLAND
**COVID
VACCINE
EVENT**



WHEN: SATURDAY
December 18
9:00am - 1:00pm

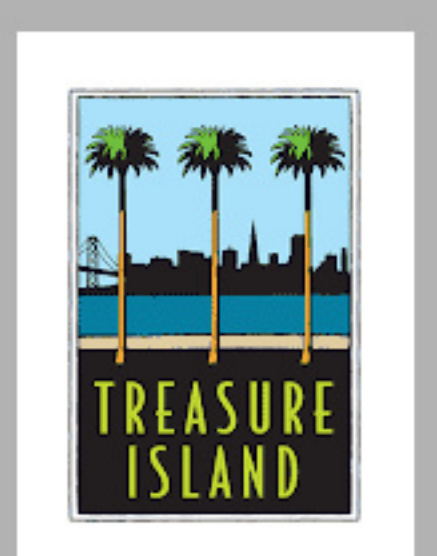


WHERE: SF Gaelic Clubhouse
Building 33-G
401 13th Street

WHO: Anyone 5 and older!
(FREE! No insurance required!)

Vaccine type: Pfizer and Moderna

**BE SURE TO BRING
YOUR VACCINE CARD
IF YOU ARE GETTING A
BOOSTER SHOT!**



Residents Supporting Community

Evento de Vacunación Contra el COVID

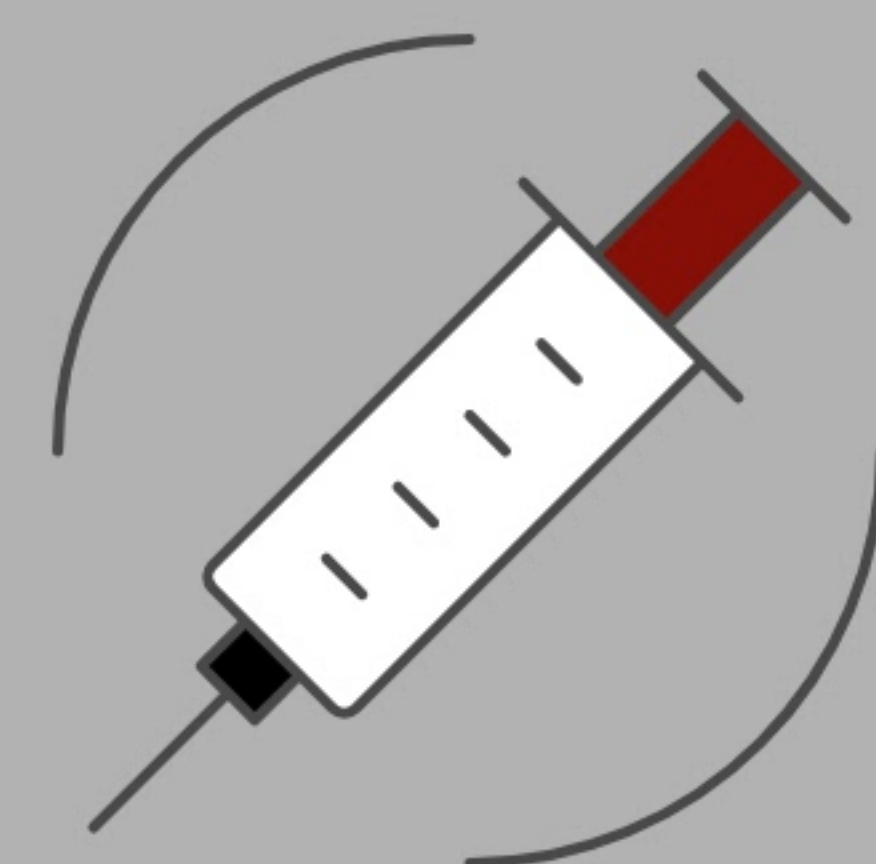


Cuando:

Sábado

18 de Diciembre

9:00am a 1:00pm



Donde:

SF Gaelic Clubhouse

Edificio 33-G

401 calle 13

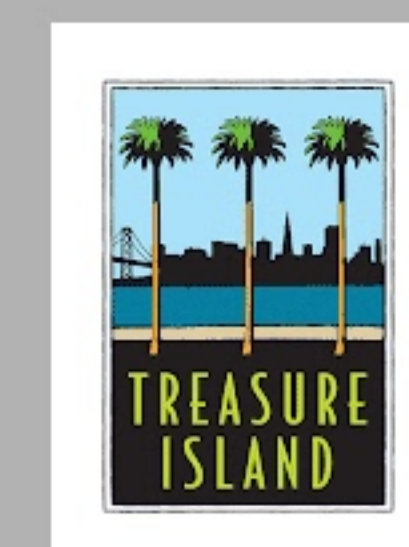
Quien: Personas mayores de 5 años

(¡GRATIS! ¡No se requiere seguro!)

Tipo de vacuna:

Pfizer y Moderna

**Asegúrese de traer su
tarjeta de vacunación si
va a recibir una vacuna
de refuerzo.**



Residents Supporting Community

With a hilltop park and \$5 ferry rides, Yerba Buena Island could soon be a destination

[John King](#)

Dec. 27, 2021 Updated: Dec. 27, 2021 7:35 p.m.



The new Bristol Condominiums on Yerba Buena Island in San Francisco.

People heading west on the Bay Bridge in recent months have seen an unprecedented sight: a multistory condominium building wrapped in scaffolding, just yards away from where the bridge's eastern span touches down on Yerba Buena Island.

Now the scaffolding is coming down — but that only marks the beginning of a paradigm-shifting remake of a rocky outcrop that until 1931 was named Goat Island. Within a year, a hilltop park could be the Bay Area's newest scenic destination, above craggy slopes that will begin to be inhabited by people willing and able to spend upward of \$4 million on spacious modern homes with drop-dead views.

“You’re going to see the unveiling of an area that people hadn’t explored before,” said Tim Slattery, a partner at the architecture firm Hart Howerton. “It’s a complex jigsaw puzzle, but things are starting to come together.”

Slattery and his firm have been working since 2016 on the architecture and layout of buildings on the slopes of a small island that could only be reached by boats before the completion of the Bay Bridge in

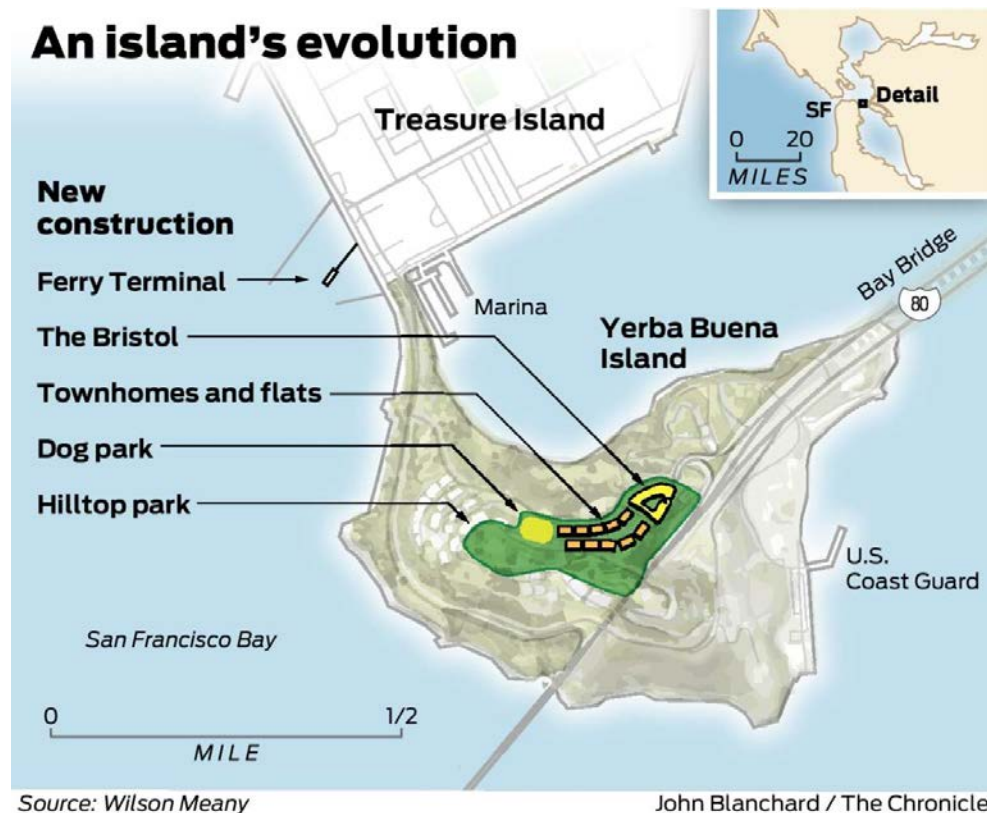
1936. Not long after that it was joined by Treasure Island, a 403-acre plateau summoned from the bay to serve as the home of the Golden Gate International Exposition that opened in 1939.

The idea back then was to turn Treasure Island into San Francisco's municipal airport. Instead, the U.S. Navy took control of both islands during World War II for defense purposes, not closing them until the 1990s.

The current transition was approved in 2011 by the Board of Supervisors and has been in the works since 2003, when tentative development rights were awarded to a team that now includes Lennar Corp., Stockbridge Capital Group and Wilson Meany. The goal is a neighborhood like none in the region — with a 300-foot-wide shoreline park facing the Embarcadero and more than 8,000 housing units. Many of these will be clustered near a ferry terminal that is scheduled to open on Jan. 15, featuring a 49-seat vessel and \$5 one-way fares.

Treasure Island's makeover is by far the most dramatic. It has also stirred controversies, raising questions such as the adequacy of the cleanup of the former base and the wisdom of pursuing such an ambitious development as sea level rise looms. But in the year to come, Yerba Buena Island is where the grand plans will come into focus first.

That's particularly obvious with the project nearing completion alongside the Bay Bridge — the Bristol, a six-story building that will hold 124 of the island's 266 condominiums.



Right now, the site is an incongruous mash-up of future and past; large bags holding pink fiberglass insulation are stacked in the tall entrance lobby alongside a fireplace clad in pale Tennessee marble. Thick glass floor-to-ceiling windows — the better to muffle Bay Bridge noise — have their views obscured by scaffolding. The spacious central courtyard isn't yet landscaped, except for a single statuesque magnolia tree lowered into place before the structure around it went up.



A fully mature magnolia tree is the centerpiece of a courtyard at the new Bristol Condominiums on Yerba Buena Island.

The final pieces should be in place by this spring, when residents begin to move into a building where the least expensive market-rate unit, a studio, will be priced above \$800,000.

“We’re selling units. I feel very good about where we are,” said Chris Meany of Wilson Meany when asked how buyers are responding to a setting with views that offer, not the San Francisco skyline, but Emeryville’s mud flats and the Oakland hills. “Though like every aspect of life, we’d be doing better without the pandemic.”

The scourge of COVID-19 is hinted at in the island’s marketing book, with its listing of features that includes “premium air quality in every home” via high-grade filters. Elsewhere, the pitch is an emphasis of exquisitely appointed flats and townhouses amid 72 acres of open space and five miles of trails. The slogan: “San Francisco as it was meant to be lived.”

For early residents, that life won’t include the more urban scale and retail features envisioned on Treasure Island, where most of the construction still involves putting infrastructure in place. But for Meany, starting on the former Goat Island and working north makes perfect sense.

“One thing Yerba Buena Island does is allow us to create, quickly, a whole environment,” he explained. “The notion of an intimate community.”

Many of the basics already are in place, such as the three new water tanks that will serve both islands and have a 5.3 million cubic gallon capacity. The main roadways are complete. The causeway between the two islands has been rebuilt.

Just west of the Bristol, though not visible from the Bay Bridge, foundations are in for the first 31 ultra-lux townhouses and flats. Above them, the terrain is being shaped for the first half of a 6-acre hilltop park

designed by noted Oakland landscape architect Walter Hood. Slightly downhill will be a boulder-studded dog park that Meany boasts will have a three-bridge view.



Construction continues on the new Bristol Condominiums on Yerba Buena Island in San Francisco.

If current schedules hold, all this should be finished within 12 months. By then, the first new housing on Treasure Island also will have opened — a six-story complex for formerly homeless veterans — and the waterfront park should be under construction.

That project, which includes 775 housing units in the first phase alone, easily could stretch out for a decade or more. The remake of Yerba Buena Island is likely to be completed long before that, discreet though most of it might be.

“We’re trying to create an experience out there,” Slattery said. “It will be the one place in the bay where you can take in the entire region.”

Season of Sharing funds help food banks still facing increased need due to the pandemic

[Danielle Echeverria](#)

Dec. 14, 2021 Updated: Dec. 15, 2021 9:39 a.m.



Volunteer John Skoda rearranges bags of food at the S.F. Marin Food Bank pop-up pantry on Treasure Island.



Russell Rodriguez, 4, reaches for a watermelon at the San Francisco Marin Food Bank pop up pantry on Treasure Island in San Francisco, Calif., on Tuesday, December 7, 2021. SF Marin food bank pop-up pantry is held here every Tuesday from 3-5pm, and were a new addition during COVID, where they hand out bags of groceries.



Cherry Rodriguez arrives to pick up food with her son, Russell, 4, at the San Francisco Marin Food Bank pop up pantry on Treasure Island in San Francisco, Calif., on Tuesday, December 7, 2021. SF Marin food bank pop-up pantry is held here every Tuesday from 3-5pm, and were a new addition during COVID, where they hand out bags of groceries.



Melanie Williams center, hugs Cherry Rodriguez as she arrives to pick up food with her son, Russell, 4, at the San Francisco Marin Food Bank pop up pantry on Treasure Island in San Francisco, Calif., on Tuesday, December 7, 2021. SF Marin food bank pop-up pantry is held here every Tuesday from 3-5pm, and were a new addition during COVID, where they hand out bags of groceries.



Russell Rodriguez gets help from his mom, Cherry Rodriguez, in picking a watermelon at the S.F. Marin Food Bank.

“This food bank saved me from a lot of sorrows,” Michael Bartell said, waving and chatting with people who came to pick up groceries from the San Francisco-Marin Food Bank pop-up pantry on a sunny afternoon at Treasure Island.

Once homeless, Bartell — a veteran who lives on Treasure Island and works with the organization Swords to Plowshares — has been volunteering with SF-Marin Food Bank’s outpost on the island for six years. But he’s also a recipient of the help — food he says helped him become healthier as he came out of homelessness.

“It really is a blessing,” he said.

The SF-Marin Food Bank is one of several food banks that received funding from the Chronicle’s Season of Sharing Fund this year, 15% of which goes to food banks across the nine Bay Area counties. Through funds raised from the 2020-2021 campaign, the Season of Sharing Fund distributed \$2,360,000 to Bay Area food banks — equivalent to 4,956,000 meals.

“Every dollar counts. Every dollar means two meals,” said Tanis Crosby, executive director of the SF-Marin Food Bank. “Funds from Season of Sharing make those meals possible.”

At the beginning of the pandemic, food banks were thrust into the spotlight, as widespread layoffs and shutdowns sent need skyrocketing. While no longer as obvious, the increased need as a result of the pandemic persists.

“Although our numbers have decreased, we’re still 69% above what we were pre-pandemic,” said David Goodman, chief operating officer of Redwood Empire Food Bank, which also receives Season of Sharing funds. “And we’re not unique.”

Crosby said that SF-Marín is in a similar boat — the bank now distributes one million meals to more than 50,000 households every week, compared to 32,000 households every week before the pandemic. In a recent survey of over 7,000 food bank participants, 81% said that they had yet to recover from pandemic-related economic woes.

According to the [California Association of Food Banks](#), as many as one in five Californians struggles with food insecurity, which means they do not always know where their food will come from.

Food banks function like safety nets for communities, Goodman said. That means they need to be there and ready for demand spikes in unexpected disasters like fires, floods or global pandemics.

“When I think about the Season of Sharing support, I think about the fact they essentially are giving us that support in advance of what might be happening tomorrow or the next day or the next day,” he said. “And they allow us to sort of prepare with confidence and hoist that net up and catch anybody, so we’re ready when people fall.”

James Veneradle, who once owned a contracting company in Colorado as well as a ranch, didn’t think he’d ever end up leaning on a food bank for support. But since moving to the Bay Area in the 1990s, he’s found it very hard to save money.

Now, all he has to lean on is \$1,300 a month he gets from Social Security. Every week, he spends about \$20 to \$40 on groceries, he said, buying whatever’s on sale at the supermarket and coming to the food bank once a week to supplement that.

“If it wasn’t for this food bank, there’d be times there’d be nothing in the house,” he said. Veneradle said the assistance he gets from the pantry makes him want to give back as well — he tries to volunteer with the food bank when he can and often brings extra food to the family, a single mother and three kids, who live across the street from him.

He’s also thankful for people like Bartell — the two are friends — who make the place welcoming. Bartell said he hates to see people “down in the dumps” when they come to the pantry, so he tries to lift everyone up, telling jokes, remembering names and details about their life, or just simply sharing a smile.

“I try to make everything fun,” he said. “I don’t want no sorrow or drama in my lifetime anymore. I’ve had enough of that.”

Like the donations, those smiles and volunteer hours go a long way.

“It really does take a community to provide food for all, and every person who has been part of this can feel a huge sense of pride,” Crosby said. Bartell agrees.

“These people here have made a world of difference in my life,” he said. “If it wasn’t for this food bank, God only knows where I’d be.”

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