Muni’s new Clipper card signals end of cash fares

But youth, senior passes come with much rigamarole

BY JONATHAN NEWMAN

The way to pay fares is changing, Muni proclaims. The riding public groans.

Which one of the near 700,000 daily Muni transactions doesn’t hold the horrifying potential of The Ride From Hell? If you go Muni, you know.

So, when Muni decreed that the payment of fares was shifting to an electronic system, riders braced for trouble. Will the Muni-imposed deadline of November 1 for full electronic fare payment compliance bring chaos? Would the arrival of plastic card payment for transit simplify the traveler’s life, or would Muni once again be dope-slapped by commuters and politicians for strewing defeat in the path of victory?

Enter Clipper — a credit card-size piece of plastic linked to Bay Area regional transit systems — valid on Muni, BART, AC Transit, Golden Gate Transit and Ferry and soon on SamTrans and Valley Transit Authority.

The majority of Muni riders — over 18 but not yet 65 — will need an Adult Clipper, available at all Muni Metro station ticket vending machines and 88 retail outlets in the city. The Adult Clipper card is free. Muni will start charging $5 for one in June. Free is good, but the Clipper must be obtained with at least a $2 minimum loaded fee — fare for one ride and timely transfers (within 90 minutes of initial use). Clipper can be loaded at the station ticket vending machines and 88 retail outlets in the city. The Adult Clipper card is free. Muni will start charging $5 for one in June.

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GOOD NEWS

GOOD NEWS for...

TENDERLOIN PEOPLE’S GARDEN
San Francisco Beautiful awarded the 8-month-old vegetable garden a $5,800 grant in September to expand its burgeoning plot at the corner of Larkin and McAllister. The gift was celebrated Oct. 14 with a Grand Re-Opening. About 40 people gathered in the hot morning sun to acknowledge the grant, then formed teams to hoe and plant while two guitarists strummed in the background. The grant paid for three 10-by-3½ foot, wood-bordered plots with new soil on the Larkin side, some tools, and five terraced planters behind the older garden section on the McAllister side. The new plots were planted with cauliflower, cabbage and lettuce on ground unused for more than 50 years, according to the Department of Real Estate. “It’s always been such a terrible mess,” said Jim Chappell, S.F. Beautiful’s interim executive director. “I never imagined it could be a garden. But it’s fabulous.” The harvest is divvied the first Wednesday of the month.

PARK REGULARS
Open-park weekends resume this month at Boeddeker, along with free tai chi classes starting Nov. 4 and continuing every Thursday from 11 a.m. to noon through February. Friends of Boeddeker Park has received a $957 Innovator Award from the S.F. Parks Trust to continue the classes and to pay staff to open the park on weekends, when it’s usually closed. During the rainy Sunday Streets in the Tenderloin on Oct. 24, tai chi instructor Chris Sequeira moved his group inside the clubhouse for their exercise, and Melvin and the Mellotones jazz group came in, too, for the “great acoustics.” Friends Chair Betty Traynor said she hoped “other friends” can help hire music groups to perform, rain or shine, one Sunday afternoon a month when the Innovator money opens the park.

NOTICE: SECTION 8 VOUCHER HOLDERS
One-bedroom apartments now available in Upper San Mateo County Peninsula

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No pets, please. Income must be at two times the rent. Good credit required. One-year lease.

Call (415) 885-3343 for appointment, or walk-ins welcome Monday through Friday, 9 to 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.
from the sale to bulk processors of waste oil and brown grease — a mixture of vegetable oil, animal fat and other grease found in grease interceptors — for conversion to biodiesel fuel, or electrical power.

With more than 600 restaurants and caterers signed up in San Francisco, GotGrease collects the old cooking oil, filters and cleans it by a heat settling process, then biodiesel-powered trucks haul the purified product — free from contaminants and water — to Bentley Biofuel in Nevada where it is mixed with methanol and sodium or potassium hydroxide. The resulting chemical reaction, known as transesterification, separates glycerin from the waste oil to be re-born in soaps and lotions, and creates methylesters — biodiesel fuel. Ten gallons of purified product can produce nine gallons of biodiesel fuel, according to Bentley General Manager Carlo Iuri.

Brown grease, more solid than liquid, is sold off by GotGrease to East Bay Municipal Utility District, which uses it to make biomethane, a key component in the production of electricity. The price paid for the waste products is set on a national commodities market.

Soluna Cafe & Lounge at 272 McAllister St. uses GotGrease. But, says owner Rene Denis, he used to have SFGreascycle haul away his yellow grease.

WHY SOLUNA DROPPED CITY PROGRAM

We signed up with the city program 2 1/2 years ago, then switched about eight months ago, Denis said. “GotGrease was already cleaning our grease traps and then they offered to take the yellow grease for no extra charge.”

Soluna pays $125 a month to have GotGrease empty its 10-gallon grease trap, he said. “There were two reasons I switched. GotGrease comes on a regular schedule, but the city required us to call when we [cooking oil] barrel was filled. Also, I wanted to give the business to the little guy.”

Like GotGrease, the yellow grease — 30,000 gallons collected by SFGreascycle since 2007 — also travels far on its transforming journey into biodiesel. About 22,000 gallons a month are trucked to PUC’s Southeast Water Pollution Control Plant in Hunters Point, then are sold to three biodiesel manufacturers in California and one in Nevada. After processing, PUC buys back biodiesel — 6,800 gallons through May 2010 — from People’s Fuel Cooperative, a distributor in San Rafael.

Steve Hunter, spokesman for Project Open Hand, the nonprofit that prepares and delivers thousands of meals a month to homebound people, reports that it once was part of SFGreascycle, but dropped out, because it doesn’t generate enough waste cooking oil.

“The SFGreascycle program focuses on larger amounts of waste oil — ideally oil from deep fat fryers — and we don’t prepare our foods that way,” Hunter noted. He added that Open Hand pays Darling International, the nation’s largest refiner, with a San Francisco office, to clean traps and haul away that grease.
The burning of the lists of names of people who died on the memorial. Last year, 95 names went up in smoke.

BY TOM CARTER

We're just sucking up as much pizza as we could,” said Frank Getter, a husky 6-footer, arrives with a young guitarist, sang “You Lift Me Up” in a sweet operatic tenor, the electronically amplified chords filling the night air. When he stepped back into the crowd. Someone yelled, “Veni Sancte Spiritus!” A half dozen names were just read. No one had a name. And then we moved on.

The rabbi read Scriptures. "Anyone has Hope" says Frank. A half dozen names were just read.
Poetry bargain


Poetry tradition's 20th year

By Charles Kruger

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1


Muni's Clipper ends cash fares

Muni 'A' Fast Pass — unlimited Muni use in the month. For $70 you can add unlimited BART use in the month. Although limits to the Muni monthly package. Easy, no?

But wait. You can't get a Youth Clipper (over 18) or a Senior Clipper (over 65) from a ticket vending machine, a retailer or by phone. You (or your parent or guardian) must stop in person with ID and a completed request form proving your entitlement to age-based discounts. Two months ago, that meant traipsing to the SFMTA Customer Service Center on South Van Ness Avenue and waiting in a long line. In October, Muni ramped up the system to submit senior applications by designating 17 senior centers throughout the city as drop-off venues.

South East Asian Senior Meal Program at 315 Turk St. accepts senior applications Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. SF Senior Center at 481 O'Farrell Street accepts them Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (in English and Spanish) and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.; SF Senior Center at 315 Turk St. accepts senior applications by phone. You (or your parent or guardian) must stop in person with ID and a completed request form proving your entitlement to age-based discounts. Two months ago, that meant traipsing to the SFMTA Customer Service Center on South Van Ness Avenue and waiting in a long line. In October, Muni ramped up the system to submit senior applications by designating 17 senior centers throughout the city as drop-off venues.

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LOGAN ‘CITO’ KAUSMAN Sidewalk memorial

A dozen self-described brothers mourned the mysterious death of a fall-en Tenderloin neighborhood son at a Sept. 1 memorial held on a Leavenworth sidewalk, a hangout spot in front of an apartment building where some of the young mourners live.

Grant and silent, most wore the uniform of street youth — oversized white T-shirt, baggy pants and base-ball cap askew. Next to the building, they had created a shrine of candles, bottles, bouquets and small paper images from cell phone photos of the dead man, Logan ‘Cito’ Kausman. He was 20. A few photos showed him holding his year-old son, Jeremiah Cito Kausman. ‘Cito’ had been scrawled on the wall in several places.

Mr. Kausman died of a gunshot wound Aug. 27 at 9 p.m., his friends said. But details were hard to glean.

‘He didn’t die in the Tenderloin,’ said Capt. Joe Garrity the next day. ‘It said. But details were hard to glean.

Logan Kausman

FAMILY PHOTO

Mr. Kausman had a job with DPW through stimulus money and worked at Glen Park, another said. He had good vibes, never argued, always lingered, looking lost, some leaning on cars.

Michael Viera, 21, said he was Mr. Kausman’s best friend and had known him all his life. Mr. Kausman had gone to Los Angeles in 2006 and earned a welding certificate and a high school diploma, Viera said.

‘He said it changed his life,’ Viera said.

Mr. Kausman had a job with DPW through stimulus money and worked at Glen Park, another said. He had been employed since his son was born. His girlfriend, the mother, took care of the child during the day. ‘Yeah,’ said one young man, ‘he had his own apartment, a car, a job, a kid — he was cutting it pretty good, doing better than the rest of us.’

They said he was always smiling, had good vibes, never argued, always wanted to do things for people — ‘about the best person you could ever meet, a brother,’ said Ty, a tall, thin black man who kept lighting votive candles even after the memorial was over.

Mr. Kausman was laid to rest Sept. 9 at Holy Cross cemetery in Daly City. The next day his friends were back at the patch hanging out. The shrine, which had become a mess, had been removed by the police. — TOM CARTER

Obituaries

Logan Kausman and son.

The medical examiner’s office said it is investigating the cause of death.

Rev. Glenda Hope conducted the memorial at the behest of a neighborhood woman, she said. ‘Traffic and other street noises practically drowned out her words as she faced the crowd, her back to the wall. She had been told erroneously that the young man had grown up there at 245 Leavenworth St. and had died at that spot on the sidewalk. But Mr. Kausman had grown up around the corner near Eddy and Hyde, his friends later said, and as an adult had acquired his own apartment in the same building.

Hope asked the mourners to share any memories. A black woman said she didn’t know the deceased as well as the young men had but concluded he was ‘a passionate young man’ and thanked them for letting her ‘celebrate’ with them.

No one else spoke. The black woman hurried away. The young men lingered, looking lost, some leaning on cars.

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Give Her Someone to Look Up To

At the Y we believe that lasting personal and social change can only come about when we all work together to invest in our kids, our health and our neighbors. Your gift to the Y will have a meaningful, enduring impact right in your own neighborhood.

In the Tenderloin neighborhood also can be the Right Door for you:

“Any Door is the Right Door”

Mental health consumers and substance users can go to any Community Behavioral Health Service provider in the Tenderloin and be assured of being welcomed and helped.

All these service providers operate under a Harm Reduction policy, so you don’t have to be clean or sober to get help.

Office of Self Help is a Wellness and Recovery Center. All of our staff are consumers, peers with those we serve. Drop in or call us. Check us out.

Other programs in the neighborhood also can be the Right Door for you:

Bay Area Addiction Research and Treatment 1111 Market St., 1st Fl., 863-3883 CATS (Community Awareness Treatment Services) 1171 Mission St., 2nd Fl., 241-1199 Central City Hospitality House 290 Turk St., 749-2100 Community Vocational Enterprises 818 Mission St., 3rd Fl., 544-0424 Family Service Agency — Full Circle Family Program 1010 Gough St., 474-7310, Ext. 315 Hyde Street Community Services 134 Golden Gate Ave., 673-5700 Independent Living Resource Center 649 Mission St., 3rd Fl., 543-6222 Larkin Street Youth Services Youth Clinic 1138 Sutter St., 673-0911, Ext. 259 S.F. Mental Health Clients’ Rights Advocates 1095 Market St., Suite 618, 552-8100 or (800) 729-7277 SAGE (Standing Against Global Exploitation) 1385 Mission St., Suite 300, 338-2719 Swords to Plowshares 1060 Howard St., 252-4788 Tenderloin Health 255 Golden Gate Ave., 437-2900 Westside Crisis 245 Eleventh St., 335-0311

Office of Self-Help Drop-In Center, 1095 Market Street, Suite 202

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COMMUNITY: REGULAR SCHEDULE HOUSING
Supportive Housing Network, 3rd Thursday of the month, 3-5 p.m., Dorothy Day Community, 54 McAllister, Call: 421-2926 x304.
Tenant Associations Coalition of San Francisco, 1st Wednesday of the month, noon, 201 Turk St., Community Room. Contact Michael Nulty, 339-8327. Resident unity, leadership training.
HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH
CBHS Consumer Council, 3rd Thursday of the month, 5-7 p.m., CBHS, 1380 Howard St., #537, Call: 225-3695. Advisory group of consumers from self-help organizations and other mental health consumer advocates. Open to the public.
Health & Wellness Action Advocates, 1st Tuesday of the month, 5-7 p.m., Mental Health Association, 870 Market St., Suite 928, 421-2926 x306. Focus on increasing supportive home and community-based services, expanded eligibility for home care and improved discharge planning. Light lunch served. Call James Chiasoni, 705-0180 x304.
Mental Health Board, 2nd Wednesday of the month, 6:30-8:30 p.m., City Hall, room 278. CBHS advisory committee, open to the public. Call: 255-5474.
National Alliance for the Mentally Ill-S.F., 3rd Wednesday of the month, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Family Service Agency, 1010 Gough St., 5th Fl. Call: 905-6264. Family member group, open to the public.
SAFETY
Neighborhood Emergency Response Team Training (NERT). Central city residents can take the S.F. Fire Department's free, disaster preparedness and response training at neighborhood locations. www.sfgov.org/nert, or Lt. Arteseros, 970-2022.
SoMa Police Community Relations Forum, 4th Monday of the month, 6-7:30 p.m. Location varies. To receive monthly email info: Mental Amat, 538-8100 x202 or mamitai@msot.org.
Tenderloin Police Station Community Meeting, last Tuesday of the month, 6 p.m., police station Community Room, 301 Eddy St. Call Susa Black, 345-7200. Neighborhood safety.
NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT
Alliance for a Better District 6, 2nd Tuesday of the month, 6 p.m., 230 Eddy St. Contact Michael Nulty, 820-1560 or sf_district6@yahoo.com, a districtwide improvement association.
Friends of Boeddeker Park, 2nd Thursday of the month, 3:30 p.m., Boeddeker Rec Center, 240 Eddy St. Plan park events, activities and improvements. Contact Betty Traynor, 931-1126.
Gene Friend Recreation Center Advisory Board, 3rd Thursday of the month, 5 p.m. Board works to protect SoMa resources for children, youth, families and adults. Gene Friend Recreation Center, 270 Sixth St. Information: 931-1126.
North of Market/Tenderloin Community Benefit District. Full board meets 3rd Monday of every other month, 5:30 p.m., 3rd Golden Gate Ave., 292-4812.
SoMa Community Stabilization Fund Community Advisory Committee meets 3rd Thursday of the month, 5:30 p.m., 1 South Van Ness, 2nd floor atrium. Info: Claudine del Rosario 749-2519.
SoMa of Market Project Area Committee, 3rd Monday of the month, 6 p.m., 1035 Folsom St. Health, Safety and Human Services Committee meets monthly on the 1st Tuesday of the month, 1035 Folsom, noon. 487-2166 or www.sompac.com.
Tenderloin Futures Collaborative, 3rd Wednesday of the month, 11 a.m. noon, Tenderloin Police Community Room, 301 Eddy. Presentations on issues of interest to neighborhood residents, nonprofits and businesses. Information: tlfutures.org, 820-3989.
Tenderloin Neighborhood Association, 2nd Friday of the month, 942 Geary St., 5 p.m. Nonprofit focuses on health and wellness activities to promote neighborly interactions. Info: tenderloinn fabric@yahoo.com.
SENIORS AND DISABLED
Mayor’s Disability Council, 3rd Friday of the month, 1-3 p.m., City Hall, room 400. Call: 554-6789. Open to the public.
Senior Action Network, general meeting, 2nd Thursday of the month, 9 a.m.-noon, Universal Unitarian Church, 1187 Franklin St. Monthly programs, 965 Mission St. #700: Senior Housing Program and Senior University: 546-1333 and www.sfsan.org. Information: Tenderloinneighborhood@yahoo.com.
RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS AGE 65+ WANTED
UCSF is currently offering the opportunity to participate in research on depression and aging. You may be eligible to participate if you are:
- 65+ years of age
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As part of our project, you will be asked to take tests of memory and attention, answer questions about your medical history, and have an MRI scan of your brain.

All participants will be financially compensated for their participation. Please contact UCSF’s Over 60 Program: (415) 476-7046.

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We are currently meeting with San Francisco neighborhood groups. To request a meeting or to find out how you can help bring AT&T U-verse® to your neighborhood, please contact us today.

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