

EDITORIAL

Tech could color the Tenderloin green

Friends of the Urban Forest is, as on past occasions, organizing a tree planting in the Tenderloin June 13, helping property owners prepare the sidewalk and plant and maintain the trees. How many trees get planted — Urban Forest's forecast is around 50 — depends on the economics and esthetics of the property owners who must purchase the trees and maintain them, at least until the city finds funds to take that over (see the March Extra or Hoodline.com).

Much of the property in the neighborhood is owned by absentee landlords, so the TL isn't likely to get much TLC from owners who live elsewhere. But what if the Twitter tax break companies, and other prosperous newbies, pitch in and take this opportunity to make this a real re-greening of the Tenderloin?

It's \$135 to plant a tree through Friends of the Urban Forest. How about 1,000 trees to really make a difference? 20 trees per block. That would transform the Tenderloin.

To plant them all at once would be overwhelming and unwise. But make that a goal to be achieved over, say, two years, phasing them in block by block? That's enough greenery to make trees a pleasant part of the landscape, boost the Tenderloin's tree canopy significantly, and make trees so common people would come to expect them and respect them instead of picking on the poor isolated few.

Tech at least should step up and make this next tree planting meaningful. Please call Phil Pierce, 268-0773, or email him at phil@fuf.net and place an order. Thank you. ■



DIGITAL ILLUSTRATION LISE STAMPFLI

NEWS COMMENTARY

#Oops! Press gives Twitter huge break



This is from the front page of the Feb. 21. Oakland Tribune.

BY MARK HEDIN

WITH THE FAIRNESS of the Twitter tax break seriously in question, an error in the firm's favor appeared in a front-page story in late February in all of the Bay Area News Group's major papers — every Bay Area daily except the Chronicle and Examiner. Reporter Heather Somerville reported that in fiscal year 2013-14, Twitter donated \$360 million to 19 nonprofits.

Would that it were so. In fact, Twitter,

which went public that year, is only claiming to the city that it provided \$360,000.

So it's just a story of a budget-cutting news organization running identical stories on the front pages of all the regional papers it owns, while declining to support an adequate team of fact-checkers — known as copy editors in the news business. The story appeared on the front page of the Oakland Tribune, San Jose Mercury News, Marin Independent Journal and Contra

CENTRAL CITY

EXTRA

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Costa Times, to name a few.

Somerville, reached by phone at the offices of the Oakland Tribune March 19, said she was unaware of the error.

She quickly got back to The Extra in an email: "Thanks for catching that. We clearly should have; \$360 million would have been an obscene amount of money. It should be corrected online this evening and a print correction running tomorrow or Saturday." ■

ERRATUM

In the February issue of The Extra, the last name of Portland, Ore., research librarian Tony Greiner was misspelled. The Extra regrets the error. ■

City and County of San Francisco Outreach Advertising April 2015

Stay Connected To the City through SF311

The SF311 Customer Service Center is the single stop for residents to get information on government services and report problems to the City and County of San Francisco. And now, we have even more ways for you to stay connected to the City with our SF311 App and SF311 Explorer website.

The SF311 App lets you get information on City services and submit service requests on-the-go right from your smartphone. You can track your service requests through the app or through our new website, SF311 Explorer.

SF311 Explorer not only lets you check the status of your own requests, it enables you to see what issues are being reported throughout all of San Francisco and what the City is doing to resolve them.

Download the SF311 App from your smartphone's app store and visit the SF311 Explorer at explore311.sfgov.org today!

Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development (MOHCD)

REVISED Notice of Public Hearing and Availability of Draft 2015-2016 Action Plan, Including Preliminary Funding Recommendations

The Draft 2015-2016 Action Plan, which includes preliminary funding recommendations for the CDBG, ESG, HOME and HOPWA programs, will be available for public review and comment from **March 26, 2015 through April 24, 2015**. A public hearing to receive comments on the Draft 2015-2016 Action Plan is scheduled for **Tuesday, March 31, 2015 at 6:00 PM** at 1 South Van Ness Avenue, 2nd Floor Atrium Conference Room. For more information, please visit www.sfmohcd.org or call 415-701-5500.

San Francisco Arts Commission

Arts Commission Street Artists Program: Refund of Fees for Honorably Discharged Veterans.

If you are an honorably discharged Veteran and a resident of California who participated in the Street Artists Program between January 1, 2009 and July 1, 2014, you may be entitled to a refund of your street artist fees paid to the Arts Commission during that time period. Refund claims must be submitted in person or postmarked by July 1, 2015. Please visit sfartscommission.org/street_artists_program for more information about eligibility and instructions on how to file a refund claim.

Board of Supervisors Regularly Scheduled Board Meetings

April and May 2015

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC – Come see your San Francisco government in action.

Tuesdays, 2:00pm, City Hall Chamber, Room 250.

- April 7
- April 14
- April 21
- April 28
- May 5
- May 12
- May 19

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