

# GOOD NEWS for...

**SUMMER SHIVERERS** Now that June's here, think about cold San Francisco summers and check out HEAP, the federal Home Energy Assistance Program. Targeted to households composed of low-income, elderly or disabled persons or families with children under 6, the program pays eligible applicants between \$82 and \$382 to offset high energy costs; statewide, the average HEAP payment is \$184. The once-a-year payment is based on a household's total monthly income. For info on how to apply, call the home energy assistance program at the Economic Opportunity Council of S.F.: 749-6491.

**ASIAN ART MUSEUM-GOERS** If you haven't seen the new museum yet, circle the first Tuesday of every month — "Target Tuesdays," free admission for all, courtesy of Target stores. Regular admission is \$10 for adults, \$7 for seniors, \$6 for 13- to 17-year-olds. Kids under 12 are always free. Museum hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday, except Thursday, when it's open until 9 p.m. And Thursdays after 5 p.m. admission drops to \$5 for all. Info: 581-3740.

**THE 'HOOD** Back in 1999, TL residents filed 40 small claims actions against the owner of the Doba Café & Deli at 403 Eddy and the building owners for operating a public nuisance. Read: drug dealing on the premises. "Crack cocaine has been cut up on the counter in full view of employees," the Chronicle reported, Sept. 17, 1999. Shortly after a judge ordered the owners to keep surveillance tapes running during all hours of operation, turn over the tapes to police on request, and close the store by 10 p.m., the place folded. It stayed closed for years, one more blight on the street, until last month. All welcome to a new restaurant, La Mamma, which serves Mexican food plus rotisserie chicken and ribs.

**12- TO 18-YEAR-OLDS** Okay, you guys, no more complaints about being bored! June 7, Shih Yu-Lang Central YMCA starts up its new Summer in the City youth camps. Registration is open for the 1-8 p.m., six-day-a-week camp session that runs until Aug. 30. Activities are impressive: fitness, team sports, Web publishing and graphic design, work readiness preparation, help with math and writing skills, youth advocacy, performances and tournaments, and more. Cost is \$35, which also entitles the camper to a full year's Y membership, and financial aid is available. Info: Kasey Asberry: 446-2503.

— MARJORIE BEGGS

*This column needs regular infusions. If you have some good news (no events, please), send it to marjorie@studycenter.org.*

## FUTURES COLLABORATIVE

# Mea culpa, says St. Anthony

150 GOLDEN GATE

BY MARJORIE BEGGS

For the first time since the Tenderloin Futures Collaborative started in September 2001, Central City Extra missed covering a regular monthly meeting. We decided to report on the May meeting anyway, using a combo of the minutes prepared by TNDC's Katie Mullin and phone calls to a few presenters and participants.

Apologies — from Brother John Hardin, St. Anthony Foundation executive director — were first on the agenda. He regretted, he said, not having approached the coalition sooner to present St. Anthony's plans to raze a four-story building at 150 Golden Gate (the old Knights of Columbus building) and erect a five-story, 78-foot-high building.

Scheduled for completion in 2006, it would house administrative offices, social services and a temporary dining room. Even further into the future, St. Anthony's plans a new dining room at its current site at Golden Gate and Jones.

The apologia probably was a response to a May 1 Planning Commission meeting where, according to Michael Nulty, co-president of Alliance for a Better District 6, St. Anthony's was assailed by 10 speakers, TL neighbors and groups, for a variety of ills: failing to monitor drug activity and stop assaults around its digs, failing to keep the community informed about its construction plans, and planning the demolition of a building that's rated "A" with San Francisco Architectural Heritage.

Heritage's Bill Beutner says the "A" means it's highest in importance for city and national landmark status. "We've been informed about the plans for that building, and we've expressed our formal opposition to demolition," Beutner said.

St. Anthony's originally had to go before the Planning Commission because it needs a conditional use authorization for 150 Golden Gate: The planned height exceeds the 40-foot limit in the North of Market Special Use District.

Between neighbors' complaints and Heritage opposition, 150 Golden Gate is unlikely to sail through the planning process. The commission continued the hearing until July 17 to give St. Anthony's time to return to

the community, get input and mitigate some of the rancorous feelings.

After St. Anthony's short presentation to the Collaborative, Terrance Alan, S.F. Late Night Coalition chairman, gave St. Anthony's kudos for its services, but, according to the minutes, "noted that many nightclub owners [were] accountable for cleaning up the streets, [but] many of [St. Anthony's] clients and guests do contribute to the drug-dealing and poor sidewalk conditions of Golden Gate Avenue and the rest of the neighborhood."

Barbara Crain, a property supervisor at Mercy Housing at 111 Jones, said residents have to deal constantly with drug trafficking and loitering in the area. "She asked," the minutes say, "for more oversight in fairness to neighbors."

Nulty told The Extra that all of the community opposition comes down to wanting St. Anthony's to become "accountable, a responsible property owner — a good neighbor."

"There are too many developments in the Tenderloin right now," Nulty added, "and none of them are going through the community process."

### HASTINGS UPDATE

A year and a half ago, Hastings Law School CEO David Seward and other school reps came to the Collaborative to show off their plans for an 873-car parking garage at Golden Gate and Larkin, scheduled for completion by January 2004. The presentation and Q and A took almost 90 minutes. Met at the meeting by a wall of dismay about the design, anger about housing for cars instead of people, and even calls for "war or settlement" (Tenderloin Housing Clinic's Randy Shaw), and followed by months of organized opposition, demonstrations and lots of media attention, the Hastings folks went back to the drawing board.

Early this year, a blue-ribbon committee recommended two options, A and B, to the Hastings board of directors. Seward et al returned to the Collaborative last month and in a record-breaking 20 minutes presented the winner, Option A, viz.

In a joint venture, Hastings and the Central YMCA are conducting a feasibility study for a structure that includes 450 parking spaces, a new YMCA athletic center, 6,300 square

feet of ground floor retail, and housing for up to 40 Hastings students. The Y was not a part of the rejected Option B. The boards of both organizations have approved going forward with a feasibility study of the project.

Perhaps the most surprising part of Option A is the Y's plan to turn its current headquarters at 220 Golden Gate into 100 units of affordable housing.

If Collaborative members rejoiced at the news, the minutes didn't reflect that, and The Extra was unable to reach Seward to see if his reception was more genial than back in 2001. But in February, when Hastings first announced the compromise plan, Shaw told Chronicle reporter Patrick Hoge that parking for 450 cars was still too much: "That is far in excess of what the community would find acceptable."

Seward told the Collaborative he'd be back with design in hand.

### LET THEM EAT . . .

Mullin reported on three new businesses in the neighborhood, all eateries. At the E & M Café at 380 Golden Gate, opening sometime in June, owner Edward Mauk will serve up dim sum, light pastries and pearl teas.

Soluna Café & Lounge at 272 McAllister is already open and drawing upscale patrons from Civic Center offices and the new Asian Art Museum.

La'Zeez Restaurant at 25 Mason opened in April. Owner Glenn Ledet told The Extra that the food is Asian fusion. And the name?

"It's a very old Persian word that means delicacy," Ledet said, "but Southeast Asians have also adopted the word."

Bon appetit! or this being a v. multicultural neighborhood: Bon profit! (Catalan), Smakelijk eten! (Dutch), Guten appetit! (German), Buon appetito! (Italian), Smaczne! (Polish), ¡Buen provecho! (Spanish), Afiyet olsun! (Turkish), Est gezunterhay! (Yiddish), with thanks to Google and [www.nyp.org/branch/central\\_units/d/f/expressions/list/bonapp.htm](http://www.nyp.org/branch/central_units/d/f/expressions/list/bonapp.htm) ■

*Errata: In issue 24, we listed an incorrect phone number in the page 2 sidebar, "Hood Promoters Pitch Participation." Business and property owners who are interested in joining the Collaborative should call Elaine Zamora at 440-7570.*

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## CENTRAL CITY

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SAN FRANCISCO

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