

GOOD NEWS for...

YOUR WALLET If you're single, earned less than \$11,700 and file a tax return, you might be able to claim an Earned Income Tax Credit that could bring you a refund of \$399. Go to www.thebeehive.org for online help in English and Spanish. You start with a simple quiz; if you qualify, you'll be guided through the filing process. If you have one child, you can get up to \$2,662 and \$4,400 if you have two. You can file for the credit with or without your tax returns. You can even file for the credit for past years. The credit doesn't count as income for Medicaid, food stamps, SSI or federally assisted housing programs. If you have a green card, are a refugee or are legally authorized to work in the United States, you also might qualify. The Beehive Web site even warns about tax scams, especially refund anticipation loans. The site is operated by One Economy Corp., a Washington, D.C., nonprofit that also covers information about money, health, jobs, school, family and insurance.

LOCAL NONPROFITS In a neat bit of recycling, fines paid to city community courts by misdemeanor offenders are funneled into the Mayor's Community Support Fund, which then makes grants to improve public safety and the quality of life in neighborhoods where those courts operate. Nonprofits in Bayview-Hunters Point, Taraval/OMI, Mission, South of Market, Tenderloin, Excelsior, Western Addition, Polk Street, North Beach, Richmond, Sunset and Chinatown are eligible to apply for up to \$2,500 for a project, event or activity that enriches their neighborhood. Up to 25% of the money can be used to print promotional or educational materials. A spokesman for the fund, which makes grants three times a year, said he won't know the total available until late March. Past fund-supported projects include SoMa's Sixth Street Fair, Women's Day at the Rose Hotel, and weekly workshops for teens in beat-making, spinning, rap and hip hop at the Tenderloin's Vietnamese Youth Development Center. Next proposal deadline is 5 p.m., March 23. Info: Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice, 554-6165.

If you have some good news, send it to marjorie@studycenter.org or tom@studycenter.org.

ERRATA

- In the February 2006 issue, The Extra misstated the number of licenses the state Alcoholic Beverage Control department issued to various counties in its September 2005 liquor license lottery. Our numbers were for applicants, not new licensees. ABC will issue up to 25 new licenses to any county where population has increased since the last annual lottery.
- In February's MacCanDo story, the team received a grant from Children's Charity of Northern California. ■

Army finally on the move

Across from Main Library till Turk St. HQ renovated

BY MARJORIE BEGGS

This month, Salvation Army breaks camp from its 242 Turk site and moves into temporary quarters at 1 Grove St., upstairs and downstairs of the Burger King and across from the Main Library.

Salvation Army will be billeted there, Corps Lt. Roger McCort told the Collaborative in February, while its new, eight-story Community and Housing Center is being built. Demolition of the five-story building that the Army has occupied since 1989 begins in April or May, he said, and the center is scheduled for completion in June 2008.

The center will have a gym, pool, fitness equipment, dance studio, classrooms, climbing wall on the roof, meeting and banquet spaces, and five floors of housing — 113 studios, three of them for staff, 27 for aged-out foster youth and 83 for adults in recovery. Of those 83 units, 40 will be permanent housing and 43 transitional, up to 24 months.

But the project is running behind schedule. In a May 2003 update for the Collaborative, Salvation Army officials said they expected the center to open in 2005. And the budget has ballooned: Three years ago, it was \$35 million; a year ago, it was \$44 million. Today: \$58 million.

The lion's share of revenue for the project will come from a \$30 million endowment from the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice, part of that foundation's \$1.5 billion gift in 2004 to Salvation Army for community centers nationwide.

Another big hunk of revenue will come from city-issued tax-exempt revenue bonds — not to exceed \$16 million, says the supes' resolution. Remaining support is from donations and low-income housing tax credits.

Center activities will continue to focus on youth and seniors, McCort said, though they serve all ages.

"With the new facilities, we can expand our senior nutrition program," he said, "and the after-school program that now serves 60 kids will be able to serve 200."

The center's activities are open to the community, McCort said, with a reduced-rate membership for its Tenderloin neighbors.

The Extra called McCort a few weeks after the Collaborative meeting to ask more about the move to 1 Grove. Actually, the location was not official yet, he said, but it's almost a done deal.

"We have 2,500 square feet above the Burger King and another 1,500 square feet in the basement," he said. "We'll be moving all our administrative functions there and a few activities, like after-school programs."

What can't follow the troops is the weekly food pantry, which will operate out of a space on Turk — "next door to us at the Hotdog Church," McCort said. (That's the Providence Christian Center at 220 Turk, aka the Hotdog Church. Its Web site is hotdogchurch.com, and it was named, says the site, for its most popular meal for the homeless and poor.)

Also farmed out will be Salvation Army's meal delivery program, moving to its service center at 520 Jessie, off Sixth Street.

The Joan Croc Institute gift is another "not official yet" element, McCort said. "I announced it at our Feb. 24 open house, but I've been told the grant won't be announced officially until April."

'JESUS DOESN'T PAY THE RENT'

Ten years ago, Entertainment Commissioner Terrance Alan bought the building at 220 Jones St. and turned it into the Chez Paree. Since then, he's had several public and ugly feuds with his next-door neighbor, San Francisco Rescue Mission, whose leaders say the strip club's mere presence harms the children attending its on-site Christian Academy.

"For 55 years this location has been adult entertainment, both as a straight and a gay strip club," Alan told the Collaborative in January. "When [club manager] Steve Moses died recently, it gave me the chance

to look at upgrades for the property. I searched and found Roberto Robledo to manage the new Club Paree, and I'd like to introduce you to him."

Robledo said the club has been refurbished with improvements that included panic buttons for all the ladies.

"There won't be any tasteless acts of solicitation, and we're trying to stop the graffiti," Robledo continued. Security, too, has been improved. "I'm the guy who's watching your buildings when you're asleep."

Referring to past squabbles and perhaps trying to deflect future ones, Robledo said, "I have nothing against any of my neighbors — I believe in Jesus Christ, but Jesus doesn't pay the rent. I'm just trying to earn a living."

Earl Rogers, a Rescue Mission chaplain, was ready: "You have to understand that we believe [the club] is a business that's fundamentally immoral. If you wash a pig and put a bow on it, it's still a pig. Two years ago, Steve Moses made some of the same statements you're making about things getting better, but then there were girls outside the club in inappropriate clothing as the kids walked by."

Jerry Jai, who was chairing the meeting in the Rev. Glenda Hope's absence, called a halt. "It's best to discuss this yourselves," he said. "We're going to move on now." ■



Architect's rendering of the Salvation Army's headquarters on Turk Street.



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