

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SPECIAL EVENTS

The Re Show: 2 Decades of SoMa Artists 1960-1980, through Aug. 24, SomARTS Gallery, 934 Brannan. Exhibition of 150 progressive artists who shaped noncommercial, alternative art in San Francisco. Information: Betsie Miller-Kusz, 552-2131, ext. 7.

4th Annual Café Show and Benefit, through Aug. 17, SomARTS Cultural Center, Bay Gallery, 934 Brannan. Art, music, poetry, dance performances, comedy presented by ARTworkSF to benefit the Cultural Center. Schedule: www.artworksf.com/events/index.html

Karkhana, Asian Art Museum, through Nov. 5, exhibition of 12 miniatures created collaboratively by six contemporary Pakistani artists who live around the world. Karkhana is an Urdu term for workshops in which various artists produced traditional court paintings. Information www.asianart.org/Karkhana.htm.

Citizenship Workshop, Mon., Aug. 14, 11 a.m., Bill Graham Civic Auditorium, 99 Grove St. Free assistance with citizenship applications for eligible applicants. Applicant must be a legal permanent resident for at least five years; have an alien card, Social Security card, state identification or driver's license; bring a list of places traveled and worked during the last five years. For information or to RSVP, call the office of Rep. Nancy Pelosi, 888-841-8801.

People in Plazas, Music in Boeddeker Park, every Tue. at noon, through Sept. Coming up: Aug. 15, Just Cream (rock); Aug. 22, Khevan Lennon Onaje (jazz); Aug. 29, Groovy Judy (rock); Sept. 5, Self Preservation Band (rock).

COMMUNITY: REGULAR SCHEDULE

HOUSING

Supportive Housing Network, 4th Thursday of the month, 3-5 p.m., location TBA. Contact: Alecia Hopper, 421-2926 x302.

Tenant Associations Coalition of San Francisco, celebrates 8th Anniversary. Join us as we celebrate with the various candidates who will be on the November ballot. Noon, Wednesday, Sept. 6. 201 Turk Community Room. Contact Michael Nulty, 339-8327. Resident unity, leadership training, facilitate communication.

HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH

CBHS Consumer Council, 3rd Monday of the month, 5:30-7:30 p.m., CBHS, 1380 Howard, Rm. 537. Contact: 255-3428. Advisory group of consumers from self-help organizations and other mental health consumer advocates. Open to the public.

Health & Wellness Action Advocates, 1st Thursday of the month, 1-3 p.m., Mental Health Association, 870 Market, Suite 928. Contact: 421-2926 x306.

Healthcare Action Team, 2nd Wednesday of the month, Quaker Center, 65 Ninth St., noon-1:30. Focus on increasing supportive

home and community-based services, expanded eligibility for home care and improved discharge planning. Light lunch served. Contact: Aaron Wagner, 703-0188 x304.

Hoarders and Clutterers Support Group, 2nd Monday and 4th Wednesday of each month, 6-7 p.m. 870 Market, Suite 928. Contact: 421-2926 x306.

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. Contact: 255-3474.

National Alliance for the Mentally Ill-S.F., 3rd Wednesday of the month, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Family Service Agency, 1010 Gough, 5th Fl. Call 905-6264. Family member group, open to consumers and the public.

SAFETY

Crime and Safety Committee, meets bimonthly on the Wednesday after the first Monday, SOMPAC, 1035 Folsom, 6 p.m. Information: 487-2166 or www.sompac.com.

North of Market NERT, bimonthly meeting. Contact Lt. Erica Arteseros., S.F. Fire Department, 970-2022. Disaster preparedness training by the Fire Department.

SoMa Police Community Relations Forum, 4th Monday of the month, 6-7:30 p.m. Location changes monthly. To receive monthly information by e-mail, contact Lisa Block, 538-8100 ext. 202 Lblock@iisf.org.

Tenderloin Police Station Community Meeting, last Tuesday of the month, 6 p.m., police station Community Room, 301 Eddy. Contact Susan Black, 345-7300. Neighborhood safety.

NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT

Alliance for a Better District 6, 2nd Tuesday of the month, 6 p.m., 301 Eddy. Contact Michael Nulty, 820-1560 or sf_district6@yahoo.com. Civic education.

Boeddeker Park cleanup, 3rd Saturday of the month, 9-noon, organized by Friends of Boeddeker Park. To RSVP, to work or for information, contact Betty Traynor at the Neighborhood Parks Council, 931-1126.

Central City Democrats, meets four times a year, 301 Eddy St. Community Room. Addresses District 6 residential and business concerns, voter education forums. Information: 339-VOTE (8683) or centralcitydemocrats@yahoo.com.

Community Leadership Alliance, a chartered Democratic organization. Quarterly informational forums with guest presenters and speakers, sharing news of upcoming events, proposals, resources. Meetings are first Thursday in Jan., April, July, Oct. Location information: David Villa-Lobos, admin@CommunityLeadershipAlliance.net.

Friends of Boeddeker Park, 2nd Thursday of the month, 5-6:30 p.m., Boeddeker Rec Center, 240 Eddy. Plan park events, activities and improvements. Contact: 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: 554-9532.

Mid-Market Project Area Committee, 2nd Wednesday of the month, 5:30 p.m., Ramada Hotel, 1231 Market. Contact Carolyn Diamond, 362-2500. Market Street redevelopment on Fifth to 10th streets.

North of Market Planning Coalition, 3rd Wednesday of the month, 6 p.m., 301 Eddy. Contact: 820-1412. TL 2000, neighborhood planning.

North of Market/Tenderloin Community Benefit District, 1st Thursday of the month, noon. For location contact Elaine Zemora, district manager, 440-7570 x21.

SoMa Leadership Council, 3rd Wednesday of the month, 6 p.m., The Arc, 1500 Howard St. at 11th. Emphasizes good planning and good government to maintain a diverse, vibrant, complete neighborhood. Contact: Jim Meko, 624-4309 or jim.meko@comcast.net.

South of Market Project Area Committee, 3rd Monday of the month, 6 p.m., 1035 Folsom, between 6th & 7th. Contact: SOMPAC office, 487-2166.

Tenderloin Futures Collaborative, 2nd Wednesday of the month, 10 a.m., Tenderloin Police community room, 301 Eddy. Contact Paul Bains at 358-3981 for information. Network of residents, nonprofits and businesses sharing information and taking on neighborhood development issues.

SENIORS AND DISABLED

Mayor's Disability Council, 3rd Friday of the month, 1-3 p.m., City Hall, Rm. 400. Contact: 554-6789. Open to the public.

Senior Action Network, general meeting, second Thursday, 10 a.m.-noon, St. Mary's Cathedral. Monthly committee meetings, 965 Mission #700: Pedestrian safety, third Wednesday, 10 a.m.; Senior Housing Action, third Wednesday, 1:30; Information: 546-1333 and www.senioractionnetwork.org.

SUPERVISORS' COMMITTEES

 City Hall, Room 263

Budget and Finance Committee Daly, Duffy, Peskin, Thursday, 1 p.m.

City Services Committee McGoldrick, Duffy, Ma, first and third Monday, 1 p.m.

Land Use Committee Maxwell, Sandoval, McGoldrick, Wednesday, 1 p.m.

Lethal heroin mix hasn't hit S.F.

BY TOM CARTER

A LETHAL mix of heroin and a powerful analgesic that has killed more than 100 people in the East and Midwest is not expected to show up in San Francisco, drug experts say.

Fentanyl, a prescription narcotic 80 times more powerful than morphine, is used to manage pain in surgery and the chronic pain of outpatients. It is being produced in clandestine laboratories in powder form and added to heroin, leading to an alarming wave of fatal overdoses in eight states, many in Chicago, St. Louis, Philadelphia and, most recently, Detroit.

In response, Sen. Richard Durbin (D-Ill.) introduced a bill in Congress to give federal grants to programs that provide overdose prevention, treatment and response training. It would be the first time the federal government has earmarked money for overdosing. But the mix hasn't crossed the Mississippi.

"It probably won't be reaching us," said Emalie Huriaux who heads a drug education program under the Harm Reduction Coalition in Oakland. "The heroin trade routes are different. We get stuff from the Golden Triangle in Asia and from Mexico. And to some degree it's timing. It hasn't shown up since it was first (identified) in the East last fall and that makes it unlikely."

Dr. Daniel Ciccarone, a UCSF associate professor of Community Medicine, agrees. He has worked with San Francisco drug users for 17 years and is currently studying the effects of different forms of heroin on public health.

"The distribution routes for Detroit and San

Francisco are very different and I doubt that the fentanyl-spiked heroin will make it this way," he wrote The Extra in an e-mail. "Having said that, there is always the possibility of 'copy-cat' events."

"Black tar heroin, which comes from Mexico and is the type we get in San Francisco, can be cut — not easily, but possibly — with powdered or liquid fentanyl. So we should all keep aware of the potential, however slight."

On May 10, a Harm Reduction Coalition press release out of New York urged state and local health departments nationwide to develop strategies to reduce overdose deaths. It suggested providing heroin users with the life-saving drug Narcan, also known as naloxone. When injected, naloxone can jump-start a respiratory system that has been shut down by an opiate overdose.

Huriaux manages the Drug Overdose Prevention Education program, formerly in the Tenderloin, now under HRC in Oakland. DOPE has trained more than 700 people in 2½ years to administer the prescription, saving an estimated 160 lives, Huriaux said. According to the Department of Public Health, death from overdose in San Francisco is at its lowest level in a decade.

Huriaux said drug users should be advised on the risks of overdose and seek response training through HRC (huriaux@harmreduction.org).

An overdose on fentanyl-heroin occurs rapidly.

"Critical treatment minutes can be lost by emergency room personnel because they may not be aware that fentanyl is not detected in standard toxicology screens," the federal Department of Health and Human Services said in a June 2 information letter and fact sheet to public health departments. A number of San Francisco programs

received the material from DPH.

"I made 100 copies and had them distributed on the street," said Roy Crew, a former heroin user who is director of the Office of Self-Help, a Seventh and Market Streets nonprofit working with mental health and dually diagnosed clients. "I wanted to get the word out. I wonder if there's a danger (fentanyl) would be used with methadone."

In one week, 33 people in the Detroit area died from the fatal mix, the department said. The Washington Post reported on June 4 that Detroit authorities said 175 people died in recent months from fentanyl-related overdoses.

Dealers were passing out free samples in Chicago, the Post quoted police as saying. Cook County had more than 60 deaths over a few weeks related to fentanyl, the Chicago Times reported in early June.

In Pittsburgh, according to the WTAE-TV Web site, the mixture is being sold in stamp packets marked "Get High Or Die Trying." The drug that sometimes gives yellowish or dusty brown heroin powder a greenish tint has spread to Harrisburg, the station said, and was believed to come from a lab in Mexico now shut down.

Deaths were also reported in Virginia and New Jersey.

Fentanyl was developed in the 1960s as a commercial painkiller and showed up on the West Coast as a "street-drug compound" in the mid-1980s, according to a June 15 New York Times story. It killed 100 people over eight years before disappearing. In the 1990s, fentanyl-laced heroin surfaced in the New York area and was called Tango and Cash, the Times said, and it killed dozens of people. ■