

# GOOD NEWS for...

**JOB-SEEKERS** It was the other SRO — standing room only — when Community Housing Partnership kicked off its newest service, CHP Enterprises, training and employment in property management for formerly homeless people. Clients, staff, government officials, officials' reps and other well-wishers jammed the 201 Turk St. community room Nov. 29 to hear about the program, whose startup is being funded by \$350,000 from U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Community Services and \$94,000 from REDF, a private foundation. Enterprises' first 18 graduates will become desk clerks at four Tenderloin hotels and apartments managed by Chinatown Community Development Center, announced CHP Director Jeff Kositsky. Half the grads will work full time, half part time, he said, and CHP hopes to get the number of trainees up to 50 with its current funding. Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi lauded CHP for the program and for providing permanent supportive housing for more than 1,000 formerly homeless people: "This is an example of a sea change in how workforce is done — people making decisions about their own futures." Aleta Dwyer-Carpenter, Chinatown CDC's director of property management, said, "I'm glad we jumped on the bandwagon. It helps us build a sense of family in our community and provides hope for the residents — the new employees are models for our residents." One of Enterprises' first employees, Charie Pittman, told the audience that the program's done more than just give her a job. "We can help others," she said. "We all came from the same situation." CHP is looking for other nonprofit and private housing providers citywide that need desk clerks and maintenance and cleaning staff. Enterprises information: 749-2790 ext. 361.

**TNDC'S AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM** A Bollywood Dance party has donated \$5,000 to the 225 Eddy St. service for low-income and impoverished kids in San Francisco and another \$5,000 to a similar program in New Delhi, India. The event was held Nov. 11 at the New Delhi restaurant at 160 Ellis. Twice a year the restaurant becomes the "Compassionate Chef's Café" and owner Ranjan Dey lays out fine eats and entertainment for members of the restaurant and hotel industries. They "pay it forward" with donations. On Nov. 11, the 250 attendees came up with \$5,000 for the TNDC school and \$5,000 for the Bapa School in New Delhi. TNDC offers kids 5 to 17 after-school trips, art activities, dance, judo classes, team sports, excursions to parks and museums, tutoring, even annual tours to college and university campuses. With their parents at work, about 55 kids attend daily and 220 over a year. The Bapa boarding school is for 300 children of Harijan street cleaners, "untouchables" in India's caste system.

**KIDS AT BOEDDEKER PARK** The long-fallow sandy patch where a slide and jungle gym once stood will be transformed in 2008 into a new play area, thanks to a \$1,500 grant from the San Francisco Parks Trust. A decomposed granite surface and a playing mat will be put down. Then hop scotch, 4-square, jump rope, shuffleboard, and maybe golf putting and rubber horseshoe pitching will be on tap, according to Betty Traynor, Friends of Boeddeker chair. The new surface will cost \$2,000, so Rec and Park is kicking in \$1,000. The area next to the park's basketball court and behind the Coronado Hotel fence will be used by adults and kids. All activities will be supervised. The committee has hopes for some double Dutch contests. Two years ago, the city hired the Conservation Corps to remove the deteriorating playground equipment in the area. Until then, it had been unused, except as a urinal.

If you have some good news, send it to [marjorie@studycenter.org](mailto:marjorie@studycenter.org) or [tom@studycenter.org](mailto:tom@studycenter.org).

## FUTURES COLLABORATIVE

# TNDC's grocery idea meets neighborhood buzz saw

### Residents resent allowing another liquor license in alcohol-soggy hood

BY MARJORIE BEGGS

STEVE Woo, TNDC's new liaison to the Tenderloin Futures Collaborative, brought a sample four-page Food Assessment Survey to the November meeting in hopes of getting it distributed to more residents.

The 35-question survey asks what kinds of food the respondents eat, how hard it is to find that food near where they live and the types of stores they prefer to shop in.

"We're considering the idea of putting in a grocery store at our planned building at Eddy and Taylor," Woo said, "so we're evaluating the food needs of people who live in the Tenderloin."

TNDC's proposed 130-unit family apartment building at 168-186 Eddy and 238 Taylor — estimated completion date: 2011 or 2012 — will have enough ground-floor commercial space to accommodate a large grocery store, he said.

That touched a raw nerve in the room. At least two people around the table were chafing over an ordinance introduced in May by Supervisor Michela Alioto-Pier. It exempts grocery stores larger than 5,000 square feet from moratoriums on new liquor licenses that the city okayed for five neighborhoods, including parts of the Tenderloin. The TL's moratorium dates from 1998.

"I see this as an absolute betrayal of our neighborhood," resident David Baker said. "We have this moratorium, and now we're being asked to overlook it to get groceries to open here."

"But we need that exemption as an incentive to bring a grocery store to the Tenderloin," Woo protested to Baker.

"I'm sorry," Baker shot back. "I don't think that argument holds water. We're conceding points without data, and it's sending the wrong signal: What difference does one more place selling liquor make?"

Several studies show that the "just one" idea may compute. The Extra found a reference to a 1995 report in the American Journal of Public Health about liquor outlet density; it estimated that in a typical Los Angeles County city of 50,000 people with 100 alcohol outlets and 570 assaults, adding one outlet could result in 3.4 more assaults annually. Another article by the same author in the 1999 Journal of Studies of Alcohol used the same basic setting and estimated that each new alcohol outlet added 2.7 vehicle crashes. "Outlet" was not defined.

Resident Ed Evans took

exception to Baker's concerns, insisting that grocery stores are not the problem in the Tenderloin.

"Groceries are the biggest supporters of controlled alcohol sales," Evans said. "They sell good products — they won't sell single beers and many don't sell malt liquor."

Baker begged to differ: "I shop at Safeway at Market and Church, and I see people staggering out of there all the time."

Michael Nulty, president of Alliance for a Better District 6 and, with Baker, a longtime opponent of new liquor licenses in the Tenderloin, insisted that exempting big groceries from the moratorium on selling booze was unnecessary.

"Stores can operate very successfully without liquor licenses," he said, citing the grocery on the corner of Eddy and Taylor, now closed because of the October 13 fire at Original Joe's. "It did well," he said, "but didn't sell liquor."

Despite their opposition to the exemption, Nulty, Baker and others had lobbied successfully to get some concessions within Alioto-Pier's ordinance. Nov. 6, the board passed the ordinance with an amendment introduced by Supervisor Gerardo Sandoval: Exempted stores can't sell malt beverages with more than 5.7% alcohol, wine with more than 15% alcohol (except 2-year-old or older corked bottles), or

hard liquor in bottles smaller than 600 milliliters — a little more than a pint.

In late November, Woo told The Extra that the grocery store for Eddy and Taylor was still in the dreaming stage. Meantime, since TNDC started distributing the food surveys in mid-October, he's gotten back 150, some from tenants of TNDC-owned SROs but more from families who live in Tenderloin apartments.

"They're the ones who have to shop for a lot of food and are cooking meals in their kitchens," he said.

Carrots and sticks work in low-income areas. The first 200 people to complete the survey get \$10 Safeway gift certificates.

When the surveys stop coming back, results will be tallied and made public, Woo said, though he didn't know in what form. The survey was created by TNDC with Public Health Law & Policy, an Oakland nonprofit that helps communities campaign to improve residents' nutrition, control tobacco use and find solutions to other health concerns.

#### WEBSITE'S BACK

This just in: The Collaborative's Website — [www.tlfutures.org](http://www.tlfutures.org) — is up again and with new features: interactive community calendar, bulletin board, useful links, site updated daily. Check it out. ■



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