

SPECIAL EVENTS

Lao New Year Festival, April 11, Civic Center, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Free parade, music, games cultural activities, plus 11 a.m. screening of "Nerakhoon: The Betrayal," 2009 Academy Award nominee for best documentary feature, Koret Theater in the Main Library, followed by Q & A with director Thavisouk Prasavath. Festival hosted by the Center for Lao Studies, the Laotian American National Alliance and the Lao Heritage Foundation. Info: 680-4027.

Housing meeting, April 15, 5:30 p.m., 201 Turk. Meet with neighbors and Planning Department reps to discuss how the city's draft of a five-year housing plan will affect the central city. Spanish and Chinese translation and art corner for children provided. Sponsored by Alliance for a Better District 6, Tenant Associations Coalition, Community Housing Partnership, TNDC and others. Info: James Tracy, 749-2790.

Empress Hotel, an 85-minute documentary about mentally ill or addicted formerly homeless residents living in this Tenderloin SRO, selected to screen at the 52nd S.F. International Film Festival, which runs April 23-May 7. Directed by Irving Saraf and Allie Light, and produced by Saraf, Light and Empress Property Manager Roberta Goodman, the film screens on April 25, 3:15 p.m.; April 27, 6 p.m.; April 29, 6:15 p.m. at the Sundance Kabuki Cinemas, 1881 Post St. Info: lightsaraffilms.com. Tickets www.sffs.org <http://fest09.sffs.org/> or call 925-866-9559.

Free Tenderloin history walking tours, conducted by neighborhood researcher Peter Field. Sun., May 3, 9 a.m., meet at the corner of Powell, Eddy and Market streets; focus on early days, from a few houses surrounded by sand dunes up to the 1920s. Sun., May 10, 9 a.m., meet at the corner of McAllister and Leavenworth streets; focus on 1920s to the present. Info: City Guide Tours, 557-4266 or sfcityguides.org.

COMMUNITY: REGULAR SCHEDULE HOUSING

Supportive Housing Network, 3rd Thursday of the month, 3-5 p.m., location TBA. Contact: Kendra Fuller, 421-2926 x304.

Tenant Associations Coalition of San Francisco, 1st Wednesday of the month, noon, 201 Turk, Community Room. Contact Michael Nulty, 339-8327. Resident unity, leadership training, facilitate communication.

HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH

CBHS Consumer Council, 3rd Tuesday of the month, 3-5 p.m., CBHS, 1380 Howard, room 537. Call: 255-3695. Advisory group of consumers from self-help organizations and other mental

health consumer advocates. Open to the public.

Health & Wellness Action Advocates, 1st Tuesday of the month, 5-7 p.m., Mental Health Association, 870 Market, Suite 928. Call: 421-2926 x306.

Healthcare Action Team, 2nd Wednesday of the month, Quaker Center, 65 Ninth St., noon-1:30 p.m. Focus on increasing supportive home and community-based services, expanded eligibility for home care and improved discharge planning. Light lunch served. Call James Chionsini, 703-0188 x304.

Hoarders and Clutterers Support Group, Mental Health Association, 870 Market, Suite 928. Call for dates and times: 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. Call: 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 the public.

SAFETY

Safety for Women in the Tenderloin, every 3rd Wednesday, Central City SRO Collaborative, 259 Hyde St., 4-6 p.m. Informal, friendly environment, refreshments, gender sensitive to LGBTQ community and sex workers. Discuss how to make Tenderloin SROs safer for women. Information: Alexandra Goldman, volunteer campaign coordinator, 775-7110 x102.

Neighborhood Emergency Response Team Training (NERT). Central city residents can take the S.F. Fire Department's free disaster preparedness and response training at any neighborhood location. See Website for schedule and training locations, www.sfgov.org/sffdnert, or call Lt. Arteseros, 970-2022.

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 Meital Amitai, 538-8100 x202 or mamitai@iisf.org.

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

NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT

Alliance for a Better District 6, 2nd Tuesday of the month, 6 p.m., 230 Eddy. Contact Michael Nulty, 820-1560 or sf_district6@yahoo.com, a districtwide improvement association.

Boeddeker Park cleanup, 3rd Saturday of the month, 9-noon, organized by the Friends of Boeddeker Park. To RSVP to work or for information, call Betty Traynor, 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.

Central Market Community Benefit District, board meets 2nd Tuesday of the month, 989 Market St., 3rd Fl., 3 p.m. Information: 882-3088, http://central-market.org.

Friends of Boeddeker Park, 2nd Thursday of the month, 3:30 p.m., Boeddeker Rec Center, 240 Eddy. Plan park events, activities and improvements. Contact Betty Traynor, 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: 538-8100 x202.

North of Market Planning Coalition, 3rd Wednesday of the month, 6 p.m., 301 Eddy. Call: 820-1412. Neighborhood planning.

North of Market/Tenderloin Community Benefit District. Call District Manager Elaine Zamora for times and dates, 292-4812.

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 sts. Health, Safety and Human Services Committee meets monthly on the first Tuesday after the first Monday, 1035 Folsom, noon. Information: 487-2166 or www.sompac.com.

Tenderloin Futures Collaborative, 2nd Wednesday of the month, 10 a.m., Tenderloin Police Station community room, 301 Eddy. Call 358-3956 for information. Network of residents, nonprofits and businesses taking on neighborhood development issues.

SENIORS AND DISABLED

Mayor's Disability Council, 3rd Friday of the month, 1-3 p.m., City Hall, room 400. Call: 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 Avalos, Mirkarimi, Daly, Chu, Wednesday, 1 p.m.

Land Use Committee Maxwell, Mar, Chu, Monday, 1 p.m.

Panel puts SoMa RFPs on hold — no money yet

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money from sales and this (request) is based on what they've sold."

In February, she assured the committee: "As long as buildings get built, we'll get (the money)." It is probable that all the projects that went through the lengthy and expensive approval process will eventually get built, added Benjamin McCloskey, the Mayor's Office of Community Investment's fiscal and policy analyst. But who knows how long it will take?

Early on, South of Market Community Action Network and Asian Neighborhood Design received \$50,000 in Walter & Elise Haas Fund grants to spread the word about

SOUTHSIDE the project funds that would be available. The committee held three town hall meetings in SoMa — two last year — to hear what residents want for their neighborhood. A youth center was a high priority. Committee suggestions have ranged from affordable housing to buying land to establishing a loan fund for up to \$20,000 for struggling small businesses, but not startups.

The seven-member committee, created by Supervisor Daly's legislation that established the Rincon Hill Plan fees, researched the neighborhood's characteristics and needs over three years while developing a strategic plan for how best to benefit SoMa. A year ago the committee expected the \$5 million from the South Tower to be deposited with the controller's office "by early fall 2008." In September, it reported to its oversight agency "impact fees have slowed considerably." The committee used the delays to refine its RFP but canceled its November and December meetings for the holidays. The committee can't send out the RFP until funds arrive.

Now the committee is holding back notices that

were planned to go out in March. The RFP categories are: Capacity Building and Community Cohesion, Land Trust Feasibility Study and Pre-development, and Workforce and Economic Development.

City Planning's 2005 12-block Rincon Hill Area Plan decided how to use an underused industrial area once dotted with parking lots. In 2003 the city began to reclassify it and allowed spectacular height increases for a new pocket of luxury apartments, eventually to accommodate a Rincon Hill population of 10,000. With the Transbay Terminal plans, the transformed mixed-use neighborhood just across Market Street from the Financial District would swell to 20,000.

The Rincon Hill Plan's boundaries are Folsom Street, The Embarcadero, Bryant Street, Beale Street, the Bay Bridge approach, and the Transbay Terminal ramps.

Daly negotiated the builders' mitigation fees four years ago, a deal that was considered a coup. Mayor Newsom said the builders couldn't afford more than a \$20-per-square-foot rate. Then Daly stepped in and got \$25 per square foot from them. Of that, \$14 goes to the neighborhood and \$11 to the hill's infrastructure, less an earmarked \$6 million in Mello Roos funds that to go the Stabilization Fund for neighborhood improvements only on city-owned property.

Daly's arm was stronger than the San Diego-based Urban West Associates expected to feel. The firm's managing partner, Mike Kriozere, told San Diego Business Journal in June 2006: "They have a stronger socialist tradition in San Francisco than in San Diego, and they mistrust the profit motive. They believe in extracting more money from the business community."

Crimping South Tower sales has been condo competition from Tishman Speyer's towers called The Infinity — 37 stories at 301 Main St. and 42 stories at 338 Spear St. The project was approved

before the Rincon Hill Plan was adopted and is exempt from the \$14 fee. Main Street is 87% sold but a company spokesman wouldn't comment on Spear Street, which opened Jan. 1.

The \$14 fee from Rincon One's two-tower completion will eventually send \$10 million to the Stabilization Fund.

The \$11 fee was paid by all the hill's approved projects before construction and is earmarked for improvements on city-owned property in the plan area, such as sidewalks, streets, bicycle routes and open space. The committee now has \$2 million of the \$6 million property owner-approved Mello Roos funds. It favors installing pedestrian traffic signals at Victoria Manalo Draves Park on Folsom and Harrison streets. The committee also wanted to renovate Gene Friend Recreation Center at Sixth and Folsom. But the money "isn't enough for what we want to do," Del Rosario says. And Rec and Park staff cuts and budget problems make the center's operations uncertain.

In recent months, the committee's oversight authority has changed three times as the city compresses and combines agencies to diminish a \$576 million budget shortfall. The committee, which meets on the fifth floor of 1 South Van Ness Ave., has been passed from the Mayor's Office of Community Development to Community Investment, which then merged with Economic Workforce and Development, and now it's under the Redevelopment Agency, switches that didn't require the supervisors' approval.

Fred Blackwell, Redevelopment Agency president, announced the transfer at the Stabilization Fund committee's Feb. 19 meeting, saying there was no city opposition and it would take 30-60 days.

"Conceptually, it makes a good fit and we'll have a greater level of coordination throughout the area," he said.

The South of Market Project Area Committee advises Redevelopment. ■