Free toilet cost over $5 a flush

CBD’s 3-month pilot program proves ‘a little pricey’

BY TOM CARTER

The free toilet at the Rescue Mission was used 13 times a day on average — costing $5.36 per visit, results from the three-month pilot show.

A committee of the Tenderloin Community Benefit District, which funded the toilet as a service to the neighborhood, will recommend to the full board meeting June 20 that the project be funded for another six months. The board will also consider ramping up the CBD’s fight against public urination and defecation by renting two porta-potties for the neighborhood at $5,000 a month with a $20-an-hour monitor.

At the CBD board’s May 16 meeting, the free-toilet experiment was to be explained in light of this proposed expansion that would bring the CBD’s financial commitment to normal bathroom behavior in the neighborhood to about $6,500 per month. But the matter was put over a month.

The Rescue Mission’s toilet data, kept by an on-site monitor paid $9.75 an hour, showed that during the 66 weekdays the toilet was available from 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. 728 people (489 men and 239 women) used the toilet.

The CBD grant to the mission covered $1,300 a month for the monitor and supplies but budgeted no money for repairs. The omission was put over a month. But the matter was put over a month.

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The CBD grant to the mission covered $1,300 a month for the monitor and supplies but budgeted no money for repairs. The omission caused board concern after the toilet opened Feb. 1 because tales of public toilet abuse are legend.

Hospitality House, a block from the mission, has free bathrooms, with daily drop-in traffic of 300 mostly homeless clients, frequent toilet breakdowns and annual plumbing bills in the thousands. But for three months the vigilantly monitored Rescue Mission toilet was little used and had no breakdowns.

Ron Hicks, CBD Public Rights of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Will porta-potties at $5,000 per month be next?

Jeff Marshall’s art flies sky-high

BY TOM CARTER

When Jeff Marshall was 12 in Houston, a Hi-Flier kite cost 25 cents, same for the string. Forty years later, Marshall is famous in the Tenderloin for making and flying kites. “I can make one for 10 cents and in 10 minutes — I’ll impress you.”

He did. With a clock on him one day in May, Marshall sat on the floor of his 10-by-10 SRO room in the Boyd Hotel next to St. Anthony’s Dining Room, materials around him, and set his fingers flying. A whirlwind, he grabbed Elmer’s Glue, wood sticks and string and made a tight skeleton. With scissors, he snipped pink and green tissue paper to size, gluing the colors to the sticks for a garish two-toner.

Bingo, 10 minutes on the nose, 18-by-26 inches. And it will fly. But a tail? Sure, Marshall says. Liberating a 10-foot strand from a pink sheet in a nearby stash, he attaches it, along with guide string he adjusts near the crossbar. The final touch is his signature — a lemon-size circle he cuts from orange tissue paper and pastes on the green background above the crossbar, “the sun over the horizon,” he says, smiling.

The kite looks frail, but he tests all his scrap string for strength, and tissue paper is tougher than it looks.

Originally a photographer, Marshall turned to painting and sculpting, then resumed kite-making four years ago, bringing a lifetime of artistic skills to his childhood hobby. He’s been impressing people ever since. His specialty is painting portraits of inspirational people on kites and sending them up to soar and bob in the sky.

In 2008, he flew Bazack Obama in front of City Hall. An Associated Press photographe shot the airborne kite and the image went ‘round the world. “I was in the Korean Times!” Marshall exclaims with glee.

Marshall made 50 candidate Obama kites, hoping others would join him. “I envisioned the sky filled with those kites,” he says, “but it didn’t happen.” Undaunted, he’s fulfilled by the medium and stays high on a stream of new ideas.

“I just want to remind people of this simple — non-electronic — pleasure.”

Marshall got a fine arts degree in pho...
CBP ponders putting porta-potties on the street at $5,000 per month

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Way Committee member, said at May 12 meeting the project should continue “given its success,” though conceding that the average $5.60 cost per person per visit was “a little pricey.”

After the May 16 board meeting, CBD President and Rescue Mission staffer Clint Ladine called the toilet experiment results disappointing.

“They were a little bit low,” Ladine said. “I would have guessed they would be higher.”

Part of the problem, he surmised, could have been lack of promotion. There was virtually no marketing, one committee member said, not even a sign in the Rescue Mission window.

The committee favored more promotion, either by the CBD, the mission or both. Ladine wondered how many visits the toilet could handle. CBD Acting Director Dina Hilliard said the six-month budget should be supplemented by up to $500 for plumbing costs, “once or twice.”

For lack of a quorum at the May 16 board meeting, the committee’s recommendation to extend the project, an action item, was put over until June 20, when the toilets will be discussed. The committee suggested renting two for the neighborhood at $180 a month for three months and hiring a supervisor at $20 an hour to monitor both. Hilliard said the facilities should be open every day, noon to 8 p.m. The monthly cost would exceed $5,000.

“We need to hear from the board on this,” Hilliard said. “It’s pretty controversial. Some people aren’t sure if porta-potties are the way to deal with the problem. And it’s expensive. Some social candidates receiving public funds are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Maximum / Minimum Income Limit</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Knox:</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 person - $35,350 per year (maximum income)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$760 per month (minimum income)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 person - $58,160 per year (maximum income)</td>
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<td>$760 per month (minimum income)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bayanihan:</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 person - $29,490 per year (maximum income)</td>
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<tr>
<td>$760 per month (minimum income)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 person - $63,380 per year (maximum income)</td>
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For more information or to pick up an application for the Knox and Bayanihan House, please stop by the lobby of the TODCO Marketing Office located at 241-6th Street in San Francisco.

If you have a disability that prevents you from fully participating in this process please call (415) 257-0227.
FIVE empty newsstand kiosks on Market Street would house small businesses, under a plan the Central Market Community Benefit District is negotiating with the city and JCDecaux, the firm that owns the kiosks.

The first kiosk business will be a free bicycle repair station at Seventh and Market streets, scheduled to open this month.

“We are finalizing (negotiations) now,” said CBD Executive Director Daniel Hurtado at the May 10 Central Market board meeting.

“JCDecaux would be providing these (kiosks) to the CBD free and we would take care of liability insurance.”

The bicycle kiosk would operate weekdays 7:30 to 9:30 a.m., run by Huckleberry Bicycles, a commercial shop that will replace Midtown Rag’s, a going concern for 25 years on this rough block of Market Street.

Huckleberry Bicycles will be “on the busiest bicycle street west of the Mississippi,” said Huckleberry owner Brian Smith. “It (the kiosk) will be for simple repairs and chain adjustments,” he said. “Hopefully, we’ll open in June.” The store opens in July with a five-year lease.

Smith, formerly a lawyer in Nixon Peabody LLP’s commercial litigation department, has two partners, he said.

Huckleberry Bicycles shop will supplant a store that sells affordable hip-hop and with-it apparel whose owner said he was willing to pay up to $700 a month more, but the building owner rebuffed him.

Sam, Midtown Rag’s owner, who didn’t want his last name used, said he wonders why Smith couldn’t open his shop in a vacant storefront rather than force out a street stalwart.

“When somebody puts in their time, it’s worth something,” he said.

Of the 88 storefronts between Fifth and Eighth Streets, 51% were vacant, according to a count last year by The Extra, and not much has changed in the meantime.

The 1073 Market St. building is owned by 1067 Market Street LLC. Its point man is Terry Bogart of Woodside, who is part-owner of the old Food Corner building being renovated at Sixth and Market for a new Pearl’s Deluxe Burgers.

Smith, a neighborhood newbie, is a candidate for the merchant seat on the CBD board.

JCDecaux owns 113 of the 17-foot-high advertising kiosks, most located downtown, and 60 were meant to replace scruffy wood newstands. They were part of the deal with the city in 1995 to put 26 public toilets on the street.

The other four businesses to qualify for kiosk leases with Central Market CBD, Hurtado said, haven’t been chosen but all would be located within the CBD’s boundaries, Fifth to Ninth streets on Market.

Hurtado said vendors need approval from JCDecaux and the Department of Public Works. But the CBD hasn’t decided whether it would charge rent.

“We’ll see how the first one works,” Hurtado said.

In other action, the board addressed problems that the Mayor’s Office of Economic and Workforce Development, which oversees CBDs, had highlighted in an April 6 letter to the board. The directors asked Hurtado to prepare an action plan for joint projects that they could review monthly.

OEWD’s Lisa Pagan suggested that a list of Market Street vacancies be posted on the CBD’s website.
The multimedia creations of ‘Kiteman’ soar

Jeff Marshall creates a kite in his SRO room: First, he glues skewers for the skeleton, then wraps them with string, next past tissue paper together, cuts it to size, glues the paper to the bamboo, then paints it with black ink and colors it with paint by the numbers. For his kites he buys thin bamboo skewers in Chinatown, hundreds in a bundle for $1.99, or longer bamboo rods, “the ideal material” for kites. Bamboo bends, dowels break. For facing, he buys colored tissue paper, 100 sheets for $5, or Tyvek, plastic sheeting by DuPont for big kites, at Blick or dollar stores. The thousands of feet of string in multiple spools under a wall drawer he gets for next to nothing at SCRAP, the recycle trove for teachers and artists; and tails are from ruined cotton fabric. Portraits in his airborne pantheon of heroes include: Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Harriet Tubman, Helen Keller, Che Guevara, Sitting Bull, Frida Kahlo, Oscar Wilde, James Baldwin and others. From a printed image he makes a plastic overlay on a copy machine and at home with an overhead projector displays it on a wall where he hangs kite material. Then he traces the image with Japanese black ink and paints it “by the numbers,” he jokes.

Marshall also makes kites at Hospitality House, where he stores hundreds of them and teaches kite-making. For the kite skeleton he buys thin bamboo skewers in Chinatown, hundreds in a bundle for $1.99, or longer bamboo rods, “the ideal material” for kites. Bamboo bends, dowels break. For facing, he buys colored tissue paper, 100 sheets for $5, or Tyvek, plastic sheeting by DuPont for big kites, at Blick or dollar stores. The thousands of feet of string in multiple spools under a wall drawer he gets for next to nothing at SCRAP, the recycle trove for teachers and artists; and tails are from ruined cotton fabric. Portraits in his airborne pantheon of heroes include: Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Harriet Tubman, Helen Keller, Che Guevara, Sitting Bull, Frida Kahlo, Oscar Wilde, James Baldwin and others. From a printed image he makes a plastic overlay on a copy machine and at home with an overhead projector displays it on a wall where he hangs kite material. Then he traces the image with Japanese black ink and paints it “by the numbers,” he jokes.

As Healing power of art, above, and "13 Voices in a Tired Head," below, by Kami Cheatem, Mission Mental Health

AN exhibition of paintings and other art forms created by artists receiving mental health or substance abuse services from city-funded programs opens June 8 in the basement gallery at City Hall.

“As We Live It,” 94 works by 33 artists, is co-sponsored by the San Francisco Arts Commission Gallery and San Francisco Study Center, the nonprofit publisher of Central City Extra and a CBHS contractor.

The exhibition was inspired by Phillip Cha’s poignant, powerful 30-minute film “Unheard Voices.” Cha is case manager at Citywide and Community Focus Center, a major mental health services provider.

Study Center’s special projects manager Heidi Swillinger saw Cha’s film and was so impressed — especially by one of the featured artists — that she contacted Aimee Le Duc, manager of the Arts Commission City Hall gallery. Le Duc hatched...
Nicoletta, who worked in Milk’s Castro Street shop. Marshall tried to fly it in front of City Hall a year ago May 22 — Milk’s birthday — but the wind was too violent. He’s 6-foot-6, but rail-thin, and it took a second person on the string to battle nature. So he disassembled the leviathan and stored it. This year he took aloft a small version.

Marshall is practically giddy about discovering recently that phone book pages make great kite material. And they’ll carry recycled names heavenward. Meanwhile, inspired by Claus Oldenburg, who, he says, “exalted the common,” he’s sketching and painting new subject matter on his kites: hand tools, fishing lures, gasoline cans and other ordinary items.

Marshall flies kites at U.N. Plaza, where the “vortex of winds” heightens “the kite’s dance,” but above the building tops wind slams a kite back toward earth, amusing passers-by, the street people he knows and idlers clutching brown paper bags. All call him “Kiteman,” an identity he embraces. He sees himself as “a bit of a wind god,” not so great as Zephyrus, the Greek god of the west wind, but in Z’s company.


Marshall has already achieved a measure of immortality: A likeness of him flies a kite atop the Boyd Hotel, one of 300 characters in the neighborhood’s major mural across the street. And he’s a supporting voice in Paige Bierma’s 20-minute film, “A Brush with the Tenderloin,” which captures the impact that creating the big mural had on the community.

Marshall’s forever seeking the satisfying scratch for his artistic itch. Recently, he went to a library book sale with $1.01 in his pocket. Something caught his eye — a hardback volume of “Gone with the Wind.” He snapped it up for $1. After he reads it, guess where those pages are going? Soon the image of Vivien Leigh as Scarlett O’Hara may be flying high above the city.
COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SPECIAL EVENTS
Art in Storefronts Artist Talk and Art Walk, Wed., June 15, 6-8 p.m., the lappage, 1007 Market St. Twelve artists talk about how their works relate to the neighborhood’s culture and history, followed by a walk to the sites. Art in Storefronts is a program of the San Francisco Arts Commission. Info: startcommission.org/CAE/Artinstorefronts/
San Francisco Arts Market, 2011 launch, U.N. Plaza, June 16, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., and every Thursday thereafter. Outdoor market for independent vendors to sell their arts, crafts and services, as well as a venue for food, live music, dance and other performance, and a public space for workshops. A partnership project between the Mayor’s Office of Economic Workforce and Development and Independent Arts & Media. Info: artsmarket.sf.org.

41st annual S.F. Pride Parade, Sun., June 26, kicks off at 10:30 a.m., Market & Beale streets and ends at Market and 8th St. Other Pride events throughout June: film and dance festivals, art, races, ceremonies, parties, family activities and more. Info: sfpride.org.

COMMUNITY: REGULAR SCHEDULE
HOME CARE & NEIGHBORHOOD
Supportive Housing Network, 3rd Thursday of the month, 3-5 p.m., Dorothy Day Community, 54 McAllister. Call 421-2525 x306.
Tenant Associations Coalition of San Francisco, 1st Wednesday of the month, noon, 201 Turk St., Community Room. Contact Michael Nulty, 439-8327. Resident unity, leadership training.

NUTLTY, 339-8327. Resident unity, leadership training.

Health and Mental Health
CBHS Consumer Council, 3rd Monday of the month, 5-7 p.m., CBHS, 1380 Howard St., 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, 670 Market St., Suite 925, 421-2525 x906.
Healthcare Action Team, 2nd Wednesday of the month, 1010 Mission St., Bayanihan Community Center, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Focus on increasing supportive home services, expanded eligibility for home care, improved discharge planning. Light lunch. Call James DiChiro, 703-0188 x304.

Mental Health Board, 2nd Wednesday of the month, 6:30-8:30 p.m., City Hall, room 688. CBHS advisory committee, open to the public. Call 255-3674.
National Alliance for the Mentally Ill-S.F., 3rd Wednesday of the month, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Family Service Agency, 1010 Gough St., 5th Fl. Call 805-6264. Family member group, open to the public.

SAFETY
Neighborhood Emergency Response Team Training (NERT), Central city residents can take the S.F. Fire Department’s free disaster preparedness and response training at neighborhood locations. www.sfgov.org/nert, or Lt. Arteseros, 928-2022.
SOMA Police Community Relations Forum, 4th Monday of the month, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Location varies. To receive monthly email info: Mental Amitas, 538-8100 x202 or mamitas@sfdpd.org.
Tenderloin Police Station Community Meeting, last Tuesday of the month, 6 p.m., police station Community Room, 301 Eddy St. Call Susa Black, 435-7300. Neighborhood safety.

NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT
Alliance for a Better District 6, 1st Wednesday of the month, 6 p.m., 230 Eddy St. Contact Michael Nulty, 820-1560 or sf_cbd6@hotmail.com, a districtwide improvement association.
Friends of Boeddeker Park, 2nd Thursday of the month, 3:30 p.m., Boeddeker Rec Center, 340 Eddy St. Plan park events, activities and improvements. Contact Betty Traynor, 911-1216.
Gene Friend Recreation Center Advisory Board, 3rd Thursday of the month, 5 p.m. Board works to protect Gene Friend resources for children, youth, families and adults. Gene Friend Recreation Center, 270 Sixth St. Information: Tam Figueroa, 554-9632.

North of Market/Tenderloin Community Benefit District. Full board meets: 3rd Monday of every other month, 5:30 p.m., 134 Golden Gate Ave., 282-4812.
SOMA Community Stabilization Fund Advisory Committee, 3rd Thursday of the month, 5:30 p.m., 1 South Van Ness, 2nd floor. Contact: Claudia del Rosario, 749-2519.

North of Market/Tenderloin Community Benefit District. Full board meets: 3rd Monday of every other month, 5:30 p.m., 1 South Van Ness, 2nd floor. Contact: Claudia del Rosario, 749-2519.
SOMA Community Stabilization Fund Advisory Committee, 3rd Thursday of the month, 5:30 p.m., 1 South Van Ness, 2nd floor. Contact: Claudia del Rosario, 749-2519.

CMCBD Meetings are open to the public. Help us create a clean, safe and inviting Central Market. Get connected to the Central Market Community Benefit District (CMCBD).

All CMCBD meeting notices and agendas available at the San Francisco Public Library and at www.Central-Market.org.

Learn more about the CMCBD’s Board of Directors Meetings and Committees, and how you can get involved.

415 957 5985 | www.central-market.org

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COMMUNITY BENEFIT DISTRICT

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CMCBD Board of Directors Meetings
Second Tuesday of Every Month, 3-5 p.m., Hotel Whitcomb, 1231 Market Street, Second Floor

The Central Market Community Benefit Corporation (CMCBD) is a non-profit, 501c3 community benefit organization formed in 2010 to provide programs and services to improve the quality of life experienced in the public realm of San Francisco’s Central Market Community Benefit District (SMCBD).
SYBIL ANN HALLEY
Always smiled, loved animals

Sybil Halley would have loved her memorial April 15 because the dozen mourners who jammed the small Listening Post room on the Ambassador Hotel’s mezzanine had nothing but good things to say about her helpful, happy nature and love of animals.

A friend who frequently watched movies with her said she was a cheerful person who constantly sang and hummed to herself. Her favorite films were animal documentaries. She had a cat and sometimes reminded visitors how to behave around the cat, especially not to disturb it.

“She knocked on my door at midnight and handed me a feather,” said one man. “I think her heart was too big for her little body.”

“She was a very nice person, a good caring person, but some people made fun of her because of her habits,” said Horace Thomas.

Ms. Halley died in the hospital April 4 of a blood infection. She was 56.

“I took notice of her right away because she was so frail,” said one mourner. “She wasn’t healthy and just kept heading in the same direction, never complaining.”

“I gave her a coat,” said another. “She thanked me every day after that.”

Ms. Halley lived at the Ambassador for three years. She had five children, her friends said, including a daughter who visited her.

“She was formerly homeless,” said Jackie Mollitor, a social worker. “She loved living here and told me that every time I saw her. She always had a smile.”

A friend at the hotel took her cat.

— TOM CARTER

Obituaries

Office of Self Help
Drop-In Center,
1095 Market Street, Suite 202
575-1400

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Rebuild CPMC means two brand new earthquake-safe hospitals designed to remain open after a major disaster. Better access to the routine, emergency, and specialized care you and your family may need. And $2.5 billion from CPMC and Sutter Health that will create 1,500 construction jobs at no cost to taxpayers. You see, with 150 years’ experience, and a strong medical network behind us, we have a plan to make it happen. For details, including how you can help, visit RebuildCPMC.org.

California Pacific Medical Center
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With SmartMeter™ technology, South of Market residents can see how much energy they consume by the day or even by the hour. South of Market residents will be able to use this new information to lower their carbon footprint while also lowering energy costs.

SEE HOW IT CAN WORK FOR YOU

1 SEE YOUR SMARTMETER™ DEVICE
Your SmartMeter™ device will provide you with real-time information on how much energy you are consuming.

2 SEE YOUR POWER
Go online to pge.com/smartmeter and see your energy consumption by the day or even by the hour.

3 SEE WHAT HAPPENS
a) When you change to new LED light bulbs and consume about 75% less energy than with standard bulbs.

b) When you change to a more energy efficient washer and consume about 37% less energy than older models.

c) When you make small changes around your home like moving your refrigerator away from the stove, cleaning your dryer’s lint filter before a new load, and using an energy saving smart power strip.

d) When you are eventually able to see what time of day is cheaper for you to run all of these appliances.

4 SEE YOUR SAVINGS
You already knew the choices you made could cut costs and reduce your carbon footprint.

BUT NOW YOU CAN SEE IT.