

TNDC mulls grocery store as data roll in

Pot clubs, tech lab, community courts and much more

BY TOM CARTER

TNDC is buying the largest vacant lot left in the Tenderloin and beneath 12 stories of affordable family housing will be the full service grocery store that residents have hungered for — if plans work out.

The site is the parking lot at Eddy and Taylor streets, kitty corner from TNDC headquarters.

TNDC, nonprofit owner of 25 buildings, got \$5.9 million from the Mayor's Office of Housing to start the project that may cost \$75 million. TNDC wants to designate 5,000 to 15,000 square feet of retail ground floor space for a grocery. But that's not big enough to interest a chain grocer, which would need a store at least twice that size.

Coincidentally, on Dec. 8, City Planning announced for public review an environmental impact document for a similar project on the southeast corner of Van Ness and Sutter, near enough to attract some Tenderloin customers. The 13-story mixed-use building would have 15,800 square feet for a ground-floor grocery store.

The Extra brings some of its '07 stories up to date

For months TNDC has researched the feasibility of a grocery store in the Tenderloin. It surveyed for food availability, distributed questionnaires to residents and conducted focus groups. Now, most results are in and TNDC is analyzing data while trying to market the idea.

Where to get fresh fruits and vegetables in the Tenderloin made front page news in The Extra in 2007 and coverage included TNDC's retail grocery analysis by Ventura Partners. TNDC next hired an Oakland outfit, Planning for Healthy Places, to survey the neighborhood for fresh produce. The Sept. 15-21 survey, which didn't include the farmers' market at U.N. Plaza, covered 55 retail food stores in the neighborhood.

TNDC's researchers used the map that ran with The Extra's "Where to get it fresh" article in July

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PHOTO BY TOM CARTER

This parking lot at Taylor and Eddy may be the site of a small supermarket.

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CENTRAL CITY

EXTRA

SAN FRANCISCO

SOUTHSIDE



PHOTO BY LENNY LIMJOCO, 1983

There were always kids at Canon Kip, in the good old days, a testament to Director Gene Coleman, who built community in the western SoMa.

Community Builder

Once upon a time, SoMa had a heart — Gene Coleman

BY JOHN ELBERLING
PRESIDENT/CEO, TODCO GROUP

I'LL never forget my first visit to Canon Kip at Eighth and Natoma streets. It looked like a drab-green concrete warehouse and I couldn't spot a front door. A plain metal double door down the alley looked like a service entrance. I gave it a try — and walked like Alice through the Looking Glass into a wonderful place and time: a genuine Community.

One room off the hall was filled with middle school kids sitting quietly at desks doing homework. In the large back room were seniors, relaxing after the lunch program, waiting for bingo. In the big gym teens were shooting baskets at one end and a team was practicing plays at the other. Filipino, black, some white — just like the neighborhood.

I found my way down the hall to Gene Coleman's office, a small side room. From behind a crowded desk surrounded by stacks of paper he greeted me with that big, warm smile that everyone who ever met him will never forget. I was the newbie, the new executive director of TODCO. Our first Yerba Buena senior project, Woolf House, had just begun construction that month, January 1978. Gene had been a charter member of TODCO's board of directors since he became Canon Kip's director six

years earlier at the end of 1971. I had met him a few weeks before at the TODCO board meeting at which my job was approved. Now he was going to show me around.

We went back to the seniors room, the general gathering place, and Gene introduced me to the group. The ladies were very polite and kindly welcomed me, asking when the new building would open and how they could apply. But one fellow immediately challenged me with a combative question: Were we going to move the people back in to Woolf House that the Redevelopment Agency had displaced 10 years earlier when it tore down the old Third and Fourth Street hotels?

I don't recall my answer, though only about a dozen finally moved back, but it was definitely a poor one because he charged forward, called me a "punk," and took a roundhouse swing at my jaw. Gene effortlessly pushed me back just enough so it missed, stepped easily in between and said, "Now Leland, he's new, give him a chance." It was Lee Meyerzove, longtime and very vocal SoMa resident and moderator of the KPOO radio broadcasts of Board of Supervisors meetings in City Hall in the decades before SFGOV TV and Webcasts. (TODCO's Leland Apartments on Howard Street near Sixth is named in his memory; he passed away in 2005.) Welcome to the 'hood!

Lee was one of the Canon Kip "regulars." Most any day you could find him there talking about the latest neighborhood news and gossip with Enrica Sabala, Isabel Ugat (TODCO's Hotel Isabel at Seventh and Mission streets is named in her memory)

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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 or 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 — is up again and with new features: interactive community calendar, bulletin board, useful links, site updated daily. Check it out. ■



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I'd like the stewed Tenderloin, please

Eating out at Donut World really does give food for thought

BY ED BOWERS

I once knew a woman who wouldn't go out to eat with a man unless she was going to bed with him because, she said, eating is an intimate experience. At the time I found her statement odd.

I eat out a lot. In fact, except for candy bars and donuts I secretly consume in my room in The Zoo – what I call where I live on Hyde Street, surrounded inside and out by drug-addled morons suffering various stages of dementia – I only eat out. Also, I understand that this is an art column, not a restaurant critique, so I will get to the art part. In the meantime, bear with me.

Eating in America is a social thing. People love to eat together. Often I eat solely out of necessity, but because I do so most of the time in restaurants, it is impossible for me to avoid the social thing. Every day I see people sitting at tables and lunch counters chewing on food, some of them having the time of their lives, others suffering terminal depression, a large percentage clearly out of their minds. This forces me to observe their behavior up close. Lucky me.

From what I've seen, there is a horrible racial divide in this city, and it can clearly be seen in restaurants and cafes. So there it goes. Now I'm not talking about art or food. I'm writing about racism. But I'll get back to art and food later. Please be patient.

A few days ago I was eating breakfast at 3 p.m. at the L&M Café at 1081 Market St. when two African American women approached the counter; one demanded a bagel. Unfortunately the kind she wanted was not available; this put her in a bad mood. Finally settling for another flavor of bagel, she began demanding a lot of free condiments to go with it. When the Asian woman behind the counter didn't respond right away, the African American woman took it personally and insulted the Buddha, called the woman a racist, began making more demands for free condiments, asked me, "Wasn't I horrified by the injustice of the situation? And raved on until she was finally 86'd after invoking Jesus Christ."

There are a lot of angry eaters in this neighborhood.

Two days later, at 9 p.m., I was eating a donut and having a cup of coffee at a booth in Donut World, also at 1081 Market St., when three African American teenagers – one young woman and two young men – entered, sat and began talking loudly, obviously alarming the Asian woman behind the counter. Somebody got gunned down here not long ago, so maybe she was shell-shocked.

At any rate, when the African American woman approached the counter she was told that her two loud male friends would have to get out. This of course infuriated her friends and one of them accused the Asian woman and half of San Francisco of being racist, overturned a chair, and stomped out. I could ascertain by his demeanor that he seriously was hurt, which is understandable because so many young black men who have been underfunded and undereducated in this rich country have only two things to look forward to: death by violence or a demeaning minimum wage job. I'm not sure which is worse.

The young African American woman attempted to apologize for her friends, but when the Asian woman referred to how she didn't want "...those people..." in her establishment, the young woman's radar caught racist vibrations coming at her and she got mad. I left to go to work so I don't know what happened after that.

And people wonder why I'm a nervous eater.



PHOTO BY LENNY LIMJOCO

At any rate, the reader must be wondering, "What the hell does this have to do with art?"

The answer to that is simple. People think art exists only on the stage or in the museums or in books. But art is a function of the human mind, and quite frankly a lot of art is an ugly projection revealing unpleasant aspects of consciousness, painting on its neurons a myriad of concepts many of them sad, or violent, or disgusting.

But viewers, who take the time to apply thought and insight to the work at hand, get an aerial view of the production and gain insights impossible otherwise.

And that's what I would like people to do in their daily lives. Look around at what's at hand, respect it as a spontaneous creation of human mind, and try to think deeply about the meaning of this creation and the reasons behind its performance.

This is especially important if you live in the Tenderloin, considering that this is where a lot of ruined artifacts that have been rejected by the major museums have come to be stored, if you get my metaphorical drift.

But all artifacts have one thing in common: the human mind. And out of that mind comes a production in which everybody human is involved. It is impossible to avoid who we are.

Your mind is the same as my mind, just a variation on a theme. We're in this together, ladies and gentlemen, and we'd better

pay attention to the script.

The hostility and hatred between human minds is not going away by itself. We are going to have to acknowledge an intimate and unavoidable connection between each other and think deeply about why we act toward each other the way we do or this production is going to turn into a tragedy.

That is what is so great about the Tenderloin; above all other neighborhoods, the actors on this stage are playing their parts upfront and to the hilt. Ironically, in a zone full of castoffs, nobody here can afford the luxury of disconnection from others.

So the drug-addled morons, and the angry races, and the restaurant owners all eat together, one way or another. And the woman I once knew who would only eat out with a man she was going to sleep with had a point. Sharing food with someone is an intimate experience.

Except she was also wrong; the real food is human thought, and we are all unavoidably dining off the same plate.

Ironically, one week after writing this article I was having a drink at the 21 Club on the corner of Taylor and Turk in the heart of the Tenderloin at midnight when I looked up and noticed every damn race in the world standing around smiling at each other and laughing.

Did something go wrong a long time ago with the human mind? Does it have to be drunk to get along with itself? ■

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A PROGRAM OF COMMUNITY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

Captain's bold solution to Ellis St. encampment

Turn section of Boeddeker into drug injection site

BY TOM CARTER

AFESTERING problem in the Tenderloin is the havoc on the 300 block of Ellis Street. Every day for years, dispossessed and homeless people line up on the north side of Ellis, awaiting free meals and services at Glide Memorial Methodist Church on the Taylor Street corner. In that line or out, day or night, on both sides of the block, a range of ugly things happen: public drunkenness, urination and defecation; blatant drug using and selling; fighting, foul language. The sidewalk encampments become impassable and many people are fearful of even trying to get by.

The north entrance to Boeddeker Park has been closed for several years because of the problems on Ellis. Residents of Presentation Senior Community next to the park have complained bitterly to the police about late night ruckuses from Glide's parking lot, derelicts hanging around their building entrance or trying to force their way in. Seniors coming to Presentation's health center are especially intimidated by the scene.

Before the election, Mayor Newsom asked the police to clean up the 300 block of Ellis. But no Tenderloin police captain has ever been able to do that. Residents consider TL Capt. Gary Jimenez more responsive to day-to-day complaints than captains before him. Police sweep the block, but only a few hours after, people return.

At the Friends of Boeddeker Park meeting Oct. 1, Jimenez brought up the problem and floated a new idea to the eight people attending.

"Street people," he began, "have no toilets. I talked to Glide about opening their bathrooms to the line and they weren't receptive to that. Many people are waiting for services. And they have a right even to lie on the sidewalk — we shall respect that. They have as much right to the sidewalk as

anyone else.

"But we'd like to give them an alternative space — like the back of this park."

Ears perked up.

Jimenez said he envisioned a screened-off area inside the Ellis Street gate for street people. It would have a couple of portopotties and needle drops, and resemble Insite, the injection site in Vancouver, British Columbia, established four years ago. At an Oct. 18 drug symposium in the Mission District, the Chronicle reported, the Insite coordinator said it took 10 years to overcome community resistance. But after preventing 800 overdoses, Insite now is backed by the mayor and a majority of the public.

"It would be desanitized on a regular basis," Jimenez said, and paused. "I can imagine it would be used for all kinds of terrible things. Out of sight out of mind."

The Police Department wasn't behind his proposal, he said. He was off on his own with it.

"I propose it," Jimenez said, "but I haven't gotten anywhere with it.

"It would be temporary."

Ed Evans, neighborhood activist for handicapped causes, weighed right in.

"We are trying to preserve it (the park) for people who live here," Evans blurted. "But opening it up to junkies? Would you open up your (police) station to them? A permanent facility is the answer. Or Glide can open up. Either way, we don't want portopotties in the park. Presentation wouldn't hang you in effigy, they'd do it for real."

The area in question is a few feet from Presentation's rear patio.

Jimenez said he had just cited two people for peeing on the sidewalk.

"The problem on the street is too much for the station," he said. "You need baby-sitters out there. I'm trying to get multiple washdowns (from the Department of Public Works). The problem is 300 Ellis isn't the worst in the Tenderloin but it's getting

worse. I'm sure you are aware of the homicides."

Al Wimberly, Boeddeker Park co-director, said a fenced-in place would create new problems. "And it would put the directors at risk," he said.

But the captain said a screened area would be a place for people to go and service providers could come in to "deal with it," he said.

"Maybe it's a stupid idea," Jimenez conceded.

"It'd be hostile territory," said Steve Cismowski, Rec and Park Neighborhood Services manager for Boeddeker. "Some will say no way that Rec and Park will sign off on it. But it (the problem) is epidemic.

"The city attorney would have to clarify how to navigate that quagmire," he said. "I'd want concrete answers from DPH and the city attorney before Rec and Park could get on board to draft anything.

"My goal would be to have the sidewalks washed five times a day. Every time I come to this park I see the feces and smell the stench."

"I'm just looking for a place for the people," the captain said. "There's nothing. When they leave, they come back. Nobody wants them. It's incumbent on the Tenderloin to find a solution. We can't send them to Treasure Island or the beach. Some are good people just waiting for services. I didn't want to propose it. I didn't like it myself."

"But Glide..." Friends of Boeddeker chair Betty Traynor began.

"No," the captain said, "they won't do it."

"You'd have to have the service people in here to get them off drugs," Evans said.

"The challenge is going to get more complex," said Cismowski. "I don't know that we're making any headway."

The topic was soon dropped and the meeting moved on to the gardening item on the agenda. ■

Defenestration building faces eminent domain vote

BY TOM CARTER

THE Redevelopment Agency Commission will consider starting eminent domain proceedings in January to buy the gutted and long vacant Hugo Apartments for \$3.25 million after SOMPAC,

its community advisory committee, recommended the move at its November meeting.

Redevelopment has been trying for years to get the owners — the David Patel family — to fix up or sell the blighted four-story building at Sixth and Howard streets. Empty since a 1987 fire, the building has

been famous since the quirky art project called Defenestration went up on its outdoor walls in 1997.

If the commission votes yes on a "resolution of necessity" at the Jan. 15 meeting, the eminent domain ball will start rolling.

It has been well over 25 years since Redevelopment resorted to eminent domain for residential property. The last examples were in the 1960s and '70s urban renewal era involving the Yerba Buena, Western Addition and Golden Gateway projects.

The Patels have spurned bids from buyers, including Redevelopment's fair-market \$3.25 million offer in April, and they have let the Hugo deteriorate and accumulate code violations.

"The (Hugo) fact sheet speaks for itself," said SOMPAC member and neighborhood tenant Ingrid Aquino before the committee voted. "It is almost criminal that it has been going on this long. We need low-cost housing."

The owners were not present.

Two residents in the audience urged eminent domain, Redevelopment's final option to rectify a blighted condition under California Redevelopment law. On the committee there was limited opposition.

William Curry, committee member and neighborhood property owner, said approval would set a "dangerous" precedent for taking "any underutilized property" on Sixth Street, long characterized by vacant storefronts.

"Maybe we could get them to tear it down," Curry said. "Fair market value? What's that? It'll get developed down the road one way or the other. It's a bad day to



PHOTO BY TOM CARTER

Chairs, couches and other furniture appear to be flying out of windows at the Hugo Apartments, home of the Defenestration art project, whose fate is up in air.

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5 who fled O.J.'s fire back home at Moderne

BY TOM CARTER

THE five residents who fled their smoke-filled Moderne hotel rooms Oct. 12 when a \$2 million fire broke out in Original Joe's below them returned to their reeking digs a week after the Red Cross relocated them temporarily in other SROs.

With their own rooms in shambles, the returning residents were given other rooms in the 30-room hotel. A month after the fire, some were still transferring possessions left behind.

"Just trying to salvage a few things," said Geoffrey Rayner, one of the five who was standing inside his dank Room 31 at a small desk, the only object around him that wasn't overturned in the fire-fighting frenzy. A 3-foot-wide hole had been poked in the ceiling.

Rayner, 77, has lived in the hotel 20 years. He came here from London 43 years ago and worked as a bookkeeper. "I'm getting mostly notes and papers," he said, happy to be relocated in the slightly larger Room 15.

Restaurant workers told the Chronicle the fire started in or near an exhaust flue above the kitchen. The Fire Department said the damage to the restaurant and hotel was \$2 million — \$1.5 million of it structural, Lt. Mindy Talmadge told The Extra, and contents worth \$500,000 were destroyed.

The Moderne Hotel, on the second floor at 162 Taylor St., would be a flophouse by any definition and post-fire conditions have reduced it further. Broken windows and parts of destroyed walls in the dimly lit, narrow hallways and broken windows elsewhere are boarded up with plywood. The stench of wetted-down, burned material fills the air. Dirt and grit is everywhere on the flimsy, deteriorating carpet, but there's no loose glass. Some rooms have gaping holes in their ceilings where rain poured down the morning after fire fighters had finished hacking away.

Built in 1910, the building is owned by restaurateurs John and Marie Duggan who bought it in 1998.

"Hey," said a large man passing in the hallway, "the firemen busted my door down and management hasn't fixed it. Me and my wife have to live behind that."

"This has been a hell hole since the fire," said a woman nearby.

While the good, man-size eats downstairs at O.J.'s have earned plaudits for decades, the hotel above has struggled with propriety. Three years ago the Moderne constituted "an unsafe building or a public nuisance," according to the Department of Building Inspection. The department had found more than a dozen code violations ranging from unsanitary conditions and exposed wiring to missing plaster in walls and ceiling to broken windows and garbage in the light wells. The Duggans weren't rep-

resented at the DBI's Aug. 26, 2004, hearing and contested nothing. But the Duggans got all the violations fixed and DBI cleared them three months later.

But 2006 was more trouble. The Central City SRO collaborative, working with Moderne tenants, filed an extensive list of complaints on Feb. 27. From DBI's Web site, it reads:

"No lock on front door, transients enter at all hours; many of the bathrooms not working, both the toilets and the showers; problems with doors to fire escapes: some were locked, one was broken - perhaps kicked in; no fire extinguishers; room #22 - doesn't have a working door (piece of wood only), cracks in the walls, no fire alarm, infestation of bedbugs and cockroaches, window broken; Room 24: door is flimsy & cracked, no lock on door; Room 26: empty, full of trash, door may not have been on the hinges; Room 6: bedbug infestation; Room 17: door problems, bedbug infestation, sink not usable, private bathroom not usable, no window in this room, heat doesn't work; Room 16: bedbug & roach infestation; no lock on shower door leading to hallway; hallway window boarded up; on-site manager not present for a week, unable to get hold of him; other things, will give list to inspector."

After his initial hotel inspection, DBI's Steve Mungovan made 12 re-inspections over nine months before the owners corrected all the conditions. The case was closed Nov. 29.

On April 4, 2007, two dozen more complaints came in. They ranged from clogged sinks to trash on the roof to faulty windows. The last separate complaint filed before the fire was on Aug. 24. It was about the lousy hallway carpet. The fire turned out to be a dark piece of luck because the Duggans hadn't yet put down replacement new linoleum.

Rayner with others fled the building. While he waited 45 minutes in the rain under an awning paramedics checked him — he needed no treatment. Others had ducked inside Daldas Market on the corner and watched the fire fighters. Police reported they found an unattended 2-year-old wandering among the fire engines.

Authorities took the residents to the Tenderloin Police Station's Community Room at Eddy and Jones streets. The Red Cross lined up SROs for them. Six hours later they left with their housing and clothing vouchers.

The Community Room was apparently



PHOTO BY TOM CARTER

Twenty-year resident Geoffrey Rayner returned after the fire to reduced conditions at the Moderne Hotel, but to a bigger room.

suffering water damage at the time but it wasn't discovered until five days later. Then it was closed as a public health risk. TL Capt. Gary Jimenez, who thought the problem might be roof damage, said he doesn't expect things to be fixed before year's end. Community groups usually meeting there found other venues.

After the fire, Johnnie Callan, 54, stayed a week at the Auburn Hotel on Minna Street and used the clothing voucher he was given at a Geary Street thrift store.

Callan said he had been in his Room 30, dressed in short pants and a shirt when he smelled the smoke before he saw it rolling out from around the floor pipes leading to his sink. His lights were out. Charging out of the door he saw the hallway filled with smoke under the fluorescent lights. He didn't know which way to turn.

"I thought I was in a towering inferno," Callan said.

He hobbled to the right using his cane to stabilize his prosthetic foot, and soon came across firemen who took him out.

He returned later to fetch a few things, but his room is a mess with the mattress flipped up against the wall and two large holes in the ceiling. One resident's computer, DVD player and television disappeared from his room, he said, and the man moved out to try to find comparable \$150-\$160 a week rent elsewhere.

"It's funny, but before the fire everyone sort of passed in the hallway with their heads down and not saying anything," Callan said. "Now everyone's talking to each other. So I guess some good came out of it. We're all saying to each other, yeah, like 'how're you doin'?" ■

SOMPAC votes to buy the Hugo for \$3.25 million

► CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

start taking people's property."

The fair market figure came from a professional appraisal. The Chronicle reported four years ago that the owners' asking price was \$4 million. In 2000, Redevelopment paid \$1.8 million for the two-story SRO hotel diagonally across the intersection, then tore it down and built the eight-story Plaza Apartments.

If eminent domain proceedings are approved in January it is tantamount to Redevelopment suing the Hugo owners, forcing them to sell. The case would go to a judge and a jury would decide the building's fair market value, Mike Grisso, Redevelopment's liaison to SOMPAC, said. If it does buy the Hugo, Redevelopment would build affordable housing.

Anytime during eminent domain pro-

ceedings, the owners can strike a deal to sell to another buyer or draw up plans with financing to renovate or build anew, and the case would be dropped. The agency prefers that to acquiring the property, Grisso said. "This is not a trend," he emphasized.

The Hugo's lot at Sixth and Howard is zoned for 50 feet tops while the other three corners of the intersection are zoned for 85 feet. City Planning's East SoMa Plan would raise the odd corner's limit to 85 feet which would boost the property value. But the plan hasn't been adopted yet.

And that, reportedly, is what the Patels are waiting for.

It wasn't until December 2005 that Redevelopment grew new teeth to force progress on the blighted Hugo. The agency had previously operated in the neighborhood with limited authority under the South of Market Earthquake Recovery Redevelopment Plan that guided development after the

1989 Loma Prieta earthquake. An amendment that SOMPAC worked on for 10 years with the Hugo in mind was finally approved in 2005. It gave the agency full development powers in the project area, including the eminent domain option.

SRO resident Antonetta Stadlman, committee member and former SOMPAC chairwoman who has witnessed years of agonizing over the Hugo, said: "It's eminent domain — or we give up."

The vote to recommend eminent domain was 11 to 1 with four abstentions. Curry voted no.

Later, Chairwoman Chris Durazo said the eminent domain vote was two years in coming because the committee had to wait for completion of the lengthy bid and owner-options process mandatory for Redevelopment to pursue with the owners. "There was never a response," she said. "So that took up the time." ■

Canon Kip: The glue that held

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and others. You didn't need a newsletter, you just went to Canon Kip to find out what was going on. And over the next five years I got to know the larger SoMa community network that revolved around the Community House.

Right across Eighth Street was Westbay Filipino Multiservice Agency's Teen Center. Not only did the kids go back and forth daily between the two, but so did the staff. Just out of college they got a job with Westbay, moving to work at Canon Kip after a few years of experience. Or vice versa. Ed del la Cruz, its longtime director, seemed to be at Canon Kip as often as Westbay (he passed away in the early 1990s). There was no organizational rivalry or "turf."

EVERYBODY KNEW EVERYBODY

Most of the seniors played bingo and worshipped at St. Patrick's Church on Mission Street whose longtime pastor, Monsignor Clement McKenna, was also a TODCO board member. He had spearheaded the parish's development of Alexis Apartments senior housing on Fifth Street, opened in 1974 with resident programs provided by Sisters of Mercy living at the rectory (now all passed away).

Or they could choose the Salvation Army Senior Activities Center in the former Mission-style Southern Police Station on Fourth Street that the Redevelopment Agency had granted to the Army along with its Silvercrest Residence senior housing site, completed in 1972. Bingo and dancing were not allowed, but the lunch program and pool tables were always full. Maj. Evelyn Dexter (long since retired), who only wore her uniform for official Salvation Army events, ran a popular professionally staffed secular center with a very busy calendar and many good times until the late 1980s, when the

Army closed all the programs except the meal site as it refocused internationally on its evangelical mission, turning the Yerba Buena Center over to a uniformed minister and his wife to run as part of the chapel.

The St. Patrick's Childcare Center next to

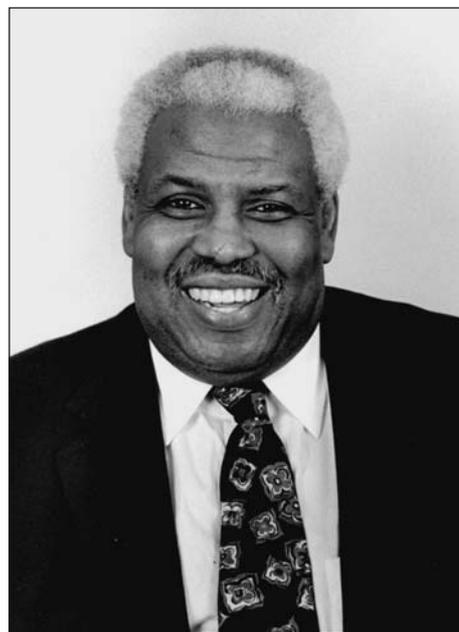
the Alexis Apartments on Clementina Street also had a gym that the Police Athletic League used for weekly games. Judy Baker began there as a child care worker in 1976. In the years since, as executive director, she successfully led the center's expansion into the new Yerba Buena Gardens Child Development Center, and recently, its relocation into new affordable housing at Eighth and Howard streets where it continues to care for SoMa's preschoolers today.

Bessie Carmichael School was of course the center of SoMa family life. Its rundown "temporary" buildings (finally replaced by the new school in 2005) were very modest, but its principal and longtime teachers cared. The nearby Filipino Education Center on Harrison Street provided bilingual support for immigrant children. Three generations of SoMa kids had passed through by 1980, plus two or three more by now with more to come. Throughout most of the '90s, Dr. Ruth Hill provided the only private psychotherapy for kids in SoMa through a city-funded program at Bessie.

EVERYONE CARED

At Canon Kip, everyone was a social worker, official or unofficial. Gene Coleman's formal degree from Findlay College in his home state of Ohio was a BA in Social Work. But titles didn't matter. The office manager did social work. The teen program staff did social work. The meal program staff and even the janitor did social work. Any staffer had time to listen to a senior or youth. If an elder missed lunch, someone would walk to their house and knock on the door to be sure they were okay. If a teen got mixed up with the police, Gene would go to Southern Station to help them out. If a family was in trouble, any kind, they could come to Canon Kip for help.

Then the Episcopal Diocese fired Gene



GENE COLEMAN

Coleman in 1983, closed Canon Kip in 1989 one year after its 100th anniversary, and finally tore the building down in 1992.

Canon Kip Settlement House was the second settlement house founded in the United States (soon followed in San Francisco by the Telegraph Hill Neighborhood Center) as part of a new movement of the 1880s to assist European immigrants of the era, the first modern-style "multi-purpose community center." With the end of most immigration after World War I and the "white flight" from the central cities

after World War II, Canon Kip evolved by 1970 to serving the mostly Filipino and African American residents of SoMa. Their numbers had recently grown after the Redevelopment Agency demolished the Western Addition in the late '60s, forcing many of its residents to move to other neighborhoods.

POLITICS OF THE TIME

President Johnson's War On Poverty in the 1960s pioneered federal funding for important new central city programs. Canon Kip was the first location of the South of Market Health Clinic (now located near Seventh Street) and the Neighborhood Legal Assistance office (whose young attorneys then represented Yerba Buena residents against the Redevelopment Agency) — the all-too-effective legal advocate for poor people that Ronald Reagan made sure to neuter in 1981 in his first year as president because they had sued him successfully when he was governor.

Reagan's presidency also marked the appearance of widespread homelessness in American cities. It was a shock, and churches throughout the nation opened emergency shelters that first winter of 1982. As Bishop William Swing recalled years later: "The mayor of San Francisco [Diane Feinstein] asked Grace Cathedral to help with the 'temporary' and new problem of homelessness. On the first night we housed forty. On the second night, two hundred fifty. Today, one thousand one hundred fifty in eight locations. A vocation was born for us. Churches throughout the diocese followed suit and housed homeless." (The Swing Shift blog, Aug. 9, 2004, which actually spelled out all those numbers.)

That brief summary glides over a much more complicated true story. The Grace Cathedral basement shelter that brought homeless to the top of Nob Hill was quickly closed before the winter was even over, moving uncomfortably to a Pacific Heights parish. As the San Francisco Bay Guardian reprised events several months later:

"Coleman is something of an antagonist to Bishop Swing. When the Episcopal Church asked Canon Kip last October to move the church's 'sanctuary' program for the city's homeless into the Canon Kip building, Coleman refused ... and the church was forced to operate the program out of St. Mary's Church on Union Street.

"Only a few weeks later, after numerous complaints from St. Mary's neighbors, the church's board of trustees voted to close down the St. Mary's shelter and Swing came back ... this time, Coleman says, with an ultimatum. 'He came to the board meeting and basically said we could either take the homeless at Canon Kip or be cut off forever from the Church's financial support. That would have, of course, closed us down. So we took the homeless' ...

"And [Bishop Swing] has suggested, says



PHOTO BY LENNY LIMJOCO

The Isabel Hotel at the corner of Mission and Seventh streets was named for SoMa stalwart Isabel Ugat, see inset.

held a community together

Coleman, that the center might want to move elsewhere if future demographic change displaces the future low-income residents it has served since its founding. Coleman, however, feels the center should stay where it is and fight those changes. 'Swing called me and said, "We've lost the Tenderloin, we're losing the South of Market, and we may have to move the center to follow our constituents." ... 'My position is that if we lose the South of Market, there won't be any constituents left — not in San Francisco anyway.'"

Gene was referring to the civic battles over downtown expansion and the gentrification of SoMa and other central city communities that had grown in intensity and bitterness during the 1970s, leading to the pitched political confrontation of the first Proposition M growth-control initiative in November 1983 (which lost narrowly, followed by the subsequent 1985 Proposition M that passed). Canon Kip hosted SoMa activists' community organizing meetings during these years, and Gene Coleman frequently was the public spokesman for the SoMa community. This put him in opposition to Mayor Feinstein and the downtown political leadership of the era.

Initially, his statements were restrained. In the November/December 1981 issue of Consumer Action News, he said: "The residents and merchants [of South of Market] understand how important it is to have access to the decision-making process, and they're frustrated at being constantly ignored by city planners and the Redevelopment Agency."

But as the political debate intensified, with his typical understated courage he publicly supported Prop. M. In South of Market News in April 1983, Coleman wrote: "We have our own vision. It is different from the visions and plans of the Redevelopment Agency and the developers. We have no choice but to put forth to the public, in a meaningful way, our own vision of the South of Market and the need to preserve the housing, jobs, small business, public transit, and traffic patterns that are conducive to saving and enhancing the neighborhood, not wiping it off the map."

During those years the United Way provided the largest portion of Canon Kip's funding. The Episcopal Diocese that held the deed of trust on the Canon Kip building actually provided very little financial support to it. So looking to increase alternate funding sources and start new community services as it had before, Canon Kip had set up the city's first senior paratransit service in 1979. For two years the city contract reimbursed all costs, but then — in the name of "cost effectiveness" — changed it to a per-ride payment. A businessman would have simply closed the program and laid off the staff, but Gene Coleman did not think like that, and in one year the program ran up a deficit of \$160,000 in payroll taxes due before he finally gave up hope and shut it down.

Converting the Canon Kip gym into an ad hoc shelter at the end of 1982 had already severely affected its community. The staff advised its board of directors in a Canon Kip flyer, June 1983: "The truth is the sanctuary has had a significant, negative impact on the other programs. The tutorial program's attendance has dropped over 60%. Recreation time to youth has been reduced by 30%. Many small children no longer come."

Now this "fiscal crisis" gave Bishop Swing an excuse to ask Gene and the entire Canon Kip board of directors to resign at a public board meeting. As the Examiner's Dexter Waugh reported that June: "Not many blocks separate Canon Kip Community House in the South of Market from Grace Cathedral atop Nob Hill, but distance cannot always be measured in city blocks. The Right Rev. William E. Swing's efforts to gain more control over the



PHOTO BY LENNY LIMJOCO

The Leland Apartments at 960 Howard St. were named for feisty Canon Kip regular Lee Meyerzove, see inset.

community organization ... ran up against staunch secular resistance yesterday.... The Episcopal bishop's proposal to step in and essentially take control of the agency, in exchange for the diocese bailing [it] out ... was called 'blackmail' and a 'scheme.'"

Bishop Swing never publicly objected to Coleman's activism, and one can only guess what issues he discussed with City Hall officials. But five months later, immediately after the Prop. M election, the Center's board of directors, now dominated by new members appointed by the bishop, fired Coleman, and only then did the diocese pay off the Canon Kip deficit.

Always a calming voice who never engaged in personal attacks, in the December 1983 South of Market News, Gene responded: "Canon Kip can go back to serving a very small, distinct population group, without any kind of concern for the bigger picture and the larger problems that we are facing in this community, like highrise office building, the eradication of affordable housing, human service programs closing almost daily, or the sale of the residential hotels on Sixth Street, where many of Canon Kip's clients reside, but these are all issues coming to the forefront."

KILLING IT SLOWLY

Which is exactly what happened. The gym was closed and converted to a full-time homeless shelter until today's Episcopal Sanctuary opened a block away in 1986. Canon Kip's youth programs were cut back and then dropped, leaving only the senior programs until the center finally closed its doors in 1989.

In 1992 the old building was demolished to provide a site for 105 units of new SRO low-income supportive housing for "dual-diagnosed" homeless, disingenuously keeping the name Canon Kip Community House. A small replacement senior center was rebuilt within its ground floor and continues in operation today. The gymnasium was functionally replaced by the city's new South of Market Recreation Center that opened at Sixth and

➤ CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Reminiscing

"There was a lot of spirit in those days"

MORE than a dozen of Gene Coleman's friends gathered in a spacious room at the eponymous Eugene Coleman Community House one Friday afternoon in December to remember the man who played a major social role in SoMa as director of Canon Kip Community House and a co-founder of TODCO, the nonprofit, affordable housing builder.

Coleman died Oct. 19 of pancreatic cancer. He was 70.

A 26-by-30-inch color photo of Coleman in a gray suit and beaming under a fetching white fedora rested on an easel, reminding friends of his vitality and hard work at Canon Kip in 1965-85 that helped make SoMa a vibrant, diverse community.

"He was too young (to pass)," said John Elberling, TODCO executive director who planned the get-together. "But he didn't exactly lead a temperate life."

John Behanna, a Canon Kip board member 1985-90, and a former president, said he first met the charismatic Coleman one night in a cigar-smoke-filled room where he was playing poker.

"I never knew he was a founder of TODCO," Behanna said. "I had no idea he was so competent."

"There was a lot of spirit in those days," Elberling said. "Canon Kip was a hub of activity. There's no spirit now. The Bayanihan (hotel, which TODCO built) has revived it for the Philippine community, though."

As the friends grazed on a spread of salami, chicken, shrimp and an assortment of dips and drinks, the reminiscing invariably turned to politics then and now, housing, the changing neighborhood, shifting social patterns, undernourished neighborhood community centers and how hard people have to work to stay in the city.

Coleman left behind a SoMa community that's trying to retain chunks of a vibrant past he helped create, and in a demanding climate.

"Do you know that San Francisco has the highest per capita income of any metropolitan area?" Behanna asked.

"It's the worst time for the underclass," Elberling said. "And the middle class has to work harder and harder." ■

—TOM CARTER

Bindlestiff all but back in business

BY TOM CARTER

ALEASE is close to being signed that will put Bindlestiff Studio in the new theater under the Plaza Apartments at Sixth and Howard streets for \$1 a year, a deal similar to what nonprofit TODCO proposed seven years ago.

“Basic terms” for the lease have been reached, Redevelopment liaison Mike Grisso announced at the South of Market Project Area Committee on Nov. 19. Redevelopment owns the whole building. But the lease won’t be signed until the new year, and Grisso wouldn’t discuss details until then.

But a Bindlestiff board member active in the negotiations over two years told *The Extra* that the draft stipulates that Bindlestiff have a partner in the 4,409-square-foot theater if it wants the proposed \$1-a-year lease for 10 years.

When Redevelopment bought the corner property in 2000 for \$1.8 million, TODCO was the only outfit answering the request for proposals to build low-cost housing there. The nonprofit planned to build 115 units and an underground theater it would sell Bindlestiff for \$1.

The deal fell through when the Planning Commission rejected TODCO on a 4-3 vote, then decided to create Redevelopment’s own nonprofit developer.

Bindlestiff’s negotiations are headed now for “a happy kind of ending,” Alex Torres, the board member, said in an interview. The partner Bindlestiff is negotiating with is Arthouse, an arm of California Lawyers for the Arts.

Torres hopes the long-vacant theater, with its entrance and box office upstairs at 185 Sixth St., will open by July. It would finally end what late SomArts Executive Director Jack Davis called Bindlestiff’s long “heroic struggle” to stay alive by “reinventing themselves in a distressed neighborhood.”

From the outset, the band of artists had little experience raising money on a scale that met their evolving financial obligations with the agency to develop the Plaza’s underground theater shell. And their organization was often in disarray. More than once Redevelopment gave Bindlestiff second chances by extending deadlines.

The Bindlestiff name was bestowed by a Canadian drama teacher who started the small group on pennies in 1989 in an impoverished storefront under the thread-

bare Plaza Hotel. Filipino artists got involved in 1997, becoming the resident company and performing in the black box theater.

Redevelopment promised when it bought the property not to displace Bindlestiff forever and to bring it back. During construction the company moved to a small performance site around the corner at 505 Natoma St.

After the Plaza Apartments were finished — an eye-catching eight stories embellished with red and orange panels — Redevelopment and Bindlestiff haggled over a lease and more than \$500,000 that Bindlestiff would need to build out the 99-seat theater. The money problems got solved last year with dollars from Redevelopment itself and the mayor’s office.

The pristine, concrete theater shell that looms like a high-ceiling bomb shelter has been vacant since March 2006, awaiting the build out. Since July, Bindlestiff has been without a performing site. It chose not to renew its lease at 505 Natoma, now rented to another theater company. Bindlestiff occupies an office in the Mint Mall at 953 Mission St.

Until the lease is signed, the build out can’t begin. The architects’ preproduction plans need a final review, too, Torres said. Then bids can be sought. What held up negotiations, Torres said, were complex Redevelopment drafts and an insistence that Bindlestiff have partners.

“We didn’t understand that,” Torres said. “We didn’t have partners before — we ran it on our own — so why now?”

Bindlestiff’s negotiations with Arthouse would have it as an advisory partner for one to two years, Torres said. Arthouse was formed 21 years ago with the San Francisco Arts Commission to help artists find live and work spaces. Bindlestiff would take care of day-to-day theater expenses and staff pay and when possible rent space to other groups.

The lease draft has two 10-year options, Torres said. ■

Alex Torres, left, shows director Bryan Pangiliman the empty theater shell that will be built out to Bindlestiff’s specifications.



PHOTO BY LENNY LIMJOCO

Canon Kip heart of SoMa – Coleman heart of Canon Kip

► CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

Folsom streets in 1990. But while the Park and Recreation Department’s small staff (cut by half in recent years) hosts as many basketball teams and community programs as it can, they don’t have time to do “social work.”

After Canon Kip, Gene Coleman went on to his “second career,” joining the San Francisco City Planning Department as an outreach worker in 1984, working his way up to planner, and then transferring to the Mayor’s Office of Community Development where he served as deputy director until retiring last year. TODCO named its most recent Yerba Buena senior housing development in his honor when it opened in 2005, Eugene Coleman Community House with the word “Community” standing out in bright red on its 45-foot-high Howard Street sign. After a sudden brief illness, Gene passed away on Oct. 19 at a much-too-young age of 70.

AN APPRECIATION

Eugene Coleman’s Canon Kip was the penultimate realization of “social capital.” It was a place of many positive purposes, a network of many caring individuals and organizations. It was an inspiration for many spirits of all ages; it was the glue that held a community together. It was the Heart of our SoMa. Bishop Swing never grasped or valued this. And we have never been able to replace it.

All-purpose community centers like Canon Kip have nearly disappeared around the nation. Abandonment of dependable general operating funding by cities and foundations in favor of specialized programs and competitive grant cycles has broken

community facilities up into scattered bits and pieces targeting specific populations. The accompanying political vulnerability of uncertain funding has discouraged advocacy. The professional quality of the services has greatly improved in many ways. But the price of this balkanization is the loss of a shared community consciousness and everyday human networks that cut across lines of age and race, cultures and organizations. We have all become specialists. But Gene Coleman was a community-ist.

Times change and neighborhoods change with them. Residents and workers must come and go. Leaders pass on. Central city life has grown much harsher for many in the last 25 years, and in today’s world realistic hope is precious. If any community is to survive for generations it needs to become embodied — physically in places we build, socially in organizations we maintain, and spiritually in the histories we pass on. Gene Coleman’s history and spirit must endure South of Market. ■



PHOTO BY LENNY LIMJOCO

The pool table at Canon Kip Community House, ideally located at Natoma and Eighth streets, was a draw for neighborhood youth who welcomed a place to play and socialize.

UPDATES: DEA threat report has pot clubs in panic

► CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to compare with what they found. The survey report referred to it as “the Chronicle map,” though the Chronicle had never been cited.

The TNDC-hired investigators found only 14 stores that sold a dozen or more kinds of fruits and vegetables. The Extra’s summer survey found 24 with that many items.

The map designated approximate locations of stores but didn’t list addresses, and investigators didn’t ask for them. Puzzled how there could be such a discrepancy in data, The Extra reporter retraced his steps in early December and found two erroneous addresses on the list and two groceries that at this time do not offer 12 items. But 20 (see accompanying list) did still feature 12 or more items.

The highlights of TNDC’s survey:

- The selection and availability of fresh produce is relatively good, especially given most TL outlets are mom-and-pops.
- All the fresh food is of relatively good quality with produce scoring the highest. Average quality of all food scored 3.6 on a scale of 4.
- Store sizes vary, but the average grocery in the Tenderloin is 1,764 square feet, an urban contrast to the average 10,000-to-20,000 square feet of what the industry labels a “small grocery store” in suburbia. The average American grocery store is 48,750 square feet, the survey report quotes the Food Marketing Institute.
- Of the 122 items in a “healthy market basket,” according to the USDA’s Thrifty Food Plan, only 13 could be found in 11 of the 12 stores they found that carried a dozen or more fresh items.

20 that sell it fresh

HERE are addresses of 20 TL grocery stores that have a dozen or more fresh fruits and vegetables, although the offerings may vary because of seasonal availability:

123 Eddy, 339 Eddy, 345 Eddy, 399 Eddy, 405 Eddy; 483 Ellis, 500 Ellis, 628 Ellis, 724 Ellis; 516 Geary, 669 Geary, 798 Geary; 724 Larkin, 905 Larkin; 225 Leavenworth; 300 Mason; 596 O’Farrell; 726 Post; 67 Taylor; 201D Turk. ■

—TOM CARTER



PHOTO BY LENNY LIMJOCO

The Right Way Market on O’Farrell Street was part of TNDC’s survey that found the Tenderloin’s fresh produce to be good quality.

TL TECH LAB HOMELESS

S.F. Network Ministries Computer Training Center and St. Anthony Employment Center/Learning Center had hoped to join forces and, by September 2007, open a 3,000-square-foot Tenderloin Technology Lab with enough room for more than 40 computers so locals could drop in or take classes, and for St. Anthony’s interns to learn computer repair.

“No scoop here,” says Network Ministries Director Glenda Hope. “We’re still awaiting word on our hopes for a location.” They’ve come up empty in their search for an affordable space.

—MARJORIE BEGGS



PHOTO BY LENNY LIMJOCO

Tariq Alazraie, shown in his *Café.com*, gave up his TL pot club, shut down his two in other neighborhoods.

POT CLUBS: ‘ESCALATING WAR’

The Tenderloin finds itself now with just one medical pot club in the wake of a threatened letter from the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration in December implying a crackdown on property owners who house dispensaries in the city.

Owner Tariq Alazraie closed his 120-124 Mason St. dispensary that served 800 mostly Tenderloin patients in October. That leaves Sanctuary at 669 O’Farrell St. as the TL’s sole dispensary. (Sanctuary needs to clear one more red tape hurdle to function under the city’s tighter pot club controls that all clubs face.)

Shortly after, Alazraie shut down his other two dispensaries — on Divisadero and Valencia streets — just ahead of the warning letter the DEA would send to San Francisco property owners leasing to pot clubs.

The tipoff came in the Chronicle’s Dec. 5 Matier and Ross column. It said DEA letters would soon go out to 80 owners of buildings housing marijuana dispensaries. The letters would warn that owners are in violation of federal laws against marijuana, medical or otherwise, and can face fines, prison and “forfeiture of assets.” Since 1996, state law has allowed dispensing medical marijuana but federal law trumps it.

As of Dec. 20, no central city pot club owners or landlords had received a DEA letter.

“It’s a lot of political stuff,” Alazraie told The Extra in December. The former Jordanian jet fighter pilot and the married father of two girls had vowed to keep his Mason street dispensary open at least until the end of the year, but the heat changed his mind.

“It’s a panicky time for everyone and too much stress — not an easy life,” Alazraie said. He will continue to operate his *Café.com* at 120 Mason and another on Mission Street, he said, but he declined to elaborate about his business.

The Extra reported in June that Alazraie’s landlord, CitiApartments, had pulled its consent for Alazraie’s pot club application. A Planning Commission meeting had been scheduled in May — the Planning Department recommended approval — but Alazraie, who had paid the \$6,691 application fee, withdrew it, hoping to change the landlord’s mind. He couldn’t.

The DEA letter spread uncertainty through the medical marijuana community, if not panic. It braced for DEA raids they they thought were right around the corner.

Axis of Love, a patients’ advocacy group, held a press conference on Dec. 7 at the Federal Building to protest the feds’ “escalating war.”

Rep. John Conyers Jr., D-Mich., chair of the House Judiciary Committee, said in a statement read by a representative from House Speaker Nancy Pelosi’s office that Conyers was “deeply concerned” and intended to “sharply question” the DEA about the tactic. Pelosi is a longtime advocate of states’ rights to approve medical marijuana. She has fought in vain for legislation to prohibit federal interference in states allowing medical marijuana.

“I’m glad we got that announcement out before the owners got their DEA letters, so people aren’t panicking,” said Axis of Love Executive Director Shona Gotchenaur. “We’ve got 10,000 patients with cards in San Francisco. This tactic could close down safe access throughout the Bay Area. But we hope some will be left standing.”

Axis is pressing Bay Area mayors to urge Conyers’ committee to call oversight hearings.

Meanwhile, club owners face an uncertain future. Michael Nolin, co-owner of The Green Door,

told The Extra: “Our plans are undecided — I’m on the phone with my lawyer on another line — can I call you back?” He never did.

Sanctuary club owner Michael Welch wasn’t flinching. His lawyer told him to sit tight, he said, and if anything came down from the DEA they’d fight it.

“We have good support from the city, too,” Welch told The Extra. “And if you just follow the rules, I think you’ll be okay.”

Welch believes the feds are using a scare tactic.

“They just want to take out the big boys — we don’t have any money and not much inventory,” he said. “They’re going after illegal people, those who aren’t doing things right. Unfortunately, there’s still that element and it’s dark cloud above us.

“I’ve talked to my landlord and he hasn’t received the DEA letter. And I haven’t heard of anyone locally who has.”

TRACK STAR STILL SHINING

Ten-year-old Crystal Webb, the MacCanDo Tenderloin Track team star featured in the August issue, still maintains a heavy schedule after her memorable track season, her mother Yvonne Webb reports. Crystal was the first track member in the Boeddeker Park team’s history to qualify for national junior competition. Competing in Illinois in July, the 5-foot-1 girl threw a 6-pound iron ball 23 feet 4.75 inches to win third place in the bantam girls shot put category.



PHOTO BY LENNY LIMJOCO

Crystal Webb’s successes at summer track meets gave her a champion’s confidence.

“She has maintained her confidence and knows she is a champion,” says Webb. She homeschools Crystal who continues with the McDaniels Dancers, too. “And she’s doing very well with long-division,” her mother said.

The team’s founder and coach, Rob McDaniels, will be transferred to the Tenderloin Children’s Playground in January. After 17 years as a director at Boeddeker Park, home of the park’s track club he started four years ago, McDaniels was at first crestfallen. But after assessing the much larger kid pool the playground attracts, he decided it was a good move: No more “calls from parents worried about the drug scene around Boeddeker,” he said. He recently was appointed coach of San Francisco’s track team in the International Youth Games to be held at Kezar Stadium in July.

ACTION FOR SENIOR ORGANIZER

Senior Action Network continues its Senior University in January but without its former director, Anh Le, who has become an outreach specialist to 10 communities for Network for Elders, an 18-year-old Bayview nonprofit. And he picked up some kudos since being let go by SAN.

In November, the African American Community honored Le with its Unsung Heroes award at Koret Auditorium in the Main Library. In December, the Examiner chose him as a Bay Area Holiday Angel for making a difference in 2007.

For two years, Le ran the free, two-week Senior University training sessions for Senior Action Network in various low-income neighborhoods. A year ago, Le was prominent in a two-part series The Extra wrote on the lively sessions he conducted for Tenderloin residents at the Dorothy Day Senior Center.

In a previous Bayview-Hunters Point session, Le’s class was so motivated that two dozen seniors, led by a 75-year-old disabled woman, descended on the neighborhood FoodsCo to demand it stop selling spoiled food and improve access for the disabled.

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UPDATES: Community courts in decline

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SAN will offer a SoMa/Tenderloin Senior University with a health care theme at 965 Mission St., #700, on Tuesdays, Jan. 8, 15, 22 and 28, according to Pi Ra, the new director. Students will go to Sacramento Jan. 28 for a universal health care rally at the Capitol. Call (415) 546-2096 for information.



PHOTO BY TOM CARTER

Anh Le, right, with Al Stewart, left, and SAN President Bill Price, led Senior University classes in the Tenderloin for budding activists.

COMMUNITY COURTS

In 11 neighborhood community courts, panels of residents hear misdemeanor cases — petty gambling, graffiti, loitering, shoplifting, assault and battery, alcohol and minor drug violations — and sanction the violators by ordering them to pay restitution to victims or do community service. There were 12 courts when 2007 started.

Now there are 11 with the consolidation of Tenderloin and SoMa community courts. Ethel Newlin, director of the D.A.'s Office of Neighborhood Services, and Jackson Gee, the D.A.'s director of Community Courts and A.P.I. Safety Programs, coordinate the work of the courts with California Community Dispute Services.

"The Tenderloin and SoMa panelists consolidated them for the sake of efficiency," Gee said.

Both central city courts started operating in June 2002. In 2003, their first full year of operation, SoMa heard 1,123 cases, TL 567. The next year, the SoMa court was down to an average of 80 cases a month, while the Tenderloin held steady. Not anymore.

According to Gee, in the first 11 months of 2007, the D.A.'s office had referred only 702 cases to the TL/SoMa court.

In July, long-time TL/SoMa community court panelist Mark Ellinger told The Extra that the court was hearing as few as four or five cases per meeting, and he fingered the D.A. for the fall-off.

"I don't speak for everyone, but the D.A.'s office is turning its back on our courts and it's insulting to a lot of us," Ellinger said.

But in December, when The Extra talked to Paul Henderson, deputy head of administration in the D.A.'s office, he put a positive spin on the court's lower numbers: Misdemeanor citations and arrests across the city have been dropping since 2003, he said, and he surmised that was also true for the Tenderloin.

The D.A.'s referral rates to community courts stayed about the same, Henderson said, despite lower citation and arrest rates. Finally, the no-show rate for people electing to go to community court was up, again city-wide, which would translate to fewer cases actually being reviewed in community courts.

"D.A. Harris is absolutely committed to this program. And it's hugely important that those 702 cases didn't clog up the criminal court," he said.

The Extra took a look at police incidents reports for the last few years to see if the numbers of "Part II Crimes" — misdemeanors — were dropping in the Tenderloin. In fact, they've risen.

In 2005, misdemeanors in the Tenderloin went from 409 in January to 399 in August, a slight dip. The next year, the tally was 388 crimes in January and 379 in August. But in 2007, the crimes figures jumped from 391 in January to 451 in August.

Those figures sounded correct to TL Capt. Gary Jimenez. "My understanding about the consolidation," he told The Extra, "is that it was because the Tenderloin had fewer cases compared to SoMa, not because citations were down, at least not

in the Tenderloin."

Ellinger reiterated his position: "It's just a lot of smoke from the D.A.'s office. They know it's not politically smart to admit that they're trying to shut down the community courts by reducing the number of cases they refer to us.

"Also, it's just not true about the show rate," he said. "Our no-show rate in the Tenderloin and SoMa community courts has always been way less than 10% — so small as to be insignificant."

—MARJORIE BEGGS

JUSTICE CENTER TRIAL RUN

The Community Justice Center will start operating sometime in January, a five-case-a-week trial run at the Hall of Justice, Mayor Newsom announced Dec. 6. Come April, the city will sign a sublease on the second-floor space at 555 Polk, between Turk and Golden Gate and plans to open the center there in July.

It is expected to hear 40 cases a week drawn from violations in the TL, SoMa, Civic Center and Union Square — where more than a third of the city's quality-of-life offenses occur, according to a mayor's office press release.

Superior Court Commissioner Ronald Albers, named to lead Newsom's fledgling Community Justice Center, said in the release that it will handle "low-level offenders," not those picked up for violent felonies or infractions.

But despite a year in the spotlight, the offenses the center will tackle weren't listed and no one The Extra spoke with knew what they would be.

One thing is sure: They won't be the misdemeanors the mayor initially intended. California law says people who get drunk or pee in public can't be taken straight into custody and marched into court, a fact Newsom didn't learn until months after he started touting the Manhattan Midtown Community Court, which operates that way, as a model. But in San Francisco, after cops cite public drunks and bowel evacuators, they give them 45 days to show up in traffic court. Other citations or arrests for misdemeanors go to the D.A.'s office, which decides whether the case should go to community court. The Justice Center will provide another option.

Paul Henderson, deputy head of administration in the D.A.'s office, says the main difference between community court and Justice Center cases is that the latter ones will be charged — that is, arraigned with a formal petition — not uncharged like those in community court.

"After the police arrest or cite someone for a misdemeanor, they draft a report," Henderson said. "Someone in the D.A.'s office reviews it and determines if it's appropriate to be evaluated in community court. If so, it's referred to community court with-

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TENDERLOIN HEALTH

a continuum of care

Outreach and Community Events December 2007

Health Promotion Forum

Topic: Coping with the Holidays

Speaker: Perri Frnaskoviak, Ph.D.,
Harm Reduction Therapy Center @ Tenderloin Health
Date/Time: Tuesday, December 18, 12 pm - 1:30 pm

HIV Treatment Forum

Topic: Doctor/Patient Relationship

Speaker: Ruben Gamundi, Gilead Sciences
Date/Time: Monday, December 17, 3 pm - 4 pm

Client Advisory Panel

Come talk with Tenderloin Health's Board Client Representative(s) and program managers about plans for Tenderloin Health. Also provide input on new services and how we can improve.

Date/Time: Wednesday, December 12, 11:30 am - 1 pm;
Wednesday, December 26, 11:30 am - 1 pm

Volunteer and Intern for Tenderloin Health

Orientation: Sunday, December 9, 12 pm - 6:30 pm
220 Golden Gate Ave., 3rd Floor
lunch provided

You must register for volunteer trainings.
Stop in/call Emilie (415) 437-2900 ext. 234.

For a schedule of our current groups or for more information
call 415.431.7476 or go to www.tenderloinhealth.org



2 one-bedroom "Below Market Rate" for-sale units available in the Hales Warehouse: 410 Jessie Street, SF

Buyers must be income eligible.
Households must earn no more than the maximum income levels below:

100% of Area Median Income

Household Size	ONE	TWO	THREE	FOUR	FIVE
Maximum Income	\$63,850	\$72,950	\$82,100	\$91,200	\$98,500

Open Houses will be held
at 410 Jessie Street
on the following dates:

- Wednesday, January 16, 6pm to 8pm
- Thursday, January 17, 12pm to 2pm
- Saturday, January 19, 11am to 2pm

Applications due by 5pm on Monday, January 28, 2008
to 54 Mint Street, 5th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94103.

Please contact Martin Building Company for an application and more information:
BMRapplication@martinbuilding.com or call (415) 348-4608. www.martinbuilding.com

Units are available through the San Francisco Mayor's Office of Housing and are subject to monitoring other restrictions. Visit sfgov.org/moh for program information.



health promotion • social services • housing

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FRANKLIN JONES
A Senator SRO 'veteran'

Twenty people filled the seats in the Senator Hotel's community room on Nov. 26 to remember friend and fellow tenant Franklin Jones.

"Frank helped me and my kids — it will be hard without him," said Jenine Evans, emotionally shaken. She sat in the front row with one of her grandchildren, a little boy in a stroller, who started to fuss.

The Rev. Glenda Hope, officiating the memorial, waved away her attempts to hush the child. "It's okay. Don't stop him. It's the sound of new life."

One after another, people rose to recall a man who was easy to like and died too young. Many were tearful. Mr. Jones died Nov. 17, a few weeks shy of his 53rd birthday.

"It was so nice to have a friend like him around," said one man. "He'd confide in me. And he was smart, a good businessman. He's going home now, I hope to a better place than this."

Evans said Mr. Jones had lived in San Francisco for about 30 years, worked for a long time and then was homeless before finally moving to the Senator five years ago.

When you've been homeless, five years is a long time to live in one place, said another Senator resident. "There were three of us and we called ourselves 'veteran tenants.' This is a real shock, a real loss. I saw him just the night before he died and everything seemed fine."

But he wasn't fine. Evans said that Mr. Jones never really took care of himself. "He died so suddenly. We just take life so much for granted. Frank was a friend to everyone he knew, but no one knew the pain he had inside."

Roger Blalark, a counselor at the Hotel Iroquois, knew Mr. Jones from when he was employed as a Senator janitor.

"He was a man who never seemed to have a bad day," Blalark said. "He'd come downstairs here in his little bathroom with his little cane — happy — and that's how I want to remember him."

Several more people spoke about their friendship with Mr. Jones and his even temperament: "I only saw him mad once in all those years," said a woman.

Evans concluded the sharing of memories by reading a poem she'd written to celebrate Mr. Jones' life. When she sat down, she motioned her daughter, sitting a row back, to let her hold her infant granddaughter.

As the child was passed over, The Rev. Hope began the concluding prayers.

—MARJORIE BEGGS

LAWRENCE MILLER
Bicycle man

Lawrence Miller made bicycles from scavenged parts, then gave them away. A quiet man, he hadn't been a resident of the Ambassador Hotel long enough to gift many of his fellow tenants but he made a real impression anyway.

Mr. Lawrence, tall and lean, moved quietly into a fourth-floor room in February 2006 and pretty much kept to himself.

"He was a good tenant and didn't seem to need us," said hotel social worker Rachel Throm at Mr. Miller's memorial Nov. 9 at the Ambassador. The Rev. Glenda Hope conducted the memorial that was held in the Listening Post room on the second floor. "He was a good guy, sweet," said another social worker.

"If you went by his room he always said hello," said Larry Edmond. "I had a vinyl record album but no record player. He sold me his for \$12. It was worth a lot more than that."

When Mr. Lawrence wasn't out searching for used bicycle parts in the neighborhood, he was in his room assembling one.

He kept his room neat and clean, his friends said. The parts were organized in one place and he worked on just one bicycle at a time.

"He gave me three bicycles," said Richard Zinser. "And he always asked me if I needed any help."

Mr. Lawrence worked until the day he died on Oct. 31, likely of AIDS, his friends said, because of the way he deteriorated. He was found in his room. He was 49.

"He was very sick at the end and worked until he couldn't get up to answer the door," said his neighbor Gerry Kirby. "Other people were affected by his death. There were more arguments, people jumping to anger. I think they were acting out their hurt, their emotions."

Kirby couldn't say for sure that Mr. Miller died of AIDS, only that he had exhibited symptoms of the disease. "His hair had straightened out and his eyes were large (and dull)," he said.

The Listening Post room originated in 1984 during the AIDS epidemic as a place where residents could come and talk with someone from Network Ministries. It was a project of the Rev. Glenda Hope, executive director. At the time, the city hadn't extended any AIDS help to the Tenderloin, although studies showed it was the neighborhood with the highest incidence, Hope said. And the Ambassador, then a crummy, privately owned SRO, had a number of PWAs. Many were African American men. No one showed up for the first four months or so, until the listening program gained credibility, Hope said.

Now, doubling as a library, the Listening Post is open three or four times a week from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Volunteers, including Hope, show up to listen. No one knew whether Mr. Miller had ever dropped in.

But despite his limited time at the Ambassador, Hope said, "he had quite an impact."

—TOM CARTER

UPDATES: Historic district goes Uptown

➤ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

out a formal petition, there's no arraignment — that's an uncharged case."

In June, a Superior Court FAQ sheet on the proposed Justice Center called community courts a "mediation program" that was likely to be included in the Justice Center's list of services.

The center, however, is not going to be the one-day deal Newsom envisioned where offenders would be brought to 555 Polk, meet with a public defender, have their case reviewed by a prosecutor from the D.A.'s office, see a judge and get services for substance abuse, mental illness or homelessness.

The current 45-day time lag from violation to adjudication may be reduced to five to 10 days, Henderson estimates, at least when the center is staffed and operating smoothly.

A center coordinator is to be hired early in 2008.

—TOM CARTER AND MARJORIE BEGGS

CHEAP EATS AT THE LUNCH STOP

That low-slung, boxy structure next to the Federal Building that wears the bizarre metal hairnet has evolved as a neighborhood eatery. The Lunch Stop 98 Café opened Oct. 3. Nothing identifies it outside, though. Open from 6:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., it serves breakfast and lunch. The Extra found it clean, cheap and spacious. For \$2.85 you can choose three breakfast items: two eggs, sausage and hash browns (with toast), for example. With a card, every 10th breakfast is free. It's even got a menu of 99-cent items, including a hot dog and a burger.

Chili and revolving soups are made daily. Sandwiches and omelettes are under \$5; daily specials such as Teriyaki Salmon with pilaf and veggies go for \$6.50. A take-out chicken Caesar salad is \$4.85. Despite the decent prices, the world — let alone the

1,500 Fed building employees next door — has hardly beaten a path to the café's door.

"We look like a pump station on the corner," Lunch Stop Vice President Wayne Goulding Jr. says. "Nobody knows we're here." The San Jose-based franchise doesn't have that problem at its other city venue inside Mount Zion Hospital. The café's next move, Goulding said, is signage.

FUTURE HOLDS HISTORIC HANDLE

Back in 2006, Tenderloin Housing Clinic Director Randy Shaw started the process to get the neighborhood named a hotel and apartment district on the National Register of Historic Places, reviving a failed effort by

preservationists in the '80s.

Nov. 20, Shaw announced in BeyondChron that he had just filed the papers with the state Office of Historic Preservation nominating for historic status 16 blocks bounded by Taylor, Turk, Larkin and Geary plus "irregular extensions."

More exciting was the news about its name — Uptown Tenderloin Historic District — a label, he wrote, "that provides the positive identity consistent with [the Tenderloin's] jazzy past and its increasingly hopeful future."

Shaw predicts final word on the nomination in the spring, approval by summer. ■

—MARJORIE BEGGS

CITY COLLEGE OF SAN FRANCISCO
SPRING SEMESTER BEGINS JANUARY 14TH

Space is still available in many noncredit courses offered this Spring at **City College of San Francisco's Alemany Campus** at 750 Eddy Street and other locations. Instruction begins January 14. **Noncredit courses are free.** Select the courses you want below and go directly to class. For more information call (415) 561-1878 or visit www.ccsf.edu

FREE NONCREDIT COURSES				
CRN #	Course Title	Days	Times	Location/Room #
40873	ESL (Begin)	M-F	8:15-10 am	750 Eddy St., 301
42428	ESL (Begin)	M-F	10:15 am-12 noon	750 Eddy St., 304
40884	ESL (Begin)	M-Th	6:30-8:35 pm	750 Eddy St., 306
40874	ESL (Begin)	M-F	10:15 am-12 noon	750 Eddy St., 304
40998	ESL (Intermediate)	M-F	8:15-10 am	750 Eddy St., 103
43957	ESL (Intermediate)	M-F	10:15 am-12 noon	750 Eddy St., 303
44770	ESL (Intermediate)	M-Th	6:30-8:35 pm	750 Eddy St., 206
45358	ESL for Hair Salon	MT	12:45-3:15 pm	750 Eddy St., 203
45990	GED	M-Th	6:30-8:35 pm	750 Eddy St., 203
45286	Typing (Begin)	M-F	8:15-10 am	750 Eddy St. 102
40874	ESL (Begin)	M-F	8:15-10 am	4301 Geary St., Basement
40886	ESL (Begin)	M-F	10:15 am-12 noon	4301 Geary St., Basement
40935	ESL (Begin)	M-Th	6:30-8:35 pm	3151 Ortega St., 107
44771	ESL (Intermediate)	M-Th	6:30-8:35 pm	3151 Ortega St., 100

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SPECIAL EVENTS

First Community Justice Center town hall meeting, Tues, Jan. 15, 5:30-7 p.m., Main Library, Koret Auditorium, to get residents' input on the planned center, including the creation of a Community Advisory Board for the center. Information: Lisa Lightman, Mayor's Office of Public Policy and Finance, 554-5262.

City College classes in the TL. Free GED, computer, typing and ESL classes start Jan. 14. at City College Alemany campus site, 750 Eddy near Van Ness. GED class: Monday through Thursday, 6:30-8:35 p.m. Information 561-1878.

Central Market Community Benefit District launch and open house, Jan. 17, 9:30-11 a.m., Hotel Whitcomb, 1231 Market. Information and RSVP: info@central-market.org.

Green Your Business: How Small Business Can Make Sustainable Changes Without Breaking the Bank, a workshop sponsored by Urban Solutions, Thurs., Jan. 31, 5:30-7:30 p.m., location TBA. Speakers include Dr. Kevin Danaher, co-founder of Global Exchange and executive director of the Global Citizen Center, and Liz Linale, manager at Cole Hardware, a green-certified local business. For workshop location and to RSVP: 553-4433 ext. 101 or info@urbansolutionsSF.org.

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, 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 Monday of the month, 5:30-7:30, CBHS, 1380 Howard, Rm. 537. Call: 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 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. 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, 2nd Monday and 4th Wednesday of each month, 6-7 p.m. 870 Market, Suite 928. Call: 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 III-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

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: Leanne Edwards, volunteer campaign coordinator, 775-7110, ex. 102.

North of Market NERT, bimonthly meeting. Call 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 Meital Amitai, 538-8100 ext. 202 or mamitai@iisf.org.

Tenderloin Police Station Community Meeting, last Tuesday of the month, 6 p.m., police station Community Room, 301 Eddy. Call 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. Districtwide association, civic education.

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 at the Neighborhood Parks Council, 621-3260.

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. CLA Community Advocacy Commission monthly meeting, City Hall, Room 034. Subcommittee meetings and informational forums held monthly at the Tenderloin Police Station Community Room. Information:

David Villa-Lobos, admin@CommunityLeadershipAlliance.net

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: 552-4866.

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 Elaine Zamora for times and dates, 440-7570.

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. 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 community room, 301 Eddy. Call at 358-3956 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. 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 Daly, Dufty, Ammiano, Mirkarimi, Elsbernd, Wednesday, 1 p.m.

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

CALIFORNIA PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2008

★ REGISTER AND VOTE. ★

Polling places are open from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.

Early voting at City Hall begins January 7, 2008.

Last day to register to vote is January 22, 2008.

You must re-register if you have moved, changed your name, or want to change your party affiliation.

Last day to request a vote-by-mail ballot is January 29, 2008.



Party Affiliation & "Decline-To-State" Voters

The February 5, 2008 election is a "modified" closed primary. If you registered to vote with a qualified political party, you can only vote for candidates from that party.

If you declined to state a political party when you registered, you can vote for candidates from one of the following two parties:

- American Independent Party
- Democratic Party

All registered voters may vote on ballot measures.

Be a Pollworker on Election Day!

The Department of Elections is looking for pollworkers to help on Election Day. Pollworkers can earn up to \$170!

To sign up, visit www.sfgov.org/election or call (415) 554-4395.

欲想獲得關於這次選舉的中文資料, 請瀏覽www.sfgov.org/election 或致電三藩市選務處(415)554-4367。

Para información electoral en español, visite www.sfgov.org/election o llame al (415) 554-4366.



Department of Elections, City and County of San Francisco

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