Visitor policy violated at most SROs

Residents’ rights denied, many desk clerks extort a fee

BY TOM CARTER

It was prearranged. Jason Foley, who lives at TNDC’s West Hotel, told the desk clerk at 8:30 p.m. that he would have an overnight guest. What he didn’t say was that the friend, Allen White, and he were testing the West Hotel’s version of the city’s Uniform Visitors Policy, which is uniformly disregarded at most of the 503 SROs in the city.

White arrived at 11:15. He was stopped at the door by the desk clerk and the night manager. They wouldn’t let him in. They said Foley hadn’t followed the SRO’s procedure.

On the contrary, White said, whipping out a copy of the 2007 Uniform Visitors Policy for SRO Hotels and citing the rule that proved his case. The manager stood firm and said the West’s rules rule.

A passing police beat patrol stopped and got involved. But, White says, the cops did not believe him and sided with management.

“A (Ours) is not a satisfactory remedy. People want their rights, not so much the money.”

Delene Wolf

Employees of the West’s rival, the Central City Collaborative, were leafleting SRO TL and SoMa the next day. Even though the SROs have SROs about the residents’ right to visitors. Also, the SRO Mission Central City Collaborative this month starts leafleting TL and SoMa for the next two weeks.

The Uniform Visitors Policy, authored by Supervisor Daly six years ago, decrees rights to visitors. But the ordinance includes no practical enforcement and SRO residents are left helpless.

Daily abuses are seldom reported because of fear of retaliation, activists say.

“I go into SROs when I get complaints,” says Sheryl Abbeduto, a veteran advocate with S.F. Mental Health Clients’ Rights Advocates. “I take a copy of the visitors policy with me and it’s the first thing I look for. If they don’t have one up, I give them one and tell them to follow the law and get it up.

“Another common complaint is having to pay for guests.”

To combat the problems, the SRO Central City Collaborative this month starts leafleting TL and SoMa SROs about the residents’ right to visitors. Also, the SRO Mission Collaborative is finishing a month-long survey of tenants grievances in the 55 SROs in that neighborhood. Even before the results are in, the organi...
Mackando Tenderloin Youth Track Club got a boost at its annu- al awards dinner Aug. 23 when Elks Lodge No. 1 donated $500 to the team. Lodge President Patrick Murphy made the presentation to coach Rob McDaniels, a Rec and Park director at the Tenderloin Children’s Playground. Earlier in the year, the Elks Club named McDaniels its Citizen of the Year. McDaniels started the team for at- risk Tenderloin kids at Boeddeker Park four years ago. It has grown to 33 youngsters, ages 5 to 16, who compete in track meets for the Bay Area. Dozens of kids and par- ents went to the podium during the evening to thank the team expe- rience made a difference in their lives.

Cybersers It’s a year late, but the Tenderloin’s computer tech Lab, a collaboration of St. Anthony Foundation and S.F. Network Ministries, is set to open Oct. 5 at St. Anthony’s new administration building at 150 Golden Gate. Forty to 80 people a day — from the two orga- nizations’ existing computer pro- grams — are expected to use the new lab, which is free for TL resi- dents and homeless people. During September, Network Ministries will continue to offer classes and drop-in hours at its Computer Training Center at 566 Eddy. St. Anthony’s has already begun shifting over its clients, says Karl Robillard, Learning Center manager. “We’ve had a soft opening,” he said, “to make sure everything is operating properly.” The lab has 12 computers for classes and 16 for drop-ins. In a third area, selected St. Anthony clients will learn repair and maintenance on eight computers.

If you have some good news, send it to marjorie@studycenter.org or tom@studycenter.org.

Central City Extra is a member of the San Francisco Neighborhood Newspaper Association
Central city housing frenzy
3,500 new units are in works

TNDC’s plans to build 653 new living units and renovate another 293 are part of perhaps the biggest building boom in the central city since it was leveled in 1906. Besides TNDC’s developments, another 2,845 new units — affordable and market rate — are just completed or in the pipeline, plus sparking new places to play, work and get social services. The Salvation Army in July opened its Kroc Recreation Center and Railton Place’s 110 apartments next door. By next year, a new YMCA center should be under way at Golden Gate and Larkin, a site it will share with Hastings’ 450-car garage, already going up fast. When the Y moves from 220 Golden Gate to a temporary location, AF Evans and TNDC will begin renovating the old Y into 174 studios for the homeless.

St. Anthony Foundation opened its new admin offices at 150 Golden Gate in May and now is charging forward with plans to demolish 121 Golden Gate and construct a 10-story building to house its dining room, respite units for hospital discharges, a community room and six floors of senior housing — 90 studios and one-bedrooms. Unless it hits a snag, the building will be up by 2011.

Glise Housing started taking applications in June for its new apartment building at 125 Mason. The moderate rentals, at 60% AMI, start at $1,095. By August, Glise had begun whittling down the 1,500 applicants for the 81 one-, two-, three- and four-bedroom apartments. First priority goes to tenants who work and live in the city. They’ll move in around Oct. 1.

Mercy Housing has two big projects afoot: its 360 studios meant to replace the much-fought-over DNS’s plans to build 653 new living units and renovate another 293 are part of perhaps the biggest building boom in the central city since it was leveled in 1906. Besides TNDC’s developments, another 2,845 new units — affordable and market rate — are just completed or in the pipeline, plus sparking new places to play, work and get social services. The Salvation Army in July opened its Kroc Recreation Center and Railton Place’s 110 apartments next door. By next year, a new YMCA center should be under way at Golden Gate and Larkin, a site it will share with Hastings’ 450-car garage, already going up fast. When the Y moves from 220 Golden Gate to a temporary location, AF Evans and TNDC will begin renovating the old Y into 174 studios for the homeless.

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Getting booked by Sgt. C
Cops teach reading to help kids become street-smart

BY PETE VERRAL

TENDERLOIN police Sgt. Gaetano Calabrone talks with 7-year-old Fairy Dang about how learning to read well can help keep her safe on the street.

When one kid asked to see Sgt. C’s gun, Sarge pulled a cartridge from his belt clip and advised the child to think about the question.

"You have to stop."

"What do you do when you see a stop sign?"

Several kids waved their arms and shouted, "You should tell an adult right away." Sarge pulled a cartridge from his belt clip and showed the kids how to reload. "Sometimes you have to think about things in a different way," he said.

The Tenderloin police are part of a joint community justice center task force that includes the Tenderloin Police, the Salvation Army, St. Anthony Foundation, Tenderloin Hotel, San Francisco State’s Law Enforcement and Justice Studies Program and the Kaiser Permanente Community Grants Program. The program’s goal is to help kids think about street signs and be safe on the street.

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Proposition H gives the Board of Supervisors a Blank Check to Issue BILLIONS in Revenue Bonds without Your Approval

Proposition H will give this, and all future Boards of Supervisors, the power to issue revenue bonds in any amount to take over any utility, without a vote of the people. Before you sign over this tremendous new power to the Board of Supervisors, please check the facts.

No Accountability

Right now, bonds for initiatives of this kind must first be approved by the people. But starting in Section 9.107 of Proposition H, the language of the measure itself makes clear what the Board is trying to hide: “...no voter approval shall be required with respect to revenue bonds” [issued to finance the takeover of utility facilities].

It Will Cost Billions

According to the independent financial analysis prepared by the City Controller: “There are several possible methods for costing the purchase or construction of power facilities and estimates range widely. Under any method, the amounts are certainly substantial—likely in the billions of dollars...” Initial estimates put the cost of a takeover of just the PG&E electric system at more than $4 billion.

We Will Pay for It

The financial burden of paying back a $4 billion bond will fall on our shoulders. Our utility bills will go up, on average, by over $400 a year for 30 years. That’s just a preliminary estimate. The final figure could be much higher.

The Stop the Blank Check Coalition is now over 12,000 strong. It’s a growing citizens’ movement of San Franciscans who oppose Proposition H, the Board of Supervisors’ $4 billion plan to take over the PG&E power system.

Get the facts before you give the Board of Supervisors a blank check

Join our growing citizens’ movement to stop the blank check. Go to www.StoptheBlankCheck.com.

Paid for by the Committee To Stop the Blank Check, No on H, a coalition of concerned consumers, small businesses, labor, community organizations and Pacific Gas and Electric Company.

"Proposition H takes away your right to vote on billions of dollars in revenue bonds. It gives the Board of Supervisors the power to issue revenue bonds in any amount to take over any utility without first seeking a vote of the people. It’s an issue of fiscal responsibility — Proposition H takes away your ability to hold local elected officials accountable for how they spend billions and billions of dollars. Please join me in voting NO on Proposition H.”

— Senator Dianne Feinstein

"This measure gives the Board of Supervisors and the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission the right to issue bonds in any amount to take over utilities, without a vote of the people. That means politicians and unelected commissioners will have the power to borrow billions to take over utilities and force you to pay the cost. That is simply too much power to give to any group of elected and appointed officials.”

— Mayor Gavin Newsom

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Paid for by the Committee To Stop the Blank Check, No on H, a coalition of concerned consumers and hundreds of concerned individuals and businesses.
The presence of thousands of used needles in the Tenderloin last year (see chart) warrants a conversation for further boxes in March through July, compared with the same period than on the street or in a dumpster is good news. There are 16,000 intravenous drug users in the city. We see young kids, businessmen, people who are completely functional and use substances thing. We see young kids, businessmen, people who are completely functional and use substances intravenously.

Keith Hocking, director of volunteer-based programs at Tenderloin Health, says spokesmen at both Tenderloin Health and the San Francisco AIDS Foundation.

It’s possible they are being used by people who don’t want to be identified as IV-drug users. “You see addicts from all walks of life,” says Daniel Madrigal, a health educator at Tenderloin Health. “IV use isn’t strictly a homeless thing, or a black market. They’re using them. If not, they just throw (their syringes) away. IV-drug user is concerned. “If they’re there, people will use them. If not, they just throw (their syringes) in the streets,” says Jeffery, who asked to be identified by first name only.

The presence of thousands of used needles in a dense neighborhood full of children and seniors merits the attention of a serious public health issue.

Disposing of syringes in the Tenderloin

24/7 drop boxes:

- 117 Sixth St.
- Continuum Alley (outside 255 Golden Gate Ave.)

Needle exchanges:

- San Francisco AIDS Foundation: 117 Sixth St., 10 a.m.-noon Tuesdays; noon-2 p.m. Fridays; 6-8 p.m. Fridays; parking garage at 50 hay St., 7-9 p.m. Mondays; 117 Sixth St. between Hyde and Leavenworth, 2-4 p.m. Sundays
- Tenderloin Health: 255 Golden Gate Ave., 6-8 p.m. Wednesdays; 2-4 p.m. Sundays; 10 a.m.-noon Tuesdays, and 815 Hyde St., Second Floor, 4-6 p.m. Thursdays.

Gary Longoria, who has worked near Continuum Way since September 2007, agrees the drop boxes are making a difference. Longoria is also an IV-drug user — he needs insulin to manage the diabetes he’s had since infancy. When he started working in the area, he was struck by the street — the same type he syringe was found where it was deemed to pose a significant hazard to the public.” Still, he says, “We don’t want to be identified as IV-drug users. “You see addicts from all walks of life,” says Daniel Madrigal, a health educator at Tenderloin Health. “IV use isn’t strictly a homeless thing, or a black market. They’re using them. If not, they just throw (their syringes) away. IV-drug user is concerned. “If they’re there, people will use them. If not, they just throw (their syringes) in the streets,” says Jeffery, who asked to be identified by first name only.

Syringes collected in the Tenderloin by Clean City Coalition.

2007 2008
March 895 150
April 563 196
May 594 239
June 200 (plus 400 in boxes)* 262
July 288 205
Totals 1,720 1,882

*The 400 additional needles were in needle disposal boxes that were left on the sidewalk for pickup by Clean City.

About a year ago, Jeffery saw a JC DeCaux worker cleaning the facility at Civic Center. The worker reached into the toilet with a clawlike device and pulled out a handful of syringes. The sight surprised and disgusted him, and drove home the hazards that improper disposal can pose to other people. He says he’s gone out of his way to deliver used a street — the same type he syringe was found where it was deemed to pose a significant hazard to the public.” Still, he says, “We don’t want to be identified as IV-drug users. “You see addicts from all walks of life,” says Daniel Madrigal, a health educator at Tenderloin Health. “IV use isn’t strictly a homeless thing, or a black market. They’re using them. If not, they just throw (their syringes) away. IV-drug user is concerned. “If they’re there, people will use them. If not, they just throw (their syringes) in the streets,” says Jeffery, who asked to be identified by first name only.

Peer Support Line

Office of Self-Help

575-1-100

1095 Market St., Suite 202
ED BOWERS, our art beat writer, even looks spiritual as he counts off the entrances and their wounds are mostly invisible. Can it be possible that our art beat writer Li Hongzhi, the founder of Falun Gong, seems to think it’s mental. But I don’t agree; I think it is six to one and half a dozen to one, or at least curious tesed example of “normal human life.” I cut to the back of the paper for what I needed for myself.

CENTRAL CITY EXTRA / SEPTEMBER 2008

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CENTRAL CITY EXTRA / SEPTEMBER 2008
Charlie Parker was right, so I’m making moves with the Falun Gong

I was Parker was right, so I’m making moves with the Falun Gong

mental and symbolic doors in the Tenderloin are opening and closing like a neighborhood rhythm section.

Doorways are for going places, so my show walks the sidewalk. My audience of 16 is about the number a sidewalk can hold. That’s 52 shoes per show en route. Guests are greeted at the EXIT Theatre (156 Eddy) by my box office assistant who doubles as traffic and safety watch on the tour. Over an hour or so, we visit six doorways for lively and poetic tales loosely based on my life’s real “doormen.”

Then it’s back to the EXIT to catch another of the Fringe’s 48 adventurous shows. —BARBARA MICHAELS

NO STRINGS ATTACHED

My instructor, Judy, has given me hundreds of dollars worth of lessons for nothing, no strings attached. She is a nice, middle-aged Chinese woman who has been a faithful follower of this program for 10 years, and is an excellent instructor who has taught me the subtly slow movements with precision. She can pick up on any mistakes I make from 10 yards away.

So what more can you ask for in a city that is overcharging you to live your life? You get exercise, make a statement for individual rights, tweak a totalitarian government, get to observe hundreds of different people walk back and forth in front of you, and cultivate yourself!

I find this practice extremely healthy and good. So give it a try. It’s an adventure in consciousness.

But I warn you: I have no allegiance to anything other than people who mind their own business, allow others to be themselves, and are wise and compassionate in their dealings with others.

If this group got famous and powerful and started to rule the world, I would be like Jean Genet when asked what he would do if the Palestinians he was supporting became dominant.

“I would repudiate them,” he said.

In the meantime, I really like these people and I think they should be supported. They’re cultivating the human spirit! Go on down and work out with them. Maybe I’ll see you. Maybe I won’t. ■

S E P T E M B E R  2 0 0 8  /  C E N T R A L  C I T Y  E X T R A
what to do when you’re done with these?

FREE NEIGHBORHOOD DROP-OFF LOCATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Household Batteries**</td>
<td>Cole Hardware</td>
<td>70 4th St</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household Batteries**</td>
<td>Rainbow Grocery</td>
<td>1745 Folsom St</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household Batteries**</td>
<td>Green Citizen</td>
<td>591 Howard St</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paint/Cans</td>
<td>Discount Builders Supply</td>
<td>1695 Mission St</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electronics</td>
<td>Peerless General Supply Co.</td>
<td>156 Leavenworth St</td>
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<tr>
<td>Electronics</td>
<td>City Lights</td>
<td>1585 Folsom St</td>
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<td>Electronics</td>
<td>Sports Basement</td>
<td>1590 Bryant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Goodwill citywide</td>
<td>Walgreens citywide</td>
<td>sfgoodwill.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*limit 5 lights and/or 3 gallons per visit</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>**lithium batteries must be taped on the ends</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Use the EcoFinder at SFEnvironment.org to find more ways to recycle just about everything.
Mark Matthews

Full house at his memorial

About two dozen chairs were set up in the meeting room at Tenderloin Health. On a white board at the front of the room, friends had left messages under the heading “Remembering Mark.”

“We miss Mark’s stories,” wrote one. “Rest awake in peace,” wrote another.

Before the July 24 memorial for Mark Matthews even started, people were crying and comforting each other. By the time it was in progress, there was standing room only.

“Mark was a humble, sweet, somewhat withdrawn man,” said a Tenderloin Health case manager. “It made you want to help him. He had pain and stress — and now he has none anymore.”

Two clients who knew Mr. Matthews spoke about his physical addictions and how they felt about his passing.

“Some of us who are users tend to withdraw and spiral down,” said James. “Mark did that, but he’s in peace now.”

“Mark fed me — and he encouraged me to get off drugs,” David told the mourners.

After the memorial, Mr. Matthews’ former wife, Desiree Buckley, said he had been a security guard under the heading “Remembering Mark.”

The memorial also honored the lives of two other Tenderloin Health clients who died in July, Vincent Ricca and Edward Howell.

TESSA MCCAULEY

Suicide at age 26

Tessa McCaulley had friends of all ages, and a handful of them came to remember the sweet but troubled young woman who took her own life Aug. 17. She was 26.

“I was blessed to know her and to have the opportunity to see her happy,” said Theresa Brooks at the Aug. 26 memorial. “I didn’t kick it with her, but we talked and, despite our age difference, I could say things to her I couldn’t say to anyone else.”

Ms. McCaulley and Brooks, gray-haired and attractive, both had lived in TNDC’s Eighth and Howard apartment building for three years, site of the memorial.

Another friend, Kimberly Bowen, said she was honored to have known Ms. McCaulley.

Throughout the memorial, her parents sat in stunned grief, her father’s shoulders heaving with silent sobs. When he was able to speak, Bill McCaulley, who lives in San Francisco, thanked people for coming. “And thanks for being good friends to Tessa,” he said. “She was a great daughter — we loved her very much.”

After the memorial, Ms. McCaulley’s mother, Robin McCaulley, who lives in Florida, said her daughter was “a kind, caring person” who survived the ravages of the hotel’s sex and drug era of the 1990s. TNDC bought the rundown hotel in 1999 when it was reeling from an AIDS epidemic, renovated it and changed the name.

“I remember the great card he made for me,” said Mary Monahan, a nurse who worked with the hotel’s residents during that time. “It was like a kaleidoscope, the colors, and very beautiful. I’ve thought of it ever since I heard of his passing.”

“Terry once said, ‘I don’t want you to ever say, I can’t live without you.’ And I said, I’ll never say that. I’ll say I don’t know how to live without you.”

—Marjorie Beggs

TERRY DILLARD

Survived ’90s at Ambassador

In its wildest days, the Ambassador Hotel was an important way station in the troubled life of Terry Dillard. And whatever his shortcomings, Mr. Dillard made faithful, lifelong friends there.

Eight of them gathered July 22 at Mr. Dillard’s memorial at the Ambassador and remembered him as a “kind, caring person” who survived the ravages of the hotel’s sex and drug era of the 1990s.

Mr. Dillard died July 4 at St. Francis Hospital where he was being treated for kidney problems. He was 45. “All his organs shut down,” said Baker who had seen Mr. Dillard through a battle with pneumocysitis in the 1990s.

Mr. Dillard came from a family of 14 in Arkansas. He left home when he was 14 and never learned to read or write very well. He worked for a while in a chicken processing plant before his wanderings took him through New Orleans and into California. Eventually, he landed in the Tenderloin. He was 6-foot-2, had black hair and lived off and on at the Ambassador with friends, but was basically homeless.

“I knew him here since 1990,” Baker said. “He was nice-looking — of course he was god to me. It was the first time I felt love, and I couldn’t handle it. I ran away (to Fresno).

But longtime residents say Ambassador tenants never stay away very long.

“Everybody comes back to their master, the Ambassador,” Baker said. “It wasn’t just the drugs and sex, it was family.”

Baker brought a tray of brownies to share.

“Terry once said, I don’t want you to ever say, I can’t live without you.” And I said, ‘I’ll never say that. I’ll say I don’t know how to live without you.’

—Tom Carter

Below Market Rate Homes Available

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Studio unit(s):</th>
<th>With Parking*: $219,056 – $223,768</th>
<th>Without Parking: $169,056 – $173,768</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 bedroom unit(s):</td>
<td>With Parking*: $244,947 – $256,161</td>
<td>Without Parking: $194,947 – $206,161</td>
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</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Person(s)</th>
<th>Max Income</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>$66,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>$78,450</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>$84,950</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>$94,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>$101,850</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Call for info on larger households

Applications are due at 74 New Montgomery no later than 5pm on Friday, October 3rd.

Please contact The Montgomery at 415.512.7474 or visit: www.themontgomerysf.com/affordablehousing for an application & more information.

*Two (2) parking spaces will be offered according to lottery rank for $50,000. Units available through the San Francisco Mayor’s Office of Housing and are subject to resale controls, monitoring and other restrictions. Visit www.sfgov.org/moh for program information.

Ms. McCaulley was an amateur artist, her mother said. She appeared online in creative YouTube videos, and several years ago was one of the early models on SayItLoud.org, the edgy and provocative burlesque Website, which is not about suicide. It was begun in 2001 by a young woman in Oregon as part of a photography class project.

On Aug. 20, Ms. McCaulley’s sister posted an announcement of her sister’s passing on the Website.

—Marjorie Beggs

September 2008 / Central City Extra

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—Tom Carter
SPECIAL EVENTS

TL Block Party and Get Out the Vote, Sat., Sept. 20, 11 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., Boedeker Park. Food, games, music, voter registration tables manned by various organizations, sponsored by TNDCC. Info: Monica, 398-1079.

Community Health and Safety Fair, Sat., Sept. 27, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., Tenderloin Community Playground, 570 Ellis. Free health screenings and information about MediCal, food stamps, emergency preparedness, and much more. Children's craft, raffle, entertainment, free lunch for first 500 attendees. Seven languages spoken. Sponsored by S.F. Hilton, St. Francis Memorial Hospital, CalIt. Pacific Medical Center, support from Nona TL CBD, TNDCC, CalIt. Transplant Donor Network. Info: Katy Broner, 592-2714.


COMMUNITY: REGULAR SCHEDULED HOUSING

Supportive Housing Network, 2nd Thursday of the month, 3-5 p.m., location TBA. Contact: Kendra Fuller, 421-2926 x304.

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

HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH

CBHS Consumer Council, 3rd Tuesday of the month, 3-5 p.m., CBHS, 1330 Howard, room 537. Call 255-3995. 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 908. Call: 421-2926 x306.

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

Outreach and Community Events September 2008

Health Promotion Forum
Topic: “Carb the Butt,” Tulalip’s Smoking Cessation Program
Speaker: Eleven Norman of Tulalip, and others
Date/Time: Tuesday, September 23, 12 pm - 1:30 pm

HIV Treatment Forum
Topics: Keys to Success — Part 2
Speaker: Jenier Vanderlaag, Gilead Sciences
Date/Time: Monday, September 15, 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, September 10, 11:30 am - 1 pm; Wednesday, September 24, 11:30 am - 1 pm

Volunteer and Intern for Tenderloin Health
Orientation: Tuesday, September 16, 12 pm - 6:30 pm
240 Golden Gate Ave., 3rd floor
lunch provided
You must register for volunteer training.
Stop in and fill Emile (415) 437-2900 ext. 224.
For a schedule of our current groups or for more information call 415.437.7476 or go to www.tenderloinhealth.org


Mental Health Board, 2nd Wednesday of the month, 6:30-8:30 p.m., City Hall, room 279. CBHS advisory committee, open to the public. Call: 255-3474.

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

SAFETY

Safety for Women in the Tenderloin, every 3rd Wednesday, Central City SR0 Coalition, 259 Hyde St., 4-6 p.m. Informal, friendly environment, refreshments. Gender sensitive to LGBTI community and sex workers. Discuss how to make Tenderloin SR0s safer for women. Information: Alexandra Goldmann, volunteer coordinator, 715-7110 x102.

Neighborhood Emergency Response Team Training (NERT). Central city residents can take the S.F. Fire Department’s free disaster preparedness and response training at any neighborhood location. See Website for schedule and training locations. www.nert.org or call L’T. Artesones, 970-2022.

SoMa Police Community Relations Forum, 4th Monday of the month, 6-7:30 p.m. Location changes monthly. To receive monthly information by e-mail, call Mental Amity, 518-8100 x202 or mamita@l3.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., 230 Eddy. Contact Michael Ruhy, 820-1560 or sf_district6@yahoo.com, a districts wide improvement association.

Boedeker Park cleanup, 3rd Saturday of the month, 9-noon, organized by the Friends of Boedeker Park. To RSVP to work or for information, call Betty Tovrt, 937-1126.

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


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Tenderloin Health’s gymnasium.
Teaching assistant Alexandra Hollett (second from left) joins her fourth-grade De Marillac Academy students for a workout at the Salvation Army’s gymnasium.

PE program finds Salvation

Salvation Army's fancy new facility on Turk Street has turned out to be a physical-fitness boon for students at the De Marillac Academy just around the corner. The school is renting Sally Ann's new pool, dance studio and gymnasium, allowing it to amp up its physical education program. Previously, fourth- through eighth-graders at the tuition-free school had to exercise at the school playground or schlepp up the street to the YMCA. “We were grateful for the opportunity,” says president Michael Daniels, but scheduling constraints made the Y’s facilities available only 10 hours a week. At Salvation Army, De Marillac students will be able to focus on fitness 30 hours a week. Nearly half the school’s 106 students live in the neighborhood will be tremendously positive,” says Daniels.

—HEIDI SWILLINGER
Residents' rights violated at most of the SROs

"To be honest, not to have a lot of them (come to the board), one or two a year, not as many as could be," Delene Wolf, the board's executive director, says. "(Ours) is not a satisfactory remedy. People want their rights, not so much the money."

The policy is fabulous, Wolf added, "a great improvement. It's one of the most satisfying things we've done at the Rent Board and I'm proud of them. But there's no enforcement power."

It's not easy to deal with the sketchy SRO population. Some hotels are owned by nonprofits, others by private businesses. The city occupies 60% of the SROs. Tenants occupy 8- to 10-foot rooms without kitchens or bathrooms, if they are among the many 70- or 80-year-old hotels. Low-income pensioners and welfare recipients are mixed with physically and mentally disabled, addicts and formerly homeless. Ex-convicts go to SROs.

But a difficult population doesn't trump rights. And Allen White had been attentive to them since 1997, when he worked on a Rent Board advisory committee on the least of the issues. It's one of better coordination."While the SROs are doing one thing, the SROs are doing another thing."

The board's focus is on the issue of tenant rights. It's a real issue, he says, is that the market needs new

For scholarships, the Mental Health Association conference on hoarding and cluttering will be held Oct. 29, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Westin San Francisco Market Street along with other proteins. The conference will meet at the Main Library. This conference will be at the Westin Market Street Hotel, and other locations will include a workshop on the hoarding issue. For more information, call 25 years, backs her up. He says others made

He had an effort to get the Board of Supervisors to revoke the Mills permit last month — a few days after Millman says she made good on her past due payments.

Updike acknowledges that Rec and Park did a good job of providing services to the private sector parties goofed up," he says. "We're not going to hold that against Mary."

In response to the city's request on how much she charges market vendors to sell their wares under can-

You're in the right city to get help. The city of San Francisco, a mental health issue. MHA started focusing on it in the mid-1990s, when a surge of clients began facing eviction because of clutter. Millman and Updike both acknowledge that clinging to their possessions is causing them great problems but can't change; others are unaware, says Millman's and Updike's. Seward is chief financial officer at the Tenderloin, lead tenant organizer Peter Masik, says education is his goal. Leffler comes first, then meetings that he'll organize with owners, police and tenants.

"We're trying to get an educational campaign going to make people aware of the tenant's rights," Masik says. "Most know there aren't supposed to be fees. Beyond that, they don't know."

The fees caused an outcry eight years ago. It was a rampance of desk clerks to charge guests a tax on their room charges. Hundreds of complaints went to then City Attorney Louise Renne. The Board of Supervisors created the SRO Hotel Safety Task Force in 1994 to fix the problem. The task force approved the visitor policy. It was adopted by the board in 2002.

The policy allows paid-fee visitors and, among other things, allowed SROs to suspend overnight visitor privileges for a month, if a tenant didn't follow the rules. The policy made police the enforcement arm and the Rent Board the administrator, and allows a tenant to file a complaint with the Rent Board and possibly get a rent reduction. But it rarely happens.

City Hall has taken over the Antiques and Arts Fair at U.N. Plaza, and Mary Millman isn't happy about it.

In fact, Millman — who established the market nine years ago and has managed it as a private con-

The city, in the person of John Updike, assistant director of real estate, says it's not about the money. The real issue, he says, is that the market needs new

Residents' rights violated at most of the SROs

The city's annual conference on hoarding this year on Oct 29 is where a ground-breaking effort to tackle the issue is in the works.

He is vice president of the Mental Health Association of San Francisco, which sponsors the annual conference, is the compulusive accumulation of things in the home. Low-income tenants, even when they can pose health threats, threaten relationships or result in eviction.

MHA's first conference was in 1997, held at 870 Market St., Suite 928. The MHA office at 870 Market St., Suite 928.

The behavior is sometimes linked with depression, says Millman. "It's a medical problem that needs to be addressed."

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In fact, Millman — who established the market nine years ago and has managed it as a private con-
White went to the General Works section at 850 Bryant St. two weeks later. "They said they deal mostly with felonies and that the report was filed away," White says. "So it dies. I understand the priorities."

While there, he stopped in to see Deputy Chief David Shinn. He knew Shinn from his days as Tenderloin captain when White was with Glide. "We talked," Allen said. "He said he had to go to the police attorney to consult on this."

That was late April. By the end of July, White hadn't heard anything back.

Tenderloin Capt. Gary Jimenez said he isn't aware of any visitor policy complaints in his 22 months at the station. He also admitted he wasn't aware of the updated policy.

In May, White began an email dialogue with Liz Orlin, TNDC’s chief operating officer, and at one point saw her in person. He recounted the incident in which the West managers said TNDC had rules that supersede the Uniform Hotel Visitor Policy.

Orlin responded that TNDC has its own house rules included in a tenant’s lease form, signed by the tenant, but was updating the rules and would contact him when they were done.

Hearing nothing from Orlin by July 21, White followed up with an email. He reminded her that TNDC still didn’t support the amended policy because the old copy remained on the West’s wall.

Orlin apologized for not getting back and said all TNDC building managers had been given the Oct. 23, 2007, 11- by 17-inch policy in June and were asked to display it prominently.

The Extra checked three TNDC hotels in late July and 14 non-TNDC hotels at random in the Tenderloin and on Sixth Street. No TNDC hotel had the policy properly displayed and its Franciscan Towers at 217 Eddy St. had nothing up. By contrast, the Windsor House, a non-TNDC hotel at 298 Eddy St., not only had the current policy the right size posted next to the reception desk, it had additional versions in four foreign languages. "My idea," said General Manager Avon Curtis. It was one of seven of the 17 SROs checked that were in compliance.

The West policy still had the 2006 rules, framed, high up on a lobby wall, in tiny type on an 8½- by 10-inch sheet.

The Extra contacted Orlin. "As far as I know we’re complying," Orlin said. "We’re constantly updating house rules and we don’t intend to have any rule that supersedes the Uniform Hotel Visitor Policy. And none now supersedes it."

Told that the 2006 rules were still up at the West, she said: "If the compliance manager was made aware of that, he would take care of it. So this is what we need to know."

And some time later it was done.

SRO crusader helps bring TNDC into compliance

THE TENDERLOIN VOTES

BLOCK PARTY

September 20, 2008

11:00AM — 3:30PM

Music & Entertainment Featuring:

★ Blues Survivor
★ Reincarnation Performance Group
★ Still Flyin’
★ Pinpoint Productions

Boeddeker Park
San Francisco, CA

EVENT SPONSORED BY: TNDC, CHP, CCDC, BOEDEKER PARK/SAN FRANCISCO RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT, SUITE 181, CARE THROUGH TOUCH

The Tenderloin Votes Block Party

Voter Registration Tables

Family Friendly!

ACTIVITIES AND GAMES FOR ALL AGES! FOOD!