Crime climbs, arrests fall in Tenderloin
Drug busts lead the way in 2005 report

BY TOM CARTER

It was 7 p.m. sometime in mid-March when a man with two bullets in his back staggered a hundred or so feet down the sidewalk from the St. Boniface Church gate where he was shot collapsing at the door of the Tenderloin AIDS Resource Center.

TARC staff called 911. Police and an ambulance were there right away. Witnesses described the shooter to police, then rode in a patrol car to U.N. Plaza looking for the suspect. They spotted him and he was arrested. The episode didn’t last 10 minutes.

Hank Wilson, TARC Community Center manager, told the story to the Police Commission when the commissioners met in the Tenderloin at 201 Turk St. on March 29. Wilson was illustrating how the community works with the police against serious crime in the area.

“People came forward at once,” Wilson said, “and police were there at once. It’s a great example of community policing. When multiple witnesses come forward, more will come.”

The commissioners seemed impressed by this and the supporting comments of a half-dozen other residents who praised TL Capt. Kathryn Brown’s approach to community policing while complaining about the relentless dope dealing and lack of cops on the street. Ultimately, the commissioners heard what they already knew: More uniforms equals less crime.

The strolling beat cop is practically a thing of the past in the Tenderloin. Brown says she can’t staff the three TL foot patrol sectors because of budget constraints. Manning radio cars is first priority. Those officers frequently get out of their cars to be on the street, she says, although they can’t venture far from their radios. Rarely, and only with overtime dollars, can Brown put a cop on a beat, she says.

Drug trafficking is the major reason the Tenderloin had the second most arrests among San Francisco’s 10 police districts in 2005, though TL’s population is a fraction of the others, according to statistics Capt. Brown presented to the commission.

It was her annual neighborhood crime report, and she went over the highlights. Figures showed crime in most categories up in 2005, and calls to the police were up, but arrests overall were down slightly.

TL police, sometimes working with the narcotics detail, the state Bureau of Narcotics, the FBI, DEA and other law-enforcement agencies, made 4,823 arrests in 2005, 6%
Pavilion morphs into housing only
Glide, TNDC to replace dream with 2 buildings, 137 units

BY MARJORIE BEGGS

ELEVEN years ago, North of Market Planning Coalition dreamed about the idea of a bigtime development that would bring a small convention center, more housing and offices to Tenderloin. Called the Pavilion, it would sprawl Mason between Eddy and Ellis and would cost “tens of millions of dollars,” said NOPMC’s Lower Eddy plan.

The Pavilion, with a $67 million price tag, became the centerpiece of the Lower Eddy-Leavenworth Task Force, which got $6.8 million from the city for the housing component.

The project’s history was tagged euphoric predictions of how it would stimulate the neighborhood’s economy, disappointment when two housing bonds measures failed that might have given it a boost, and continued assurances to the community that the Pavilion was still alive. By 2004, its budget had ballooned to $250 million and its square foot space of 420,000 square feet, 400 apartments, parking for 50 cars and 10,000 square feet of belowmarket rental space for non-profits.

Then, a year ago at a Tenderloin Futures Collaborative meeting, Don Felder, now executive-director of TNDC, a partner in the project, announced that the dream was dead through some housing was still feasible.

Glide Economic Development Corp., the nonprofit formed in 2000 to take over the Pavilion project, said it was able to buy more than four of the 12 parcels involved, despite support from its other partners: the Mayor’s Office of Housing, Evelyn and Walter Haas Jr. Fund, San Francisco Hotel, S.F. Convention Facilities Department and Parking Authority.

Last month, the Collaborative heard what will go into the lots on Mason: two buildings, one with 81 apartments for families, the other with 56 studios for the formerly homeless. JEDC owns both buildings and TNDC is a partner in building the studios. After construction, it will withdraw $260,000 and leave.

Architect Larry Meyers of Michael Vitale Architects, designer of Glide’s Community House, and Tom Brinting of the firm Hardcon Kamatsu Ivelich & Tucker made the presentations. Also at the meeting to answer questions was Paula Collins, founder and CEO of real estate developer WDG Ventures, which also had been involved in the Pavilion project.

The family housing, Meyers said, will rise eight stories, 45 apartments, then step back and go up six stories. The main floor has offices, a community room and classrooms, and the base- ment contains a 14-car garage. One-bedroom units will be about 700 square feet, two-bedrooms 1,000 square feet and three-bedrooms 1,200 square feet.

YMCA Director Carmella Gold asked why only 14 parking spaces. Meyers explained that inner-city proj- ects are allowed many exclusions to the one unit-one parking space requirement. “This is the building going to inter- face with what’s going on around it commercially?” asked community activist Richard Allmann.

Meyers said the lobby will have a “lot of glass,” to “make it more like a hotel lobby.” “Retailers” asked S.F. Rec- rescue Mission’s Chaplain Early Rogers. “We’re targeting this building at 50%-60% of market.”

Jim Thompson, property manager at 165 Turk, asked Collins about the parking structure. “Do you have plans to have minimal ‘notches’ in the front?”

She understood the question immediately. “Yes, we’ll keep them at a minimum. There’ll be no places for problems” — clandestine activities dangerous or possibly illegal, that can be hidden away from streetlights and parking police cars.

Bringing down dawn spots on the other building eight stories, ground floor offices and conference room, 1,000 square feet of commercial space, a reception desk manned 24-7.

“The studios, each with its own bathroom and kitchen area, are $55 to $95 square feet,” he said. “We will have laundry facilities, and on each floor four studios will face the street and four will face the back.”

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Crime climbs, arrests fall in Tenderloin

Police Commission hears stories of bow cops, community cooperate

And the way recruits learn the ropes in the TL, she at least one speaks: Armenian, American Sign commissioners. Among the 90 TL station personnel unusual diversity that requires special handling, “tol-
ed and a rainbow of ethnicities and you have an DIVERSITY REQUIRES SPECIAL HANDLING

were down by a third, to 31 in 2005.

more than the 53 in 2004. Use of force allegations complaints from the TL in 2005, nearly half again 306 in ’04.

ries, down 22%, were 238 in 2005 compared with 15, compared with 11 in 2004, usually fires turned over to special units to investigate.

cases, 20, up from 9.

service, a 6.5% increase over 2004.

priorities.

averages about 34 drug arrests a year.

they are making arrests,” Brown said. “I don’t know

monthly police meetings. “They get arrested and are

Drug addicts bring a violent element to the neighborhood, and we as a city have to make reha-

Brown’s idea to clean up the scene is to clean up the addicts.

Drug addicts bring a violent element to the neighborhood, and we as a city have to make reha-

was at Ellis and 17th Anniversary

Safe Medicine Disposal Days

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Please bring your expired or unwanted medications to these Walgreens locations* on May 19-20, 2006, between 10 AM- 2 PM:

25 Point Lobos @ Grove Blvd. 3201 Divisadero Street @ Lombard Street 3601 California Street @ Sutro Boulevard 1344 Stockton Street @ Broadway Street 1750 Naghash Street @ 24th Avenue 159 Panama Avenue @ Sutro Boulevard 1899 Fillmore Street @ Oak Street 825 Market Street @ 24th Street 1313 Castro Street @ 24th Street 2550 Ocean Avenue @ Junipero Serra Blvd 1119 Potrero Avenue @ 24th Street 5300 3rd Street @ Van Dyke Street 965 Georgia Avenue @ London Street

*Please note that these and all other Walgreens do not personally accept unsanitized or expired medications. The Walgreens listed will only take your medicines on May 19 & 20, 2006.

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New hope for Bindlestiff as city theater renewal review nears completion

Party central committees, where grassroots politics grows

San Francisco, Calif. — When it was his own initiative, Prop. K was not easily defeated. The voters didn’t buy 24, but divided the proposed ballot initia-

ting limit on the amount of office space, and it has run for San Francisco mayor. "It’s my personal viewpoint that Willie was sending a message to the country that the state of the nation, the state of the world, the state of the nation’s capital was very different than it was when he was in office," said Newsom.

"We’re going to have a lot of problems," he told the committee 50% of California’s population is Latino, yet only 22 of 58 counties are registered to vote. Now, he said, pending federal legislation on green cards and citizenship, "I’m going to ask a friend of mine who’s a lawyer, a partner at a large law firm, to help us look at a way to get around the federal law." The committee also got an earful during public comment from Richard Grayson, the leader of the "yes" side, who argued that a "yes" vote would mean that the city would have to pay for the cost of implementing the initiative. He said that the city’s current budget is already strained and that a "yes" vote would be too costly. The committee also heard from a number of other individuals and organizations who supported the measure, including the San Francisco Symphony, which said that the measure would help to ensure the city’s cultural institutions have the resources they need to thrive. The committee heard from a number of other individuals and organizations who supported the measure, including the San Francisco Symphony, which said that the measure would help to ensure the city’s cultural institutions have the resources they need to thrive.
Join the US Small Business Administration and the San Francisco Small Business Commission as we celebrate National Small Business Week from May 15 – 20. We’ll have networking parties, forum seminars and neighborhood events to salute entrepreneurs’ daily hard work.

Highlights Include:

- City Hall Kick-Off Event, May 15, 6:00 p.m. Our networking evening to meet new customers and find plenty of leads. We’ll also be featuring Flavors of San Francisco, with tastings from outstanding local restaurants, and a Resource Fair. For more information, go to www.acteva.com/go/cityhall.

- How To Start A Business, May 16, morning, afternoon and evening classes available. Workshops held in various neighborhoods, including the Ocean View, Mission and Bayview Districts, and the LGBT Center on Market. Topics covered will include management, financing and resources. For more information, go to www.acteva.com/go/cityhall.

- Leveraging Technology To Grow Your Business, May 17, 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., San Francisco Hilton, 333 O’Farrell. Cost of event: $25. Lunch provided. Brought to you by Microsoft. For more information, go to www.sbtechnologyinstitute.org/sbdctap/ms.htm.

- Financing for Your Small Business, May 18, 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.; SF Chamber of Commerce, 235 Montgomery St. Discover the right way to seek financing for your business. We’ll discuss loan proposals, financing options and programs for your company’s financial health. For more information, go to www.acteva.com/go/cityhall.

- The San Francisco Chamber of Commerce Grand Expo Marketplace, May 17 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. San Francisco Design Center Concourse featuring a reception with more than 100 exhibitors. For more information, go to www.sfchamber.com.

- Be sure to look for your local merchants’ association to wrap up the week with parties in your neighborhood to salute their members. Check with your merchants’ association to see what they’re planning for Friday night, May 19. For more information, visit sfgov.org/sbc.

Finally, come out and shop. Area businesses will be setting up Saturday Sidewalk Sales all over San Francisco as part of the celebration, thanks to the organizational support of the SF Small Business Commission.
OBITUARIES

KATHLEEN FITZPATRICK
A caring nurse

The Aranda Residence lost its welcoming angel when Kathleen Fitzpatrick, a nurse who thought more of giving than she did of herself, died in San Francisco General Hospital on March 24 of meningitis, pneumonia and hepatitis. She was 53.

A dozen friends who gathered at her memorial remembered the 5-foot-3, 90-pound woman as the first to greet newcomers to the Aranda with a sweet smile, a card and a gift basket of food she had prepared. She told them they could stop by anytime at her room on the fifth floor where she invariably offered them food. But the friends also didn’t hesitate to say how stubborn Ms. Fitzpatrick was, a characteristic that no one who thought more of helping others than herself.

“Sadness, confusion, pain, grief and fear,” she said, “when they come to you, name them, and let them go.”

Michael Saunter, a mental health worker, rose and said he had worked with Mr. Okada in a Mission Mental Health clinic program. Saunter said the death that freed the troubled man brought up sadness and joy in him, a poignant ambivalence found in a song that an old Japanese woman taught Saunter as a child. The song was written by a woman mourning cherry blossoms beginning to bloom. He sang it in Japanese in a deep bass voice that resonated and filled the still room.

AIDS care worker Galileo Mendrano had known Mr. Okada eight months, he said, since around the time he moved into the Star. He got to know Mr. Okada fairly well and was shaken by the suicide. Mendrano believed he had attended a Japanese University to study art and wasn’t sure if he had any work history. He was gay and had gay friends, Mendrano said, but he “was very private about that” and belonged to no gay associations. His parents, who live in Japan, apparently couldn’t handle it.

“He wanted to patch up his relationship with his parents,” he admitted (being gay) to acceptance and he struggled with it,” Mendrano said. “He became a Christian four or five years ago.”

Afterward, the Rev. Hope and three others went upstairs to bless No. 518, Mr. Okada’s room. But by posted order of the medical examiner they couldn’t enter. The President minister explained that some- times she blessed a room and for those who feel a suicide room is “bad luck,” or even “haunted.”

And the three others put their hands up high on the door in the narrow hallway, as the cameraman recorded a scene the cameraman recorded. Okada was seeing the “beauty of the world without any filters,” the minister said, and it was okay for him “to go into the hands of a loving God.”

Property manager Lois Butler said later that Mr. Okada’s art work found inside was turned over to his visiting parents who gave it all to one of his friends.

— Tom Carter

TENDERLOIN AIDS RESOURCE CENTER

Outreach and Community Events May 2006

HIV Services Forum
Topic: What You Should Know About Hep C
Speaker: Andrew Reynolds, SF City Clinic
Date/Time: Wednesday, May 17, 5:30–6:30 pm

Health Promotion Forum
Topic: STDs and HIV
Speaker: Andrew Reynolds, SF City Clinic
Date/Time: Wednesday, May 24, 2006, 5:30–6:30 pm

Location for Forums: TARCS, 191 Golden Gate Ave.
Light meal will be provided

Client Advisory Panel
Come talk with Alexander Fields, Consumer Board Representative; Tracy Brown, TARCS’s Executive Director and program managers about plans for TARCS. Also provide input on new services and how we can improve.
Date/Time: Wednesday, May 10, 11:30 am - 1 pm

Volunteer for TARCS
Orientations: Friday, May 19, 10 am - 1 pm (lunch provided)
183 Golden Gate Ave.
You must preregister for volunteer trainings. Stop in or call Emily (415) 934-1792.
For current groups’ schedule or for more information call: 415.431.7476 or go to www.tarcs.org

Tenderloin benefit district seeking board members

The Tenderloin Community Benefit District, which cleans and beautifies the neighborhood using a special tax on property owners, has been operating with a 22-member interim board of directors since it was formed in August. Now it’s getting ready to elect a permanent board of 15 members. The number of interim members, who will apply is unknown, said Elaine Zamora, benefit district manager, but she expects seats to be open.

The by-laws and the city legislation that launched benefit districts require that 20% be owners, who rent or lease businesses, including nonprofits, within the district boundaries.

“There aren’t any required percentages for the remaining members,” Zamora said. “But the by-laws committee looked at that 20% for businesspeople and suggested that 60% be property owners and 20% renters and at-large members.”

Using those percentages, the board is required to have nine property owners and three each of business owners, renters and residents.

Applications, due May 29, describe duties as a minimum of four to six hours a month of meetings and two hours a month of volunteer work on behalf of the district.” Board members’ terms are for two years. Information: 415-7570 or extant@tenderloin.org.

— JAMIE RICE

MAY 2006 / CENTRAL CITY EXTRA 7
**COMMUNITY: REGULAR SCHEDULE**

**HOUSING**
Supportive Housing Network, 4th Thursday of the month, 3-5 p.m., location TBA. Contact Meza Hopper, 415-2925-0362.

Tenant Associations Coalition of San Francisco, 1st Wednesday of the month, noon, 201 Turis Community Room. Contact Michael Nulty, 339-8317. Tenant unity, leadership, training, facilitate communication.

**HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH**
CHRS Consumer Council, 3rd Monday of the month, 5:30-7:30 p.m., 1330 Howard, Contact: 365-3648. Advisory group of consumers from self-help organizations and other mental health consumer advocates. Open to the public.

Health & Wellness Action Advocates, 1st Thursday of the month, 1-3 p.m., Mental Health Association, 870 Market, Suite 925. Contact: 415-2901 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 homecare and improved discharge planning. Light lunch served. Contact: Aaron Wagner, 703-0188 x304.

Hoarders and Clutterers Support Group, 2nd Monday and 4th Wednesday of each month, 6-7 p.m, 870 Market St, Suite 928. Contact: 415-2905 x306.

Mental Health Board, 2nd Wednesday of the month, 6:30-8:30 p.m., City Hall, room 278. CHRS advisory committee, open to the public. Contact: 250-2547.

National Alliance for the Mentally Ill-S.F., 3rd Wednesday of the month, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Family Service Agency, 1010 Gough, 4th floor, Contact Carrie Diamond, 362-2500. Member group, open to consumers and the public.

**SAFETY**
Crime and Safety Committee, meets bimonthly on the Wednesday after the 1st Monday, SOMAPC, 1595 Folsom, 6 p.m. Information: 487-2166 or www.somapc.com.

North of Market NERT, bimonthly meeting. Contact Liz. Erickson, S.F. Fire Department, 2032. 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 Lisa Block, 538-8100 ext. 202. LooksLikeCrime.org.

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

**NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT**
Friends of a Better District 6, 2nd Tuesday of the month, 6 p.m., City Services Committee, 301 Eddy.

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

Central City Democrats Leadership Alliance, a democratic charter organization. Monthly informational forums with guest speakers and leaders, sharing news of upcoming events, proposals, resources. Meetings are first Thursday in Jan, April, July, Oct. Contact information: David Wills-Lahes, admin@CentralCityDemocratsAlliance.net.

Friends of Boeddeker Park, 2nd Thursday of the month, 5-6:30 p.m., Boeddeker Rec Center, 240 Eddy. Park plan events, activities and improvements. Contact: 592-4966.

**CENTRAL CITY EXTRA / MAY 2006**

SPECIAL EVENTS

**June 6, 2006 Primary Election**

**CENTERAL CITY DEMOCRATS ENDORSEMENTS**

Assembly District #13

**Democratic Central Committee**

Sue Bierman

David Campos

Gilbert Criswell

Raphael Mandelman

Michael Goldstein

Rick Hauptman

Joe Julian

Hollie Thier

Bruce Windrem

**State Senate District 8**

Leland Yee

**State Assembly District 13**

Mark Leno

Superior Court Judge Seat 8

Lillian Song

**San Francisco Ballet Issues**

No An Proposition D (argona Honda Hospital)

**The making of grassroots politicians**

where he lived for 13 years, he was a precinct committeeperson, representing about 600 regis-
tered voters.

“Oregon, by contrast, has three million people, 80 state representatives and precinct reps. We’re one of the few states that doesn’t elect precinct committeepersons – but we really should.”

Bierman, a mental health and patients’ rights activist who was board chairman of the Oakland Drop-In Center, wants to change the structure of the central committee.

“It should establish permanent precinct cap-
tains – give them more control to be the eyes and ears of the party,” he says.

James Sodberg is running a low-profile campaign for a seat on the Republican Central Committee in District 15.

“I’m not on any Republican slate and I haven’t gone after any endorsements,” he says. “This is an experiment — I’m trying to see if I can achieve something without those things.”

Sodberg, a stock exchange manager, was on the Contra Costa County Central Committee six years ago, appointed to fill a vacant seat. After moving to San Francisco, he ran for a seat here in 2004 and won — the top Republican voter-getter that year — but had to leave halfway through the term. Now he’s trying again.

“I’m a Republican in the city, it’s hard to take the reins,” he says, “but we can influence what’s hap-
pening, especially getting more people on city commissions to get a better balance.”

Sue Bierman is running for a seat on the Republican Central Committee for the first time. She has been a central committee member since 1974. She was the top Republican vote-getter.

“I’m a good Democrat and the central com-
mittee is a place where we can pass resolutions that speak to a lot of problems,” Bierman says.

The central committee job is like no other, she adds. “People these days are so busy, and the media don’t carry as much as they should about grassroots politics. People are always telling me how much they like our slate cards and other information because they have no other source of information. That’s our main job to inform people.”

Currently, Bierman says, the committee “has its hands full with trying to change things. I worked hard against Bush, and it’s sad that our candidate couldn’t unseat him. We do have to keep trying to get good people.”

Bruce Windrem