

Tu Lan down — not out — in permit loss

‘We worked things out’ with the city

BY JONATHAN NEWMAN

FOR TU LAN, Sixth Street’s venerable go-to for quick, hearty and cheap Vietnamese fare, the temporary closure order issued July 27 by the Department of Public Health was nothing new — it weathered temporary closures for food safety violations five times in the past three years.

What followed was a shock.

On Aug. 8, at the close of a 15-minute hearing, Population Health and Prevention Director Dr. Tomas Aragon issued his two-word judgment: “License revoked.”

Ordinarily, temporary closure orders are resolved at informal hearings, often within 24 hours of the order’s issuance at which the health inspectors report their findings of violations,

the restaurant operators promise to improve, and the restaurant is back up and running. And so it had gone for Tu Lan since November 2009 — the beginning of a spate of low health inspection scores.

But this time Environmental Health Senior Inspector Mohammed Malhi, frustrated that Tu Lan’s owners were not making the required improvements, asked Aragon to impose the ultimate penalty.

“We engaged in three years of outreach and education and the problems were not corrected,” he said.

Malhi and his partner, Inspector Beronica Lee, presented a damning indictment of Tu Lan’s food service practices and evidence of three years of unresolved food handling problems to Aragon, including the persistent presence of mice and cockroaches — “serious vermin harbinage,” Malhi called it — unclean food prep and service, improper food storage and refrigeration, negligent hand washing by staff and restaurant walls and ceilings in disrepair.

Malhi recounted the particulars of five inspections by six different inspectors in less than three years. Under a food handling and service scoring system that sets 100 as perfect, Tu Lan’s

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Festival features
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CENTRAL CITY



S A N F R A N C I S C O

SOME ARE PERFECT



PHOTO BY MARK DONEZA
Hang Nguyen of Saigon Sandwich shows off a tofu banh mi, touted by USA Today. The little shop on Larkin Street has a Symbol of Excellence for consecutive high scores from health inspectors.

Clean bill of health

Restaurants in TL, as a rule, rate pretty darn good

BY TOM CARTER

AFTER TU LAN, a central city culinary institution, closed because of health violations, The Extra checked out 38 restaurants from the more than 120 in the Tenderloin to see how they measure up.

In the city’s poorest neighborhood, three very different restaurants scored a perfect 100 in the Department of Public Health’s latest round of inspections: the decorous Old Siam Thai on Ellis, little specialty sandwich shop Le Pettit’s Kitchen on Golden Gate and the franchise burger joint Carl’s Jr. on Market.

Some places we picked for our survey are well-known citywide, others are local favorites, all do steady business.

Unannounced, inspectors drop in during restaurants’ working hours to evaluate how closely followed the city’s health code is and to derive a score based on the violations they find. A perfect score of 100 keeps the inspector away for a year. A low score with several high-risk dings makes the inspector a familiar face. DPH says a score of 90 or more is good, 86-89 is adequate, 71-85 “needs improvement” and 70 and below is poor.

Three 90s or above in a row brings a bonus: the Symbol of Excellence, a sign to be posted like a badge of honor. And The Extra found that more than a third of the 38 restaurants we checked have them. Besides the three perfect 100s, others that are spic and span include All Stars Donuts, Burger King,

L.A. Cafe and a pair of El Castillito Mexican restaurants, 14 in all (see sidebar).

Some longtime restaurants, like Little Henry’s Italian Food on Larkin Street, barely miss an Excellence award by a point here or two points there. Or Celtic Coffee near Hastings with a three-point spread in the high-80s. Once ratings plunge, however, comebacks are uncommon. Few stage a dramatic turnaround, as Tu Lan envisions.

But it happens, and the most recent example in the Tenderloin occurred in Little Saigon. Saigon Sandwich at 560 Larkin St. is climbing out of a hole deeper than Tu Lan’s. Saigon Sandwich was first in San Francisco to serve banh mi, opening in the early Seventies about the same time as its Skid Row counterpart that premiered in 1973.

Indeed, the Larkin Street shop in February 2011 had racked up an alarming 13 violations, from lousy storage and old and dirty walls and ceiling to temperature and food cleanliness problems. Moreover, the inspector found no one in charge. The result was an unheard of 46. Since then, Saigon Sandwich has regrouped and twice scored 96, well on the way to its own Symbol of Excellence.

“It’s one of our success stories,” says DPH’s Food Safety Director Richard Lee. “We helped guide their renovation and they moved their food preparation next door” on Eddy Street.

And it has gotten its own culinary kudo, maybe not the praise that Tu Lan got from a generous Julia Child, but an admirable showing in the media’s constant search for the best sandwich in Food Nation.

USA Today listed Saigon as San Francisco’s top spot for “Sandwiches to make you drool.” The humble little nook that only offers eight kinds of sandwiches was named with the sandwich leaders in 16 other cities, as recommended by Zagat, the guidebook publisher.

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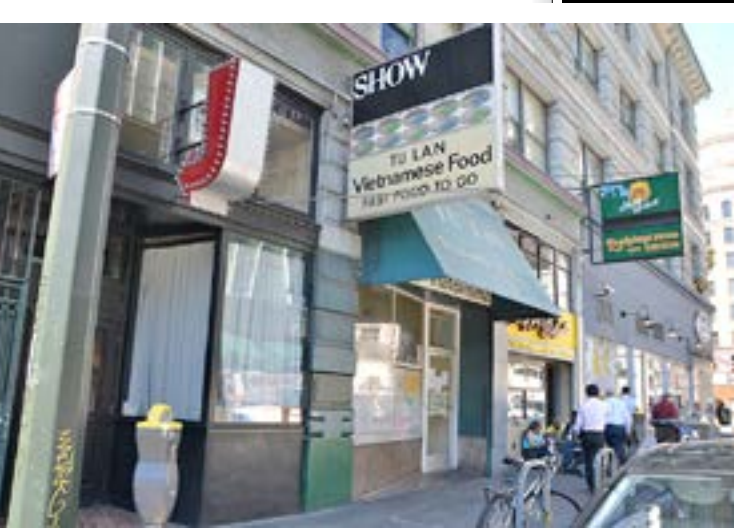


PHOTO BY MARK DONEZA

Tu Lan owners agree to remodel the restaurant and take on a managing partner.

“To our dear customers ... we hope to see you soon”

Sign on Tu Lan’s door

GOOD NEWS for...

BETTY TRAYNOR Hooray for one of our own: Betty Traynor, chair of Friends of Boeddeker Park and a park stalwart since 2003, is one of three finalists in the Cox Conserves Heroes program. Founded four years ago by Trust for Public Land and Cox Enterprises, parent company of KTVU Channel 2, the contest honors everyday conservationists, awarding \$2,500 to the three finalists' environmental nonprofit of choice plus \$7,500 to the winner. Traynor says that if she wins, the entire \$10,000 will go to the Boeddeker renovation, scheduled to start in October. In this contest the public picks the winner. Go to coxconservesheroes.com, click on "choose a location" on the left and select San Francisco Bay Area. Click on the **Vote Now Through September 24** link and vote for Traynor. "In all my dealing with the public, she stands alone," says Jake Gilchrist, formerly with Trust for Public Land. "She's quiet, humble, extremely effective. All the changes at Boeddeker are a direct credit to her," he, the makeover's main fundraiser, said modestly. Voting closes at 5 p.m., Sept. 24.

ST. ANTHONY'S After years in the planning, St. Anthony Foundation is almost ready to demolish its building at 121 Golden Gate Ave., home of its dining room since 1950, which serves 3,000 meals a day — 40% of all free meals in San Francisco, they say. Meals have been served in temp quarters at 150 Golden Gate since February. Demolition begins this month. When the dust settles, construction will start on the 10-story building. Watch for a groundbreaking ceremony in January. The new main-floor dining room will serve 43% more people. St. Anthony's free clothing program and social work center will fill the building's second floor, with Mercy Housing's 90 units for seniors on the floors above. The \$22 million construction project is expected to be done in mid-2014 with a grand opening that fall.



HKIT ARCHITECTS

Rendering of St. Anthony's new building.

NONPROFIT HOUSING Community Housing Partnership, TNDC, Chinatown Community Development Center, Mercy Housing, Asian Inc., Homeownership San Francisco and Habitat for Humanity Greater San Francisco — all developers of affordable housing in the central city — are among 17 San Francisco and East Bay housing nonprofits to share grants totaling \$425,000 from Bank of America. They'll use the grants to add housing and expand services to help revitalize our needy neighborhoods. BofA, this year distributing \$22 million across the United States to 650 national and local community nonprofits in 34 states, expects its grants to benefit more than 31 million people, providing 8,000 new housing units and rehabbing 11,000. ■

The CPMC deal on the table — what's in it for the Tenderloin

BY MARJORIE BEGGS

NESTLED WITHIN California Pacific Medical Center's troubled \$2.5 billion hospitals project are modest perks for the Tenderloin — \$200,000 to construct a permanent Safe Passage sidewalk, \$3.5 million for traffic calming and safety improvements on Eddy and Ellis streets, and an un-stated portion of a \$20 million fund for some Tenderloin clinics.

CPMC's development agreement also promises that, over 10 years, 400 permanent workers will be hired from six "underserved" neighborhoods, including the Tenderloin, to fill new, entry-level, full-time, part-time and per diem jobs, but none in construction.

There's also \$150,000 to help launch a Lower Polk Community Business District in the area, plus \$1 million for public improvements.

That's about all in the evolving agreement that for sure would benefit the Tenderloin. Less certain are promises of affordable housing, perhaps here, and \$15 million to add to the pot for transit improvements.

The Cathedral Hill Campus at Geary and Van Ness, abutting the Tenderloin, is CPMC's linchpin — a 555-bed hospital joined by an underground tunnel to a nine-story medical center across the street. St. Luke's Hospital in the Mission and Davies Medical Center in the Du-boce Triangle also are in the mix.

Mayor Lee introduced the development agreement he'd negotiated with CPMC to the Board of Supervisors April 3. Rosy projections for a quick approval were dashed after the California Nurses Association, Cathedral Hill Neighbors Association and four other organizations appealed the Planning Commission's mid-April certification of the project's final EIR.

The supes reversed Planning's approval and began Land Use Committee hearings June 15, then stopped them abruptly 10 days later when an anonymous whistle-blower leaked internal CPMC documents that seemed to give the lie to its promises on jobs, charity care and, especially, its commitment to maintain a new St. Luke's for at least 20 years. July 17 the supes voted to delay any decision on the final EIR until at least Nov. 20, and CPMC parent company Sutter Health agreed to work with a mediator to settle its dispute with the city.

When it's settled, here's what's in store for the Tenderloin, according to the April 26 version of CPMC's development agreement.

SAFE PASSAGE

An 11-block route for neighborhood children to walk safely to and from Tenderloin schools has been in place since 2006. The route's partially painted sidewalks stretch along Golden Gate Avenue, Turk, Eddy and Ellis streets between Leavenworth and Jones streets, with an additional block on Ellis extending to Hyde. Police-trained volunteers along the route watch out for the



PHOTO: COURTESY TENDERLOIN CBD

The Safe Passage sidewalk design needs to be burned in to become permanent, work that would be funded by a \$200,000 grant from CPMC.

kids, with officers present at some intersections.

The program is 6 years old but still considered a pilot, says Dina Hilliard, manager of the Tenderloin Community Benefit District. The CBD, Tenderloin Boys & Girls Club, Chinatown Community Development Center at 201 Turk, and La Voz Latina, a Tenderloin Housing Clinic project that helps Latino immigrants develop leadership skills, comprise an informal committee that directs Safe Passage.

"We'd hoped for \$500,000 from the CPMC agreement so we could hire a coordinator," says Hilliard. "I'm not sure how the \$200,000 figure was decided on, but I know that Randy Shaw (THC executive director) and Supervisor Kim felt it was important to include."

Some of the 11 blocks currently are painted with colorful designs

marking the route, but the paint might not last long. To burn in the designs, making them permanent, will cost about \$200,000, Shaw estimated, a figure he got from a contractor who did something similar for Berkeley Arts District.

"Also, a small amount of the \$200,000 is for a nonprofit to solicit bids and process the paperwork," Shaw says. That could be THC or the CBD or some other nonprofit.

Language naming "Tenderloin Housing Clinic or another nonprofit" in a draft version of the development agreement was changed to read that the Mayor's Office of Economic and Workforce Development will "enter into a grant agreement" with a nonprofit that OEWD selects through competitive bidding.

Hilliard calls Safe Passage a suc-

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Correction

Photo captions on page 5 of August's Extra misspelled the names of Luggage Store Gallery artist/barista Chad Hasegawa and Little Cafe grill-er Louis Campbell.

CENTRAL CITY



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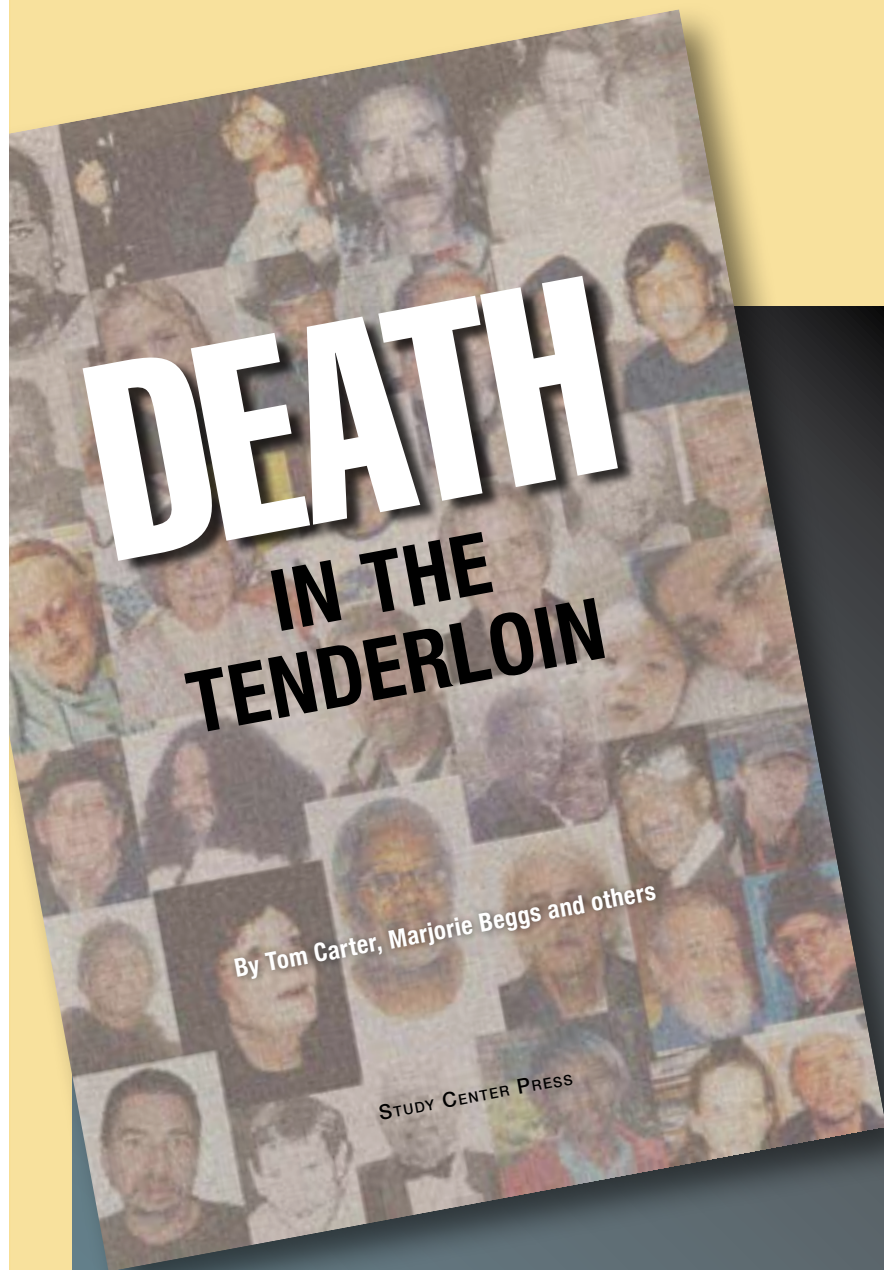
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• COMING THIS MONTH •



Like life in the Tenderloin,
death here is different

DEATH IN THE TENDERLOIN

A Slice of Life

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99 stories of residents who died

4 essays on death in the 'hood

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24 stories by Marjorie Beggs

11 stories by others: Mark Hedin, Leah Garchik, Heidi Swillinger, Ed Bowers, Brian Rinker, Karen Datangel

3 photos by Mark Ellinger

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"Obituaries published in the Tenderloin newspaper, Central City Extra, are astonishing, unvarnished revelations, sometimes stark, sometimes wondrous. These posthumous stories, now in book form, become deeply revelatory about the people and the neighborhood. Death in the Tenderloin is a miracle of sensitive, yet matter-of-fact reportage, the tales simply, factually told, but poignant in their declarative simplicity."

— Jim Milton, *Writer and Editor*

TO ORDER: Email Leonor@studycenter.org

Saigon Sandwich named best little bite in S.F.

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Saigon Sandwich is a cubbyhole with a blue-and-white sign and fresh, yellow paint inside. A minicounter and two chairs for in-house dining at the street window leave just enough room inside for maybe six customers to clamor for the best-sellers, \$3.50 pork and chicken sandwiches, packed with fresh veggies on tasty buns.

However, the score at Morty's Delicatessen at 280 Golden Gate Ave., a longtime favorite of Hastings law students, is headed the other way, scores indicate. Morty's last score, Sept. 6, 2011, was a lowly 70 with nine violations, one for "rodents, roaches, flies and other animals," the phrase DPH uses in its reports, another for improper hot-cold holding temperatures.

Morty's latest score was a dip down from the 78 it received in February 2011, its only other recorded score on the DPH Website. At that inspection, there were six violations.

"You have to be on top of your game every day," says Morty's owner-manager, who has had the place six years. "I train the employees" on food safety. He calls the inspections fair and says, "Everything they brought to my attention, I deserved." When asked, he estimated Morty's most recent score was an 80, then requested anonymity when told that, according to the DPH Website, it was 70.

"But I haven't been inspected in a year and I had refrigeration problems," he said. "I know it's public information, but don't put that score in, and don't use my name."

Ironically, Morty's is surrounded by excellence. Le Petitt's Kitchen, a sandwich shop across the street at 265 Golden Gate Ave., has a stellar record — perfect in the eyes of the DPH with five 100s dating from February back to November 2009. It's a hole in the wall, but it has a fine variety of 29 moderately priced sandwiches and worth the wait in line at lunchtime.

Her string of sensational scores delights seven-year manager Gloria Farfan who does a better job of keeping the street dirt out than stopping the street people who lift potato chip bags and waltz out. "We don't argue," she says. And she can do nothing about the apartment construction next door that started in June and will go to mid-December, reducing her business by 30%, she says.

Across the street, El Castillito rated a 92 in April, down from a 94.5 average over four previous inspections back to November 2009. Its sister Mexican restaurant a block away at 370 Golden Gate, nearer the old Federal Building, is also deserving of the Symbol of Excellence. It got a 96 in July after aver-



PHOTO BY MARK DONEZA

Gloria Farfan, manager of Le Petitt's Kitchen, a perfect 100 times five in the health inspector's book, takes an order at the popular Golden Gate Avenue lunch spot.

aging 94 since November '09.

Even the modest All Stars Donuts & Burgers on the corner of Golden Gate and Larkin is a winner. It got a 96 this year and averaged 98-plus in five other inspections over almost three years, getting dinged for only two violations in that period.

Le Petitt, with four little tables and small counter, is the lower end of business volume among DPH's superclean eateries. Farfan says she sells more than 100 sandwiches a day.

At the higher end is Burger King at Market and Grove streets, across from the Main Library. After scoring six 100s dating back to August '09, the fast food franchise got a 96 in June. Asked how many sandwiches the restaurant sells each day, Manager Ding Mercado broke from his busy counter routine, went to the back and returned to say, "3,200 yesterday" (Aug. 15), then added, "that's just hamburgers."

Even so, the franchise is "surviving" on heavy European tourist foot traffic. "Without them we'd plunge," Mercado said. "They're keeping us alive. It's the economy."

Lafayette Coffee Shop at 250 Hyde St. is a bare-bones diner that's a favorite of many residents. Its prices won't eat a big hole in a purse or wallet. It's so drab, expectations don't run high, but in April, Lafayette got an 85 on

four violations, one for rodents, down from 88, but a nice leap up from the 77 in March 2011.

Manor House, three blocks away at 210 Jones St., may have the Tender-

loin's heaviest volume of low-income customers. Even-tempered Mimi Yee has run the cheap-food oasis for 16 years. In December, Manor House got an 88, a commendable jump from 81

Selected TL restaurants' health scores

These 38 restaurants were selected from among the Tenderloin's 120 or so restaurants by Central City Extra as representative of the neighborhood. Their Health Department inspection scores are shown with the most recent on the left.

Restaurant	Address	Score
Abu Marrakech	419 O'Farrell	98,98,98,96,96
All Stars Donuts	290 Golden Gate	96,100,100,96,96,100
Bodega Bistro	607 Larkin	88,84,84
Burger King	1200 Market	96,100 x 6
Burmese Express	452 Larkin	82,77,82
Carl's Jr.	10 UN Plaza	100 x 5
Celtic Coffee	142 McAllister	88,86,86,89
El Castillito	248 Golden Gate	92,96,96,94,92
El Castillito	370 Golden Gate	96,94,92,92,94,96
Emperor's Kitchen	418 Larkin	84,90,94,86
Em's Place	154 McAllister	77,88,90
Farmer Brown	25 Mason	86,88,90,88
Golden Kim Tar	434 Larkin	71,82
Gyro King	25 Grove	88,92,90,88,92
Harry Harrington's	460 Larkin	84,85,80
Kusina Ni Tess	237 Ellis	94,94,94,92,88
L.A. Cafe	201 Turk	94,92,94,94,90
Lafayette Coffee Shop	250 Hyde	85,88,77
Lalita Thai	96 McAllister	94,92,90,90,90
Le Petitt's Kitchen	265 Golden Gate	100 x 5
Lee's Sandwiches	625 Larkin	90,84,86,84
Little Henry's Italian Food	955 Larkin	89,89,91,88,82
Mangosteen	601 Larkin	82,77,82
Manor House	210 Jones	88,81,82,90,
Mela Tandoori Kitchen	536 Golden Gate	92,100
Morty's Delicatessen	280 Golden Gate	70,78
New York Pizza Kitchen	127 Eddy	96,94,77,77,86
Naan & Curry	336 O'Farrell	75,73
Old Siam Thai	201 Ellis	100,96,96,96,94
Pho 2000	637 Larkin	90,94,94,92,94
Punjab Kabab House	101 Eddy	73,76
Saigon Sandwich	581 Eddy	94,100,100
Saigon Sandwich	560 Larkin	96,96,46
Showdogs	1020 Market	86,90,88,100
Soluna Cafe & Lounge	272 McAllister	85,81,84
Taqueria Castillo	86 McAllister	98,94,96,94
Tunisia Cuisine	403 Eddy	82,84,70
Turtle Tower	631 Larkin	86,84,84

Source: S.F. Department of Public Health

Central City Extra graphic



PHOTO BY MARK DONEZA

Saigon Sandwich often has a line at noon for its simple but acclaimed offerings.

6-piece blues band at Fringe

BY MARJORIE BEGGS

THE 21ST San Francisco Fringe Festival streaks into the Tenderloin Sept. 5, this year featuring 41 different shows in five venues. Solo performer, writer and musician Wayne Harris played the Fringe back in 2004 and returns Sept. 6, 7, 8, 12 and 14 in his new play, "Tyrone 'Shortleg' Johnson and Some White Boys," directed by Mark Kenward.



In "Shortleg," a legendary but slightly inebriated blues singer is let loose on a sound stage backed by a bunch of hippies while taping a '60s-era, second-rate TV teen dance show.

"We're trying to use the sound-

scape," Harris says, "to generate the storyline while keeping a fun, energizing rhythm and pace and taking on some important themes and questions." All "Shortleg" shows are at 7 p.m. at the 50 Mason Social House. The public is invited to the Sept. 16 Fringe closing party and awards ceremony, also at 50 Mason, 8 p.m.

Fringe producer EXIT Theatre has been presenting indie theater in the neighborhood since 1983. "The best thing about the Fringe for me is the community," says Harris, who's backed by a six-piece blues band in this show. "I like the energy around the theaters, both inside and out, and that performers, volunteers and staff are so supportive of each another. Overall, it's fun, energizing, scary, thrilling, scary, inspiring... and scary." Fringe runs through Sept. 16. Ticket and show info: sffringe.org. ■



Wayne Harris plays the Fringe with a blues band at 50 Mason Sept. 6, 7, 8, 12, 14. Photo by Laura Luktsch, poster designed by Kat Parra.



PHOTO BY LENNY LIMJOCO

Mimi Yee: "Restaurant work never stops."

and 82 scores, dips from the restaurant's high mark of 90 in October '09.

"Restaurant work never stops," Yee says, pausing as she wipes the Formica counter. Her day off is Saturday when the restaurant is closed. Even so, she sometimes comes in to clean after buying fish for the restaurant. And when the pest control people come three times a month, per landlord TNDC's contract for the whole building, Yee follows along, pointing to problem places they don't know about, like under the refrigerator where roaches cozy up to the warm motor.

"They don't know all the places but they do a pretty good job," Yee says. "It's not easy to keep everything clean, especially in the Tenderloin."

Four or five low- and moderate-risk violations seem to put a score in the mid-80s. Farmer Brown, the soul food eatery where Turk and Mason start at Market Street, got an 86 in January with five violations, a slip from good scores of 88, 90 and 88 since November 2009.

Up Mason Street, old doesn't mean a handful of violations. Old Siam Thai restaurant at 201 Ellis St. earned 100 in April after scores of three straight 96s and a 94 — yet another neighborhood Symbol of Excellence. ■

Tu Lan to remodel, take on partner

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score never rose above 68 in that time.

Since January 2010, DPH has received four complaints of food-borne illnesses allegedly contracted after dining at Tu Lan. "We aren't able to conduct laboratory tests to conclusively establish Tu Lan as the source of the illness, but at each complaint we renewed our efforts to conduct food safety trainings with Tu Lan staff," Malhi said.

Anthony Nguyen, the young spokesman for the extended Nguyen and Pham families that own Tu Lan, which he said his uncle Thao Nguyen bought in 1977, apologized at the hearing "for all the past mistakes" and told Aragon the families have a plan to comply with the DPH requirements.

He said that they'd already bought new restaurant refrigerators and food storage units — their installation awaiting the end of ongoing lease negotiations with the building's owner. Anthony Nguyen promised to hire a new cleaning crew for the restaurant and a new pest control company to inspect the premises twice monthly. His aunt, Sandy Nguyen, promised Aragon: "Tu Lan will adapt to the times. We want to keep the permit."

For now, the joint is closed. The pork kebab, ginger fish and imperial rolls extolled in 1985 by America's reigning queen of cuisine, Julia Child, as well as all the other Tu Lan favorites, are in exile. Behind the restaurant's Closed sign the statues of Buddha and the Vietnamese God of Fortune stand in silence. No bustling lunch counter crowds, no sizzling woks and no steaming takeout

containers exit onto Sixth Street.

Posted on the door of Tu Lan a handwritten notice addresses the closing. "To our dear customers: We apologize for any inconvenience this has caused you and we hope to see you soon. Till then, take care, be well and be happy."

Anne-Marie Yance lives at the Auburn Hotel two blocks away. She read the sign on Tu Lan's door and asked aloud: "Why did they close it? I love this place. Do you know what it's like to go someplace they remember you, they remember what you like?"

Nguyen filed an appeal for a hearing before the Board of Appeals to contest the revocation. The hearing was scheduled for Sept. 19, but Nguyen has withdrawn the appeal.

"We sat down with the Health Department and worked things out," Nguyen says. "The family will take on a new, experienced partner to oversee daily operations, we will be doing a remodel of the space, and the Health Department will retrain all our staff," he says. It's a family investment, he noted, but he worried that once reopened Tu Lan's prices might have to rise. "Maybe a dollar or so each dish. We'll see," he said.

Once the remodeling is done and the Building Department signs off, the new manager will apply for a new license. Nguyen and his family will retain ownership.

Tu Lan is predicting a September reopening. ■

MY TAKE

Tu Lan true fan

Tu Lan's importance to Sixth Street and the central city is not to be sneezed at.

I have frequented the bustling establishment since March 1974, when it was already a year old. Tu Lan, along with Saigon Sandwich in the Tenderloin, were arguably firsts with Vietnamese fare in the city and certainly firsts in the neighborhood.

Excellent food, a lot of it, at a fair price is all you can expect from a restaurant. Add personable service, a warm environment and community-center atmosphere — plus a landmark-worthy history — and the place becomes a significant resource. That's Tu Lan.

The Nguyen family will have to follow through with their promise to bring the restaurant up to code, and take on an experienced partner who will keep it that way.

If Saigon Sandwich can pull itself out of a health code hole (see main story), so can Tu Lan.

On behalf of all Tu Lan's many fans and friends, Central City Extra trusts that soon we'll again be able to belly up to the counter and order our favorites No. 1, lucky Nos. 7, 29 and, can't forget that best vegetarian dish around: 74.

— GEOFF LINK, Editor & Publisher

New survey snafu at Central Market CBD

BY JONATHAN NEWMAN & TOM CARTER

The committee guiding the Central Market CBD's permit renewal with possibly expanded boundaries met Aug. 21 expecting results from a survey supposedly mailed to 1,300 SoMa property owners. But there was zilch.

"Isn't there somebody in the office who knows about the survey?" asked nonplussed Will Thacher, chair of the CBD steering committee, as consternation spread in the Whitcomb Hotel mezzanine meeting room.

There wasn't. CBD Executive Director Daniel Hurtado was vacationing

in Indonesia, to return Aug. 29.

"I've gotten two postcards telling me to be on the lookout for the survey — but no survey," said one woman on the committee, a Howard Street condo owner. "Where's the survey? My neighbors are asking, 'Where's the survey?'"

The survey questionnaire is on the CBD Website, but can't be downloaded, said Rob Edwards, an employee of MJM Management, hired to facilitate the renewal. He said the surveys were sent "10 days ago" using addresses from the city assessor's tax rolls.

The CBD, stretching mostly from Fifth to Ninth streets on Market, then

south to include some streets between Market and Mission, wants to expand farther south at the request of several SoMa property owners, which would increase its area size nearly five times.

The 6-year-old CBD, whose assessments pay for sidewalk cleaning and security in the form of community guides, has until next May to reinvent itself with the city. To go forward in the multistage process — and to petition the Board of Supervisors — the expansion plan first needs the votes of property owners representing more than 30% of assessments to be paid. Failing that, the CBD will sunset.

The survey was originally to be sent in June, but was delayed after meetings with SoMa groups, questions were added.

James Chappell, another member of the MJM team, arrived late at the meeting and said he thought two responses had come in.

"I'll take Hurtado out for coffee when he gets back," Thacher said.

"Yes, let's take him out for coffee," said Chappell.

As of Aug. 24, Edwards said in an email to select committee members and The Extra, 20 surveys had been received. He added that Hurtado had reported that a problem at the mailhouse delayed sending the survey until Aug. 21, the day the committee met. ■

What TL gets out of deal with CPMC

► CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

cess and isn't concerned that its operating structure isn't permanent.

"The idea was always to have the project sustainable by being volunteer-run," she says. "It's a committee effort that any group supporting the idea can join. We don't want anyone to own it."

Meantime, the CBD has put \$15,000 into Safe Passage, \$12,000 of which went to the artist for the temporary path. Kelly Moore Paint Co. donated the paint, worth an estimated \$25,000. Chinatown Community Development Center got an \$8,000 State Farm grant for vests, hats and training for volunteers, and has applied to Met Life for \$15,000 to sustain the project.

CALMING TRAFFIC

Ellis and Eddy streets are major thoroughfares through the Tenderloin. In April, the city finished partially converting these routes — one-way since the early 1960s — into two-way, a traffic-calming measure straight out of S.F. County Transportation Authority's 2007 Tenderloin-Little Saigon plan, which said that Tenderloin accident rates were six times higher than the city's. (Last year, Walk SF reported that in 2010, 240 people were hit in District 6, four of whom died.) Planners believe the change to two-way, plus adding corner and bus bulbs, widening sidewalks, and changing traffic signals, will discourage speeding and cut pedestrian accidents.

Where Eddy and Ellis intersect with Van Ness is only two blocks from the proposed Cathedral Hill campus.

CPMC agrees to pay up to \$3.5 million toward the completion of the two-way conversion and \$4.5 million on related pedestrian improvements. Phase 1 of the project made Eddy west of Leavenworth and Ellis west of Jones two-way. In a BeyondChron article,

residents and businesses surveyed by Central City SRO Collaborative said the streets feel safer for pedestrians.

Phase 2, expected to cost \$10.7 million, will expand the two-way traffic to Cyril Magnin and add the rest of the improvements. CPMC's \$8 million contribution will help the city leverage funds to complete that work, says Rachel Hiatt, SFCTA senior transportation planner.

INNOVATION FUND

CPMC's agreement contains complex commitments to offset accusations that it falls short in serving the city's uninsured poor. Medi-Cal is an option for these residents, but most nonprofit clinics lack the systems to track, monitor and coordinate services for Medi-Cal managed care. The Tenderloin's primary care clinics include St. Anthony Free Medical Clinic, Glide Health Services and Curry Senior Center.

CPMC will create a \$20 million Innovation Fund to help add 10,000 Medi-Cal enrollees in the Tenderloin, Western Addition, Bayview, Mission, South of Market and Excelsior.

To administer the \$20 million, CPMC and health Director Barbara Garcia chose San Francisco Foundation, whose executive director is Sandra Hernández, a former city health director.

Mark Cloutier, foundation program director for public policy, community health and civic engagement, says, "This should be relatively straightforward. DPH's involvement will make the process of deciding who gets the money more directive, but not more complicated."

Cloutier, who will be on the committee of fund advisers with DPH and CPMC reps, was executive director of Continuum and the SFAIDS Foundation before signing on with San Francisco Foundation. He's unsure of how much the Innovation Fund will affect the Ten-

derloin, in part because how the \$20 million will be split is unclear.

CPMC will pay into the fund in two stages — \$3.5 million within 30 days of the date the agreement becomes effective and \$1.65 million within 30 days of the city approving permits to begin construction.

Once the money is in hand, the fund will publish an RFP, but clinics won't reply directly. The grants have to go through MSOs (management services organizations). CPMC will contract with one existing MSO to enroll 8,500 new Medi-Cal recipients in the six neighborhoods, and one new MSO whose primary care providers are in the Tenderloin to care for 1,500 new enrollees.

John Gressman, president and CEO of San Francisco Community Clinic Consortium, explains MSOs: "Nonprofit clinics have to contract through another organization to play in the Medi-Cal field. An MSO has a set of functions, almost like an accounting service, that supports the work of the providers."

Of the six MSOs in the city, only three are likely candidates for the "existing" category, Gressman says — Hill Physicians, North East Medical Services and Chinese Community Health Plan — none affiliated with Tenderloin clinics. He figures leaders of TL clinics will form a new MSO to take advantage of the undecided portion of the \$20 million.

Curry Senior Center Executive Director David Knego says the lead in forming an MSO would likely go to Glide or St. Anthony, with his center third in line. Like others The Extra interviewed, he's uncertain of the fund's benefits for his clients and others in the Tenderloin.

"All the providers could use more capital funds to do our work," Knego said. "Space is an issue — we're all filled, so it's going to be hard to expand to serve more people." ■

OBITUARIES

LARRY MAES

He died alone and unknown

A memorial was held at the Ritz Hotel for Larry Maes, a resident who died July 5 at the age of 62.

A trio of Mexican religious candles — *veladoras* — surrounding a vase of

red roses and yellow bird of paradise flickered on the Formica table of the third-floor common room. The vacuum cleaner of TNDC janitors working in the hallway hummed in the



background and the whine of a truck on Eddy Street came through the open window as Rev. Glenda Hope began reading the 23rd Psalm.

One other person was present, and he knew very little about Mr. Maes, who was born Jan. 5, 1950, and died at UCSF. After 10 years as a resident of the Aarti Hotel on Leavenworth Street, Mr. Maes moved to the Ritz Hotel less than two years ago.

A friend, Lee Landry, said, "From what I knew he was a nice guy. He loaned me his TV, I loaned him my DVD player. He was a generous guy, bought people sodas."

Rev. Hope said the green pastures and still waters of the 23rd Psalm may seem foreign to urban lives, but the biblical story of wanderers in the desert finding solace and relief is the story of the journey of all lives.

Staff at the SRO remembered Mr. Maes as quiet, courteous and hampered by vision problems. He loved to play lottery scratchers, but had to bring his tickets to them for review; he couldn't see well enough to verify winning numbers. ■

— JONATHAN NEWMAN

City and County of San Francisco September 2012 Monthly

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DEPARTMENT of Child SUPPORT SERVICES

Presents: *Transitions SF*

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Transitions SF is collaboration between the San Francisco Department of Child Support Services, the San Francisco Mayor's Office of Economic and Workforce Development and Goodwill Industries. This project received \$5,724,203 (100% of its total cost) from a grant awarded under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Healthcare Sector and Other High Growth and Emerging Industries Grant, as implemented by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration. This program is an equal opportunity program, and auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

Don't miss 2 BLOCKS OF ART

A FREE artwalk showcasing over 100 local artists in 25 locations in the Central Market neighborhood rich with culture and well known for its cutting edge arts community. Friday, September 28, 2012, 4–8 p.m. Market Street (between 5th and 7th streets) and 6th Street (between Market and Howard streets). Presented by Urban Solutions with support from the San Francisco Arts Commission and Grants for the Arts/Hotel Tax Fund.

2012 BOARD of SUPERVISORS Regularly Scheduled Board Meetings

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC – Come see your San Francisco government in action. Tuesdays, 2:00pm, City Hall Chamber, Room 250.

September 4, 11, 18, 25

October 2, 16, 23, 30

November 6, 20

December 4, 11

INFORMATION ABOUT BOARD of SUPERVISORS COMMITTEES

All meetings are held at City Hall in the Chamber (Room 250) or Room 263. Please check the website for further details, including agendas and minutes: <http://www.sfbos.org/index.aspx?page=193>

The City and County of San Francisco encourage public outreach. Articles are translated into several languages to provide better public access. The newspaper makes every effort to translate the articles of general interest correctly. No liability is assumed by the City and County of San Francisco or the newspapers for errors and omissions.

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Here for you

The historian of Golden Gate Park

Plus a paean on Ray Clary by Herb Caen

RAY CLARY was collecting information and photos for his first park history book when Oral History Project staffer Isabel Maldonado interviewed him in 1978. Born in 1914 in Newark, Ohio, Clary held sundry jobs as an adult: farm hand, worker in a two-man sawmill and a foundry, on a maple sugar plant and chicken farm, as a mucker in a hard-rock mine. A crack typist during and after World War II, a watch repairman, then a California state disability insurance officer, he was 66 years old when California Living Books published his first book, *The Making of Golden Gate Park: The Early Years: 1865-1906*, still the authoritative genesis of America's greatest city park.

What brought you to San Francisco?

I was in the Army and was stationed in the Presidio in 1941. I'd left Ohio the year before, fed up with my job in a foundry where they wouldn't give you a respirator, and all that silica will kill you. I thought, there must be a better way, so I told everyone, "I'm going so damn far it will take 10¢ to send a postcard" — a postcard cost a penny in those days. At the Greyhound depot, I looked at a map on the wall and Seattle was the farthest that Greyhound went. I got a one-way ticket and on the way stopped in San Francisco to see the Golden Gate Bridge. I was only here for three days and then went to Seattle, where I stayed six weeks and looked for work. When I found out that if you didn't join the union for \$600, you didn't get a job, I thought, if you think I'm going to pay \$600 for the privilege of asking for a job, you don't know me very well.

I figured I was going to get drafted soon so I might as well join the Army. My intention was to go up to Alaska and work on the airfields they were building, so I enlisted to join the engineers. But at the Tacoma enlisting station, they discovered I could type 60 words a minute — on the farm in Ohio, I'd taken a WPA typing class, figuring it would come in handy some time. They sent me to the recruiting office in Seattle. I didn't pull guard duty, never went to the training center, no boot camp, nothing. I just went to work typing. After a month, word came that they needed a good typist to work in headquarters, the 9th Corps, in San Francisco. I was on a train that night.

We reported to the Federal Building in the Civic Center and then were taken to the Presidio. At first we [came back to the Civic Center and] slept in the basement of one of those big stone office buildings and when new barracks opened up in Crissy Field, we moved there. But they didn't have furnaces in the barracks and that fog would come in through the windows and it was so wet you could ring water out of your blankets. We all got sick. I spent a lot

This is the sixth of a series of photos and excerpts, edited by Marjorie Beggs, from the Neighborhood Oral History Project interviews that Study Center conducted in 1977-78 under a federal CETA contract.



PHOTO BY BILL CARLSON

Ray Clary, who wrote a two-volume history of Golden Gate Park, shows his historical photos of the park at his Richmond District home in 1978. On first seeing the park in 1941, he said, "[In winter] it was a fantasy land to someone from the East."



CAEN ON CLARY

Herb Caen wrote a short introduction to Clary's second book: "What San Francisco needs, No. 2789: More people like Raymond H. Clary, historian, gadfly, good guy, wizeguy and my kinda guy. In short, a curmudgeon, a sourpuss

with a heart of gold, a man who knows and loves San Francisco — especially Golden Gate Park. ... We need the Ray Clarys. They make us look, they make us think, they rattle the Establishment's cage. ... Long may he rave, say I."

of time in Letterman Hospital with cold and flu and pneumonia.

How does Golden Gate Park figure in your history?

I first saw the park when I had a blind date with a girl right after I came to the Presidio. I didn't have the money to take her anywhere so we went to the park. I remember thinking that if I never saw her again, that would be too soon. But then, about six weeks later, I was sitting around the barracks and thought, what the heck, so I called her up and asked her for a date. She said, "Sure, come on over." She was still in high school. I went over and we went out again and one thing led to another. Carol and I have been married now almost 37 years. We stayed at the Presidio until 1943, when I was transferred away, and we came back to the city in 1965. [Clary's dedication in his first book about the park is: "To Carol. My inspiration, crutch, friend and wife."]

Do you remember how you felt about first seeing the park?

My first impression in '41 was that it was so beautiful. It was wintertime, and in Ohio, where I'd moved from, you didn't go to parks in the winter because the grass was frozen. Here, there were 6-foot-tall geraniums and all the flowers were blooming. It fascinated me that you could walk around in just a suit or a uniform. Carol and I went through the conservatory and she introduced me to a distant relative who was a mounted park policeman. It was a fantasy land to someone from the East. I think that's still true for people who come here.

When we moved back here in '65, Carol said she wanted to live right near the park. Our first place was out at 25th and Balboa. We started walking in the park, all the way out to the beach, and then we'd catch the bus home. I got to thinking, there's a lot of work that went into this park, a lot of foresight

and planning. I went down to the Main Library and looked for a good history of the park, but the librarian said, "We get dozens of requests every day and there's never been a book. Why don't you write one?" I said, "I just might do that."

I had a state job as a disability insurance officer at Turk and Franklin at the time, not far from the Main Library. I got started doing research, bought a tape recorder and learned as I went. I didn't know how to do research, but I got a lot of help from Gladys Hansen, the city archivist and head of the library history room. I'd go to the library after work, pick up a roll of microfilm and read it at night, then bring it back the next day after work.

What do you think of the park today?

I think the things that have changed that I notice most are the terrible, terrible increase in traffic and buildings in the park and the downgrading of maintenance. That's what I watch — right now they're planning three new

building expansions, for the de Young Museum, the Academy of Sciences and the Hall of Flowers. It's a trend, not a good one, and not just here but in Central Park in New York and Lincoln Park in Chicago.

That trend became Clary's rallying cry in his second Golden Gate Park history book, *The Making of Golden Gate Park: The Growing Years 1906-1950*, published in 1987.

"A secret fantasy of mine is to lift, by a giant hand, every structure out of Golden Gate Park," the book's Prologue begins. "If one could do that, there would still be a woodland park. But if one were to remove every tree, shrub, blade of grass and body of water, it would be a desolate place, even with the highly touted 'culture centers' that now disgrace [the park]."

When Raymond Clary died in San Francisco, June 9, 1992, he had completed research for a third book about the 1894 California Midwinter International Exposition in Golden Gate Park, which never was published. ■

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For more information or to pick up an application for The Knox and Bayanihan House, please stop by the lobby of the TODCO Marketing Office located at 241 - 6th Street in San Francisco.

If you have a disability that prevents you from fully participating in this process please call (415) 957-0227.



TDD: (415) 345-4470



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SPECIAL EVENTS

Tenderloin Health, Safety and Resource Fair, Sept. 15, Tenderloin Children's Playground, 570 Ellis St., 11 a.m.-3 p.m. The 17th annual free fair features more than 40 neighborhood health and service agencies. Flu shots, glucose testing, blood pressure and diabetes screening, acupuncture, Red Cross disaster-preparedness training and kit, burn education for kids, adolescent health van, tenant rights information, veteran services and parent-support services, children's art activities and games, and much more. Translation services in Spanish and Chinese, the most requested, plus Russian, Vietnamese, Arabic and Cambodian. S.F. Hilton Hotel will provide boxed lunches — sandwich, chips, fruit, small dessert — to the first 450 people at the fair. Sponsors: TL Community Benefit District, S.F. Hilton, California Pacific Medical Center, Saint Francis Memorial Hospital, Walgreens. Info: tenderloinfair.org.

Children's Mid-Autumn Moon Festival:

Te Trung Thu, 34th annual festival, Sept. 28, 5:30-8 p.m., 570 Ellis, TL Children's Playground. Activities include arts & crafts, games, prizes, giveaway bags for kids under 14, and the Lit Lantern Walk — children's parade through the Tenderloin near the playground. Info: Vietnamese Youth Development Center, 77102600 or phoout@vydc.org.



PHOTO BY WEIDONG YANG

KUNST-STOFF *Company dancers Mari-na Fukushima and Daniel Howerton will be at Mint Plaza and U.N. Plaza.*

ARTS EVENTS

"What's on Stage?" Tuesdays noon-1 p.m., U.N. Plaza, through Sept. 25. Summer of Art series showcases artists of Boxcar Playhouse including Crowded Fire Theatre Company, EXIT Theatre's San Francisco Fringe Festival, San Francisco Recovery Theater, KUNST-STOFF Dance Company and KUNST-STOFF arts, Levy Dance and the Levy Dance Salon, and CounterPULSE. Info: centralmarketpartnership.org

24 Days of Central Market Arts Festival, Sept. 28-Oct. 21, free, outdoor events. Kickoff day includes 7-piece jazz band Jay'e and Friends at Mint Plaza, noon-1 p.m.; art walk, 100 artists in 25 locations on two blocks of Sixth Street, 4-8 p.m.; project agora's "Mother Tongue," a dance, music and visual art performance at Mint Plaza, 8-8:20 p.m.; and Flyaway Productions and Dancers Group ONSITE's world premiere of "Niagara Falling," a 30-minute aerial performance on the west wall of the Renoir Hotel, 7th St. at Market, Sept. 28 and 29, 8:30 and 9:30 p.m. Info: centralmarketarts.org.

COMMUNITY: REGULAR SCHEDULE HOUSING

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

HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH

CBHS Consumer Council, 3rd Monday of the month, 5-7 p.m., 1380 Howard St., room 537, 255-3695. Consumer advisers from self-help groups and mental health consumer advocates. Public welcome.

Healthcare Action Team, 2nd Wednesday of the month, 1010 Mission St., Bayanihan Community Center, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Focus on increasing supportive home services, expanded eligibility for home care, improved discharge planning. Light lunch.

Call James Chionsini, 703-0188 x304.

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.

SAFETY

SoMa Police Community Relations Forum, 4th Monday of the month, 6-7:30 p.m. Location varies. To receive monthly email info: 538-8100 x202.

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

NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT

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

Central Market Community Benefit District, board meets 2nd Tuesday of the month, Hotel Whitcomb, 1231 Market St., 3 p.m. Information: 882-3088, http://central-market.org.

Friends of Boeddeker Park, 2nd Thursday of the month, 3:30 p.m., Boeddeker Rec Center, 240 Eddy St. Plan park events, activities and improvements. Contact Betty Traynor, 931-1126.

Gene Friend Recreation Center Advisory Board, 3rd Thursday of the month, 5 p.m. Works to protect SoMa resources for all residents. Gene Friend Rec Center, 270 Sixth St. Info: Tim Figueras, 554-9532.

North of Market/Tenderloin Community Benefit District. Full board meets 3rd Monday at 4 p.m.. Call 292-4812 for location or check nom-tlcbd.org.

SoMa Community Stabilization Fund Advisory Committee, 3rd Thursday of the month, 5:30 p.m., 1 South Van Ness, 2nd floor. Info: Claudine del Rosario, 701-5580.

Tenderloin Futures Collaborative, 3rd Wednesday of the month, 11 a.m.-noon, Tenderloin Police Community Room, 301 Eddy. Presentations on issues of interest to neighborhood residents, nonprofits and businesses. Information: 928-6209.

Tenderloin Neighborhood Association, 2nd Friday of the month, 842 Geary St., 5 p.m. Nonprofit focuses on health and wellness activities to promote neighborly interactions. Info: tenderloinneighborhood@yahoo.com.

SENIORS AND DISABLED

Mayor's Disability Council, 3rd Friday of the month, 1-3 p.m., City Hall, room 400. Call: 554-6789. Open to the public.

Senior Action Network, general meeting, 2nd Thursday of the month, 9 a.m.-noon, Universal Unitarian Church, 1187 Franklin St. Monthly programs, 965 Mission St. #700: Senior Housing Action Committee, 3rd Wednesday, 1:30 p.m.

Call for health program and Senior University: 546-1333 and www.sfsan.org.

DISTRICT 6 SUPERVISOR

Jane Kim, Chair of Rules Committee, member of Budget & Finance Committee and Transportation Authority.

Legislative Aides: April Veneracion, Sunny Angulo and Matthias Mormino.

Jane.Kim@sfgov.org 554-7970



San Francisco Public Library

OPEN

San Francisco Public Library Service Hours

The San Francisco Public Library invites the community to visit a neighborhood library this fall and give us input about library operating hours. This will be an opportunity to give us your ideas on library services and priorities.

For more information, check sfpl.org or call (415) 557-4277

Meeting Dates and Locations:

Thursday, September 13 6-8 p.m. Richmond/Senator Milton Marks Branch Library	Tuesday, October 2 6-8 p.m. Bernal Branch Library
Saturday, September 15 1-4 p.m. SF Main Library, Koret Auditorium	Tuesday, October 16 6-8 p.m. Visitacion Valley Branch Library
Wednesday, September 19 6-8 p.m. Chinatown Branch Library	Wednesday, October 17 6-8 p.m. Ortega Branch Library
Tuesday, September 25 6-8 p.m. Presidio Branch Library	Monday, October 22 6-8 p.m. West Portal Branch Library
Saturday, September 29 1-3 p.m. Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Branch Library	Wednesday, October 24 6-8 p.m. Park Branch Library
	Tuesday, October 30 6-8 p.m. Excelsior Branch Library