

Child of city, now disabled, and husband out of the cold

Street minister waits for housing

Homegrown homeless

This is the second installment of *The Extra's Hometown homeless series for the Homeless Media Project that the Chronicle got going. Seventy outlets around the Bay Area contributed to the massive multimedia effort.*

By MARK HEDIN

ELAINE AND EMMETT Amos have seen some hard times in their days. Elaine, who goes by Pastor K, a name she earned doing what she calls “street ministry” work, was born at Kaiser Hospital S.F. in 1964. She bounced through more schools than she can remember in her years living on Potrero Hill and in the Bayview and spent decades living on the streets. Her mom raised her two sons.

Her common-law husband, Emmett, did 14 years in a Texas prison despite the judge saying it “looks like you were set up” before sentencing him to 20. He was in Texas, he says, because his Bay Area employer, Pinkerton, transferred him there. He’s from North Hollywood originally, born there in 1952. He arrived in San Francisco in the late ’80s and found work as a Pinkerton security guard at Hewlett-Packard. He came hurrying back here when he left Texas about 12 years ago.

The Amoses fit squarely in the middle of a demographic profile of San Francisco’s 6,686 homeless people. They were counted on Jan. 29 of last year, when the city conducted its one-day survey of the homeless, required every two years to maintain federal homeless support funds. It’s widely considered to be an undercount, but in any case, 71% of those surveyed said they became homeless in San Francisco, 30% reported being 51 or older, and 25% had been on the streets at least a year.

But no statistical category captures the hometown homeless, the uncounted native sons and daughters who lived with their family until they didn’t.

We asked Sam Dodge, who brought in the Navigation Center model, how many, or what proportion of the homeless were born in San Francisco. He didn’t know. Jeff Kositsky, first head of the new Department of Homeless Services, didn’t either. Jennifer Friedenbach, whose Coalition on Homelessness is their chief advocate, also couldn’t say.

Elaine Amos may be in a class by herself. She was a nomad at an early age and has lived outside for many of her 50-some years. Emmett Amos, like the probable majority of sidewalk squatters, came to San Francisco; they weren’t born here.

Nowadays, the couple calls the first Navigation Center home.

“I have epilepsy, bad heart, multiple health problems, a lot of health problems,” Elaine said, speaking from her wheelchair. “You should see all the meds I take.”

The wheelchair’s been part of her life for two years, she says, ever since she lost her air mattress in a Department of Public Works sweep of her encampment. Having

NO. 168

PUBLISHED
BY THE
SAN FRANCISCO
STUDY CENTER

JULY
2016

SUNDAY STREETS COMING

Taking over the
TL July 10

PAGE 3



LEGACY BUSINESS SAMPLER

10 in the hood
that may qualify

PAGE 4

TENDERLOIN OBITUARY

Ira Joe Robertson,
tenant organizer

PAGE 3



CENTRAL CITY

EXTRA

SAN FRANCISCO

LEGACY BUSINESS



JONATHAN NEWMAN

Daldas has been on the Northwest corner of Eddy and Taylor streets for more than 30 years. It is a model mom-and-pop for the Tenderloin Healthy Corner Stores Coalition, highlighting fresh fruits and vegetables, and downplaying the alcohol and cigarettes that are the mainstay of most similar Tenderloin stores. Daldas has not applied for legacy status, but it meets the criteria.

Small, worth saving

3 old-timers in D6 apply, none in TL seek status so far

By JONATHAN NEWMAN

THE CITY BUDGET and legislative analyst two years ago reported a staggering change in the number of small businesses closing or leaving San Francisco each year: 3,657 had disappeared in 2011, compared with 518 in 1992. The report predicted the closure or displacement of nearly 4,400 in 2014.

The continuing trend is linked to the rising sale price per square foot for commercial property — from \$189 to \$675 in the two-decade span.

The economic tide triggered by the Twitter tax break and the massive changes to the mid-market landscape wrought by development were helping to sink, not raise, the small-business boat.

A year after the budget analyst’s report, the Board of Supervisors crafted a two-pronged approach to curb the small-business erosion — a March 2015 ordinance to create a Legacy Business Registry to formally recognize the cultural value that longstanding businesses bring to the city. It was quickly followed by Measure J, establishing the Legacy Business Preservation Fund to provide grants to legacy businesses and qualifying landlords, which voters approved in No-

vember 2015.

The registry is open to small businesses, including nonprofits, that are 30 years or older, nominated by a supervisor or the mayor, who can prove to the Small Business Commission in a public hearing that they contribute significantly to their community. A small business has no more than 100 employees. This makes TNDC and Tenderloin Housing Clinic ineligible, as the longtime Tenderloin nonprofits are too big.

Supervisor Jane Kim has nominated three small businesses for the registry: SF Party, Image Conscious and Lone Star Saloon. None is in the Tenderloin, though all are in District 6.

Dan Cerf, owner of SF Party on Post Street, for 35 years a purveyor of costumes, confetti, balloons and all things party in this renowned party town, filed his legacy application with Kim’s office in April 2015. No word for months. Finally, after much pestering of Kim’s office, the application landed in the Office of Small Business earlier this year.

And that’s where it languishes along with 62 other applications. The two other District 6 nominees are a bar and a fine arts poster merchant. They’ve been waiting for months, too.

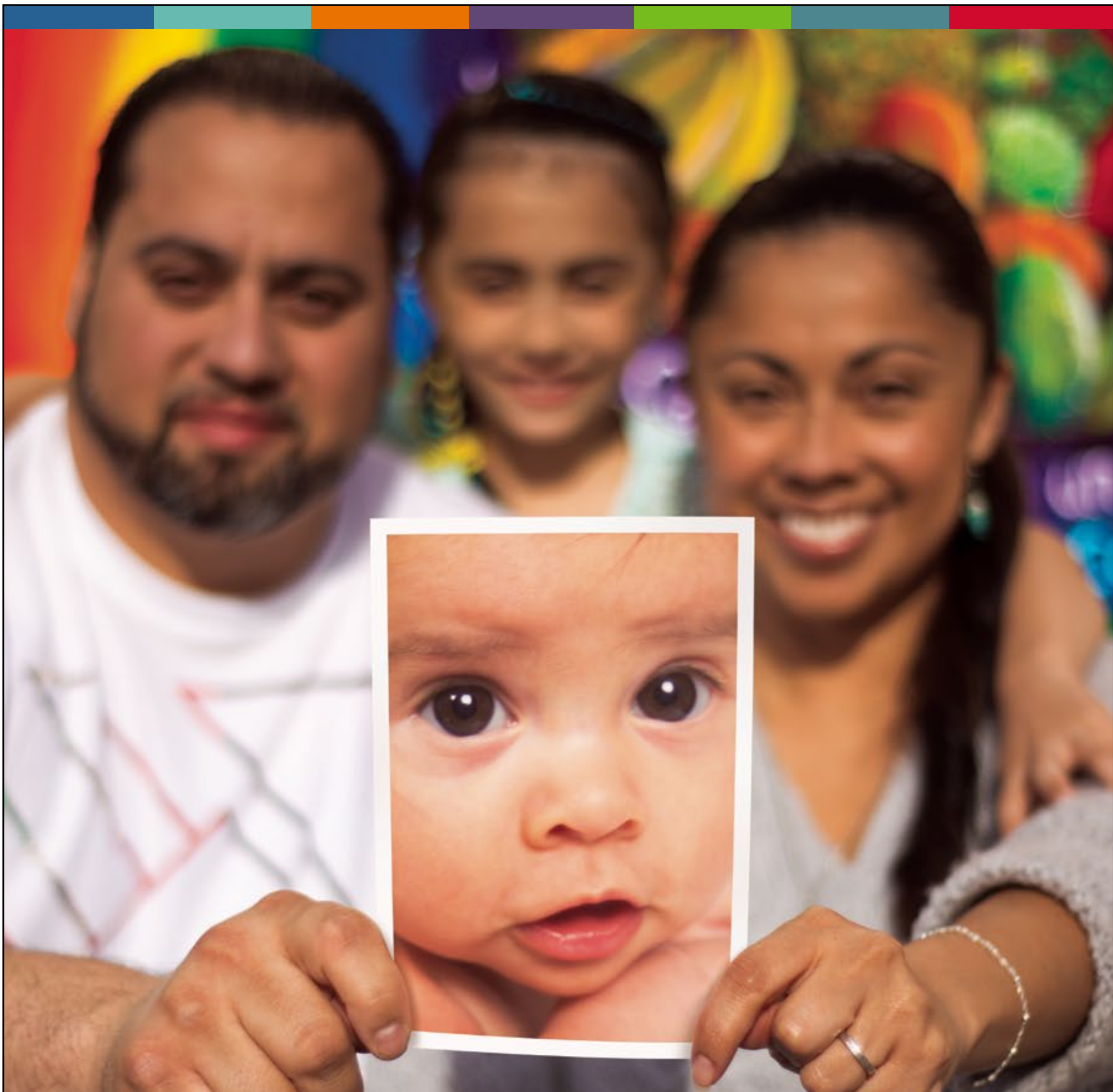
“The process has been arduous, very frustrating,” said Cerf.

Cerf can trace his original business back a hundred years, when it started as a toy store with door-to-door salesmen hawking the latest inexpensive gewgaws then being newly manufactured in the Far East. He worked for the business for several years, before buying it outright in 1984.

He employs 18 workers and marvels at

▶ CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

▶ CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



Karla had the birth she wanted and created the family she imagined.

Beyond new baby **Care.**



ZUCKERBERG
SAN FRANCISCO GENERAL
Hospital and Trauma Center



ZSFGcare.org

IRA JOE ROBERTSON
Tenant organizer

Friends of Ira Joe Robertson were distraught by his passing and invited Central City Extra to his memorial at the Hamlin Hotel on June 9 for purposes of sharing his memory in print. Pastor Paul Trudeau of City Church, San Francisco, presided, with Brandt Petri providing musical interludes on his guitar.

Most of the dozen people gathered in the hotel community room remembered Mr. Robertson as a “fun, fun person.”

After Trudeau’s introductory remarks, a woman who identified herself only as Macy was first to share her recollections of Mr. Robertson.

“I will dearly miss him,” she said. “He made me laugh, sometimes so bad I wanted to hit him. I loved him. He loved me, too. He loved everybody.” After saying her piece, she swept out of the room and the building.

“This was his building,” fellow tenant Andrew Mark said. “Joe touched a lot of people. I’ll never forget the domino games we had. Yahtzee, too.”

Mr. Robertson had retired from work in the building trades, particularly masonry, and was living on Social Security, Mark told The Extra.

“He had hands of steel,” Mark recalled.

“We had a special bond and special relationship,” said a strapping young man in a TNDC shirt who identified himself as James. He said that Mr. Robertson once asked their mutual friend, Macy, “Who is that, walks like he owns the place?”

“We had one common goal — Macy — to make sure she was safe,” James said. “He left it all on me. I’m gonna miss him, truly miss him. But I got this, ‘cause I walk like I own the place.”

Born in San Francisco 63 years ago, Mr. Robertson was the oldest of four or five brothers and a sister, Mark said, and at the memorial he credited Mr. Robertson’s father for shaping his children’s character.

“He stood fast by his family, taught his boys how to be men. A lot of us black men, we didn’t have that, were never trained how to be men, just accepted what was thrown at them. It was rare in black culture to have that,” Mark said.

“In Joe’s family, they all came to him. When they needed something and

would call, Joe got there, never let them down, never one time judged them,” Mark said. Mr. Robertson, he said, “didn’t always like seeing the things they were doing, the bad habits, but would never say anything.”

He also mentioned how, with Mr. Robertson’s help, they led a tenants’ council, “one of the strongest in the Tenderloin.”

Mark, president of the Hamlin Hotel Tenant Council, told The Extra that Mr. Robertson was “absolutely” his right-hand man in that work. “He was a big supporter, told me I had the leadership skills,” Mark said. “He was there to help me.”

Mr. Robertson, Mark said, would tell people to “keep on speaking, don’t give up.” Sometimes he would have to take the initiative if they couldn’t get management to deal with whatever issues they raised. Sometimes they were reluctant to raise an issue at all.

On Affordable Housing Day in October 2012, the work they did was honored by the Board of Supervisors.

“In recognition of your outstanding service at the Hamlin Hotel . . . the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco hereby extends our highest accommodation and appreciation for your achievement and advocacy for affordable housing,” reads the Certificate of Honor that Mark picked up from Jane Kim’s office.

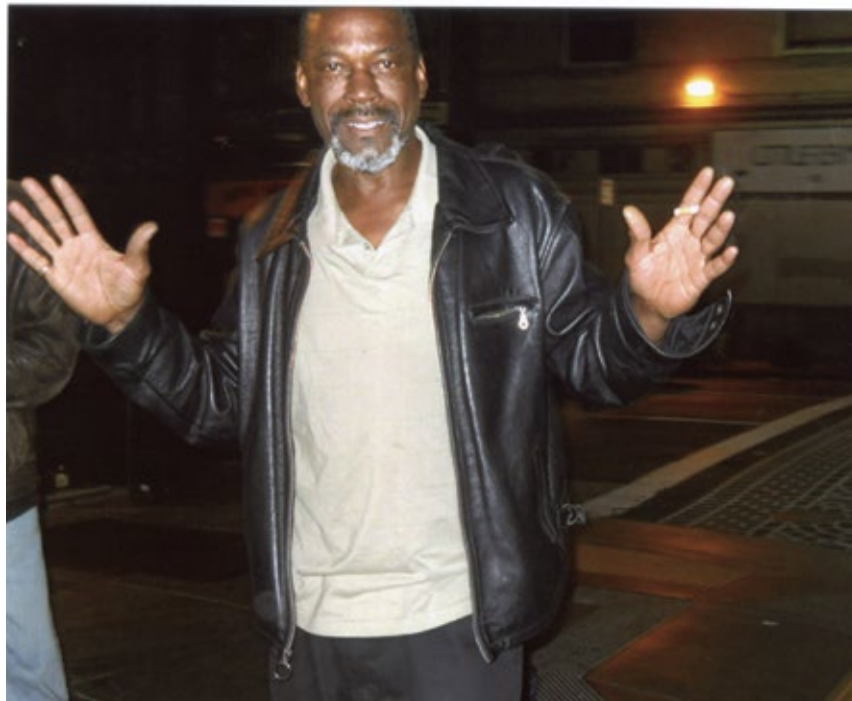
Along with the certificate, Mark said, they got a pair of 50-yard-line tickets to the Super Bowl-bound 49ers, but Mr. Robertson wasn’t around that day and he had to take another friend. Generally, they would watch games together.

“He was there to help me resolve any problems regarding the tenants. If they were having problems with repairs, or couldn’t communicate with management, they would take it up with me or Joe, and we would represent them. We were always on alert,” he said.

“A lot of people around here would ignore the fighting,” Mark said, but with Mr. Robertson, “whatever anger was in them, he’d let them get it out,” and then step in.

Mark said that, besides their advocacy work on behalf of fellow tenants, they would organize outings, barbecues, picnics and such.

“He was a family man,” Mark said, “very family-oriented. I think he had



COURTESY OF HAMLIN HOTEL

Ira Joe Robertson, a “fun, fun person” helped lead the Hamlin tenants’ council.

three kids.” He told The Extra that Mr. Robertson had raised his granddaughter there at the Hamlin during her high school years until she went off to college in Los Angeles two or three years ago.

Ernest Collins, wearing shades and a black knit cap, took the floor next. He said he’d known Mr. Robertson 35 years, as his brother-in-law. Mr. Robertson, he said, was a “hard worker, involved with many businesses, took that from his father, a business worker who knew about a lot of crafts.” The family had operated a restaurant, among other things, and “many days, they’d feed my family, no money.” Mr. Robertson, he said, was “a good man. I’ll surely miss him.”

Then he read from the Quran, in Arabic, before signing out with “I love you, I’m gonna miss you.”

“We had to have a goodbye. That’s the reason I put this together,” said Mark, who called The Extra. Mr. Robertson was “a neighbor, a friend, a brother. There wasn’t nobody he wouldn’t step in to help if they needed it. He had his problems, but always stood firm to help with yours.” ■

— Mark Hedin

WILL DAVIS
Pierre resident

Will Davis, resident of the Pierre Hotel, died in April at age 47 after a long illness, according to a friend who wished to acknowledge his passing but remain anonymous.

Mr. Davis was found in his room in grave condition and taken by ambulance to a hospital where he remained before being taken off life support at his parents’ request.

A memorial was held for Mr. Davis at the Pierre, a Tenderloin Housing Clinic master lease hotel at 540 Jones, where he had lived for two years. The Extra was not invited to the memorial.

Mr. Davis, said his friend, once was a mortgage broker in Chicago and his parents live in Santa Rosa. ■

— Marjorie Beggs

Notice of the death of this Tenderloin resident came in a call from a friend of Mr. Davis who read our announcement in the May Extra.

CENTRAL CITY
EXTRA

NEWS IS A COMMUNITY SERVICE
 SAN FRANCISCO

CENTRAL CITY EXTRA is published monthly by the nonprofit San Francisco Study Center Inc., serving the community since 1972. The Extra was initiated through grants from the S.F. Hotel Tax Fund and the Richard and Rhoda Goldman Fund. The contents are copyrighted by the San Francisco Study Center, 1663 Mission Street, Suite 310, San Francisco, CA 94103.

PHONE: (415) 626-1650
FAX: (415) 626-7276
EMAIL: centralcityextra@studycenter.org

EDITOR & PUBLISHER: Geoffrey Link
SENIOR WRITER/EDITOR: Marjorie Beggs
COMMUNITY REPORTER: Tom Carter
REPORTERS: Mark Hedin, Jonathan Newman

DESIGNER: Lise Stampfli
CONTRIBUTORS: John Burks, Ed Bowers
DESIGN CONSULTANT: Don McCartney
DISTRIBUTION: Mark Hedin
COMMUNITY CONSULTANT: Michael Nulty
ONLINE PARTNER: Hoodline

CENTRAL CITY EXTRA is a member of the
 SAN FRANCISCO NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION,
 SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS, NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER,
 AND SAN FRANCISCO/PENINSULA PRESS CLUB

Sunday Streets back in TL

PHOTO: RAFAEL GAMEROS

Sunday Streets returns to the Tenderloin on July 10, including face painting for people of all ages, like this man’s at the 2015 event. The celebration kicks off with a parade and dancing at 10:40 a.m. at Ellis and Jones. Highlights, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.: Live music at Hastings’ Demonstration Garden and in Boeddeker Park; Rec & Park’s Mobile Rec with free climbing wall; skate ramps and rentals; free exercise classes; a petting zoo at St. Anthony Foundation; education and professional development resources; blood pressure screenings; food demos.

City Hall bottleneck on legacy businesses

63 applications languish at Small Business Office

▶ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

how fast the city enacted the minimum wage increases that dramatically affect his bottom line, and how slowly it is rolling out the legacy status and annual grants that could help him survive.

Legacy businesses become eligible for annual grants of \$500 per employee. Landlords who extend leases of 10 years or more to legacy tenants can get annual grants of \$4.50 per square foot on the commercial property. The Legacy Fund caps registry businesses at \$50,000 and landlords at \$22,500 per year. The annual grants continue for the life of the business or the end of the lease, subject always to the city's budget allocations.

Small businesses employ 326,000 citywide, nearly 30% of San Francisco's workforce. Mayor Lee has called them "the true strength of San Francisco's economy." In May, he allocated \$2.5 million to the fund.

The minimum wage in the city moved to \$13 hourly on July 1 and will increase by \$1 per hour in each of the following two years, reaching \$15 per hour on July 1, 2018. Future increases rise with the Consumer Price Index.

"My workers average about 2,000 hours a year. Under the minimum wage increases, that's approaching \$2,000 a year more per employee. If I'm granted legacy status, the annual grants won't offset the increases, but they would help some," Cerf said.

Eight months after the electorate approved Measure J, no business has been given legacy status.

The mayor's Office of Small Business, charged with processing applications for the registry, had received 63 applications as of June 2. The Historic Preservation Commission, the arbiter of guidelines to determine whether a small business has contributed to the community's history, has yet to announce the legacy criteria.

Below: Tu Lan has been at 8 Sixth St. since 1977, making it perhaps the first full-menu Vietnamese restaurant in San Francisco. The same family has had it since it opened, and famously received Julia Child's blessing for the quality of its fare. Friendly and affordable, Tu Lan is a fixture from the days Sixth Street was San Francisco's Skid Row. Right: EXIT Theatre has produced absurdist dramas and cutting edge contemporary performances from ethnic productions to personal showcases such as "Confessions of a Catholic Child" on Eddy Street since 1983. That's EXIT co-founder Christina Augello with the cigarette, playing Regina Frederickson, alongside Mikka Bonel as Spirit. EXIT Theatre's annual highlight is the San Francisco Fringe Festival, which has given EXIT's community-minded concept somewhat of a global reach.

ria and the Small Business Commission hasn't conducted any public hearings for applicants.

On June 2 at the supes' Government Audit and Oversight Committee, Regina Dick-Endrizzi, director of the Office of Small Business, predicted the Historic Preservation Commission would review the first set of applicants in late July, prompting committee Chair Aaron Peskin to blast the continued delays.

"There was no implementation of this legislation until mid-May. I'm not confident the legacy program will succeed. The rules seem to be made up as we go along. It's unfair," Peskin said.

Supervisor David Campos, co-author of the registry legislation, shared Peskin's concern. "We have so much catching up to do. The city has dropped the ball."

That 30-year requirement for legacy applicants can be shortened to 20 years — if the business is in danger of displacement. Such is the case for Fog Hill Market, a classic mom-and-pop corner grocery on upper Kearny Street. Hanna Chedyak, Fog Hill owner, is in limbo.

"We've been here for more than 20 years. Last year they raised my rent from \$3,600 to \$5,000. I can't pay. Okay, they say, negotiate with the new owner. The building's been for sale since last November, but we hear nothing. Offers are in, but the seller hasn't decided," Chedyak said. He's filed his legacy application, with a nomination from Supervisor Peskin, but he hasn't heard from anyone at the Office of Small Business.

George Leeson began Image Conscious, an art publisher, in the basement of his future wife's home in 1980. He's been in SoMa selling fine art posters on Tenth Street for 27 years. He has 14 employees and filed his legacy application and Kim's nomination earlier this year.

"When I heard about Measure J, I was excited. I voted for it, so did many others.

Now, I feel the city has disenfranchised me. It's denying my vote. The process for legacy review is near nonexistent," Leeson said. "I've called the Office of Small Business many, many times. They don't call back. Miss your payment of property taxes by one day and you pay a penalty. So, I know the city can move fast when it wants to," he added.

Henry Karnilowicz, head of the South of Market Business Association and president of the San Francisco Council of District Merchants Association, thinks the real potential of the legacy legislation lies in the inducements to landlords to extend leases.

"Look, if you've been in business 30 years or more, you know what you're doing. You probably don't need grants, but longer leases can be helpful. None of the new rules really change commercial rent laws. If you've got a greedy landlord, someone who thinks he can double or triple your rent, a legacy designation isn't going to stop him," Karnilowicz said. To him, the real problem is the erosion of small services — the loss of street-level retailers when big development takes hold.

"A neighborhood thrives when people can walk easily to buy ice cream, stationery, fruit and produce. When you tear down a corner store and put up medical offices, you're changing the whole tone of a community," he said.

Kim hopes the Small Business Office will accelerate the process so her office can reach out to potential legacy candidates. "More businesses should apply for this funding," said Kim aide Barbara Lopez.

The Government Audit and Oversight Committee will again review the legacy problems on July 7. Repeated requests by The Extra to the Office of Small Business for an update on application numbers and status have gone unanswered. ■



PHOTO: JESSICA ESTRADA

10 potential Legacy Business candidates

The Tenderloin is an old residential neighborhood dense with apartment buildings and hotels and offices that went up after the 1906 earthquake and fire. Commerce is on every block, and nonprofit businesses proliferate.

- Many small businesses, profit and nonprofit, could qualify for legacy status. The Extra has selected 10 that qualify for longevity but, more important, for their contribution to the community.
 - **Harry Harrington's Pub**, a neighborhood watering hole, anchoring the corner of Turk and Larkin since 1922.
 - **Curry Senior Center** in place at 333 Turk Street since 1972.
 - **San Francisco Senior Center**, a mainstay at 481 O'Farrell Street for more than 40 years.
 - **Tu Lan** at 8 Sixth Street since 1977, arguably the first full menu Vietnamese restaurant in the city.
 - **Vietnamese Youth Development Center**, founded in 1978, now at 166 Eddy Street.
 - **San Francisco AIDS Foundation**, 1035 Market Street, an educator and advocate battling the HIV epidemic since 1982.
 - **EXIT Theatre**, 150 Eddy Street, a forum for theatrical arts since 1983.
 - **Daldas**, the go-to corner grocer at Eddy and Taylor for more than 30 years.
- Next year, both the **Luggage Store Gallery** at 1007 Market St. and **Aunt Charlie's Lounge** at 133 Turk St. will pass 30 years in business.



BASIL GLEW-GALLOWAY



PHOTOS: JONATHAN NEWMAN

Top, left: Vietnamese Youth Development Center participant tallies butts after a day of scouring 24 Tenderloin blocks, during Let's Stop Tobacco, a 2011 center project. Founded in 1978 and now located at 166 Eddy St., the center encourages high school and college students' leadership skills and organizes them to help make their neighborhood a more positive, healthy environment for all residents. Top, right: Harry Harrington bought the corner bar, first opened in 1922, in the 1940s. He renamed it for himself and ran it as a cozy, slightly dingy refuge into the mid-1980s. Now, in the new hands of a new owner, former patron Peter Friel, the beer taps have more than doubled, the grime has been cleansed, but the friendly surroundings — so inviting to the neighborhood and the thirsty city, state and federal workers in the Civic Center — remain constant. Bottom, right: Luggage Store Gallery's 2012 exhibition "Baby and the Nacirema" featured this hand-made, collapsible Pacific outrigger canoe by Michael Arcega. Against tough odds, Laurie Lazer and Darryl Smith cofounded 509 Cultural Center 29 years ago on the gritty Ellis and Leavenworth corner, then moved the gallery to 1007 Market St. in 1989 and opened the lush Tenderloin National Forest in an alley off Ellis in 2009. They've shown an eclectic collection of more than 1,000 local, national and international artists in those years and are in the process of raising money to pay back a loan to buy the gallery building.



JONATHAN NEWMAN

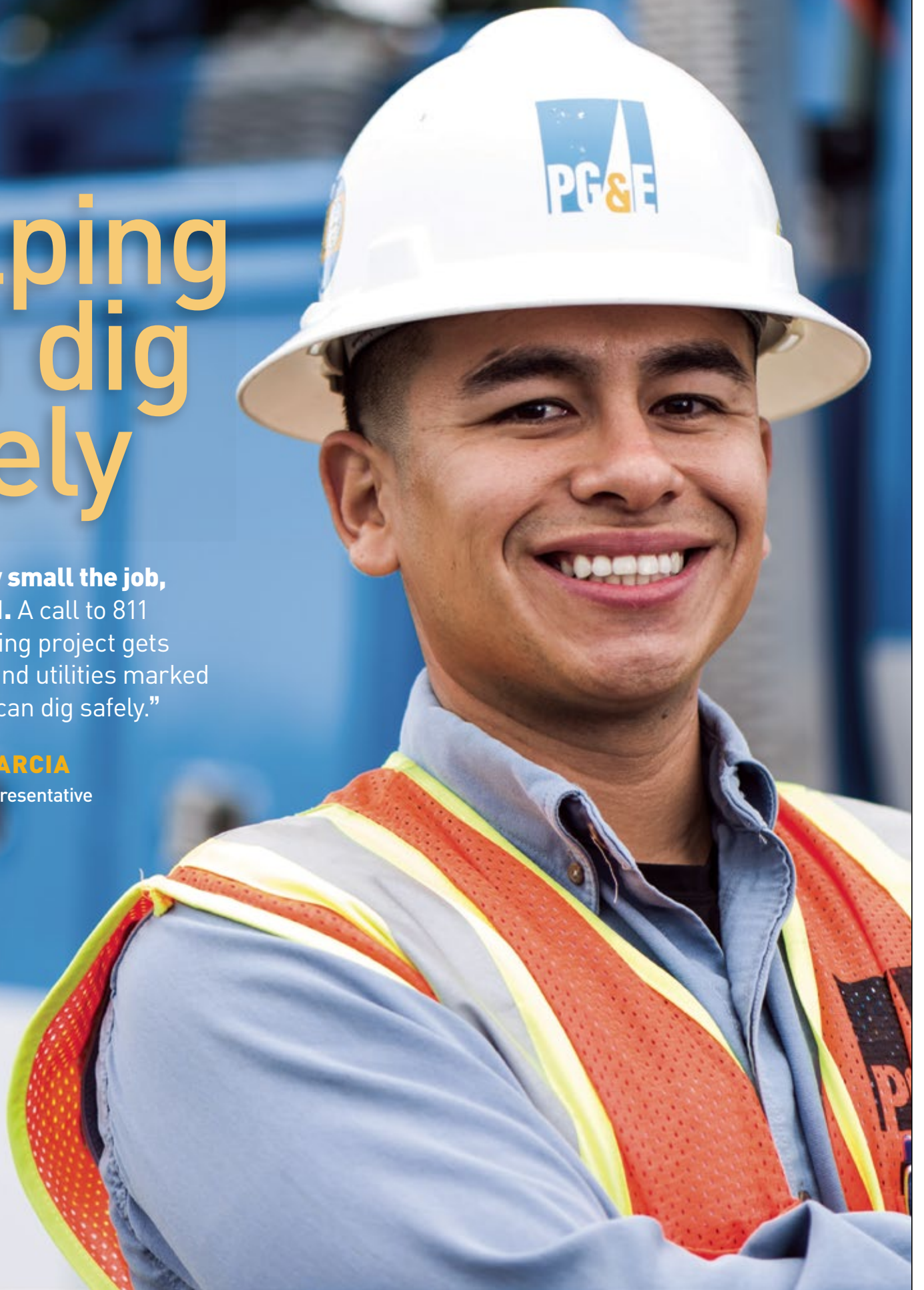


MARK DONEZA

Helping you dig safely

“No matter how small the job, always call 811. A call to 811 before any digging project gets your underground utilities marked for free so you can dig safely.”

FRANCISCO GARCIA
Gas Compliance Representative



Whether you're a contractor working on a major job site or a homeowner planting a tree in the yard, no job is too small—always call 811 at least two working days before you dig. One simple call gets underground utility lines marked for free and helps protect you from injury and expense.

Promoting the 811 program is just another step we're taking to ensure the safety of our gas system in your community. Visit pge.com/811.



Call 811



Get marked



Dig safely



**Together, Building
a Better California**

pge.com/811

PG&E® refers to Pacific Gas and Electric Company, a subsidiary of PG&E Corporation.
© 2016 Pacific Gas and Electric Company. All rights reserved. Paid for by PG&E shareholders.

Hometown homeless woman and husband await housing

▶ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to sleep on the ground, she says, aggravated the nerve damage from her diabetes and reinforced her arthritis.

"Nobody knows how bad the pain is," she said.

She had two boys with two different Cuban American men when she was in her early 20s before marrying her first husband, the late Eddie Benjamin, who she said died of liver cancer at 52 in 2005. They'd been together 28 years, including decades camped under the highway where 101 crosses Cesar Chavez.

One of her sons, she says, Pedro Tehuma, 32, is homeless and living on Division Street. The other, Miguel Lopez, 34, became a professional boxer and opened a gym called Boxing for Health in Oakland near Lake Merritt. Its Website includes a videotaped interview with him on the eve of a fight, in which he speaks of growing up fighting in the Fillmore, raised by a grandma who "brought me up in the church," and that he "never got a chance to meet" his dad, who was from Havana and got arrested. "Boxing actually saved my life," he says. He's married, the Website says, with at least one child. The Extra's calls to Boxing for Health went unreturned.

Emmett gave up drinking before he went to prison, but still he occasionally attends AA meetings. He has been Elaine's "24-hour caregiver," she says, since they got together a handful of years ago.

Elaine says she began evangelical work while "doing time" 38 years ago. That was for "a mistake I made in life. I learned by my mistakes," she says, but was reluctant to delve further into particulars.

She began her outreach ministry 20 years ago and eventually began studying

for a license.

Emmett recalls that Elaine was dressed all in white the day they met, at Carl's Jr. at U.N. Plaza.

He was on General Assistance, living at the Pierre Hotel on Jones Street, his home for five years. He'd also lived at the MultiService Center shelter at Fifth and Bryant for about a year, he said.

She was staying at the Coronado, on Ellis around the corner from the Pierre. She'd been there since her first husband died.

She would go to the restaurant every day to study on her way to St. Andrews Baptist in the Fillmore, where Assistant Pastor Jeff Branner told The Extra she earned her ministry license "about 10 years ago." Emmett frequented the restaurant too, and eventually got up the nerve to say hello.

"We would talk every day at Carl's Jr.," Elaine told The Extra. "We courted for three years before he ever got a kiss from me. Ever since then, we've been together."

"We did our vows through the pastor and everything but our license," Emmett says, explaining that he is trying to finalize a divorce from a woman who is "in a psych ward."

They have stories about suffering through the effects of deferred maintenance at SROs. The last one was the Mayfair, in the 600 block of Polk. There were problems with burglaries "every time we would leave," she said. There were rodents, and leaking pipes that fed mold and mildew "like jelly." The management didn't want to hear about it, she said, so "Emmett was fixing a lot of things himself."

"I refused to pay the rent," she says. Eviction papers soon ensued, but on the day of the court hearing, Elaine says, the security guards downstairs at 850 Bry-



MARK HEDIN

Emmett and Elaine Amos are living temporarily at the Navigation Center on Mission Street. Elaine was born at Kaiser Hospital S.F., and Emmett years ago came to the city as a refugee from Southern California. They became homeless in 2010 and recently were among the Division Street tent city community.

ant St. cost her her case.

They took their sweet time processing her through the metal detectors. She'd taken the trouble to arrive early, but, forced to wait, she says, she suffered a mini-stroke. Instead of going to court, she was taken to the hospital by ambulance. Emmett tried to get the proceedings delayed, to no avail.

It was 2010, and they were on the streets. To begin with, they put down temporary stakes at Division at San Bruno Avenue.

"I can't do shelters," Elaine said. "It's like a prison to me. No fresh air, can't breathe, constantly getting sick, can't leave when you want to, or bring food in...I couldn't get no rest at the shelters cause of the constant fighting. It was just like being in prison. If I wanted to do time, I woulda done crime."

They kept trying to find real housing, putting in applications all over the Bay Area, she says, but "never heard nothing. It was just one letdown after another."

Emmett's prison record worked against his efforts to find both employment and housing.

Elaine, as Pastor K — who claims a professional-caliber voice for gospel singing — for years has been counseling people against drug use and crime, providing comfort and encouragement where she can, she says.

It's "spiritual counseling, couples counseling, people dealing with issues, bad vices," she said. "To me, it's 'lost and found' — finding their lives through Christ Jesus."

One of her recent students, she said in June, had just graduated from a chef's training program.

"We're so proud of him," she said. "He came a mighty long way, changed his life tremendously."

The Amoses struggled with the attention focused on the Division Street campsites and repeatedly found their possessions swept away when they turned their backs.

"It was like nobody'd ever been there, like 'Wizard of Oz,'" she said. Her home "was picked up like it was never there." Eventually, they set up across from the Trader Joe's shopping center at Eighth and Brannan.

"I did a lot of ministry down there, chased drug addicts away, got people to straighten up, let them know they don't have to live like that. We stopped a lot of the bike thieving, drug dealers moved out. We helped the police," Elaine says.

"I don't mind doing it, 'cause I live here. Kept it clean."

"She's rad, I'm a huge fan of her," Kelley Cutler, Human Rights Organizer for the Coalition on Homelessness, told The Extra.

Elaine credits Cutler for helping them land in the Navigation Center, but Cutler won't accept that credit.

The Navigation Center is "the golden ticket" for people on the streets, Cutler said.

"There's been a few situations in particular where they just really need to get in — services, health — or who continue to keep trying and trying and keep hitting roadblocks. When there's someone that we see time and time again, we'll do an extra push to get people connected." But "It's usually pretty extreme situations. Everyone needs some extra advocacy. I'll definitely do what I can to get them in touch with those who can connect them up."

"When we heard about the Navigation Center, we were trying to get up here, because I couldn't go back to no shelter," Elaine says. "I was getting sicker and sicker. This was a lot on Emmett. I couldn't stand seeing him go through this all the time."

"When we finally got in here, it was much better," Elaine says. "Twenty times better than Pier 80. Staff here is a lot more cooperative. They don't label you, they really do help you, listen to you," she said as Emmett nodded in agreement.

"They care, they show they care," Emmett said. "That's good."

Elaine said their goal is to find permanent housing "as quick as we can. I want to continue to try to help other people," she said.

In late June she said she expects to move on from the Navigation Center and into permanent housing soon. "They said sometime next month we'll probably be out of here, hopefully."

Without discussing the Amoses in particular, Julie Leadbetter, director of the Navigation Center for the city's office of H.O.P.E. (Housing Opportunity, Partnerships and Engagement), said that everyone who is brought into the Navigation Center is guaranteed housing eventually.

"We keep them until they're housed," she said. "It will be permanent and affordable. It depends on what they qualify for. We screen them for what they qualify for."

The Amoses are eager to move on. ■



HOUSING APPLICATIONS ARE BEING ACCEPTED FOR THE KNOX AND BAYANIHAN HOUSE



The Knox



Bayanihan House

Please go to 241 6th Street, San Francisco, CA for applications

The TODCO Single Room Occupancy (SRO) Housing Waiting List is open for the Knox and the Bayanihan House. If your name is currently on any TODCO Housing Waiting List and you would like information on your current status, please call the TODCO Marketing Office at 415-957-0227 on Fridays only.

Building	Size & Amenities	Max/Min Household Income Limits	Rent as of Feb. 1, 2015
The Knox SRO located at 241- 6th St. & Tehama is accepting applications and has an OPEN WAITLIST	SRO – 1 Person or Couple Room size: 10 ½ x 18 (Semi-Private) bathroom 7 x 7 Unit amenities: sink, microwave, refrigerator, 2-burner stove, closet, single bed Building amenities: small gym, library, private lounge, roof top garden, community kitchen, laundry facility, 24 hour staff & surveillance	1 person \$34,600/year 2 person \$39,520/year Minimum income of \$1,374/month	Move-in deposit \$687 Monthly rent \$687 plus utilities
Hotel Isabel located at 1095 Mission CLOSED WAITLIST	SRO – 1 Person Shared bathroom Unit amenities: sink, microwave, refrigerator, 2- burner stove, closet and single bed	1 person \$34,600/year No minimum income Closed	30% OF INCOME Requires a Certificate of Homelessness
Bayanihan House (Non-assisted units) located at 88 – 6th St. & Mission. OPEN WAITLIST	SRO – 1 Person or Couple Room single: 10½ x 12, shared bathroom Double occupancy: 12x12, shared bathroom Unit amenities: sink, microwave, refrigerator, 2-burner stove, closet, single bed Building amenities: community kitchen, 24 hour staff & surveillance, laundry facility	1 person \$30,275/year Couple \$34,580/year Minimum income of \$889.40/month	As of Jan. 1, 2015 Move-in deposit \$607 Monthly rent \$607 Utilities included

TDD: (415) 345-4470



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SPECIAL EVENTS

Tenderloin Sunday Streets, July 10, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. See page 3.

Epigenetics: A Closer Look at Genes and Environment, July 10, 1-3 p.m., Main Library, lower level. Illustrated talk by Dr. Barbara-Ann G. Lewis about in utero DNA modification and other possible explanations for how human characteristics develop. Science background not needed. Info: sfpl.org.

ARTS EVENTS

The Black Woman Is God, SOMArts Cultural Center, 934 Brannan St., July 7-Aug. 17 exhibition of more than 60 black women sculptors, painters and new media artists. Free opening reception, July 7, 6-9 p.m. presents a procession of women Djemba drummers and dance performance led by Sister Nau-T Agu and Colette Eloi. Info: somarts.org.

Thursdays@Noon Films, Main Library, Koret Auditorium. Theme: Create! July 7, "Field of Dreams" (1989); July 14, "Big Night" (1996); July 21, "Basquiat" (1996); July 29, "Save the Last Dance," (2001). Info: spfl.org

Frisco Zoo, Luggage Store, 1007 Market St., July 8-Aug. 10, opening reception July 8, 5-8 p.m. 13 artists in various media riff on city life as an urban jungle, curated by Mattie Loyce/Mission Gallery. Info: luggagestoregallery.org.

REGULAR SCHEDULE HOUSING

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

HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH

CBHS Client Council, 3rd Tuesday of month, 3-5 p.m., 1380 Howard, Room 515. Consumer advisers from self-help groups and mental health consumer advocates. Public welcome. Info: 255-3695. Call ahead as meeting location may change.

Healthcare Action Team, 2nd Wednesday of 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 Ligia Montano, 546-1333 x315.

Hoarding and Cluttering Support Groups, weekly meetings, conducted by Mental Health Association of San Francisco, 870 Market St., Suite 928. Info: 421-2926 or mentalhealthsf.org/group-search.

Legal clinic, 4th Thursday of the month, 507 Polk St., 10 a.m.-noon. Legal help for people with psychiatric or developmental disabilities who need help with an SSA work review, sponsored by People with Disabilities Foundation. Sliding-scale fee. By appointment only: 931-3070. Info: pddf.org.

Mental Health Board, 3rd Wednesday of the month, 6:30-8:30 p.m., City Hall, room 278. CBHS advisory committee, open to the public. Call: 255-3474.

Tenderloin Healthy Corner Store Coalition, 4th Thursday, 3 p.m., Kelly Cullen Community Building, 220 Golden Gate Ave., 2nd floor auditorium or 5th floor gym. Public invited to discuss legislation that encourages corner stores to sell fresh food and reduce tobacco and alcohol sales. Info: Jessica Estrada, jessica.healthyretail@gmail.com, 581-2483.

SAFETY

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

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

NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT

Alliance for a Better District 6, 2nd Tuesday of 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 month, Hotel Whitcomb, 1231 Market St., 3 p.m. Info: 882-3088, central-market.org.

Friends of Boeddeker Park, 3rd Thursday of the



Still from "Hotcomb: The Masquerade," a video by Karen Seneferu and Idris Hassan, part of *The Black Woman Is God* exhibition at SOMArts, opening July 7.

month, 3:30 p.m., park clubhouse, Eddy and Jones. Info: Betty Traynor, 931-1126.

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

Tenderloin Community Benefit District. Full board meets 3rd Monday at 5 p.m., 55 Taylor St. Info: 292-4812.

Safe Haven Project, 4th Tuesday of month, 3 p.m., 519 Ellis St. (Senator Hotel). Contact: 563-3205, x115, or centralcitysafehaven@gmail.com.

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

SENIORS AND DISABLED

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

to the public.

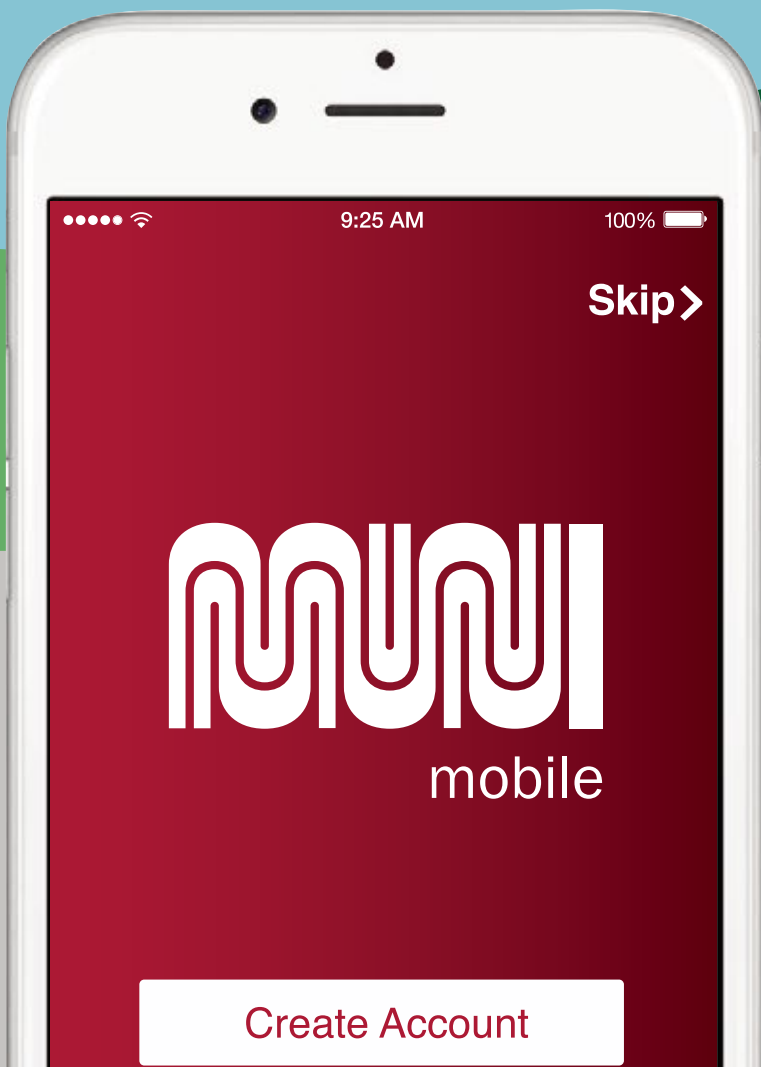
Senior & Disability Action (formerly Planning for Elders/Senior Action Network), general meeting, 2nd Thursday of month, 9 a.m.-noon, Universal Unitarian Church, 1187 Franklin St. SDA Housing Collaborative meeting, 3rd Wednesday, 1 p.m. HealthCare Action Team meeting, 2nd Wednesday, 1010 Mission St., (Bayanihan Community Center). For info about SDA's Survival School, University and computer class schedules: 546-1333, www.sdaction.org.

DISTRICT 6 SUPERVISOR

Jane Kim, chair, Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee, Transbay Joint Powers Authority Finance Committee and S.F. County Transportation Authority Vision Zero Committee; temporary member, Budget and Finance Committee; member, Association of Bay Area Government (ABAG). Legislative aides: April Veneracion, Barbara Lopez and Ivy Lee.

Jane Kim@sfgov.org 554-7970

See San Francisco with the Push of a Button.



sfmta.com/munimobile

