

City awards \$1.8 million high-rise fees to aid SoMa

Lion's share goes to 18 nonprofits

BY TOM CARTER

THE fees that Supervisor Daly negotiated from luxury condo developers five years ago to mitigate the impact of their buildings on the working-class SoMa neighborhood are finally being put to use this month.

But the \$50 million largesse touted when the deals were signed has slipped to \$6.6 million, thanks to the tanked economy that has stalled much high-rise building here and most everywhere.

Only the One Rincon Hill tower has been completed, and only the first \$1.8 million paid to the SoMa Community Stabilization Fund is being distributed in the fund's initial round of financing for projects that roll out this month.

Eighteen nonprofits split \$1.25 million and three city agencies handle another \$550,000 that came from the developer who said last year he wasn't going to pay the fees.

But pay he did. Last year, the developer ponied up \$6 million in three payments, the last one, \$3.1 million on Nov. 24, according to Spencer Moore, the spokesman for builder

Urban West Associates.

The advisory committee that recommends SoMa projects to the supes for approval has another \$2.8 million to disburse, whenever it decides the time is right. The fees are subject to administrative costs.

Urban West CEO Mike Kriozere said in a Chronicle story April 19, 2009, he wouldn't pay the impact fees for erecting the 641-foot South Tower on First Street that nuzzles up to Interstate 80. And he seemed to have a point.

Daly's legislation requiring fees was imprecise about when they were due. So the committee, also created in 2005, had waited anxiously month after month for the money.

But Kriozere did a quick about-face in a press release the next day, April 20. "We are not in default nor do we intend to be," he said, claiming his remarks had been taken out of context. He said the payment wasn't due until the South Tower got its final Certificate of Occupancy.

The San Diego-based developer was true to his word and later did the city one better: He paid ahead of time. In three payments, the last coming Nov. 30, Kriozere paid all he owed three months early. The South Tower didn't get its final Certificate of Occupancy — when the last unit is sold — until Feb. 24, 2010.

"He paid his commitment," said Claudine del Rosario, the Mayor's Office of Housing liaison to the Stabilization Fund.

The Mayor's Office of Economic and Workforce Development will receive \$200,000 to loan out to small SoMa businesses. The San Francisco

"We consider it a pilot round."

Claudine del Rosario

MAYOR'S STABILIZATION COMMITTEE LIAISON

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FROM PORN TO CABARET

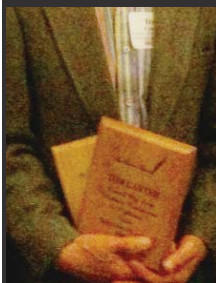
Old Gayety Theater may go live, legit

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OBITUARIES: TL RESIDENT DEAD AT 24

Skateboarder's body found at 4 a.m.

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Peninsula Press Club honors '09 stories

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CENTRAL CITY



SAN FRANCISCO

PEOPLES GARDEN



PHOTOS BY TOM CARTER

Garden caretaker *Siu Cheung* shows the broccoli plant that was stripped of its bountiful florets by someone who broke the lock on the gate.

Broccoli burglar

Miscreant steals veggies that are free for asking

BY TOM CARTER

SIU Cheung's heart sank the first Wednesday morning in June when she peered through the dark-blue bars of the 6-foot-high metal fence protecting the Tenderloin Peoples Garden at McAllister and Larkin streets, the

neighborhood's only community vegetable garden.

Two sections of the little white picket fence surrounding the 20- by 20-foot garden plot had been pulled open and the irrigation hoses recklessly flung to one side. She tried the gate but the lock was jammed.

What more damage? Cheung wondered on her way to the second gate. It opened easily with her key and she entered.

Her log, a laminated sheet with her phone number on it that tracked all the garden's activities, was missing.

TNDC employees and neighborhood volunteers planted the garden on the corner lawn at the Civic Center Power House March 23, through an agreement with the Department of Public Works.

Vegetable and flower gardens are all the rage now, but this community garden is a one-of-a-kind for the Tenderloin. San Francisco Garden Resource Organization lists 51 gardens in the city, 40 of them on Rec and Park land. Every supervisorial district has at least one. But these consist of assigned, individual plots where urban farmers grow their own vegetables or flowers. YMCA's flower garden at 387 Golden Gate Ave. is in this group.

The Power House garden was resplendent with onions, carrots, cabbage, beets, three kinds of lettuce, green beans, bok choy, garlic, basil and tomatoes. Purple and white turnip tops the size of softballs peeked through the dark soil and more than 70 broccoli plants in verdant double rows from 14 inches to 24 inches high foretold a lush harvest. The emerald oasis is sometimes a field trip destination for youth groups from the Chinese Youth Center and



The garden was quickly reassembled and volunteers resumed work.

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GOOD NEWS for...

TL AUDIO PROJECT Last fall's monthlong Wonderland exhibition brought 40 artists and 10 multimedia installations and events to the Tenderloin. Now, one exhibit project, Tender Transmissions, is up on the Web for the world to see and hear. Originally a temporary audio installation, radio station and phone line hosted at Luggage Store Gallery's Tenderloin National Forest (Cohen Alley off Ellis Street), audiences could tune in to recordings of neighbors singing, reciting poetry, conversing, telling stories, and TL soundscapes, guided walks, interviews, even a screenplay. Tendertransmissions.com launched in mid-June with 97 recordings literally at your fingertips. "The site operates like radio when opened, playing tracks randomly," said Ranu Mukherjee, one of the project's eight producers. "If you want to hear something specific, you can click on names in the participants' menu to hear their tracks." Sample Ed Bowers reading "Poetry2," student Anthony Hom rapping on "The Fresh Prince of De Marillac," Rachelle Brooks singing John Lennon's "Imagine," Kay of Tenderloin Children's Playground talking about kids and love, and much, much more. — M.B.

HUNGRY KIDS As part of its free summer lunch program, the Department of Children, Youth & Their Families is serving free lunches and afternoon snacks to 18-year-olds and younger each weekday through Aug. 6 at 100 sites citywide, 10 of them in the central city. At most locations, kids need only show up at posted times to get the free food that is served on a first-come, first-served basis — they don't have to be enrolled in a program or show proof of need. The focus is on healthy, soda-free snacks and meals; monitors will check the sites regularly for food safety. The program expects to feed 200,000 free meals to 6,000 kids. Neighborhood sites: Boys & Girls Club, 115 Jones St.; Glide Afterschool Program, 434 Ellis St.; Indochinese Housing Development Corp. 375 Eddy St.; Shi Yu Lang YMCA, 387 Golden Gate Ave.; Tenderloin Children's Playground Rec Center, 570 Ellis St.; Vietnamese Youth Development Center, 166 Eddy St.; Bessie Carmichael School, 375 Seventh St.; Homies Organizing the Mission to Empower Youth, 1337 Mission St.; Resource Center for Children, Youth and Families, 953 Mission St.; and United Playaz, 1038 Howard St. More info: SFkids.org; lunch service hours at 3-1-1 or the United Way Helpline, 2-1-1 (both lines have multilingual staff). — M.B.

THE HOOD Boeddeker Summer Music returns to the park, thanks to a \$2,000 grant from the Tenderloin CBD, up \$500 from last year. Betty Traynor, Friends of Boeddeker Park chair, said the grant will bankroll appearances of at least four bands, starting this month. Dates for the midweek, outdoor, noontime concerts, and the band selections, hadn't been determined by press-time. At the Friends' June meeting, Traynor also scotched rumors that Boeddeker would be among the 40 parks that will close because of budget cuts. She said Rec & Park General Manager Phil Ginsburg assured her at a June 4 meeting that Boeddeker would stay open. Meantime, the park will be open 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., weekdays and closed on weekends. Senior bingo continues on Tuesdays and Thursdays. — T.C.



PHOTO: S.F. PUBLIC LIBRARY HISTORY CENTER

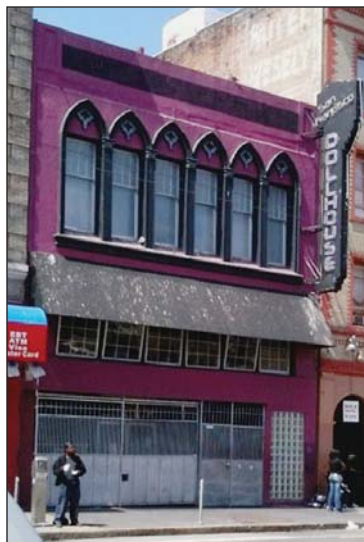


PHOTO: MARJORIE BEGGS

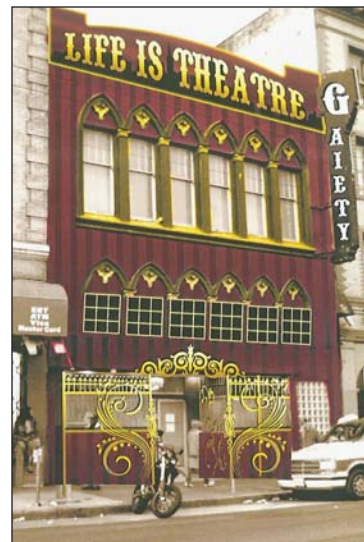


PHOTO: GAIETY PROJECT RENDERING

80 Turk St., as it was starting in 1963, left, as it is now and as proposed — "a sanctuary for the lost arts."

Old porn house Gayety may be new live theater

BY MARJORIE BEGGS

ARTS projects keep on rolling into the Tenderloin, raising hopes that they'll help turn grit into cultural gold.

The latest is a proposal to launch a live performance venue at 80 Turk St., currently the Doll House, showing adult movies. According to TL historian Peter Field, it was built in 1922 as a storefront with lofts, not a theater, and also had stints as a gambling joint in the 1930s, a cafe in the '40s and a tavern, The Buccaneer, in the '50s. It became the Gayety Theatre in 1963, and in 2001 changed its name to the Gaiety.

Sean Owens and Cameron Eng, principals of the 2-year-old Foul Play Productions, announced their plans for the Gaiety Project at the June Tenderloin Futures Collaborative.

"We want this be a sanctuary for the lost arts, like cabaret and circus arts," said Eng. The 99-seat theater will present "family-friendly performances with chic, classic, state-of-the-art technology": a holographic sound system (3-D, spatial sound), programmable lighting, trapdoors, puppet stages and projection for films.

It will even have circus weight points — structural points in the ceiling and walls strong enough to hold performers doing aerial, strap, hanging, and ring work. Eng says few small halls have the ceiling height to accommodate such weight.

A storefront cafe, lobby art gallery, basement and second-floor offices and workshops also are part of the plan.

"We've been working on the Gaiety Project since January," Eng said. "The project will be the managing nonprofit for the theater space, with Foul Play being

CORRECTIONS

IN the June issue, the story on proposed housing at 121 Golden Gate Ave. misstated the volume the 192-seat St. Anthony Dining Room handles; an average 2,600 meals are served every day. In the new building, the dining room will seat 300. Only Mercy Housing, developer of the building's senior housing, will contract with HUD.

just one of the resident companies." Their hope is to draw other companies and new writers to the venture — what their prospectus calls "untapped media like the burgeoning burlesque and vaudeville revival that San Francisco has fostered."

From the start, the Doll House site seemed a perfect fit for their project, Eng said, with its location just off Taylor Street along the city's nascent arts corridor. "It will be part of the inviting gateway to the Tenderloin," he said.

Owens and Eng also seem to be the right people to get the project off the ground. Owens, author of 35 plays ranging from musicals to noir mysteries, has worked in San Francisco theater for 20 years and is heavyweight EXIT Theatre's playwright in residence. Eng, a performer in underground theater, has produced events and shows in the Bay Area for 12 years. He was key in turning The Dark Room theater in the Mission into a year-round venue for live shows and film. And he has the blessing of the Tenderloin's diva of divas:

"Sean has been a part of EXIT Theatre since our beginning," said Christina Augello, EXIT's artistic director. "He's a talented, creative, generous artist and a good friend. And I've followed his collaboration with Cameron and enjoyed many Foul Play productions. I've

always seen our neighborhood as the downtown entertainment district, and the Gaiety Project would be a great addition."

The Gaiety's premiere is still a ways off. Owens and Eng are negotiating the lease with 80 Turk's owner, Carlos Jimenez. He has agreed to upgrade the electrical and ventilation systems, Eng says. They have \$50,000 committed for ground-floor buildout but need another \$100,000. The new nonprofit is applying for a grant from the city's Cultural District Loan fund and will approach private foundations, too.

Meantime, Foul Play is in pre-production for "Left-Hand Darling," described in promos as "a theatrical adventure." A staged reading of the comedy at EXIT Theatre on July 16, 17, 23 and 24 will be a prep for a full performance next year, perhaps at the new Gaiety Theatre, if it's ready.

This was the Future Collaborative's second meeting after being "dark" for four months. It wasn't quite standing room only, but 24 people came to hear about the Gaiety and four other projects, all important to the central city — the new mid-Market PAC, proposed Grant Building renovations, an update on housing plans for 220 Golden Gate Ave. (the old YMCA), and the new community garden at Larkin and Hyde. ■

CENTRAL CITY
EXTRA!
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EMILE LLEWELLYN
Skateboarder

Stunned mourners filled the community room of the Coast Hotel to pay final respects to the hotel's youngest adult resident, and one of its most likeable, Emile Llewellyn, found dead May 27 at 4 a.m. on the Octavia median strip near Market Street. His trusty skateboard lay nearby.

Mr. Llewellyn had turned 24 just 11 days before. A police spokeswoman said the department's hit and run unit was investigating, but cause of death wasn't known yet.

At the memorial, Mr. Llewellyn's backup skateboard, a battered wooden piece with its color images nicked, marred and faded beyond recognition, lay on a table in front next to a floral spray and a one-foot-square, handmade sympathy card.

Scott Caswell, 23, a tall, lanky skateboard buddy, told the 25 mourners he took the loss of his friend hard and indirectly felt responsible for his death. They had skateboarded together for three months until Caswell got a job, ending their adventures.

"There wasn't a road in the city we didn't touch — that's the sport. It's also very dangerous," Caswell said, eyes red and bleary. "Then I got a job. And I just wasn't there with him."

The year before, Mr. Llewellyn, who insisted on being called Stanley for reasons no one knew, had finished the Episcopal Community Services' free CHEFS (Conquering Homelessness through Employment in Food Service) program. Sandra Marilyn, employment and training manager, said he had overcome several obstacles to "conquer" the cooking lessons and complete the six-month course.

"I was proud of him," Marilyn said. "It takes a lot of concentration and it's physically demanding."

Mr. Llewellyn was born in Jamaica and came to San Francisco in 2006. Homeless, he moved into the hotel more than three years ago and became a favorite of many residents. The rail-thin, 5-foot-5 young man was unfailingly polite and congenial.

His mother, Eslyn Smith, and his older brother, Orlando Bell, 32, attended the service but left the speaking to others.

"He was cool," a middle-aged man told them. "I mean really cool. I'm a good judge of character and

he had real nice manners and was really good. I could tell he was raised right."

Others who spoke during the memorial seemed to feel a personal attachment to Mr. Llewellyn.

One young woman said she skateboarded with him down Mission Street and he was "like a brother to me and a good friend of my husband's." Another young woman said she and a girlfriend had met him at a Dolores Park concert. He was so engaging they talked for five hours.

"He had a wonderful smile and was considerate and kind," said a woman. "He always asked how I was and offered to help me with groceries."

"He was like my son," said an older black woman who kept her head bowed as she talked. "He knocked on my door every day. He called me 'Mom.' We watched movies together and we ate together. He's my loved one. I miss him every day."

Mr. Llewellyn's neighbor, Roman Sanchez, told how he accepted his Saturday night invitations to go out, have a beer and "meet some girls."

"We'd take the F-car to I dunno where, and he was funny. If I said, 'You're retarded,' he'd say, 'You're retarded,' you know, say it back. 'You're a Republican.' 'No, you're a Republican.'"

Sanchez created the card that was on the table. AYE HOMES was in big, slanted blue letters in one top corner and two checkered cards in the other. The checkered pattern resembled a city seen from very high in the sky. The rest of the card was filled with a blue and black drawing of a dog with red spots on a skateboard, ears flying as he soared along his way. Sanchez gave the card to the family. ■

— TOM CARTER

ROBERTA CRONIN
A graduation too far

Roberta Cronin had a date she was sure to keep this time: her daughter's graduation from nursing school May 21 at the Hilton Hotel in San Jose.

"She wanted to buy me a present, but I said no," said her daughter, Terri Moore, 32. "I said just her being there was enough. She had missed a lot of stuff in the past because of drugs."

Ms. Cronin died March 6 in her Lyric Hotel room of unknown causes, 13 days before Moore's gradu-

ation. She was 53 and had stomach problems.

May 20, the day before the graduation, two dozen mourners including Ms. Cronin's two children — son Francisco Cronin, 31, of Corona in Southern California, and Moore of Sunnyvale — plus other family members, Lyric residents and staff, bade farewell in a memorial to a woman they said was strong, loving and helpful despite her weakness for drugs. Her nickname was Bobbi.

"I couldn't believe her strength and energy," her case worker said. "She was one of the most kind, open and happy persons."

"She loved her children and talked about them all the time," said another woman near a table laden with six bouquets and three color photos of Ms. Cronin. The woman read aloud a poem, "Miss Me, But Let Me Go," by an anonymous author, that was printed in the program with Ms. Cronin's likeness on it.

"Life wasn't easy for her, but she brought so much joy to things," one man said. Another man recalled Ms. Cronin in the lobby every morning wearing a different bright outfit. Others nodded agreement: She always looked nice.

Geraldine Williams sang "Jesus Promise Me a Home Over There," and a man played a guitar and sang a song he wrote.

"She was so excited to come to my graduation," said Moore, beautiful and smart in a black suit and white blouse. "We talked all the time. And I forgave her for everything. I'm glad you guys loved her as much as I did." Moore sat down and family members held her and stroked her hair.

Ms. Cronin was born and raised in the Mission with seven brothers and sisters. She didn't attend high school and just recently started to learn to read, her daughter said after the memorial.

Moore, married with a daughter, said she "cried all weekend" after getting the devastating news just when things seemed to be going so well. The last time she saw her mother was six months ago, she said, and Ms. Cronin weighed 80 pounds. In May, she was back up to 120.

"She liked it here a lot, too," Moore said. "And this time when she said she'd stay clean, I believed her. I just thought she was getting tired." ■

— TOM CARTER

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Daly's, Newsom's laws let developers off easy

► CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Metropolitan Transportation Authority and the Department of Public Works get \$350,000 for a mid-block crossing signal across from Victoria Manalo Draves Park at Folsom and Russ streets, a safety measure for youngsters and others who use the park and Gene Friend Rec Center at Sixth and Folsom.

The response to requests for proposals was disappointing to the Stabilization Fund advisory committee.

"Thirty nonprofits applied," del Rosario said. "They weren't as strong as we wanted. They didn't address stabilization as expressed in the strategic plan. But it was a good process and we consider it a pilot round. The committee made some difficult decisions — it was hard to say no sometimes — but they stuck to the criteria and were pretty conservative."

Most of the nonprofits that didn't get funded didn't satisfy the strategic plan's aims to serve SoMa residents only, or didn't estimate enough people the project would serve, according to Jazzy Collins, the five-year committee chair who stepped down at the May 30 meeting when Ada Chan was elected.

"How many people are served in SoMa was very important to the committee," Collins said. "But we did not put a specific number in the plan — that would blow up in our face."

FUNDING ON HOLD

The seven-member committee has \$2.8 million left, according to the Mayor's Office of Housing, and there's no indication when Rincon Hill area construction will resume, which would trigger additional fees. Even so, the committee is holding off on funding more projects because it wants to rewrite the strategic plan that the supes approved in 2008.

"The committee wants to take the next two months to revisit the strategic plan, taking into account the current economic climate, before releasing new RFPs," del Rosario said. Coming cuts affect-

ing all agencies might suggest different criteria.

The committee will look at whether to scrape off funds to help ailing agencies.

"We haven't had that discussion yet," said Collins. "But we do need to tweak the strategic plan."

In an effort to kick-start construction, Mayor Newsom recently announced a plan to ease the developers' fee burden.

And an Oct. 27 ordinance by Daly that clarifies when the \$14 per square foot stabilization fee is due ("before" issuance of the final Certificate of Occupancy) also enables developers to escape a major cost. Developers can apply for a waiver from all or part of the Community Improvements Impact fee if a Community Facilities District is formed. The fee, \$11 per square foot, pays for infrastructure such as roads, sidewalks and open space within the district.

(Proposition 13 in 1978 cut property taxes and local governments' ability to pay for needed public facilities and services. To offset the diminished revenue, the state passed a law [Mello Roos] in 1982 that allows communities to tax themselves by creating special districts. A majority of property owners within a district must okay its formation. The upshot is that in such a district all owners are taxed, as opposed to just the developer paying the impact fee for improvements.)

Legislation the mayor backed in May allows a developer to defer 80% of the impact fees that go to the Stabilization Fund for up to three years. It passed 10-1, Daly dissenting.

GRANTS TO NONPROFITS

The grants to nonprofits ranged from \$10,000 to \$120,000; most (11) were \$75,000.

The largest grant to a nonprofit was \$119,879 to the San Francisco Community Land Trust to find a SoMa site for a co-op to create permanently affordable, resident-owned housing for low- and moderate-income people.

"We'll do an analysis of SoMa's housing stock and market conditions," says Amy Beinart, the trust's organizational director. "We want to ID residential buildings of a size that would lend themselves to conversion in the long run as a cooperative."

The goal is to find a good building with renters who want to buy and live in a cooperative. The land trust would secure the financing, conduct workshops with residents, and create a limited-equity housing cooperative with residents buying shares.

"In the model we've used," Beinart said, "the land trust would own the land and the co-op would own the residential building."

The project has two years from the contract date to come to fruition. If no building is found or financing is not forthcoming, the land trust would continue working with the committee until conditions improve.

The other nonprofits and their grants:

- Asian Neighborhood Design, \$75,000, for one year green construction training for SoMa residents.
- Bar Association of San Francisco, Volunteer Legal Services Program, \$75,000, for stabilizing low-income SoMa families and individuals over



The developer of One Rincon Hill's South Tower paid his fees in full; the North Tower construction is on hold.

two years through the Homeless Advocacy Project; individuals with legal problems contact lawyers who assist them for free.

- Catholic Charities/CYO, \$75,000, for no-cost child care for 5- to 18-year-olds from low-income families living at 10th and Mission streets and nearby.

- Filipino-American Development Foundation, \$100,000, to prepare Filipino immigrant youth for financial independence, and an additional, \$40,000 to designate a Filipino Cultural Social Heritage District in West SoMa.

- Nihonmachi Legal Outreach, \$75,000, for housing services ranging from legal advice to eviction prevention for low-income SoMa residents.

- Northeast Community Federal Credit Union, \$75,000, to fund a new SoMa branch for financial services for low-income residents.

- Renaissance Entrepreneurship Center, \$75,000, to train low-income ex-offenders — men and women — in SoMa to become self-employed and self-sufficient.

- United Playaz, \$75,000, for job skills training and employment referrals for at-risk SoMa young adults, 18-25.

- Chinatown Community Development Center, \$94,394, for outreach to low-income SoMa families to improve access to affordable housing through its SRO Family Collaborative.

- Bindlestiff Studio, \$35,000, for needs assessment and organizational planning, fundraising and public relations strategy.

- GP/TODCO Inc., \$75,000, to renovate Alice Street Gardens, a community garden.

- Oasis for Girls, \$35,000, strategic planning for youth development and a financial literacy program for girls in SoMa.

- San Francisco Filipino Cultural Center, \$75,000, to hire staff to develop a new cultural center space, including a job-readiness program for SoMa youth.

- Senior Action Network, \$75,000, for technological upgrade and staff training.

- South of Market Business Association, \$10,000, to host quarterly community exchanges at which SoMa businesses and residents share neighborhood concerns.

- South of Market Child Care Inc., \$35,000, to develop and implement a strategic plan with an emphasis on fundraising and board development.

- Veteran's Equity Center, \$75,000, to develop the Bill Sorro Housing Program to help Filipino veterans and their families secure housing. ■



PHOTOS BY TOM CARTER

Kids at the Judith Baker Child Development Center, run by South of Market Child Care Inc., enjoy a day in the sun. The nonprofit will develop a blueprint for fundraising and board development.

Broccoli burglar steals free food from TL garden

► CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Ingleside Community Center.

As Cheung meticulously circled the square plot, bending to examine plants and picking up leaves, others began to enter through the gate for the announced harvest and cleaning day, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The garden, though, is open daily for an hour or two at various times. A half dozen mostly Chinese women seniors from TNDC buildings were expected.

A man dressed in khaki arrived and began mowing the long grass outside the plot. A chatty woman walked in, saying she wanted her own space to grow angelica keiskei (an Asian plant also known as ashitaba) and aloe vera. Two more women entered and immediately began pulling weeds.

Lorenzo Listank, a TNDC staffer who has visited the plot Saturdays since April, walked in and went

to Cheung.

"The door was wide open Friday," he told her. Cheung frowned. "I don't know how they are able to open it," he added.

Cheung resumed walking around. In the northeast corner she found another picket fence section pulled aside. Two women were weeding nearby.

"Look," Cheung said, pointing at limp beet leaves that had been trampled.

"How can they break the fence when they can easily step over it?" another gardener asked irritably.

Cheung's fingers were crawling over the handsome broccoli leaves — "They look like elephant ears," said one woman. Cheung pointed to the top of a plant: the florets had been sheered off, leaving a shiny, 4-inch-diameter stem.

"Why?" Cheung asked no one, looking puzzled. "They could have just asked me. My phone number

was here."

"Must've been hungry," one woman said.

There was no other damage. Within 45 minutes the fencing had been reassembled, the hoses realigned and the noisy mowing finished. Another man had come in too, a friendly senior who gave Cheung \$40 in cash for seeds, he said. He refused a receipt and left.

Twenty people showed up that day, Cheung's new log shows. Eight were volunteers who got 3 pounds of vegetables each. The rest were neighbors who dropped by. Cheung gave them 30 more pounds, a lot more than the broccoli burglar got.

Word of mouth has spread the news about the garden largesse, but it's certainly no secret, Cheung says: The first Wednesday of the month is work and harvest day.

It's worth the trip. ■

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

COMMUNITY: REGULAR SCHEDULE

ARTS EVENTS

Music in the Park, Boeddeker Park, Wednesday, July 14, noon-1 p.m., Franco Nero, ska and rocksteady music.

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>.

Community Leadership Alliance. Last Wednesday of the month, 6:30 p.m., Infusion Lounge, 124 Ellis St. Information: David Villa-Lobos, 559-6627, admin@communityleadershipalliance.net.

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. Board works to protect SoMa resources for children, youth, families and adults. Gene Friend Recreation Center, 270 Sixth St. Information: 538-8100 x202.

Mid-Market Project Area Committee, next meeting June 9, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Art Institute of California, 10 United Nations Plaza (1130 Market St.), Room 410. Info: Lisa Zayas-Chien,

749-2504, Lisa.Zayas-Chien@sfgov.org. Planning to improve mid-Market.

North of Market/Tenderloin Community Benefit District. Full board meets 3rd Monday of every other month, 5:30 p.m., 134 Golden Gate Ave., 292-4812.

SOMA Community Stabilization Fund Community Advisory Committee meets 3rd Thursday of the month, 5:30 p.m., 1 South Van Ness, 2nd floor atrium. Info: Claudine del Rosario 749-2519.

SoMa Leadership Council, 3rd Wednesday of the month, 6 p.m., The Arc, 1500 Howard St. at 11th. Emphasizes good planning and good government to maintain a diverse, vibrant, complete neighborhood. Contact: Jim Meko, 624-4309 or jim.meko@comcast.net.

South of Market Project Area Committee, 3rd Monday of the month, 6 p.m., 1035 Folsom St. Health, Safety and Human Services Committee meets monthly on the 1st Tuesday after the 1st Monday, 1035 Folsom St., noon. Information: 487-2166 or www.sompac.com.

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.

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: tifutures.org, 820-3989.

Tenderloin Neighborhood Association, 2nd Friday of the month beginning in June, 631 O'Farrell St., 4:30 p.m. Nonprofit focuses on health and wellness activities to promote neighborly interactions. Info: tenderloinneighborhood@yahoo.com.

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.

For space considerations, the calendar is shorter than usual this month. We hope to restore it to its regular size in August.

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— 7 x 7, April 2010

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— San Francisco Chronicle, May 2010

SENIOR COFFEE CHATS

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ARE YOU 60 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER?

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URGENT UPDATE

SAVE OUR NEIGHBORHOOD FIREHOUSE

The San Francisco Board of Supervisors will be voting this month on a new city budget. While there are many important priorities that must be balanced, one of the most important should be our neighborhood firehouses.

As San Francisco firefighters, our priority is to protect our community. That's why we are working so hard to keep open our first line of defense during fires, medical emergencies or any major disaster. **We know money is tight, so we are improving efficiency and even taking less pay so there is enough to keep our neighborhood firehouses open.**

As the budget vote nears, we need your support to let the San Francisco Board of Supervisors know:



Help save our neighborhood firehouse, Station #36 on Oak Street.

NEIGHBORHOOD FIREHOUSES are a **COMMUNITY PRIORITY**

Act Now to Protect Your Neighborhood Firehouse by

- 1.** Joining online at www.SaveOurFirehouses.com
- 2.** Joining the Save Our Firehouses page on Facebook www.facebook.com/SaveOurFirehouses
- 3.** Filling out and sending this card to:
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