

# Tenderloin's dream toilet: free, clean, compostable

CBD invests \$20,000 in a green prototype

BY TOM CARTER

**I**N its campaign to provide free public bathrooms and eliminate human waste on Tenderloin streets, the neighborhood CBD has boldly invested \$20,000 in an Oakland company to design a prototype public toilet that, if it can really recycle waste, could end up serving the rest of the city — and beyond.

The seed money would start Hyphae Design Laboratories on its way to go where no one has successfully gone before in making a durable, compostable public loo.

"We'll need to attract more money," Hyphae founder Brent Bucknum told the Tenderloin Futures Collaborative Oct. 19. The company's contract with CBD shows it needs \$94,000 for development.

Key to development of the TL toilet is public input to hear what type of W.C. people want, Bucknum said. The first outreach meetings will be Nov. 10 at St. Anthony's, 150 Golden Gate Ave. in the Poverella Room at 2 and 5:30 p.m.

The CBD is concerned because the neighborhood each month experiences "700 to 800 incidents" of human feces in the streets, sidewalks and alleys, said Dina Hilliard, the TL CBD executive director.

The leading dump site last year, according to the CBD's sidewalk cleaner, Clean City, was near a methadone clinic at 433 Turk St., in a dark, cul-de-sac alley, Dodge Street — behind Harrington's bar at Turk and Larkin streets. The site was tops with 123 "incidents."

In the CBD's initial effort to address the issue earlier this year, it contracted with Rescue Mission at

➤ CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



PHOTO BY TOM CARTER

Rescue Mission's free toilet, open to the public weekdays, has tripled its usage.

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## THE EXTRA WINS MAJOR HONOR

Community news coverage is tops

PAGE 2

## RANKED CHOICE VOTING

Why S.F. has it, how it works

PAGE 3



## OBITUARIES: LEROY LOOPER

Supportive housing pioneer dies at 86

PAGE 6

# CENTRAL CITY

# EXTRA

SAN FRANCISCO

## TENDERLOIN STAR



PHOTO BY TOM CARTER

Betty Traynor distributes flyers at Boeddeker Park gate for the noontime jazz being played inside. With grants, she brought summer concerts back to the park.

# The park's best friend

## Betty Traynor is dedicated to Boeddeker

BY TOM CARTER

**B**ETTY Traynor frowned at Boeddeker Park's faded clubhouse door Thursday, Oct. 13. Rec and Park had locked the door and shut down the park, forgetting that the regular 3:30 p.m. Friends of Boeddeker Park meeting, which she chairs, was to meet inside. But no way now.

In seconds, Traynor had taped a sign on the door directing people to the L.A. Cafe and was making a beeline down Jones Street, headed for a suitable meeting table, a handful of Friends-of scurrying behind.

The scenario showed the park's unpredictable access and Traynor's determination to preserve and utilize the precious open space in the city's poorest neighborhood. Traynor has been the park's primary steward for eight years and a major reason Boeddeker is getting a \$5 million makeover starting next year.

The park's impending change stems from Trust for Public Land's successful multiyear campaign to land state and foundation money. Boeddeker qualified as a TPL project because it was in the central city, underused, has 3,000 kids living in the neighborhood and has an active advisory

group, with Traynor its spearhead and chair, though she prefers the title "facilitator."

"In all my dealing with the public, she stands alone," says Jake Gilchrist, who was key in TPL's campaign, but now works for Rec and Park. "Quiet, humble, extremely effective."

Gilchrist started attending Friends of Boeddeker meetings in June 2006 to evaluate the park as a TPL project and was impressed with Traynor's devotion and follow-through.

"All the changes at Boeddeker are a direct credit to her," he adds. "She is unfailingly consistent. And you know she's always going to be there. In the community process, staffs come and go. But there are certain champions, like Betty. She's doing all she can for the park. She's one of my favorites."

Boeddeker has been a conundrum. Originally, it supplanted the Downtown Bowling Alley in 1978 and was called Central City Park. With a \$3.2 million makeover in 1985, it reopened as Boedde-

➤ CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



### TENDERLOIN STARS

**T**HERE are 30,000 of us in the Tenderloin, each unique in special ways. Tenderloin Stars captures the personality, humanity and, often, strangeness of our remarkably diverse populace. These are the people who make our neighborhood great.





# GOOD NEWS for...

**US** Central City Extra has won the Community News coverage category for nondailies of the Northern California chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists' annual Excellence in Journalism contest. The Extra submitted five stories published between July 2010 and June 2011: "Home sweet SRO" (August), "Tenderloin's only free shower" (September), "World Series parade" (Dec.-Jan.), "The Tenderloin closer" (February) and "Murder: Tenderloin's reputation undeserved" (April). The award will be given at SPJ's annual banquet Nov. 15 at Jillian's Restaurant. ■



Rev. Glenda Hope reads scriptures on a Leavenworth Street sidewalk where a 20-year-old father, who had grown up in the Tenderloin, had been shot to death Aug. 27 in North Beach.

## The Tenderloin closer

Rev. Glenda Hope gives residents a caring sendoff

"The memorials are a final dignity to those who couldn't have them," Hope says. "They offer a place of comfort and the beginning of healing for mourners." Most memorials take place in SRO lobbies or community rooms, which vary from threadbare and musty to clean and cheery. Sometimes only a couple of people show up and a few who do may not have even known the deceased. Memorials with 40 to 50 mourners are exceptional. A bouquet or music always on a table in front, sometimes

BY TOM CARTER

**PARK BUFFS** Boeddeker Park is getting \$209,274 for outdoor fitness equipment from Rec and Park, a Community Opportunity Fund distribution from the city's 2008 Clean and Safe Neighborhood Parks bond. The equipment — ranging from a vertical pulldown press to cross-country ski exerciser — will be installed during the park's \$5 million renovation, expected to start in the spring. Betty Traynor, Friends of Boeddeker Park chair, gathered letters of support from the Tenderloin police, TL CBD, Mercy Housing, S.F. Parks Trust and District 6 Supervisor Jane Kim. She then helped write the grant proposal with Trust for Public Land staff who had spearheaded the renovation project. Rec and Park got 22 applications asking for \$3.1 million in this round of funding. Only \$1.25 million was available; 10 projects were funded. ■



PHOTO: COURTESY SEACC

Philip Nguyen, SEACC executive director, presides at the agency's 36th anniversary celebration at St. Mary's Cathedral when he announced three new projects.

## SEACC at 36: Free clinic in the works

BY ANH LÊ

SINCE it opened in 1975, the Southeast Asian Community Center has served more than 150,000 people, providing them services to meet their social, health and economic needs.

"SEACC has long been a leading advocate for the Southeast Asian community nationwide and a key player in transforming the Tenderloin into a more vibrant and livable community for families," Executive Director Philip Nguyen told an audience of 120 at St. Mary's Cathedral's St. Francis Hall.

The event celebrated the nonprofit's 36 years, introduced several new projects SEACC is hoping to launch, and recognized program supporters and volunteers.

"Look at our Immigrant Free Food Distribution Service," Nguyen said. "Every Friday at 5 a.m., rain or shine, 20 to 30 volunteers help unload food from the San Francisco Food Bank's truck, clean tons of fresh groceries, arrange them in order and distribute them to 200 households. In the past nine years, these volunteers, happy to make a difference in peo-

ple's lives, helped distribute 1.5 million pounds of dry foods and groceries."

On the economic front, SEACC has provided technical assistance to 2,000 Bay Area businesses, made microloans — \$5,000 to \$50,000 — to 250 new, permanent jobs, all programs the organization hopes to expand in 2012, Nguyen said.

New projects on the drawing board include a free medical clinic, a Southeast Asian Night Market and a Southeast Asian Village.

Health care for new immigrants has been a SEACC focus since its inception. AIDS/HIV prevention, smoking cessation, First 5 California (a health program for children under 5), and cancer-awareness programs are among those SEACC has sponsored.

Today's health problems have been made worse by the recession, "which has cut off health insurance coverage for many laid-off workers," Nguyen said. "They have nowhere to turn for even very basic services such as screening or flu shots. Fortunately, we've received a generous commitment to address some of these problems from a physician in

our community, Dr. Tam Bui."

Dr. Bui, formerly a medical school dean in Saigon, now Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, has pledged to head up a team of several doctors to operate a free outpatient clinic at SEACC, provide basic health treatment, medical consultancy and advisory information to those without insurance, Nguyen said, adding that SEACC will raise the funds to cover the costs of the facility, support staff and outreach.

The ideas for a Southeast Asian Night Market and a Southeast Asian Village are only on SEACC's "radar screen," now, Nguyen said. Both would be located in the Tenderloin's Little Saigon, the two-block corridor of Larkin Street between Eddy and O'Farrell streets.

Among those attending the Oct. 12 event were Supervisors Jane Kim and Eric Mar, and guest speakers Charles Phan, owner of the Slanted Door Restaurant, and John Nguyen of Imperial Investment and Development. Food was provided by the Tenderloin's Ha Nam Ninh Restaurant and the Golden City Inn in SoMa. ■

Marjorie Beggs of Central City Extra contributed to this story.

## The North of Market/Tenderloin Community Benefit District presents the 5th Annual Santa Sightings Holiday Event!

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north of market tenderloin community benefit district



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

EDITOR AND PUBLISHER: Geoffrey Link  
ADVERTISING DIRECTOR: Heidi Swillinger  
SENIOR WRITER/EDITOR: Marjorie Beggs  
COMMUNITY REPORTER: Tom Carter  
REPORTERS: Ed Bowers, Jonathan Newman, Mark Hedin, Brian Rinker

DESIGNER: Lenny Limjoco  
PHOTOGRAPHER: Lenny Limjoco  
CONTRIBUTORS: John Burks, Diamond Dave  
DESIGN CONSULTANT: Don McCartney  
DISTRIBUTION: Mark Hedin  
EDITORIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE: David Baker, Michael Nulty, Debbie Larkin, Nicholas Rosenberg, Brad Paul, Tariq Alazraie

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# Ranked-choice adds a wild card to mayor's race

## Complicated 'instant runoff' system faces 1st high-profile test

BY MARK HEDIN

ONCE you've decided which candidate to vote for, the most confusing aspect of the upcoming San Francisco mayoral election process is its ranked-choice voting system.

It's designed to provide an "instant runoff" to spare the city the cost of a runoff election between the top two candidates in the general election. This month's mayoral race promises to put this system, not quite a decade old, to its first high-profile test.

"There's a lot of misinformation out there," said Denise Van Alstine of the city Department of Elections' outreach division, who spent half an hour discussing the Nov. 8 election at the police captain's October meeting in Tenderloin Station's community room. "Every time there's a story in the paper I can see where it would be confusing."

Enter The Extra.

Some background: Steven Hill, of Fairvote.org, known in 2002 as the Center for Voting and Democracy, drafted that year's Proposition A, which voters approved by a 55%-to-45% margin, making San Francisco the first U.S. city to try ranked-choice voting. He describes ranked-choice voting as "really just a runoff system designed to do in one election what we used to do in two."

Hill said ranked-choice voting was initially proposed in 1999 by then-Supervisor Tom Ammiano, in response to criticism for the expense the city incurred when he forced incumbent Willie Brown into a runoff in the mayoral race that year.

John Arntz, Elections Department director since early 2002, said that because no voting equipment then available could accommodate ranked-choice voting, the system was not a factor when Gavin Newsom defeated Ammiano and Matt Gonzalez to become mayor the next year.

Ranked-choice voting also applies to this year's races for sheriff and district attorney — if no candidate wins an outright majority (50% plus at least one) of first-choice votes.

### HERE'S HOW IT WORKS

The ballot has room for you to make three choices — a first, second and third. Each ballot includes space for voters to write in a candidate for any of the three choices. Anyone who gets more than 50% of first-choice votes wins, and that's that.

If no candidate gets a majority of the first-place votes, the candidate with the fewest first-place votes is eliminated, and his or her votes are redistributed to the second-choice candidates named by those voters. In a crowded election where there's no clear preference among voters, this process may have to be repeated many times before a winner is determined.

An example of how complicated it can get occurred last year in the District 10 race for supervisor. Twenty-one candidates split fewer than 18,000 votes, and Lynette Sweet, who got the most first-place votes — 2,150 — had only 12.07% of the total, far from a majority.

Candidate Ellsworth "Ell" Jennison got the fewest first-choice votes, 68, so those votes were reallocated to the candidates Jennison's supporters named as their second choice. Six went to Tony Kelly, six to Nyese Joshua, three to Sweet, and so on.

This process was repeated 17 more times, with candidates being eliminated in reverse order to the number of votes they'd accumulated. None attained a majority until, finally, the 3,330 votes belonging to Marlene Tran, now in third place with three candidates left standing, were re-examined.

Malia Cohen was listed on 201 of them as a second choice; 303 listed Tony Kelly. With those votes added, and the rest of Tran's discarded because they named only previously eliminated candidates, Cohen wound up with 4,321 votes, 52.7% of votes still in play, to Kelly's 3,879.

Until that point, no one had a majority, as Tran had 3,330, Kelly, 3,576 and Cohen 4,120 votes. But now there's a door with Malia Cohen's name on it on the second floor of City Hall, even though she only had 2,097 first-place votes, 53 less than Sweet, 5 less than Kelly and 48 more than Tran, when counting started.

Last year, some Alameda County cities joined San Francisco as ranked-choice pioneers in California. In Oakland, ranked-choice voting resulted in Jean Quan, one of nine Oakland mayoral candidates who last November got fewer first-place votes than Don Perata, ultimately winning the election. In Quan's case, she won only 29,266 (24.47%) first-choice votes to Perata's 40,342 (33.73%). But she had enough second- and third-choice votes among the 25,813 (21.58%) votes for Rebecca Kaplan — 18,864 to Perata's 6,407 — to become mayor-elect after 10 rounds of vote redistribution according to the ranked-choice instant runoff system.

Under the previous system, Perata and Quan, as the top two vote-getters, would have faced off in a December runoff election. Kaplan's supporters, if they showed up to vote, may well have put Quan over the top. Hill argued that the results arrived at under the ranked-choice system seem to follow patterns established under the runoff system.

Ranked-choice voting advocates argue that runoff elections are expensive and voter turnout is low. They also claim that the election generally goes to monied interests who can afford advertising blitzes and are typically supported by conservatives who vote in every election.

### BUILDING ALLIANCES

Ranked-choice voting, the argument goes, favors candidates who can build alliances within their community, as Kaplan and Quan did.

Lawyer Jim Parrinello, representing Ron Dudum, who was defeated by Ed Jew in his 2006 bid to become supervisor in the Sunset's District 4, unsuccessfully challenged ranked-choice voting before a federal appeals court panel earlier this year.

Parrinello argues that ranked-choice disenfranchises many voters, because the so-called majority that enables a candidate to claim the office is only a majority of the votes still being counted. In the case of Cohen in District 10, her winning total of 4,321 was less than 25% of the votes originally cast, and Quan won with 53,897 votes, less than half the original total.

As for the cost of runoffs, Parrinello said that runoff elections cost much less than the public financing of all the candidates' campaigns. The Department of Elections estimates that runoff elections cost from \$2.5 million to \$3 million, depending on how many races are up for grabs. This year, as of Oct. 31, the city had disbursed \$4,389,306 to nine mayoral candidates.

Ranked-choice voting supporters had argued that the need for coalition-building would change the tenor of political discourse, but the way Parrinello sees it, "when you've got a front-runner, it encourages the other candidates to negatively campaign. That's what happened in Oakland — anyone but Don (Perata) — and it appears to be happening in San Francisco, too. So I don't really think it's eliminated negative

campaigning." Furthermore, he said, "because candidates don't want to alienate voters, it discourages meaningful debate."

With runoff elections, he said, "at least you wind up with two candidates that people can make a choice from, and everybody gets a chance to make a choice between the two."

At any rate, the voters spoke their mind in 2002, and the city's right to "experiment," as Parrinello put it, has twice been upheld in appeals court. So now it's up to the voters.

Van Alstine of the Department of Elections said that voters who decide that only one candidate deserves their vote can mark that candidate in all three choices. But it won't help that candidate, because the voter's second choice isn't considered until the voter's first choice has been eliminated.

### ADVICE: USE ALL 3 CHOICES

"There's no reason not to use all three of your choices," Hill said, because your vote "stays with your first choice as long as that first choice is still in the race."

San Francisco's and Oakland's ranked-choice systems, Hill said, ask voters: "In case your first choice doesn't win, tell us who your second choice would be." Because the second or third choices don't come into play until a voter's first choice has been eliminated, Hill said, "Your lower choices can't help defeat your first choice."

The election will be Nov. 8. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. By the time you read this, it will be too late to register to vote or request a vote-by-mail ballot. But you can vote early at City Hall from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays through Nov. 7 and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the weekend of Nov. 5 and 6. ■

### NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY / NOTICE OF COMPLETION

## Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Report (EIS/EIR) for the Van Ness Avenue Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project

The Draft EIS/EIR describing the project and potential environmental impacts is available for public review and comment for 45 days, with all comments due by December 19, 2011.

The public hearing will be held on November 30, 2011 at the Holiday Inn Golden Gateway, 1500 Van Ness Ave.  
An online webinar will be held on December 5, 2011.  
For more information, see: [www.vannessbrt.org](http://www.vannessbrt.org)

### PROJECT LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The Van Ness Avenue BRT is proposed on Van Ness Avenue (and one block of South Van Ness Avenue), and extends approximately 2 miles from Mission Street to Lombard Street. Under each build alternative, two mixed-flow traffic lanes (one southbound and one northbound) would be converted into two dedicated transit lanes. The build alternatives would occur entirely within the existing street right-of-way, and would incorporate the following features: dedicated bus lanes, level boarding, consolidated transit stops, high quality stations, transit signal priority, pedestrian safety enhancements, and other features.

BRT build alternatives also include full replacement of the existing overhead contact system support pole/streetlight network between Mission and North Point streets.

### WAYS TO READ AND COMMENT ON THE DRAFT EIS/EIR AND PROJECT ALTERNATIVES

The Draft EIS/EIR is available at [www.vannessbrt.org](http://www.vannessbrt.org) or by calling 415-593-1655. CDs and hard copies are also available at the Authority's offices (address listed below); other locations with hard copies and CDs can be found at [www.vannessbrt.org](http://www.vannessbrt.org).

Agencies and members of the public may submit comments on the Draft EIS/EIR and project alternatives via letter or email. Mail to: Van Ness BRT EIS/EIR, Attn: Ms. Rachel Hiatt, San Francisco County Transportation Authority, 100 Van Ness Avenue, 26th floor, San Francisco, CA 94102. Email: [vannessbrt@sfcta.org](mailto:vannessbrt@sfcta.org). Comments may also be given verbally to a court reporter at the public hearing or electronically during the webinar.

The building used for the public hearing is accessible to persons with disabilities. Any individual who requires special accommodations, such as a sign language interpreter, accessible seating, or documentation in alternative formats, is requested to email [vannessbrt@sfcta.org](mailto:vannessbrt@sfcta.org) or call 415-593-1655.

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# CBD invests \$20,000 to g

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140 Turk St. to open its bathroom weekdays for the public. In May, despite a usage report showing a \$5-a-flush average cost over three months, the CBD extended the pilot six months.

A mid-pilot report in October showed, surprisingly, that the monitored usage had tripled. Data showed an average 32 users daily, compared with 11 initially, with three times as many men as women. CBD President Clint Ladine said the jump was due to a story in *The Extra*, a small sign at the door and word of mouth. Ladine had worried about possible expensive plumbing problems, but he said there was none.

"The storefront (toilet) was the original idea," Hilliard said of the \$1,300-a month pilot. "and we still might do that down the road — It has nearly tripled in use since we began.

"We were looking at porto-potties when Hyphae contacted us," Hilliard said. "Now, the big question is how to handle hazardous material from street toilets."

Human waste is toxic, but dog waste isn't, she said.

"The vast majority of the incidents from the (district) report are human feces," Gia Grant, Clean City executive director, said in an email. "But it is possible that a small percentage could be dog feces. If it can't be swept with a broom, then it's reported as an incident.

Hyphae is a 4-year-old company that consults, researches and designs ecosystems. With an S.F. Arts Commission grant, it created the 2.2-acre living roof on the California Academy

of Sciences. And, in the neighborhood, it created the Luggage Store gallery's living wall, Glide's green roof and helped with the Tenderloin National Forest.

Hyphae's finished product, if it comes up with the development cash, could be ready sometime next year and would need a half dozen city permits. Each toilet would sell for between \$40,000 and \$50,000, Bucknum said. The waste would be picked up and trucked away for treatment. A security and safety feature puts a pushbutton "water station" on an outside wall, instead of having an inside wash basin.

San Francisco's 25 highly automated JCDecaux public toilets cost around \$300,000 each, he said, and require costly maintenance because they are breakdown-prone. He visited six one day and half were broken and shut, he said. A fully automated model costs \$6,000 to \$20,000 a year for water and sewer.

Hyphae's concept would not use city water and sewers and would turn the loo's human waste into fertilizer for inedible plants to pay for itself, a tall order. One of the best examples of public toilets Bucknum studied is a new prototype, similar in shape to a JCDecaux toilet, developed in Portland, Ore. But that city fell short in its desire to create a compostable waste system, and its four loos in operation are hooked up to the city's water and sewer system.

The CBD has additionally committed to handling a future toilet's maintenance costs and providing a monitor. Hilliard agreed with Bucknum that having three linked toilets would be "more bang for the buck." They

could be moved by trailer.

Independently, the two researched Portland's toilets. Hilliard spoke to Water Department spokeswoman Anne Hill about the loos. Hill told her a green toilet was "impossible."

Hill told *The Extra* that Portland had looked everywhere for a durable ecological toilet, but couldn't find one and couldn't invent one. "That was our only roadblock, a durable, compostable toilet."

A public toilet must be able to withstand the blows of a baseball bat, she said, and for that reason Portland toilets have heavy "penitentiary gray" commodes. "That's our urban toilet," she says. "But they must be visible. If not, they won't be used and the old problems come back."

Portland's toilets, similar in shape to San Francisco's JC Decaux toilets, have impressive features. The ADA-compliant, stainless steel portables hook up to water and sewer and are big enough to bring a bicycle inside. Their solar-powered lighting brightens when the bathroom is used, then dims. Ventilation slats at the top, and angled slats all the way around the bottom show how many feet are inside. A button-operated washing station is outside.

The toilets are open 24/7 and need no monitors.

"The city closed down a bricks-and-mortar last spring because of problems it was having," Hill said. "But I have heard no dissatisfaction with these. We've had no incidents. Do people leave things behind like bottles and syringes? Yes. But there have been no incidents and I've heard no dissatisfaction. Businesses and the



TENDERLOIN

## Traynor is Boeddeker Park

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ker Park, named after Franciscan Father Alfred Boeddeker who founded the nearby St. Anthony's Dining Room.

But it became evident the design left something to be desired. The park's fortress-like fence and up-and-down levels hampered visibility. Its low-lying shrubbery and fenced, warren-like sections were cover for dope dealing and usage. The community was alarmed and officers from the Tenderloin Police Station across the street had an ongoing headache. That is, when the park was open. Recent budget cuts now have closed the park on weekends and pared the weekday hours that it is open to adults to 15. Still, Rec and Park sometimes closes the park with no notice.

Traynor, 66, started with Boeddeker as a Parks Council staffer. She was assigned in 2003

to form a community advisory group at Boeddeker. The park had one year ago but it dissolved.

Traynor went to Tenant Associations Coalition, the Tenderloin Futures Collaborative and other neighborhood organizations "to get something going for the park."

### THE CONSTANT FACILITATOR

A newly formed Friends of Boeddeker Park met with her in the clubhouse in 2003. They agreed to reach consensus for important decisions and rotate the role as chair. The only Friend who attended regularly, though, was Traynor, and she soon became facilitator.

"Once I left the Council, I started other groups, but Boeddeker was my favorite," she says.

She left the Parks Council in 2004 because of a death in her family. As the Council's park stewardship manager, she had helped start Friends' groups at Lafayette Park and Bayview's Palou Mini Park, among others. She learned that Friends groups without leaders soon die.

"I loved the park and the people and there was a great need for it. I gave up all my other Friends groups. I thought if I left (Boeddeker), it might not survive. Other people who came (to meetings) had their other organizations and weren't able to follow up. But I figured I could."

Traynor goes back 60 years with the Tenderloin and smiles at the memories. Her mother's best friend, Erma Bowers, lived in the Hyland Hotel, an SRO with a nice lobby, now gone. As a little girl, she and her mother often visited Bowers. "She had a tiny kitchen and a hot plate, but we'd sometimes eat at Original Joe's across the street," Traynor

said. "She gave me my first watch. And an old man, blind Johnny, used to put his hand on my head and say, 'My, you've grown.'

"To me it was a fascinating part of the city."

Traynor leads meetings in her unflappable, methodical style, looking seriously at each speaker to hear them out, guiding ramblers back to the topic, and, at some point, learns whether a proposal has support.

"We've always gotten as many as possible agreeing before we recommend something — Ellis Street was like that," she says.

Besides drug dealing and gambling at domino games inside the park, messy derelicts and boozers loitered at the Ellis Street gate to the north, some staggering down the park's wide, red brick sidewalk to the Eddy Street entrance across from the police station. People in the park felt threatened or annoyed. The Friends thought closing the gate permanently would stop it. Police concurred and Rec and Park locked that gate for good in 2004. It solved that problem.

From the time Traynor began at the park, residents of Presentation Senior Community — the building adjacent to the park in the north corner — were active. Some, like resident Dan Stein and Presentation's executive director and his assistant, were regulars at Friends' meetings. Soon the Friends were staging monthly park cleanups and flowerbed plantings. Rec and Park dispatched a gardener to distribute tools and supervise.

"Sometimes Glide had people there, some schools — Gateway High School, I remember, came until that program ran out," says Traynor, who has attended every session.

The Preservation seniors have been the steadiest group presence, up to 20 mostly Asian women in their 70s and 80s who work until noon. Preservation generously offered volunteers tea and coffee and sweets before, and a hot lunch after.

"It was funny," Traynor says over tea, breaking a smile, her eyes brightening. "You'd thank them for coming — and they'd thank us, too! One, I remember, walked with a cane and

**Betty Traynor**  
(far left) was a proud member of the Boeddeker Park cleanup crew that received a Community Hero award in 2009 from the Crissy Field Center.



PHOTO: COURTESY CRISSY FIELD CENTER

# Let its green dream toilet

public are asking for more of them. They are happy with the results, and they're being well-used.

"People aren't taking baseball bats to them. They don't want them abused and they are collectively taking care of them."

Even so, Hilliard says the CBD likes "the idea of starting a prototype from scratch."

At the collaborative, David Lewis, one of about a dozen people attending, suggested the CBD ask merchants to open their bathrooms to the public.

"We've been trying to do that for a year," said Hilliard. "We've approached St. Anthony, but they're not willing to do it."

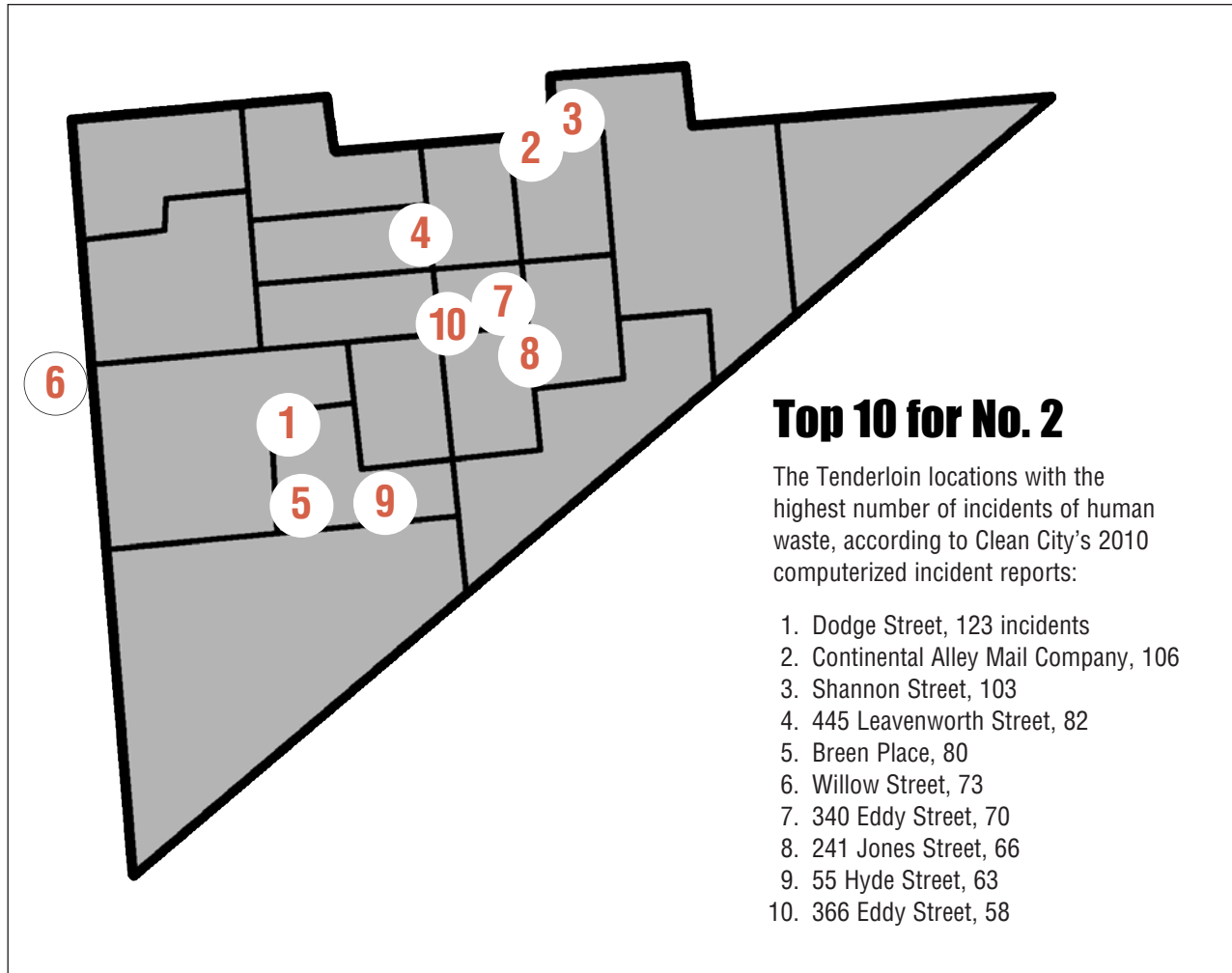
Merchants have liability concerns, Tenderloin Capt. Joe Garrity pointed out. People use a bathroom to shave and bathe, he said, and merchants "don't want certain people in there. What if someone ODs in there? Some are locked in. It's a big issue." He was certain, too, the outdoor toilets would be damaged and vandalized.

Security, safety and privacy are key issues, Bucknum said.

"With JC Decaux (toilets), no one knows what's going on inside," he said. Then he suggested the ecological bathroom could have opaque walls so police could see how many people were inside. That drew an immediate response from park advocate Betty Traynor.

"It's not appropriate," she said. "And I wouldn't use it."

Bucknum said placement of the toilets was as important as design and he hoped "the right people" would show up to weigh in at the outreach meetings. ■



## IN STARS

# Park's most ardent advocate

wouldn't sit down. She picked up a broom. Some brought grandchildren. It was often generations working together."

The Boeddeker group, recommended by Rec and Park, won a Community Hero Award May 2, 2009, from the Crissy Field Center in the Presidio. "Rosemary and sage replace needles and syringes," the center's website said of their work. The seniors and Traynor had been on video in advance for the film presentation that day.

Now, with the park closed weekends, and the makeover due to start next year and to last 18 months, participation stopped several months ago. But Traynor vows to get "that working again."

Traynor's experience with city government, nonprofits and private enterprise, coupled with her drive, has made her the face of Boeddeker Park. Over the years she's successfully arranged for new playground equipment, an artist-designed bulletin board, music performances, and art and tai chi classes. She is well-connected, well-liked, plus she knows where the city and nonprofit grants are and how to land them. She has gotten them from SF Beautiful, the city's Challenge program, S.F. Parks Trust, S.F. Arts Commission and the Tenderloin CBD.

For months, the park has been open weekdays to adults only from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. But it has been opened many weekends because Traynor scored grants to cover costs. And when Boeddeker fell off the People in Plazas list for noonday music concerts a couple of years ago, Traynor had the solution, turning as she often has, to the neighborhood benefit district for a grant to bring music back in the park.

### PARK CLOSED WEEKENDS

Former CBD Executive Director Elaine Zamora, as well as current director, Dina Hilliard, have been very responsive to Traynor and Boeddeker. Zamora, now the CBD's liaison to the Friends group, has known Traynor six years.

"I think very highly of Betty and I am honored to work with her on park issues," Zamora says. "She worked tirelessly to assure that Boeddeker (would be renovated). She continues to work hard to assure that funding and support is in place and the renovation is successful."

Hilliard says the park redesign "would not be happening" if not for Traynor, who she describes as "completely unassuming and dedicated." She recalled an afternoon three years ago when she, Traynor, Zamora and Capt. Gary Jimenez worked on the clubhouse.

"She cleaned as if it were her own home, spraying down and scrubbing surfaces, mopping and organizing," Hilliard said.

"At the end of the workday, she compiled a list of items that needed replacing and used Friends of Boeddeker Park funding to promptly replace those items. If I recall, the list included a carpet for the reading area, books and sports equipment.

"I don't know if anyone ever noticed the cleaner clubhouse, or new items, but I know those acts served our community in an important way."

Traynor's father was a Muni driver. The family lived in Daly City before moving to the Outer Mission under a rule — new then, but discarded years ago — mandating city employees live in San Francisco. Whichever school Betty attended, though, her mother was a constant volunteer. At school functions, even into her Mercy High School days, Traynor's mother's baked-goods booth sold out first and famously made the most money.

"I guess I learned from that — she got involved," says Traynor, who lives in Jackson Square, an easy bus ride from the park. "It's hard for me to stop."

Traynor graduated from S.F. State in 1966 with a biology degree, then did grad work in molecular biology at Cal. Grant-funded lab research followed school. When the grants ran out, she turned to editing medical reports, "It took me away from lab work," she says, and for good.

She eventually started her own small, academic research company in 1982 that published reports for its subscribers on funding available for bio-medical science, arts and humanities.

### VOLUNTEERS WHEREVER SHE GOES

When she moved the business to the Redstone Building on 16th Street, she soon became its tenant organizer, a cog in the movement for its historic landmark status and coordinator of the neighborhood association. After 20 years, though, the Internet was taking over, subscriptions to her reports were drying up and she retired.

It hardly meant slowing down. In 2005, besides her Boeddeker commitment, she joined the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom and became part of the planning for Kid Power Park on Hoff Street near 16th Street where she was community garden coordinator until 2010.

Recent months have brought a confusing, shifting park scene for Traynor. On one hand, Boeddeker is at its lowest point of use. On the other, the renovation eventually will bring a stunning open space improvement in the middle of the Tenderloin. Unknown is whether anemic city coffers can recover and restore park staffing. Rec and Park Director Phil Ginsburg has vowed to keep Boeddeker open. But at what level?

"We'll keep meeting while Boeddeker is closed," Traynor says. "We need to work on a plan for now and for the opening. Maybe we need to research other parks, too, and see what they're doing. I don't want (Boeddeker) to die. And with a possible change of mayors, who knows?"

Traynor believes a combination of dedicated volunteers and staff can keep the park open, and maybe a nonprofit organization can figure in.

"We've got to be creative — unless a miracle happens with Rec and Park and they can hire staff. People deserve to have Boeddeker." ■



**LEROY LOOPER**  
**Pioneer of supportive housing**

From City Hall to San Quentin, representatives of the community cross-section that he'd served gathered at the Cadillac Hotel in early October to honor Leroy Branch Looper, whose vision had transformed the site from a slated-for-demolition relic into a beacon of hope.

Mr. Looper, a former addict and convict who dedicated himself to helping others, died Sept. 11, three days after passing out in his chair at McCormick and Kuleto's restaurant, just after he'd made a speech. He was 86.

Former Mayors Dianne Feinstein and Art Agnos sent huge floral displays. Mayor Lee, Tenderloin police Capt. Joe Garrity, Supervisors Bevan Dufty and Malia Cohen, Assemblyman Tom Ammiano, state Democratic Party Chair John Burton, a bunch of musicians who'd performed at the "Concerts at the Cadillac" series, men Mr. Looper had helped transition from prison, friends and family filled the hotel lobby to overflowing as they reminisced about Mr. Looper's remarkable life story.

Mr. Looper rose from a child of the underworld to become a leader in efforts to lift others from such circumstances, using his hard-earned street smarts to educate better-credentialed social workers in how that world actually works.

"Leroy had a charmed life," said Kathy Looper, his wife of 39 years. He was "a man who changed destiny in a lot of ways, not only his own but others' as well."

Mr. Looper's 1976 purchase and subsequent conversion of Eddy Street's run-down Cadillac Hotel into a supportive housing facility may prove to be his most significant and lasting accomplishment, though there were many more.

In New York in the early 1960s, he founded Reality House, a drug detox and rehabilitation facility free to addicts. Kathy Looper said that until Reality House, drug programs were available only to whites. Mr. Looper left New York and opened Reality House West in San Francisco's Fillmore District in 1968.

"There was no other program like Reality House, there were no community-run drug treatment centers," said Kathy Looper, who was an S.F. State student seeking school credits while the campus was closed during the student strike when she met her future husband at Reality House West.

Mr. Looper recalled some of his struggles to get Reality House rolling in a fascinating autobiography he wrote in the late '70s that described, for instance, a shootout with a neighboring group of Black Panthers.

"Leroy was an incredibly persistent man, and if something didn't work he tried something else," Kathy Looper said, and described a "handshake deal" struck in 1976 with Cadillac owner John Foggy after Mr. Looper had told Foggy he wanted Reality House to become self-sufficient. Foggy operated the Cadillac Hotel at the time, but the hotel was deteriorating. Only about 40 of its more than 150 rooms were being rented. If a room needed any repair, even just to

fix a broken window, it was simply boarded up.

Kathy Looper and Brad Paul, then staff of the North of Market Planning Coalition, believe that speculators — including Don Fisher of the Gap, who also had had a stake in the Cadillac — had bought the hotel in anticipation of rising real estate values. Zoning ordinances of the time — later revised after Mr. Looper and Paul, among others, made it an issue — allowed for much bigger buildings and in theory, the hotel could eventually be demolished and replaced with much bigger — thus pricier — properties, as had occurred in what is now the Yerba Buena area South of the Slot. But the Cadillac was going to seed, and the

parole, they could be placed in a program at the Cadillac to prepare them for re-entry into society, a key component that Mr. Looper had found missing in his earliest attempts at rehabbing drug users in New York. For the first month they were at the Cadillac, Paul said, they couldn't leave their third-floor quarters. In the second month, they could leave with a chaparrone, and so on. Once they had completed job training, found employment and reconnected with their families, Kathy Looper said, they could be paroled.

The program ran successfully, Paul said, until its funding was cut early in the Reagan years. "People who graduated from the ex-offender program stayed on," Paul said. Meanwhile, seniors, too, were living in the building as it was gradually renovated, including the restoration of its original façade, with labor from the ex-offender, VISTA and CETA jobs programs, according to Kathy Looper, Paul and EXIT Theatre's Richard Livingston, then Reality House administrator.

"If you live in an apartment in the Tenderloin, you're pretty much alone," said Paul, who lived in the Cadillac for 3½ years. "Of all the places I've lived in my life — and there were many — it was where I felt most welcome and safest. You felt like there was always somebody that had your back."

EXIT Theatre staged its first production, "Lives and Loves of the Gibbs Sisters," in the lobby of the hotel in late 1983, Livingston said, an example of how Mr. Looper encouraged community development.

"He increased community services by giving them cheap rent in the Cadillac," Paul said. "He was all about using the building to build back the lives of the people who lived there and rebuilding the neighborhood."

Mr. Looper put a Sizzler restaurant in a Cadillac storefront and the Police Athletic League took over what had been Newman's Gym there, Paul said, "like something out of a 1930 Jimmy Cagney movie." When a new manager sought to commercialize the space and limit its accessibility, Mr. Looper showed him the door. Nowadays, the space, which had previously also been a restaurant and ballroom, is occupied by the Head Start day care center.

Kathy Looper blamed the Sizzler's ultimate failure on changes in the neighborhood after the 1989 earthquake, but in its day it provided dozens of jobs and "a great meal for a great price," she said.

Rev. Glenda Hope had a computer training center there and the Vietnamese Youth Development Center got its start at the Cadillac, too. A donated 1884 Steinway grand piano sits in the lobby today and attracts musicians for regular no-cost concerts.

"Leroy was one of the first to organize activities," Paul said. "This is the model for supportive housing. A lot of it is old residential hotels fixed up ... the Senator, the Iroquois, how they're laid out and staffed."

"He was an amazing guy," Paul said. "One of the most unforgettable people I ever met. He had so much knowledge and passion and cared so much about the people who

lived there."

Paul said that Mr. Looper taught him many surprisingly simple secrets to succeeding where so many have failed. One key, Paul said, was the simple act of pushing a broom.

"People think criminals are crazy," he said Mr. Looper explained to him. "They're not. They're businesspeople. When people are new to town they look around for where the city is telling them it's OK to operate. Vacant storefronts, graffiti and trash" do just that, he said.

"When he first took over the Cadillac, he got a big push broom. The dealers moved down the street." They'd return in a few hours, so Mr. Looper then began hosing down the sidewalk. That would keep them away for a few more hours. Before long, Paul said, merchants up and down the block were following suit and things started improving.

"He understood that was more important than having one more police cruiser."

As if the Cadillac Hotel wasn't enough, the Loopers also in the late '70s took on the Chateau Laura, a mental health facility housed in an aging mansion on the corner of Guerrero and Liberty streets in the Mission. In a 1987 profile in the New Yorker magazine, writer Bill Barich chronicled how the Loopers — Mr. Looper and Kathy had a son and daughter, and he had two sons from a previous marriage — lived in the Chateau, which they renamed Agape after their daughter, while caring for their schizophrenic clients.

Kathy Looper says that, as they aged, the Loopers were less able to personally perform the many chores associated with running Chateau Agape. So they turned its operation over to the city, which promptly tripled the staffing levels, she said. When a client broke the no-smoking rules and a fire broke out, it ultimately spelled the end of Chateau Agape.

Mr. Looper's autobiography, which can be found online, tells of his formative years during the Great Depression, when he lived in Washington, D.C., and learned firsthand the ways of bootleggers, numbers runners, pimps, prostitutes and the people who cared for them, too — most specifically, his beloved Aunt Carrie.

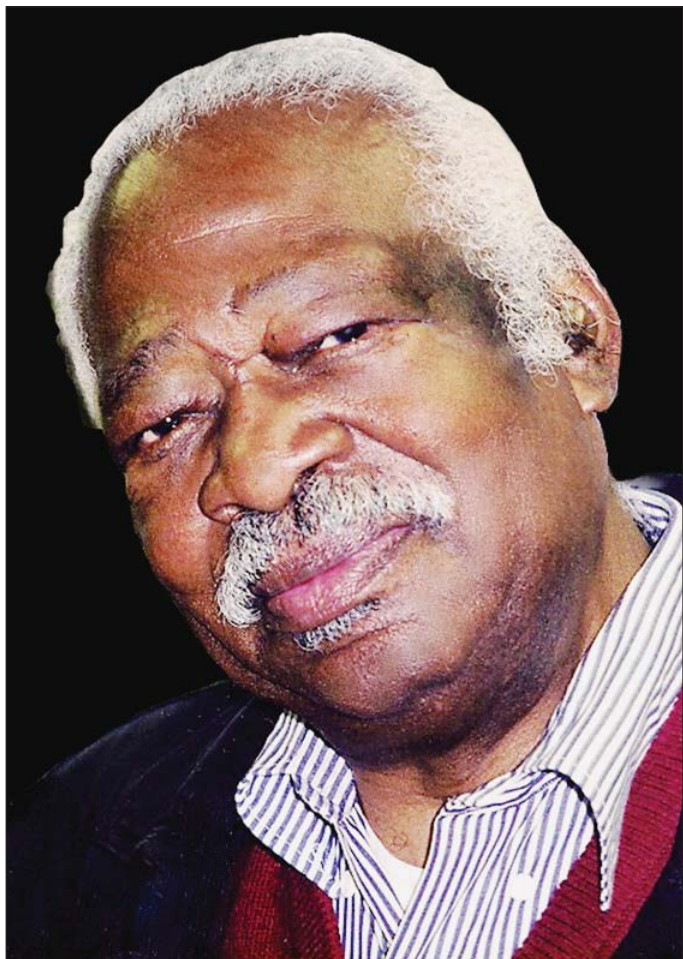
"More than anything, I wanted to be a credit to my race," Mr. Looper wrote.

Mr. Looper was in reform school for petty theft when he was 8, went to jail and prison for drug possession and sales in his 20s, and eventually weaned himself from heroin in his 30s, while living in New York City. In doing so, he discovered that for many leaving heroin, himself included, alcohol proves to be a new challenge. He returned to New York's Riker's Island prison in a new capacity, as a counselor to inmates.

Mr. Looper's activities and accomplishments were perhaps too many to be entirely recounted, but among others, he co-founded the Concerned Business Persons, the Tenderloin AIDS Network, YouthBuild S.F. and YouthBuild U.S.A., the Tenderloin Crime Abatement Committee, San Francisco Alive's Tenderloin Cleanup Committee and the Tenderloin Community Fund. Paul also cited Mr. Looper's role in the Corporation for Supportive Housing, the Tenants Association in the Cadillac, work with Glide and St. Anthony's and NOMPC.

Besides his wife, Kathy, and children Camlo, Esan, Malik and Agape, Mr. Looper leaves eight grandchildren. ■

— MARK HEDIN



Leroy Branch Looper

PHOTO: COURTESY LOOPER FAMILY

anticipated real estate boom had not arrived on Eddy Street.

As Paul tells it, Foggy asked Mr. Looper how much money he had to buy the building, and was told, "None! You're bleeding money. I'm not going to pay you for it, I'm just going to take over your mortgage."

Kathy Looper recalls that the mortgage, in fact, was \$325,000, but that the price came to \$525,000 as Foggy paid all the bills for the first two years after the Loopers took control. "He really went out of his way to be of help to us," she said, "He's a hero in this story."

"The timing was perfect," says the Tenderloin Housing Clinic's Randy Shaw, who calls Mr. Looper his mentor. "1977 was also the year of the International Hotel, the demolitions of SROs South of Market ... the Cadillac became an important model" for the concept of supportive housing.

"Supportive housing didn't become a term until the mid- to late-'80s," Paul said. "Residential hotels were associated with flop houses or slums."

For a few years, Mr. Looper had a contract with the Bureau of Prisons for "keeping the foxes with the hens," Kathy Looper says. "Who would think of putting prisoners in with senior citizens?" But, at the Cadillac, she said, "It worked. They took care of each other, 'cause they're both wounded."

"Technically, it was a federal prison," Paul explained. The deal was, as convicts got to within 90 days of



**LONNIE BOWLEN**  
**Reversal of fortune**

Lonnie Bowlen liked good food and good clothes and, with his job as a legal documents printer in the Financial District, he could afford them.

At age 16, when Mr. Bowlen left his Baytown, Texas, home for San Francisco, the city of his dreams, he was determined to make good. His O'Farrell Street apartment was the evidence — it had a fine stereo, tons of CDs, a handsome dining room set, candle holders, two chocolate Siamese cats, an abstract painting, and, near the windows, hanging crystals waiting for the right light to dazzle. Topping it off, Mr. Bowlen had a favorite visitor, the love of his life, his daughter Shalena from his seven-year marriage.

Mr. Bowlen's job fueled his middle-class lifestyle. He loved working, didn't miss a day in 20 years nor was he ever late, his daughter said before his Sept. 15 memorial at the Coronado Hotel where he had lived 14 months.

Shalena, with her mother, Pamela Stringer, had driven down for the service from Oregon, where they both live. She said as a teenager visits to her father were fun-filled with trips to Fisherman's Wharf, Pier 39 and Macy's on Union Square. He bought her gifts and treated her to visits to beauty parlors. "He didn't wait for birthdays," she said. "He was just thoughtful and generous, regardless of what he had or didn't have."

She was wearing two handsome rings he had given her, unpolished dark stones in silver settings, perhaps, she suggested, reflecting a style from his one-quarter Cherokee lineage.

About three years ago, Mr. Bowlen was mugged after work in the

Financial District. He gave the robbers all his money but they beat him badly anyway. He was out of work for a couple of months. His employer refused to hire him back. Mr. Bowlen tried and tried — he didn't want charity, just his job, he said. But it was no go.

Then Mr. Bowlen couldn't make his rent. He became despondent and walked away from it all, leaving everything behind, his daughter said. He was on the street and homeless. One day he took a bad fall, fracturing his hip and shoulder. By then, he hadn't been in touch with his daughter for four years.

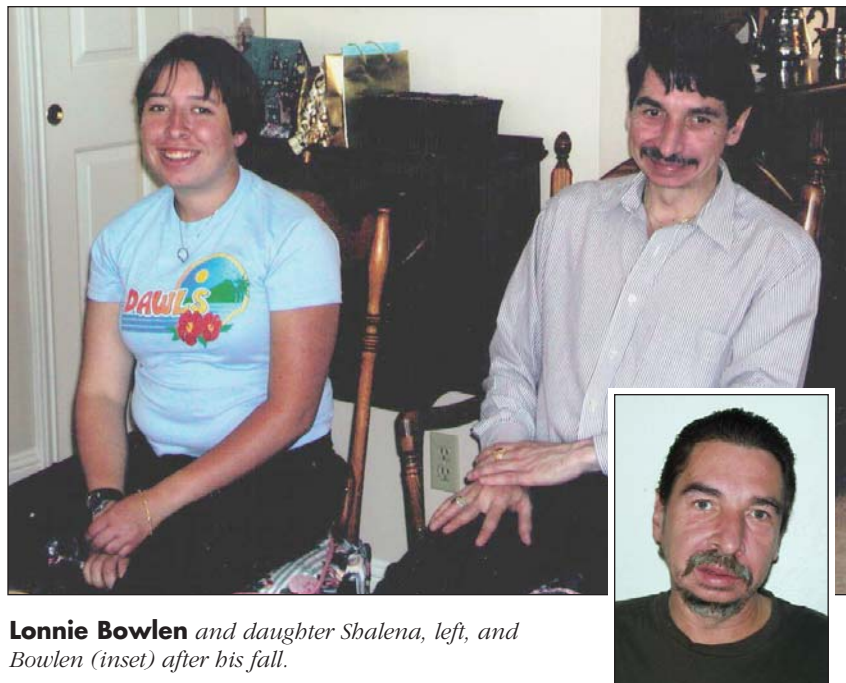
A social worker visited Mr. Bowlen in St. Francis hospital. The worker found Shalena on Facebook and wrote to her what had happened. The daughter contacted her grandmother, Ann Thoms, Mr. Bowlen's mother-in-law who divides her time between Novato and Tucson. Thoms said that after her daughter's divorce Mr. Bowlen didn't see Shalena for several years until she and her mother were living in Rohnert Park. Then Shalena reunited with her father in San Francisco and the visits began.

"She was the happiest part of his life," Thoms said.

After Mr. Bowlen's fall, Thoms was the only family member to visit him in the hospital. She said he asked her, "Do you think I'll ever get to work again?"

After Mr. Bowlen recovered, the worker got him into the Coronado, July 26, 2010. The hotel provides housing and support services to 65 formerly homeless people referred through the Human Services Agency.

On Sept. 8, 2011, Clarence Johnson, a case worker, found Mr. Bowlen dead on the floor of his hotel room. Cause of death wasn't known, but Mr. Bowlen



**Lonnie Bowlen** and daughter **Shalena**, left, and **Bowlen** (inset) after his fall.

PHOTOS: COURTESY CORONADO HOTEL

suffered from gastro-intestinal problems, staff said. He was 54.

At the memorial, his SRO friends among the 14 mourners said what a nice guy he was, always smiled and said hello. One man said to Shalena, "He really loved you." Carmel Dula, property manager, said, "He was truly a model tenant."

Three color photos of Mr. Bowlen in his apartment from a dozen years ago were framed on a table with a half-dozen candles. One shows him smiling under his bushy black mustache, sitting next to his happy teenage daughter.

Mr. Bowlen had problems as a child and as an adult, his mother-in-law and ex-wife said at the memorial, but they wanted them kept private.

"He had a very difficult life but he

was a very good person." Stringer said. "He was strong in many ways. He knew all kinds of people and got along with everyone. He didn't like it when people got treated wrong. But then, as the older Lonnie, he got quiet. I don't know where that turning point came."

Shalena Bowlen, now 27 and an elementary school teaching assistant in McMinnville, Ore., said afterward she hadn't had the means to visit her father and had not seen him in five years, but she had fond memories of her San Francisco visits.

"He had three windows in his apartment and hanging pieces of stained glass and crystals," she said. "At a certain time of day, the room was filled with rainbows." ■

— TOM CARTER

**City and County of San Francisco**  
**November 2011**

**VOTE November 8, 2011 Municipal Election**

Department of Elections  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 48  
San Francisco, CA 94102  
Phone: (415) 554-4375  
Fax: (415) 554-7344  
TTY: (415) 554-4386

Website: [www.sfelections.org](http://www.sfelections.org)

For questions about voter registration and vote-by-mail voting, (415) 554-4411  
For election results on Election Night, (415) 554-4375 or this website  
For information about polling places and ADA issues, (415) 554-4551

**BE PREPARED**

In a major disaster, it might be several days before vital services are restored.  
Use the information on the 72 Hours website to be prepared.  
[www.72hours.org](http://www.72hours.org)

**Dept. of the Environment**

Imagine you're warm and cozy this winter, and your energy bill doesn't break the bank. SFEnvironment is now offering up to \$11,000 for home energy upgrades. If your home is drafty and your energy bills are too high, contact one of our participating contractors to get a home assessment and find out how you can get up to \$11,000 to cover the cost of your upgrade. Visit [www.sfenvironment.org/sfhip](http://www.sfenvironment.org/sfhip) to find a participating contractor.

**Port of San Francisco**

As-needed Real Estate Economics and Planning Services RFQ: The Port is seeking to qualify a pool of as-needed consulting teams with expertise in the following five core areas: real estate economics, site and master planning, urban design and architecture, historic preservation, and transportation planning. Successful respondents must have experience working with ports, municipalities, or similar government agencies in specialized fields, and be familiar with San Francisco's waterfront and its regulatory environment, including local, regional, and state regulations affecting waterfront development. Please visit <http://www.sfport.com/index.aspx?page=18>, <http://sfgsa.org/index.aspx?page=359>, or contact Linda Battaglia at [Linda.battaglia@sfport.com](mailto:Linda.battaglia@sfport.com).

**WIC Can Help You**

The San Francisco Department of Public Health Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Supplemental Nutrition Program offers benefits to low income pregnant women, breastfeeding mothers, postpartum mothers and women with recent pregnancy terminations; infants and children under the age of 5 years. Benefits include nutrition, breastfeeding education and support, supplemental foods and referral services. WIC staff speaks English, Spanish, Cantonese, Mandarin, Vietnamese and Cambodian. For more information, please call (415) 575-5788. WIC is an equal opportunity provider.

**San Francisco Airport Commission**

The Airport Commission has commenced the RFP process for the Retail Development Program, Phase II Lease, for retail locations at San Francisco International Airport. The Informational Conference is 10:00 a.m., November 16, 2011, at SFO, International Terminal, Aviation Museum. Written comments and recommendations will be accepted until 12:00 p.m., 11/30/2011. Please see <http://www.flysfo.com/web/page/about/b2b/conces/> for additional information or call Mr. Tomasi Toki at (650) 821-4500.

**San Francisco Arts Commission**

On Tuesday, November 8 the public is encouraged to head down to U.N. Plaza where they can enjoy delicious bites courtesy of Off the Grid and shake a tail feather to live Haitian drumming and dance with the Afoutayi Dance Company. The free performances and dance lesson will take place from noon to 1:30 p.m. Audience participation is strongly encouraged! For more information visit: [sfartscommission.org/artery](http://sfartscommission.org/artery)

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.

CNS#2196689

# Want to make a difference? Join us!

The North of Market/Tenderloin Community Benefit District works to make the Tenderloin a cleaner and safer neighborhood for all.

Get involved with us:

- Join our Board Meetings (all meetings are open to the public),
- Join our Board of Directors (property owners, business owners, and residents), or
- Join our Committees (Public Rights of Way, District Identity & Streetscape Improvement, or Community Advisory Board)



For more information contact Dina Hilliard **415-292-4812** or [dinanomtlcbd@att.net](mailto:dinanomtlcbd@att.net)

All meeting and committee information is available on our website: [nom-tlcbd.org](http://nom-tlcbd.org)

north of market  
**tenderloin**  
community  
benefit district



# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## SPECIAL EVENT

**Holiday Party**, Dec. 6, 6-9 p.m., Swig Bar, 561 Geary St. Awards ceremony, refreshments, door prizes and special guests sponsored by Alliance for a Better District 6, Central City Democrats and North of Market Business Association. More info: 820-1560.

## ARTS EVENTS

**Latin Night at U.N. Plaza**, Nov. 3, 5-6:30 p.m., Live Latin salsa music with Teddy Strong's T-Mambo Band, salsa lessons, and Cuban-style dance instructors Ryan Mead and Sidney Weaverling of Rueda Con Ritmo. Reception at 6:30 p.m. Mirtille, 87 McAllister St., with free wine, beer and appetizers. Info: DanceonMarket.com.

**Hospitality House's 8th Annual Art for the House auction and sale**, Nov. 18, 6-10 p.m., 839 Larkin. One-of-a-kind pieces from Shooting Gallery artists, artists in the Community Arts Program and others. Free, open to the public, with complimentary wine, beer, soft drinks and hors d'oeuvres. Info: Daniel Hlad, 749-2184 or dhlad@hospitalityhouse.org



PHOTO BY PATRICK HICKEY

**Sidney Weaverling and Ryan Mead**, dance instructors from Rueda Con Ritmo, perform Nov. 3 at Latin Night at U.N. Plaza.

## COMMUNITY: REGULAR SCHEDULE

### HOUSING

**Supportive Housing Network**, 3rd Thursday of the month, 3-5 p.m., Dorothy Day Community, 54 McAllister. Call: 421-2926 x304.

**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.

**Health & Wellness Action Advocates**, 1st Tuesday of the month, 5-7 p.m., Mental Health Association, 870 Market St., Suite 928. 421-2926 x306.

**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.

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

### SAFETY

**Neighborhood Emergency Response Team Training (NERT)**. Central city residents can take the S.F. Fire Department's free disaster preparedness and response training at neighborhood locations. [www.sfgov.org/sffdnerf](http://www.sfgov.org/sffdnerf), or Lt. Arteseros, 970-2022.

**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**, 1st Wednesday of the month, 6 p.m., 230 Eddy St. Contact Michael Nulty, 820-1560 or [sf\\_district6@yahoo.com](mailto: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 noon. Call 292-4812 for location or check [nom-tlcbd.org](http://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 749-2519.

**South of Market Project Area Committee Housing Subcommittee**, 1st Wednesday of the month, bimonthly 6 p.m., 1035 Folsom St. Health, Safety and Human Services Committee 1st Wednesday after the 1st Monday bimonthly, 1035 Folsom, 6 p.m. 487-2166 or [www.sompac.com](http://www.sompac.com).

**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](mailto: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](http://www.sfsan.org).

### DISTRICT 6 SUPERVISOR

#### Jane Kim

Chair of Rules Committee, member of Budget & Finance Committee and Transportation Authority. Legislative Aides: Matthias Mormino and Viva Mogi. [Jane.Kim@sfgov.org](mailto:Jane.Kim@sfgov.org), 554-7970

Creating jobs. Getting it done.

That's Mayor

Ed Lee

ENDORSED BY:



Senator  
**Dianne Feinstein**

"San Francisco needs his steady leadership and unifying presence in City Hall."



Lt. Governor  
**Gavin Newsom**

"Ed Lee is the best choice to lead San Francisco for the future and keep the City's economic recovery on the right track... He has the vision, the focus and the economic plan to continue creating good jobs for San Francisco..."

Ranked-Choice Voting: **Vote 1 or 2 or 3 for Mayor Ed Lee!**



## BE AN ED LEE VOTER!

- If you haven't already mailed in your ballot, drop it off at City Hall or your polling location.
- If you're voting at the polls, please know that your polling place may have changed. Call the Elections Office at (415) 554-4375 with any questions about polling places, absentee voting or voting procedures, or go to [www.sfgov2.org/index.aspx?page=599](http://www.sfgov2.org/index.aspx?page=599)
- Polling places are open on Election Day 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

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