

MY TAKE

Greed shows its ugly face on Market St.

Hostel takeover a nasty end to good old Grant Building

BY GEOFF LINK

1095 Market St., a.k.a. the Grant Building, no longer what it once was, is something else again.

This '06 quake survivor evolved as a stately house of progressive thought and action. It was home in recent times to SFNLAF, Agape Foundation, S.F. Mental Health Association, Greenaction, Human Rights Commission, the Bicycle Coalition and the Commissions On the Status of Women and Delinquency Prevention, and scores more like them.

The Grant Building was the birthplace of Open Hand, the Social Services Directory, Friends of the Urban Forest, Public Interest Economics, Livable City and San Francisco Study Center, founded in 1972 to help

the nascent neighborhood movement grow and the burgeoning non-profit sector thrive.

The populist legacy of former Mayor Phelan, the Grant Building was a haven for non-profits and others

who help others.

This venerable eight-story, 140-unit complex withstood the shaking of two mighty quakes to remain standing at Seventh and Market. An eyesore, now it's the face of corporate greed, taken over by a father-son team that's preparing to turn the place into a happenin' hostel — like those in Amsterdam and Sydney — much more than a bunk for sleeping-bag youth.

From the date of ownership — a \$9 million transaction in 2008 — Peter Johnson and his 1095 Market Street LLC undertook a campaign to rid the building of tenants not locked into large, long-term leases. Only Study Center and Community Housing Partnership were. CHP occupied most of the seventh floor; Study Center had all of the sixth and three rooms on the second.

Study Center had been at the Grant Building longest of anybody, maybe ever, from our founding in March 1972 till mid-January 2012, two months shy of 40 years.

When Study Center opened in a single room on the second floor, the building bustled with liberal lawyers and several-room suites of nonprofits and city boards. The Grant Building was a good place to be if you wanted to operate from the thick of it.

Johnson and son Simon say they hope to make their likely hostile hostel a work site for Larkin Street Youth Services clients. Peter

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My Take is an occasional series of opinion pieces based on reporting and personal experience.

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CENTRAL CITY



SAN FRANCISCO

"ONE DOLLAR"



PHOTOS BY LENNY LIMJOCO

Elderly Chinese women line up their own little dollar store of fresh produce and canned goods, every item \$1, on the sidewalk in front of the Grant Building at Seventh and Market.

FREE FOOD FOR SALE

Little old ladies set up shop on area sidewalks

BY JONATHAN NEWMAN

WITH the Heart of the City Farmers' Market gearing up across the street at 8:30 a.m. on a recent Wednesday, six elderly Asian women line up their wares across the front of the Grant Building and entreat pedestrians, calling softly: "Buy. You buy."

Canned Bartlett pears, bagged carrots and onions, boxes of Land O' Lakes American cheese, packages of whole wheat bagels, jars of Algood peanut butter, dried beans, sesame crackers and squat cans of evaporated milk were neatly displayed at their feet, along with grape juice and orange juice in plastic liters — clearly food obtained from community agencies' free distribution programs.

"One dollar," one of the women told a sidewalk shopper. That was the going price for most items, some of which bore a marked notice: "Not For Retail Sale."

The women are a mid-Market phenomenon, on the scene the past year or so, operating at U.N. Plaza, on Market Street at Seventh and at the corners of Mission and Sixth and Seventh streets. Sometimes there's only one, typically two or more are together, with six to eight in tandem on farmers' market Wednesdays.

They are Chinese or Vietnamese and look to be in their 70s. They don't talk except about price and won't answer questions, professing to not speak English.

They've been seen exiting a van together, brought to the area by a middle-aged Asian man who occasionally stands observing them as they sell food.

They rub some people the wrong way. Some feel the women are selling free food that maybe they took right out of the mouth of somebody who needs it. And they're making a profit while some poor family is going hungry. That's an unlikely scenario given how widely available free food is in the neighborhood.

Besides the soup kitchens of St. Anthony and Glide, there are more than 30 San Francisco Food Bank-supplied food

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Another of their popular spots to sell is at U.N. Plaza in front of Carl's Jr.

GOOD NEWS for...

TL HOMELESS The renovated Central City Hospitality House shelter, the city's smallest and one of the oldest, has reopened at 146 Leavenworth St. with the pristine glow of fresh paint, shiny floors and ADA-accessibility. The \$1.2 million makeover took a year and includes an elevator that operates from the basement to the second floor where the sleeping capacity remains 25 beds and five emergency mats. Outside is a spacious new deck. Downstairs are optional services such as counseling. Jenks said that Hospitality House had gotten a pass on ADA compliance over the years because the 1920 building was so old and the nonprofit had been there so long — since 1967. The shelter program was started in 1982 in response to increased homelessness when the feds drastically cut affordable housing funds. The shelter serves more than 720 men a year.

VETERANS Permanent supportive housing for formerly homeless vets stepped closer to reality with HUD's award in March of more than \$2.7 million to the city. The funds — 200 federally backed vouchers — will provide vets with rental housing through the Housing Authority as well as support the Veterans Commons housing project at 150 Otis St., a planned home for 75 homeless and senior veterans to live independently with on-site case management and support services from Swords to Plowshares and SF VA Medical Centers. The award covers one-year funding. Swords to Plowshares estimates nearly 1,100 vets are among the city's 6,445 homeless.

JOB-SEEKERS New computer stations, software and server upgrades, and a classroom projector are among the additions to the Positive Resource Center's computer training lab at 785 Market St., improvements made possible by a \$50,000 technology grant from AT&T. The center, serving people with HIV or AIDS since 1987, provides counseling, education and training with a strong focus on improving clients' chances of finding a job, even if they have a chronic illness, disability, are homeless, abuse substances or have been in jail. Among the center's 2,200 clients, 900 use the employment services, and 1 in 4 finds a job, says Leigh Illion, managing director of development. Being proficient on Word and/or Excel programs are required for most jobs. With the AT&T grant, the center bought the latest Microsoft Office suite as well as ZoomText, a program for the visually impaired, and Nuance Speak & See, a software suite for speech recognition and text-to-speech adaptation. Since the upgraded lab's grand opening April 4, 10 new students have signed up for computer classes, which are open only to clients registered in the center's Employment Services program. Info for registration and class schedules: positiveresource.org/computer_training.asp.

If you have some good news, send it to tom@studycenter.org or marjorie@studycenter.org



The handsome Grant Building anchors the southeast corner of Seventh and Market. The landlord's heavy hand, helped by the long arm of the law, made working in the historic building's last days cold and miserable.

PHOTO BY LENNY LIMJOCO

Tale of greed and disrespect in liberal landmark's last days

► CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Johnson's wife, Simon's mom, is on Larkin Street's board, a connection at least the men in the family say they expect to result in a steady source of entry-level hostel workers — a boon for the kids, a bonus for the Johnsons.

But if Study Center's unfortunate experience as a tenant of the Johnsons is any indication, the troubled youth will be working for employers who are unequivocal in their disrespect for behavioral health clients and those who serve them.

With Study Center for many years have been the Office of Self Help and S.F. Mental Health Clients' Rights Advocates. OSH is a Tenderloin wellness and recovery center, and MHCRA is San Francisco's state-mandated advocate for mental health clients.

The people they serve are clients of the city's Behavioral Health Services, whose privacy is protected by federal HIPAA rules.

Yet, under a host of remarkably rigid building rules, the Johnsons' security guards would require photo ID along with sign-in and destination for admission to the building. Not so unreasonable, if you're the Federal Reserve Bank, but after 35 years with flexible landlords, this felt like harassment.

One guard, Pavlik Bagdasaryan, frequently wrote down certain clients' personal information from their ID, would refuse entry upon whim, clearly snub African American clients and once followed a client he suspected of being drunk upstairs to OSH's group room and walked around the man, sniffing like a cadaver dog searching for the scent.

When I complained in a letter to son Simon, pointing out the privacy violations and asking that his guards respect our staff and clients, he replied testily via email:

"We (1095 Market LLC) are not a medical facility, we are a commercial office building" and HIPAA "does not apply."

What might happen when troubled youth from the city's nonprofit safety net are hired by the Johnsons to clean the toilets, bus the tables, make the beds and wash the dishes?

Some certainly will be receiving human services. Recovering from physical or mental illness or not, will their confidentially be respected?

Simon advised me to put a leash on Roy Crew, feisty director of OSH who resisted Bagdasaryan's infringement on his clients' rights. He warned in his email reply to my letter that Crew would be banned from the building.

One Friday in August, I arrived at work to find two cops in OSH's second-floor offices trying to get Crew to leave because the landlord wanted him 86ed from the building. Roy wasn't budging.

When I asked what Roy had done, one officer said he didn't know, but told me: "If the landlord doesn't like how you part your hair and wants you out, then out you go." But, without Roy committing an actual offense, someone had to make a citizen's arrest, the pair from Southern Station said, adding: And, if Crew returns and the landlord wants him out, he'll be arrested for trespassing.

Simon didn't want to make the arrest himself. But the morning security guard, Josif Bushler, was willing, protesting all the while that he was Roy's friend.

Out Crew went, and out he stayed.

For more than three months, landlord Simon Johnson, with the assistance of Superior Court Judge Harold Kahn — who recently rejected suspended Sheriff Ross Mirkarimi's request to be paid — kept this longtime behavioral health service provider from entering his place of work and performing his job duties under normal conditions.

Judge Kahn rejected our request for a preliminary injunction so Crew could return to work while we duked it out with the Johnsons in court. He ruled that it was a basic landlord-tenant dispute, unworthy of a busy jurist's time. His rejection of our brief was a win for the Johnsons. They knew they were in the driver's seat.

From the outside, Crew was able to regularly meet with his staff and clients, direct services, schedule programs and otherwise perform his many duties because his staff of committed professionals pulled

together. They kept OSH delivering its wellness and recovery services as if Roy had not been wrongfully banned. But how inconvenient and stressful for all involved.

Aside from the personal satisfaction that their mean crackdown on Roy must have afforded the Johnsons, the significance to the bottom line for 1095 Market Street Holding LLC of Study Center staying to the end of its lease — five months past CHP's departure — is not to be pooh-poohed.

One major tenant instead of two would drop the monthly rental income in half, yet building staff for security, janitorial and general maintenance could scarcely be cut.

So harassing Study Center staff and clients with unneeded front-desk rules, by not providing adequate heat to all of our offices, by driving up our legal bill, Market Street Holding stood to save six-good-figures if we would leave the same time as Community Housing Partnership, letting them shut the building down five months early. It worked.

The landlords sent us packing, demanding that Study Center leave the building spic and span.

We did. On final moveout day, Simon, who personally inspected the condition of our suites, was effusive, saying no other tenant had left their quarters so clean.

At the end of the inspection, we came to the final nook, the trash closet. In it stood a neatly wrapped 6-foot roll of window blinds, maybe 15 pounds.

Simon said he'd have to charge us to have this last piece hauled away.

How much?
\$50.

Obviously, every dollar counts when you're rich.

I walked away with the blinds over my shoulder, never looking back.

•••

The Johnsons not only trashed the Study Center. They are gutting a landmark of progressive San Francisco, a historic staging area for social action and human services unlikely to be seen again. ■

San Francisco Study Center publishes Central City Extra.

OBITUARIES

RICHARD ALLEN FOSTER Father to 12

Richard Allen Foster, father to 12 children, had many jobs in his lifetime and dozens of friends at the Senator Hotel who loved him for his constant cheerfulness despite his suffering.

Mr. Foster had seven children and five stepchildren. Most live in the East Bay. At his memorial in the Senator Hotel April 10, a family-written obituary said right off that he was "better known as Slick Rick or Trick Dick," nicknames that were never explained. At the memorial, though, his dozen friends were quite clear that he was a wonderful fellow who courageously fought colon cancer. He died March 25 at age 56.

Mr. Foster was "a gentle soul," said a social worker, reading remarks of her absent co-worker who had known him for several years. In her written remembrances the superlatives flowed — "always smiling and optimistic, never disgruntled, pleasant, charming, humble — and a beloved member of the Senator Hotel community."

One woman said Mr. Foster had moved in right after she did in 2005. "Oh, we hit it off right away," she said. "And he'd apologize if he came at you the wrong way."

Another woman stood immediately and sang "Precious Lord" in a full voice that filled the small community room, then sat down and wept. Many who remembered Mr. Foster's cancer battle and deterioration were grief-stricken and quiet.

"There's a lot of emotion in this room," said Rev. Glenda Hope, who conducted the memorial. "It's hard to give it voice sometimes."

"I'm glad he's not suffering anymore!" yelled a woman in back.

Mr. Foster was born in Pittsburg, and after graduating from high school in 1974, went on to work at the U.S. Steel mill, in construction and as a Delta Transit Bus driver throughout Contra Costa County.

Life's twists found him at the Senator in 2005. When he was diagnosed with cancer he didn't take it very seriously and refused services, said case worker Roberto Mejia, who described Mr. Foster as a stylish dresser and very hip. On Mejia's first day on the job, he said Mr. Foster admired his watch, then, with a smile, stuck out his wrist to show he wore the same one.

"But when I came here two years ago he had just gotten the news about how bad his condition was," Mejia said. "I got him services."



FAMILY PHOTO

Mr. Foster's condition, and pain, worsened. Still, his friends said, he had a constant smile. His children visited him. He began using a walker to get around. He loved being outdoors in the fresh air; Mejia said he went out every day.

But soon he needed a caregiver. His son, Jeremy Foster of Oakland, moved in. Because of the medical necessity, Mejia got the 14-night-per-month maximum stay rule in the SRO Visitors Rules waived.

Three months later, in late February, Mr. Foster was hospitalized. Six weeks later, he went to the Zen Center Hospice, where he died.

He was a member of the Second Union Missionary Baptist Church in San Francisco.

Mr. Foster's children are: Rickisha Foster of Snellville, Ga., Richard Foster Jr. and Jericka Foster of Pittsburg, Jeremy Foster of Oakland, Brandon (and wife, Hannah) Foster of Fort Hood, Texas, and Jovani Foster, Khalil Foster and Jamari Butler of Richmond. His five stepchildren: Teana Foreman of Sacramento, Dawn ("DJ") Foreman of Vallejo, Tisa Tatum of Antioch and Telisha Washington of Pittsburg. ■

— TOM CARTER

DALE JACQUELINE PEREZ Went out listening to Motown

After a rough life that included physical abuse, drug addiction, homelessness and diabetes that blinded her, Dale Jacqueline (D.J.) Perez died peacefully in the hospital with the strains of "Ain't No Mountain High Enough" on a CD soothing her, along with the awareness she was loved by her family, friends and little dog, Coco, and that a warm and secure home awaited her.

"She was getting better and we thought she'd be coming home," said her daughter, Nila Gonzales, at Ms. Perez's April 10 memorial at the Polk Geary Senior Apartments for low-income and the formerly homeless. "Red had gone to see if she was ready. He thought she was asleep. She looked more peaceful than ever."

Red, several years her elder, is Ms. Perez's longtime partner who cared for her day and night as her battles with multiple health issues heightened and her exhausting kidney dialysis treatments increased. He sat in the second row among a score of mourners clutching the Pekingese service dog Coco that friends said Ms. Perez spoiled during their two years together. Gray-bearded and wearing a baseball cap, Red had been with her 15 years, "since we first met and were homeless, et cetera, et cetera."

Diabetes ravaged her family. It killed her mother, Gonzales said, just like it did her sister and grandmother. Ms. Perez's mother also suffered a stroke and a heart attack and she died

in 1986 at 54. Ms. Perez's sister (Gonzales' aunt) died in June; she was 51.

Ms. Perez died March 28 at 55.

"My mother took me aside years ago and said the women in our family had to look out for diabetes after age 30," said Gonzales, who is married and has two children. "I am the first one to break the cycle. I don't have it. I don't know how far back it went with my ancestors."

Gonzales is a San Franciscan who used to work for Mayor Willie Brown and currently is chief of staff and board secretary of the Transbay Joint Powers Authority. She attributed her reversal of the family trend to the fact she practices what experts preach about maintaining a healthy lifestyle: balanced diet and exercise.

"If this consciousness existed 30 years ago, she and a lot of others might be alive." The expanded social services for the poor have lengthened lives, as well, Gonzales said.

Louie Ramos was Ms. Perez's case manager for eight years. During that period, she went blind; blindness can stem from diabetes.

"She had multiple health issues, including asthma," Ramos said. "But she never cared about medical issues — she was always high-spirited. And serving her in the hospital, I saw she was an inspiration to others."

"Her love for her partner and her pet were her beauty," said a woman who had been around her just a half a dozen times. "She never complained."

Gonzales learned from family members about the abuse her mother endured as a youngster. Her mother's secrets were the tormenting "dark clouds" that nudged her into drugs. "It was too much for her," said Gonzales, who is completing a psychology

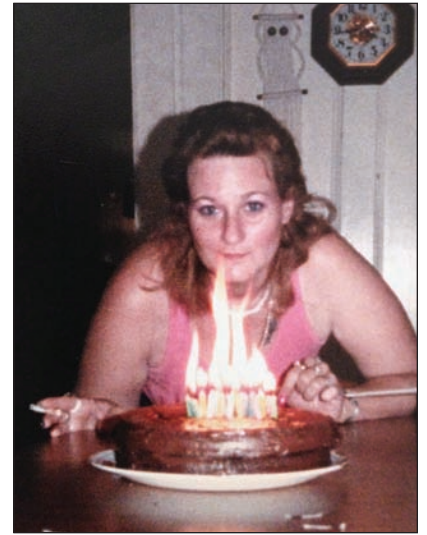
degree at San Francisco State University. "I understand that people want to mask it. It's a typical way to deal with it, and it got worse over the years."

Ms. Perez had been hospitalized August through January. Back at home, Red was helping her get ready for a March 23 dialysis treatment when her breathing became so labored he had to call for an ambulance. "She had had many close calls," Gonzales said.

Even though the family felt that this time Ms. Perez was improving in the hospital, Gonzales took the precaution of lining up a fully medically equipped hospice in case the reverse was true. "It's very hard to find one for a person needing dialysis," she said.

Another thing she did was to bring her mother CDs of all of her favorite Motown tunes, which included Marvin Gaye and Tammi Terrell's classic. ■

— TOM CARTER



FAMILY PHOTO

D.J. Perez at her 29th birthday.

City and County of San Francisco

May, 2012 Monthly

Call for Artists: 2013 Art on Market Street Kiosk Poster Series

Application Deadline: Wednesday, May 9, 2012, 11:59 PM (PST)

The Art on Market Street Program, which has commissioned new artwork by Bay Area artists on an annual basis since 1992, includes a bus kiosk poster series and other temporary projects that take place on San Francisco's main thoroughfare. For the kiosk poster series, the Art on Market Street Program commissions three consecutive three-month poster exhibitions annually. Each poster series consists of a set of six original and related designs that are professionally reproduced and printed as six sets of posters, 68 inches high by 47 ¼ inches wide (trim size), for installation in 36 bus kiosks on Market Street between 8th Street and the Embarcadero. All artists' designs must be approved by the Arts Commission and are expected to be appropriate for a broad public audience.

Applications are available through [SlideRoom](https://sfgov.slideroom.com/), <https://sfgov.slideroom.com/> an online application system. There is no charge to artists for using SlideRoom. First time users of SlideRoom, please allow adequate time to learn the use of this system. Applications will not be accepted after the deadline.

For more information, please visit www.sfartscommission.org or contact Zoë Taleporos, at (415) 252-3215 or by email at zoe.taleporos@sfgov.org.

San Francisco International Airport

The Airport Commission has commenced the RFP process for the Airport Advertising Lease. The proposed minimum financial offer is \$7,500,000 with a term of eight years.

The Informational Conference will be at 10:00 a.m., May 10, 2012, at SF Office Business Center, 2nd Floor, 575 N. McDonnell Road, San Francisco International Airport.

Please see <http://www.flysfo.com/web/page/about/b2b/concess/> for additional information or call Gigi R. Ricasa, Senior Principal Property Manager, at (650) 821-4500.

San Francisco International Airport

The Airport Commission has commenced the RFP process for Terminal 3 Common Use Club Lease at San Francisco International Airport. The Informational Conference, originally scheduled for 2:00 p.m. PST, April 24, 2012 at San Francisco International Airport, has been postponed until further notice.

If you have any questions, please contact Cheryl Nashir at 650-821-4500

Notice of Funds Availability

RFQ - Financial and Expanded Audit Services

First 5 San Francisco announces the Availability of Funds for Financial and Expanded Audit Services. Approximately \$30,000 is available for the period of 08/01/2012 to 12/30/2013 and renewable up to two years. Funding supports financial audit review, financial reporting and expanded audit services. Final awards and renewals are subject to availability of funds, grant terms, and rights.

The RFQ may be downloaded from www.first5sf.org or picked up in person 9 am – 4:30 pm, Monday – Friday, at First 5 San Francisco, 1390 Market St, Ste 318, San Francisco. Proposals are due by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, May 15, 2012. Guidelines are noted in the RFQ.

For more information, contact Derik Aoki at derik@first5sf.org or 415-557-9912.

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EXTRA!
SAN FRANCISCO

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PHONE: (415) 626-1650

FAX: (415) 626-7276

EMAIL: centralityextra@studycenter.org

EDITOR AND PUBLISHER: Geoffrey Link

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR: Heidi Swillinger

SENIOR WRITER/EDITOR: Marjorie Beggs

COMMUNITY REPORTER: Tom Carter

REPORTERS: Jonathan Newman, Mark Hedin, Brian Rinker, Ed Bowers

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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Dogged old women hawk food that's fr

▶ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The Market Street
side of the Grant Building is a popular location for the elderly women's traveling dollar stores. And their customers typically are people in need of a food bargain.

pantries, free meal and supplemental food distribution programs in the Tenderloin where anyone who signs up and shows ID can get free food.

This year the Food Bank will distribute 46 million pounds of all kinds of food to 450 agencies — pantries, meal programs and charitable organizations — for redistribution throughout the city, 15 million pounds more than three years ago.

Forty-five minutes later the street sellers are gone, dispersed by two Central Market CBD street guides. One guide, Nick Hitchko, explains, "We get complaints — we work for the property owners, and they feel the sellers interfere with business. We get complaints from passers-by, too. People say this food should be going to the homeless, that it isn't

right to sell it."

Hitchko acknowledged that the sellers aren't aggressive and offered that he was not there to hassle anyone. "Some of them are 70 or 80 years old. You wonder what's going on. We just ask them to move to another district."

In fact, for the past several months the women have been chased from U.N. Plaza on market days by uniformed SFPD officers. Frequent market visitors have observed the confrontations: officers sheepishly rousting the old women, who, in turn, pack their sale items in small rolling carts and determinedly push off to other venues. But they've got their spots and this is one of them. They'll be back.

By 11 a.m. that Wednesday, the women had returned to the front of the Grant Building, their produce, dairy and dry goods spread on the sidewalk bricks. Business was brisk at a buck a throw for whatever they have: 3-pound

bag of oranges, 4 pounds of potatoes, 2-pound blocks of American cheese, a pound of peanut butter, box of cereal and other items. A dollar store right there on the sidewalk.

Heart of the City Co-Manager Christine Adams knows about the women. "Yes. We've photographed them. I confiscate their produce when I can. I don't want anyone getting food poisoning and blaming it on us. They're selling free food that should be going to people in need," she said. Adams conceded the problems are complex and the women dogged.

The following week the story repeated itself with the CBD guides moving the women off Market Street. They decamp to the edge of the farmers' market, but security moves them off U.N. Plaza and they return to Market Street.

In the gathering crowd are some shoppers — one woman in a wheelchair buys a jar of peanut butter for a dollar as an angry middle-aged man shouts, "That food's American, it was meant for Americans."

Then in jumps a man who said his name is Al and that he's homeless. He defends the women and doesn't begrudge them making a buck or two.

"Hell, they provide a service," he says. "I can't always get to a food giveaway and they hassle me anyway if I forget my ID. So, for a buck, I can get a box of cereal here and I don't go hungry then."

This ongoing scene of street selling, rousting, dispersing and regrouping changed April 18 when Tenderloin Station officers and two representatives of the San Francisco Food Bank confronted the sellers. Capt. Joe Garrity called it "a prevention and intervention strike."

"We had a bilingual speaker from the Food Bank and we told these women they were violating the law," he said. No one was arrested and no citations were issued, but the sellers' perishable items were confiscated. Garrity intends for his officers to keep watch on the Wednesday market action.

"If the selling of these products continues, we'll cite and prosecute," he said. In his opinion, none of the food being sold had been taken from any of the "well-run Tenderloin programs," which have sign-up sheets and check for ID.

Robin Woodland, director of marketing and communications, confirmed that Food Bank staff had seen the old ladies illegally selling commodity foods — products bought by



There's also a food stamp scam

FOOD for sale on the street can draw a crowd, even when the sellers' come-ons are low-key. On one recent day as the women drum business at the corner of Market and Seventh streets, some bystanders berate them, couching their anger in patriotic jargon. Others support the little old Asian ladies, drawing a picture of economic benefit and convenience for those who buy the \$1 items.

The women are approached by a Channel 2 newsman, microphone in hand and TV camera sidekick trailing. The reporter fires questions, the women clam up, and they clearly don't want to be photographed.

From the street, Al, a vocal defender of the sellers and their sidewalk enterprise, chases the Channel 2 pair off the corner. As the men depart, he tells them that the real story is up the block, pointing to the confluence of McAllister, Jones and Market streets, where, he shouts: "They're paying \$100 cash for a full food stamp card. I know some people got whole stacks of them," displaying his right hand with a 6-inch spread from fingers to thumb.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture reports that nearly 10% of food retailers traffic in fraud by swapping food benefit cards for cash.

Typically, a merchant will pay \$100 for a card with \$200 in value, swipe the card through the merchant system and sell nothing. When the federal government gives the merchant the \$200, the profit is pocketed and the fraud complete. ■

— JONATHAN NEWMAN



A Giants fan is surrounded by a daring array of items, way more than just three bags full. Should the sidewa

free from Food Bank, U.S. government

and the federal government and earmarked for distribution to seniors, the poor and those enrolled in special nutritional programs.

"Today, the women were warned and the food confiscated. We'll monitor on a weekly basis. We think that consistent monitoring will stop this practice," he said.

The Food Bank will also begin distributing flyers in U.N. Plaza on market days alerting the public that it is illegal to buy or sell food received free from community agencies.

"We hope the economic market for these illegal sellers will dry up once people understand that selling the government commodity food marked for distribution by community agencies undermines the purpose of helping those in need," he said.

On April 25, the women returned to U.N. Plaza. Their carts were loaded with bags of potatoes, canned tomatoes and boxes of cornflakes. This time they fanned out in groups of two or three at Market Street at Seventh and a block away at the corner of Jones and McAllister streets. Cops and Food Bank reps were there, too.

At the triangle of Market, McAllister and Jones streets, a longtime notorious hot spot for the street sale of weed and crack, two large SFPD officers placed their hands on a small, elderly woman and began the effort to confiscate her food-filled two-wheel shopping cart. Moments before she had been offering to sell bags of produce and cans of vegetables to passers-by.

Now she refuses to release her grip on the cart. The cops patiently wait her out as Food Bank rep Shirley Chin speaks to her in Cantonese. Finally, exhausted, the woman gives up and sinks to the sidewalk, wailing and weeping. From the crowd that gathered to gawk someone says: "She's crying, but there ain't no tears."

The women were released with empty carts. The confiscated food sat in a 5-foot stack on the corner awaiting retrieval by an SFPD pickup. "It's going back to the Food Bank," a cop said. A quiet voice in the crowd piped up, "That ain't going to make them stop. It's their only means of hustle."

The Food Bank estimates 40% of the confiscated items came from pantry distributions and 60% from the federal commodity food program aimed at needy seniors. ■

Geoff Link contributed to this report.



PHOTOS BY LENNY LIMJOCO

A Tenderloin Station officer is at one of their popular spots as the usual suspects arrive, and he doesn't allow them to stay.



PHOTOS BY TOM CARTER

Park sculptor sought

THE Arts Commission is trying to find Anthony Jerome Smith, the Tenderloin artist and former Cadillac Hotel resident whose outdoor sculpture "Untitled" was installed at Boeddeker Park in 1986, a year after the park opened.

The 5-foot-tall bronze, weighing up to 800 pounds, depicts a pair of hands cupped around a globe inset with 14 life-size, multiethnic faces of various TL residents, including Father Alfred Boeddeker (center in the photo above), painter Craig Lasha, then-Cadillac Hotel Manager Sarah Kearney and Richard Livingston (right), managing director of Exit Theatre.

Livingston, who remembers Smith creating the sculpture using negative plaster life masks, clay positives and the final bronze casting at an Oakland foundry, says many of the other models had connections to the Cadillac or Exit.

The Arts Commission selected Smith's design from among 100 submissions and paid him \$20,000 for the piece, which he worked on for 15 months.

The commission wants to tell Smith that when scheduled Boeddeker Park renovations begin later this year, his sculpture and other art in the park will be removed, stored, conserved and reinstalled.

If you know where Anthony Smith is, get in touch with Carol Marie Daniels, Arts Commission's project manager for public art and civic collections, 252-2588 or carolmarie.daniels@sfgov.org. ■

— MARJORIE BEGGS



When the sidewalk retailers run out, they can restock with her.

New map leaves District 6 'conservative,' activist says

BY TOM CARTER

THE end result of the months-long process of redrawing heavily populated District 6 by inches this way and that on a big wall map may have pleased a lot of people but not rock-ribbed progressives.

The map the Redistricting Task Force submitted to the Department of Elections April 14 showed the final boundaries. It pared progressive strongholds and made the district more conservative, critics say.

"These were unconscionable cuts," said a disappointed Otto Duffy, neighborhood activist who represented the Central City Democrats at most of the 30 community meetings that the task force held. "The district now is more conservative. And it didn't have to be that way."

The task force was mandated by the city to equalize San Francisco's 11 supervisorial districts after the 2010 census by dividing the city's new population of 805,000 among them. D6's population came in at 94,800, overshooting the mean figure of

73,200 by 21,600 — more than three times out of kilter than the next size district. Not quite 6,000 in District 6 are under 18 and can't vote.

Shedding population in the historically progressive district was going to be tricky. High-end condominiums have sprouted South of Market, a contrast to the Tenderloin, the city's poorest neighborhood.

Lopped off were Hayes Valley and Inner Mission, "historically progressive" areas, said Duffy, who gave a redistricting summary April 18 to the Central City Collaborative and later talked to The Extra. Mission resident Debra Walker, runnerup to Jane Kim in the 2010 election two years ago, got moved into District 9.

But the unkindest cut, said Duffy, came out of the northern border running east from Van Ness Avenue on Post Street. The ragged line took out about 10 Tenderloin blocks, or about 2,700 residents. One lost block, bound by Leavenworth, Geary, Jones and O'Farrell, had 900 residents.

"That block has a big apartment building," Duffy said. "It's market-rate but they support tenant rights and were important politically."

Given the size of the task force's job in D6, Supervisor Jane Kim said the group did "an incredible job of listening — most voices got heard," and she was "very happy" with the result.

"North of Mission wanted to be reunited with the Mission," she said. "We heard that consistently. But it is not clear to me if there was a major (political) shift. Western SoMa and the Tenderloin are still intact."

Duffy was committed to preserving the central city, a 55,000 population, roughly bounded by Post, Van Ness, Division and Mission Creek just south of Berry Street. He would have let go China Basin/Mission Bay where the "middle-income and high-end condominium owners are."

Guidelines allow a district to vary up to 1% (732 people). But additional variations up to 5% (3,660 people) are okay "if necessary to prevent dividing or diluting the voting power of minorities and/or to keep recognized neighborhoods intact," according to the City Charter. The committee interpreted this liberally.

"The Tenderloin and the central city could have been preserved," Duffy said. "But the committee didn't see it that way. I was trying to hold on to political ballast. Some other districts varied by 5%."

Indeed, Districts 1, 2 and 9 wound up just shy of 5%.

The final District 6 map has a 73,909 population, just 0.96% over.

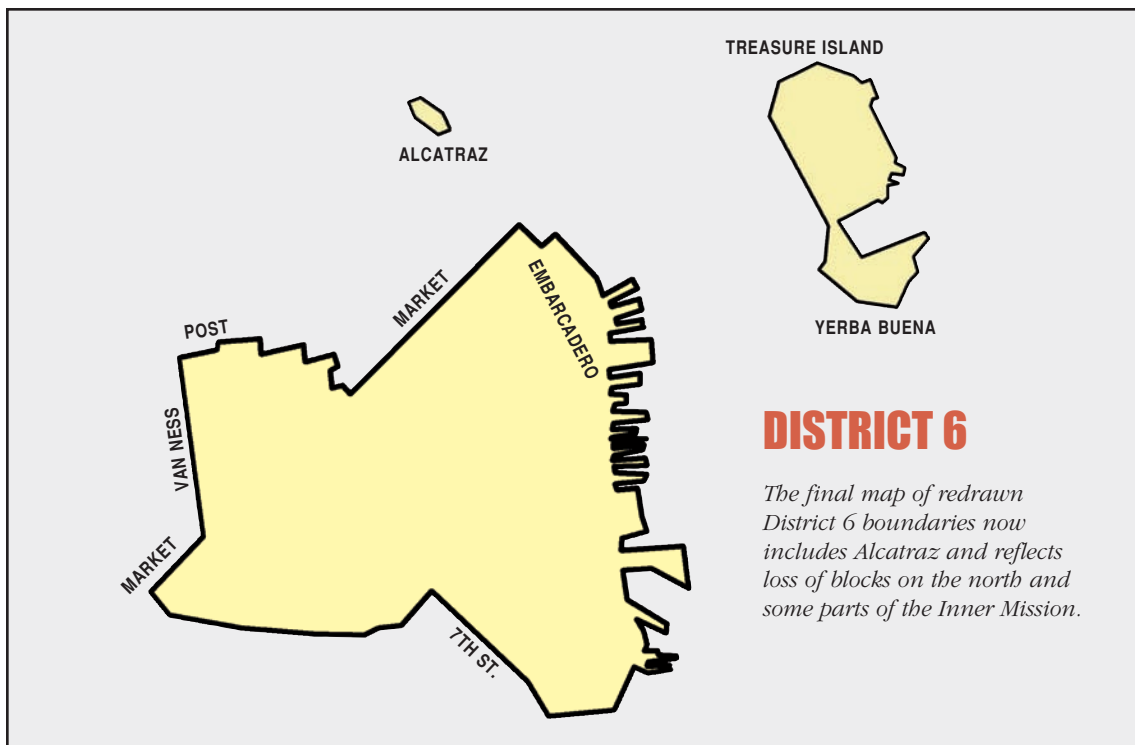
Another surprise in the nine-member committee's 41-page report is two ethnic-voter shifts. Accompanying D6 data showed the percentage of Asian voters at 31.26% of the new 67,943 voter (not population) base, a 20% jump from 10 years ago. Meanwhile, the Latino percentage of voters had dipped 25%, likely a result of losing the Inner Mission. Whites, with 40.5%, had gained 2.5% and blacks (10.5%) edged up 1%, compared with the decade-old data.

Understandably, compatible neighborhood populations and community interest groups were eager to weigh in to protect their spread of involvement.

Indeed, the committee, which spent 100 hours in 30 meetings and a lot more time poring over data, fielded 1,300 written and oral comments. Chairman Eric McDonnell's sense of humor often kept meetings light and palatable, which audiences appreciated.

His task force report highlighted the main con-

➤ CONTINUED ON PAGE 7



**June 5th
ENDORSEMENTS**

**Central
City
Democrats**

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District 6
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Paid for by Central City Democrats
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Telephone & Fax; (415) 339-VOTE (8683)
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Central City Democrats is a chartered Democratic Club affiliated with the San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee serving those who live and work in District 6

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David Chiu*

Matt Dorsey*

Zoe Dunning

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Justin Morgan

Joaquin Torres

David Campos*

Dean Clark

Bevan Dufty

Gabriel Haaland*

Carole Migden*

Stuart Smith

Scott Wiener*

Statewide Ballot Measures

Proposition 28: Limits on Legislators' Terms in Office - Yes

Proposition 29: Imposes Additional Tax on Cigarettes for Cancer Research - Yes

Local Ballot Measures

Measure A: Garbage Collection and Disposal - No

Measure B: Coit Tower Policy - Yes

Liberal north side housing goes to D3

► CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

cerns District 6 residents had voiced:

- Filipino community cohesion.
- Transbay Terminal's placement — in D6 or District 3
- Whether to include Mission Bay, drawing a line at 16th Street or Mariposa Street
- SROs and their common interests
- Keeping intact the Tenderloin's north boundary at Post
- The Valencia-McCoppin Triangle's safety concerns and keeping it whole in D6
- Whether Treasure Island would stay in D6, or go to D3.

Filipinos, Transbay Terminal and Mission Bay were all included in District 6, with a southern line dropping two blocks down to Mariposa Street. The SRO count stayed about the same. The noticeable loss was 248-room Mission Hotel at South Van Ness Avenue and 16th Street and the privately owned Bristol Hotel on Mason Street, nudged out by the jogging boundary line.

The triangle stayed largely in shape, too. The northern boundary kept half of its Post line running east from Van Ness Avenue to Leavenworth. It's ragged as it drops to Geary, O'Farrell and Ellis streets and is jagged down to Market. District 6 not only keeps Treasure Island, it gets Alcatraz Island, too.

Besides about a dozen blocks lost on the north to District 3, D6 gave up a 5,000 Hayes Valley population to District 5 in a dozen-block-long stretch west starting at Van Ness and Market, two, sometimes three, blocks deep.

The last large cut to go was north Mission, 13,600 people in about 100 blocks.

"The revised map had to assure the voting power of minorities would not be diluted or divided, and, when possible, keep recognized neighborhoods intact," Jenny Lam, task force vice chair, said in the report. ■

Tech's leading role in redistricting

Maps change instantly with click of a mouse

BY MARJORIE BEGGS

WHEN Redistricting Task Force members began meeting in July, their consultant used a software program that brought the latest technology to a knotty problem: deciding how to reconfigure the city's 11 supervisorial districts boundaries with speed and clarity that would be immediately understandable to all.

Hired to operate the program, Maptitude for Redistricting, was Karin Mac Donald. Her day job is director of the Statewide Database, a redistricting resource that the Institute of Governmental Studies hosts at U.C. Berkeley. Mac Donald also heads Q2 Data & Research, a small, women-owned consulting firm in Oakland. She and a colleague attended all 30-plus task force meetings, manipulating maps with a laptop and shifting boundaries projected on a screen with the click of a mouse.

Maps could be viewed and analysed four ways — from each of the city's 7,386 census blocks, the 581 census block groups, the 197 census tracts and the 11 color-coded supervisorial districts. As Mac Donald got requests to alter a district's configuration, she'd scroll to the area and add or delete blocks.

Every change shifted the population of that district and its neighbors, showing instantly as a box with a new population number

and the percentage that number deviated from the mean.

The idea is that with 11 districts and a citywide population of 805,235, the mean population of each district would be about 73,200 people. The City Charter and the U.S. Constitution say local legislative districts must have "equal populations" to maintain the one person-one vote mandate. A district's population can deviate no more than 5% above or below 73,203 people.

At the start of the redistricting process, District 6's population deviation was the most skewed in the city, almost 30%, over the 73,203 mean. At the other end of "ideal," District 9 lost more than 10% (7,530 people). When redistricting was done in mid-April, District 6's deviation came in at 706 people, a modest 0.964%.

Over the months it took to get all 11 districts to ideal deviations, Mac Donald handled the technical aspects of adjusting boundary lines over and over in meetings, projecting the full city map, then focusing tighter into a single district.

"The task force members might ask to see a specific street or intersection or the population of a single block," she said. "We'd zoom in, they'd deliberate and decide about the change, then we'd move to the next change." Every half-hour or so, she'd zoom out so all of the districts could be seen.

The task force also asked periodically for a citywide analysis of race or ethnicity, which Maptitude

displays by showing lightly populated areas in a faint color — say pale pink for up to 10% Asians in one neighborhood and deep red for 90%-100% in another.

"Race and ethnicity can't be a predominant criterion [in redistricting] by law, so the task force used it infrequently," Mac Donald said, but it can contribute to more informed decision-making.

The ability of the task force to do real-time shaping is what's put Maptitude — well, on the map. The program developer, Caliper Corp. of Maine, claims to have tens of thousands of users worldwide for its several programs. The redistricting version is used by congressional, state, city, county, school, water or other districts.

"Because people are participating in the process live," Mac Donald says, "they can visualize the information and also understand the constraints better — how moving a boundary line one block affects a single district, its neighbors and the whole."

Her main complaint about Maptitude for Redistricting is that expected competition from other software designers hasn't materialized, driving up the price: In 2002, when San Francisco used Maptitude in its first redistricting process, the program was in beta testing and cost under \$1,000. Today, it costs \$7,500. It doesn't invite much competition, she says, because redistricting is but once a decade, and the market is limited to political jurisdictions. ■

City & County of San Francisco Department of Elections

Be A Voter

June 5

Presidential Primary Election

Register to vote by **May 21**

Apply to vote by mail by **May 29**

Vote early at City Hall **May 7- June 5**

Polls open 7:00am - 8:00pm **June 5**

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

ART EVENTS

“What’s on Stage?” and People in Plazas Music Concerts’ kick-off celebration, U.N. Plaza, May 8, 12-2 p.m., featuring theater previews of Cutting Ball Theater’s “Tenderloin” and “Midsummer Night’s Dream” by American Conservatory Theater’s MFA program students; dance previews by Samantha Giron Dance Project of The Garage and Deborah Karp of CounterPULSE’s 2nd Sundays series; and music by EXIT Cafe’s Songwriter’s Saturdays artists Lane Murchison and Ira Marlowe, curated by Melissa Lyn. People in Plaza presents concerts Tuesdays at noon throughout the summer. Info: peoplein-plazas.org

8th Annual Asian Heritage Street Celebration, May 19, 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Civic Center to Little Saigon, Larkin St. from Grove to Ellis streets. Free celebration — the largest gathering of Asian Pacific Americans in the nation — features cultural procession, handmade arts and crafts, pan-Asian foods and performances, celebrity cooking and martial arts demonstrations, films, children’s area, health information and screenings, and, courtesy of Target, free admission to the Asian Art Museum. Info: asianfairsf.com

Talent in the TL, Sat. July 14, Boeddeker Park. Singers, dancers, musicians, artists, spoken word, rap, drummers, visual artists invited to show your stuff. Free community celebration presented by Friends of Boeddeker Park. Space is limited; sign up now for stage time and performance space: 225-8540.

COMMUNITY: REGULAR SCHEDULE HOUSING

Supportive Housing Network, 3rd Thursday of the month, 3-5 p.m., Dorothy Day Community, 54 McAllister St. 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/sffdnert, 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, a districtwide improvement association.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SENIORS AND DISABLED

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

Senior Action Network, general meeting, 2nd Thursday of the month, 9 a.m.-noon, Universal Unitarian Church, 1187 Franklin St. Monthly programs, 965 Mission St. #700: Senior Housing Action Committee, 3rd Wednesday, 1:30 p.m. Call for health program and Senior University: 546-1333 and www.sfsan.org.

DISTRICT 6 SUPERVISOR

Jane Kim

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

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

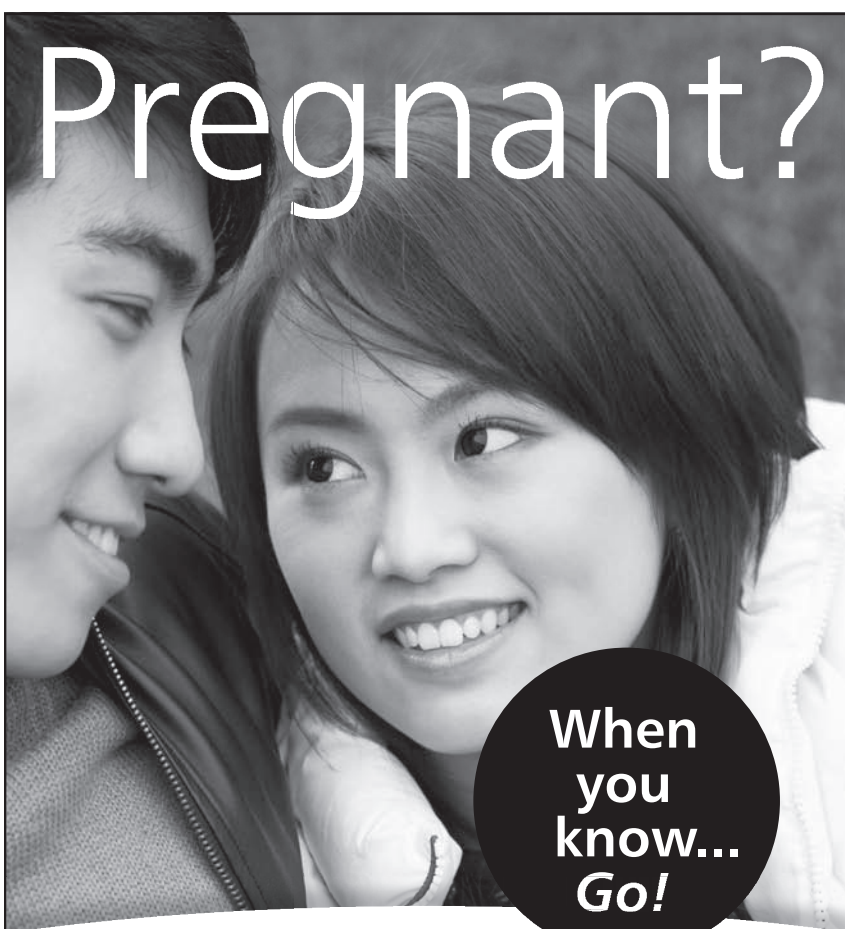
Jane.Kim@sfgov.org, 554-7970

DEATH IN THE TENDERLOIN

Central City Extra
obituaries selected and edited

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The Tenderloin Closer
Murder in the Tenderloin
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Long time San Francisco resident and local business owner Rick Cole has worked in the automotive industry for over 20 years. He takes pride in helping his community by offering quality used auto parts at a low price and collecting used motor oil and filters from the public. Rick became a used motor oil collection center to help keep his neighborhood safe from exposure to the toxic effects of hazardous waste contamination. While doing so, he has generated publicity and additional revenue for his business.



“By doing my part I reduce the amount of used motor oil that goes down the storm drain.”

– Rick Cole
Owner of ABC Auto Parts
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The oil filter is recyclable from the outer steel casing to the rubber o-ring seal. With the majority of oil filters enclosed in a steel casing, the metal is sold to scrap yards to be reused.

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Once your business has been approved to be a certified collection center, the San Francisco Department of the Environment will gladly work with your business to ensure the facility has proper recycling infrastructure. This is a great opportunity to get to know your community and keep our city clean.

Call Raquel Ruvalcaba at the Department of the Environment at (415) 355-3771 to become a collection center today!

The benefits of becoming a Used Motor Oil and Filter Collection Center are environmental AND economic. Your company can grow its green credentials and help prevent contamination on city streets. Collection Centers offer Do-It-Yourselfers (DIYer) the option of safe disposal as opposed to abandoning it on a city street. Storm drains and surface waters are protected as well. With each gallon of used motor oil collected from a DIYer, your business can receive \$0.40. In addition, for each gallon of oil generated from business activity, you can receive \$0.16. For each gallon of used motor oil recycled, at least one million gallons of water is protected from contamination.

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