

Free toilet paying off: Use soars

CBD's experiment brings relief, less waste on street

BY TOM CARTER

THE first big success in the Tenderloin CBD's campaign to staunch rampant outdoor peeing and pooping in the neighborhood comes from the humble little john that could — and did — throw its door open to the public.

The Rescue Mission bathroom, open weekdays, is averaging more than six times the flushes it got last year. One busy month recently, it averaged 11.5 uses every hour. Over a three-month period in 2011, when the pilot began, the average was 11 uses for the whole day.

Seeking what impact the enhanced use might have on human waste in the street, The Extra asked the San Francisco Clean City

Coalition, which sweeps the CBD's 29 blocks of sidewalks and gutters, for comparative data over a similar (but four-month) period. The CBD paid for the mission's toilet to open up to the public and has seeded a compostable loo, too.

The total number of incidents of human waste and urine that Clean City reported January through April was 1,080; last year's total was 1,335.

"It appears there's been about a 20% decrease in the total reporting of incidents compared to 2011," said Gia Grant, executive director. "As always, there are several things to consider and I definitely believe that increased access to restrooms, such as the Rescue Mission, makes a difference."

"Weather also has an impact on the numbers because there are a lot more people on the street when the weather is warm compared to when it is very cold or raining."

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CENTRAL CITY



SAN FRANCISCO

★ JACKIE JENKS ★



PHOTO BY TOM CARTER

Jackie Jenks has been at Hospitality House for 17 years. She arrived at the historic nonprofit a year out of college, and over the years has been schooled in the neighborhood of hard knocks.

EVOLUTION OF A LEADER

Hospitality House head has grown up in her role

BY TOM CARTER

IT WAS an unlikely day 17 years ago when Central City Hospitality House hired Jackie Jenks, a demure young woman, white, a journalism graduate a year out of college and unsure what she wanted out of life, certainly a stranger to poverty and the miseries of homelessness.

Yet there she was in the middle of the brooding Tenderloin. Too rough, her friends in the East Bay where she was living had said. Stay out of it. But, having finished a year with VISTA training volunteers at the Alameda County Food Bank in Oakland, the U. of Dayton graduate was set on following up a Hospitality House ad in the Chronicle that intrigued her. Social justice meant as much to her as writing.

Jenks took BART over, grabbed coffee at Carl's Jr. on U.N. Plaza and walked up Leavenworth, "maybe a little overdressed" from another interview, she recalls. Wearing heels and a skirt, she raised eyebrows and a whistle or two.

A panel of eight interviewed her and asked hard questions, she says. Understandably, they had doubts about her in the neighborhood. Would she feel safe? How'd she feel if the street people she was to serve rejected her?

Jenks left with a sinking feeling. But at home a telephone message was waiting. They wanted to schedule a second inter-

view. Days afterward, Kate Durham, the executive director, hired her.

"She was young, young, young," says Durham who works now with Beyond Emancipation, a nonprofit serving Oakland foster youth. "But she was incredibly smart, fearless and dedicated to community-rooted work. Her determination was clear in the interview. We wanted her to help with employment but we didn't have a lot of resources. We were asking her to make magic happen and it didn't bother her. I was impressed. She was ready to make adjustments."

"It's the best hire I ever did. I say that to this day."

Jenks has gone on to become a pillar of the underserved TL community. Now in her 11th year as Hospitality House executive director, she works with a \$3.3 million budget and oversees four major programs that affect thousands. She's earned a reputation for getting things done in dire times, and doing it with inspiring optimism, a cool head and a steady hand. A staff of 45 helps her turn the wheels. The vast majority were Hospitality House clients.

From City Hall to the state Capitol Jenks is known as a fearless advocate for the homeless and low-income.

"But her real work is behind the scenes," says her friend Jennifer Friedenbach, Coalition on Homelessness executive director. "She has this amazing commitment to look out for the Tenderloin community. And she's a leader who follows the people, modest and not someone who seeks the lime-light."

In summer 2010, the Human Services Agency wanted to cut shelter stays from 90 days to a maximum seven with two

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PHOTO BY TOM CARTER

Hyphae Lab founder and compostable toilet-maker Brent Bucknum examines the survey map showing where TL businesses said yes to a request to use the bathroom.

Money in early for \$6 million park makeover

Boeddeker will close 18 months; construction to start in August

BY TOM CARTER

CONSTRUCTION on Boeddeker Park's \$6 million renovation will start in August, months earlier than expected, a Trust for Public Land spokeswoman announced at the park Friends' May meeting.

The Trust got the \$500,000 it needed to reach the \$6 million goal for renovation, so bidding and permitting can begin, said Trudy Garber, project associate. The Trust, a partner with the Rec and Park Department on the project, got the millions from the state and private donors.

The park will close for construction for 18 months.

Alejandra Chiesa, Trust project manager for the renovation, said at the Friends meeting in January that "a changed permit process" was holding things up. She hoped then to have the permits in April. The bidding process, she said, would take at least four months, putting construction in the fall, but unforeseen circumstances could push it to 2013. In May, Garber was more optimistic.

"There's no exact date," she said. "But we are fully funded now and can move forward. We think the park will close Aug. 1."

That would cancel plans to make the park the central gathering place for the neighborhood's annual National Night Out, Aug. 14, police Capt. Joe Garrity said, adding that another venue will have to be found.

The renovation will rid the park of its much-criticized, prison-like fencing. The park will be reconfigured on four tiers and get a new, glassy clubhouse.

Carol Marie Daniels, Arts Commission spokeswoman, said the park's outdoor sculptures will be removed in June and stored in the East Bay, to be returned after the renovation. The



PHOTO SAN FRANCISCO ARTS COMMISSION

Artist Johanna Poethig, who created the clubhouse mural, is seen in 1988 with Recreation Center children who conceived and designed the mythical creature, "Flying Dragon-Snake-Monkey-Bird." This work will not survive the park demolition.

sculptures are: "Ark," by Bruce Hasson, "Redding School, Self Portrait," by Ruth Asawa and "Untitled," by Anthony Jerome Smith.

"Ark" and "Untitled," bronze pieces weighing 700 and 800 pounds, respectively, went into the park in 1986, a year after it opened. Each artist was paid \$20,400. "Ark" shows chiseled animals. "Untitled" is a sphere held by a pair of hands. The sphere has 14 life-size, inset faces of neighborhood notables, including Smith, who the commission is trying to find to alert him that his work is being moved.

The Asawa piece is a tribute to Father Alfred Boeddeker, the Franciscan priest who founded St. Anthony's Dining Room and is the park's namesake. The 4- by 16.5-foot bas relief wall mural is a portrait of Boeddeker surrounded by children and San Francisco scenes. Assisting Asawa

were 100 schoolchildren from nearby Redding Elementary. Installed in 1985, it consists of glass fiber reinforced concrete that can be moved and reinstalled.

Not so fortunate is Johanna Poethig's popular and colorful "Flying Dragon-Snake-Monkey-Bird" mural inside the clubhouse on the east wall. Park children conceived the mythical creature, then helped Poethig color and glaze the tiles. The \$15,000 project went up in 1988.

Because of exorbitant removal and reinstallation costs (\$46,000), the 11- by 14-foot piece "will not survive the Boeddeker Park renovation," Daniels said.

Rec and Park's Steve Cismowski asked at the meeting what hours people wanted the park to be open until construction begins. Now, it's open to all from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. weekdays,

with the children's playground open until 5 p.m. for kids accompanied by an adult.

"I can only afford 15 hours a week," said Cismowski, referring to the city's ability to pay an on-site Rec and Park director.

The group of a dozen favored noon to 3 p.m. Cismowski said he would try for that.

Earlier he'd said the park's custodians have discovered a rash of needle dumping, up to 20 needles daily in the last two months, tossed over the permanently closed Ellis Street gate and over the Eddy Street fence, near the children's play area. "But no injuries that we know of," he said.

Weekend volunteers' work has been suspended, said Betty Traynor, Friends chair. But performers can register for the July 14 Talent in the Tenderloin show until the end of June.

GOOD NEWS for...

CAMELOT RESIDENTS Thirty Charles Schwab employees, clad in jeans and blue-T-shirts emblazoned with "Together for Good" and "Aspire Higher," brought cleaning and painting equipment to the Camelot Hotel May 22 to spruce up the DPH master-leased SRO, which houses 55 formerly homeless tenants and is managed by Delivering Innovation in Supportive Housing (DISH). The makeover was part of Schwab's annual Volunteer Week, where 2,600 of the company's employees put in time on 118 projects in 45 cities. Two days after the Camelot gig, another 20 Schwabbies gathered at the Tenderloin Boys & Girls Clubhouse on Jones Street.



PHOTO BY QUANG NGUYEN

Volunteer Week Schwabbies sprucing up the Camelot Hotel.

They cleared surfaces, sorted educational materials and scrubbed everything clean, including the windows. "The community service gives us a unique opportunity to team up with colleagues and pitch in for organizations that do great work," says Schwab Foundation President Carrie Schwab-Pomerantz. "It's no secret

that the event is a lot of fun, too." Since Volunteer Week began in 2003, St. Vincent de Paul, San Francisco City Impact, the Salvation Army, Glide Memorial Church and Compass Children's Center have benefited.

THE TENDERLOIN Give TNDC credit for putting the emphasis in the right place. It awarded popular Mimi Yee, owner and manager of the Manor House restaurant on Jones Street, its Brother Kelly Cullen Community Services Award for 2012. It's given to "an individual who shows extraordinary community spirit and compassion in providing services to San Francisco's poorest and neediest residents." Mimi serves good food at low-cost — hearty breakfasts for \$2.95, balanced luncheon meals that fill you up for \$4.95. Manor House, especially to SRO dwellers, is a meeting place like an oasis where Mimi greets everyone by name. For the 16 years that she's had the restaurant (the anniversary is June 25), her warmth, generous spirit and fairness have endeared her to customers. "But I had to earn everybody's respect," she says. She's assisted six days a week (closed Sundays)

by her "strong team" of two sisters, her husband and brother-in-law. TNDC's Executive Director Don Falk dropped in one day to offer personal congratulations after the May 9 awards ceremony in the Hilton Hotel, which Mimi had missed.



PHOTO BY MICHAEL NULTY

Mimi Yee gets kudos from TNDC's Don Falk for Brother Kelly Award.

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



Evolution of a community leader

▶ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

renewals, 21 days total. Jenks fought harder than anyone to stop it. The city owns nine shelters run by nonprofit contractors who critics say are reluctant to oppose HSA policies, fearing reprisal. Jenks told HSA it can take way longer than 21 days to find permanent housing for the homeless, and turning people back out into the street with no place to stay traumatizes them. The plan was scotched.

"She's courageous and not afraid to stand up for folks," says Friedenbach who has worked with Jenks on raising the city's standard of care in shelters.

The Hospitality House budget is balanced like a portfolio: 48% city government funds, 38% state, 6% federal and 8% private donations. But 92% public money makes it highly vulnerable. The city has threatened cuts seven times in Jenks' 10 years as executive director. For six years, D6 Supervisor Chris Daly got the supes to restore them. Last year, Supervisor Jane Kim got it done. The arduous process seems a mandatory waste of time and energy for Jenks and supporters who organize to testify at every public hearing.

"Some of the years it's partial and others it's the entire budget," Jenks says of the proposed cuts, sitting at a dusty table when workmen were finishing Hospitality House's shelter renovations in February. "But it's significant and more than we could get privately."

THOUSANDS DROP IN

The heart of Hospitality House is the drop-in self-help center at 290 Turk St. Last year 15,000 people, many deeply scarred from trauma, half of them homeless, made 72,000 visits. They used the free phones, bathrooms and the grubby lounge to rest their street-feet and to socialize. Programs are optional.

Jenks is proud of her peer, drop-in center staff hired from the neighborhood.

"They are able to relate to people at a deeper level because of their own experience," she says, "and they give



Jenks' posse: Hospitality House Executive Director Jackie Jenks, center, with some of her 45-member staff before their weekly Monday meeting at the Leavenworth shelter.

PHOTO BY TOM CARTER

back to the community as role models who have gone through rough times.

"And we know people over the course of time — I always thought that was special," Jenks says, "knowing people during their ups and downs. At the heart, it's where people can get things when they need them and at a low threshold entry point. No eligibility requirements. They can come to us in various states of mind. We don't ask a lot of questions."

Hospitality House began as a drop-in gathering spot for flower children who flooded the Haight-Ashbury during 1967's Summer of Love. It, along with Huckleberry's for Runaways and other programs, launched the modern era of free, nonprofit human services in San Francisco.

"We're still a community center but we are part of people's lives at different points," Jenks says. "Someone may get help from us and later seek employment, or volunteer to help us. Some become donors or supporters. Maybe they were one time in our shelter."

MILLION-DOLLAR SHELTER

Hospitality House's shelter at 146 Leavenworth began in 1982 after the homeless population exploded. It was a terrible winter and a line stretched around the corner to snap up one of the 25 second-floor beds for the night. The popular art program that now attracts 2,000 artists occupied the main floor.

As the years wore on, the place got a pass on ADA compliance because of its long-term occupancy and the 1920 building's age. When the owners decided to sell in 2008, it gave Hospitality House first bid. And when the state helped swing the purchase, Jenks started wondering if bringing the shelter up to ADA code was possible for the cash-poor nonprofit. It was unacceptable that people on crutches and wheelchairs had to negotiate the stairs for a bed. It was time to "treat everyone with dignity."

With finally landing enough grants, including \$1 million from the state, the \$1.2 million renovation, which included a basement-to-second-floor elevator, was finished in May. The dignitaries attending the May 4 reopening were full of praise.

Former Mayor Brown, who Jenks said had solidly backed Hospitality House in its budget crises, was impressed with the accomplishment. He remarked at the podium that it took "hundreds and hundreds of hours just to get that elevator." On a building tour later he described Jenks for The Extra as a "rare, dedicated human being whose characteristics and skills should be replicated in all nonprofits."

Introducing Bevan Dufty, the city's director of Housing Opportunity, Partnerships and Engagement, Jenks recalled once taking 16 clients to City Hall to find support. She showed up at then-Supervisor Dufty's office, unannounced. "He invited us all in and went around the room asking everyone how they would be affected by the budget cuts," Jenks told the crowd. "I'll always remember that as a special day."

Dufty calls her fearless. "Sadly," he adds, "she's had to battle so much for her program. But she stood tall, held her ground. I hope we stop making it so tough on her."

This year's budget strife began March 29 when Districts 5 and 6 interests converged at a jammed Mayor's Town Hall meeting in the Tenderloin Community School's auditorium. It was a community input-only session for the mayor's revolutionary two-year budget. Hospitality House, on the ropes again, was eyeing a proposed \$295,000 cut. Randomly chosen speakers made pleas via microphone before the mayor, department heads and Supervisors Kim and Christina Olague, all seated in front. In the first half hour, a half dozen speakers passionately extolled their oasis in the bleak Tenderloin as Jenks and some staff watched from the back, ready for another all-out campaign.

One formerly homeless man, a Mission Hotel resident through Hospitality House's help, evoked the image of a homeless man in a wheelchair in the rain seeking overnight shelter from a doorway. "We need two or three more Hospitality Houses!" he blurted.

In late May, the tables turned. Mayor Ed Lee restored all the cuts and Hospitality House, through its contract with the Department of Public Health, was solid for two years.

Jenks was "very relieved" and especially happy over the mayor's extra measures to strengthen the city's nonprofit contractors. He included a 1% increase on nonprofits' cost of doing business and instituted prebudget meetings with the nonprofit stakeholders in the neighborhood. Already, Jenks was moving with the momentum.

Insiders say Jenks has retained the qualities the interviewing panel first saw in her 17 years ago. But as she has matured and grown in her role one major change has been obvious.

"She used to have input," says Paul Boden, a close adviser. "Now she has sway."

Jenks introduced Boden as a main speaker at the shelter reopening and "a mentor, a friend and rock to me."

Boden, homeless at 16 after the

death of his mother, was in line and dodging torrential rain for a Hospitality House shelter bed in January 1983. Though times are better now, he told the crowd, the Gordian knot of homelessness still exists and is his daily challenge.

Boden was Friedenbach's predecessor at the Coalition on Homelessness for 16 years and a founder of the Community Housing Partnership, its board president for 10 years.

Jenks "bought into the Hospitality House mission" and has stayed steadfast to it, Boden later told The Extra. Her "sway is a position she takes very seriously. Her sense of commitment and role is bigger than her office — she represents a community (of homelessness)."

JENKS' INIMITABLE STYLE

Her courage, again, is what strikes insiders. She has "inimitable style," Boden calls it, "hard core."

Program Director Elvis Byrd, 28, remembers meeting her 10 years ago as a teenager. She later hired him as a shelter staff substitute. For years, juggling a load of meetings, he notes, she kept her office in the back of the drop-in center to be close to the action and the staff. She's a rock under pressure like budget crises or when broken toilets one year flooded both the drop-in center and the shelter.

"She has extremely optimistic views," Byrd says. "It helps us through hard times and holds us together."

"Most people in her position last two to three years before they burn out. She's been here 17. She's a natural, a model — it's her calling."

Looking back, Jenks was asked, what did she think the panel saw 17 years ago that convinced them to take the gamble.

"I think I gained acceptance by being genuine and forthright about what I brought, being honest about what I didn't know, being open to what came my way." She paused. "Keeping my word. Being consistent. Being loyal."

Jenks recalled a definition from her high school principal in Toledo years ago: "Integrity's something you do when no one is watching." I've tried to operate that way. People watch what you do inside, or on the street. So you want to strive for integrity in your actions.

"It's a cliché, but Hospitality House called to me, spoke to me, the community of people there — they don't hesitate to say what's up. But I had to earn their trust. I was pretty young and had a lot to learn. Still do. But I grew up at Hospitality House."

Lenny Limjoco 1954-2012

An obituary will appear in the July issue

CENTRAL CITY
EXTRA!

NEWS IS A COMMUNITY SERVICE
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DISH throws a party to celebrate it



PHOTOS BY JOHN MARK JOHNSON/DISH

At the DISH raffle table, Molly White, assistant general manager, Windsor Hotel, left, and Emily Van Loon, assistant general manager of the Empress Hotel, part of the SRO staff that helps formerly homeless stabilize their housing — and their lives.

Event gives testimony to how on-site staff help recently homeless find they can go home again

BY JONATHAN NEWMAN

THE IMPORTANCE of supportive housing in the city's strategy to combat homelessness was made clear by the stories of four formerly homeless people at DISH's second annual Tenant Appreciation Party.

Delivering Innovation in Supportive Housing (DISH) took over the Kroc Center gym May 16 to throw the party, a tribute to the homeless who the Department of Public Health's Direct Access to Housing program helped leave the streets and move into a stable home.

DISH, a 6-year-old nonprofit, contracts exclusively with the DPH housing program to provide front desk, custodial and maintenance services at six SRO hotels — the Camelot, Empress, Le Nain, Pacific Bay Inn and Windsor in the Tenderloin and the Star on Mission Street — homes for 450 formerly homeless who have a history of special needs: mental health issues, substance abuse problems or chronic medical conditions.

With 70 employees, DISH keeps the hotels running smoothly. "Everybody can use a good concierge," Director Doug Gary said.

In this city of tight housing and cut-throat high rents, a property manager dedicated to your comfort is a bonus for a ten-



The popular popcorn cart adds a carnival flair to the Tenant Appreciation Party.

ant; a property manager who throws a party in your honor is a rare bird, indeed.

More than 100 formerly homeless adults, many wreathed in neon green and yellow Mardi Gras beads, dined on chicken, pasta and burgers, sang along and applauded a local open-mic talent show and alternately cheered and groaned at the calling of winning raffle numbers.

They took keepsake four-to-a-strip face photos in old style booths and munched cart-popped corn and chocolates by the bagful. And they proudly accepted the DISH tribute for leaving homelessness and seeking safe housing.

Housing the homeless is the simple solution to a vexing city problem, but the

nuts and bolts of housing and, more importantly, supporting the homeless through the oft-perilous transition from life on the street to a settled home requires the combined efforts of landlord and tenant.

DPH supplies support services in-house — case managers, social workers, nurses and home care aides — to the tenants. DISH manages the property.

One thing DPH knows: If the homeless can settle into a stable residence, their ongoing dependency and demand on hospitals, emergency ambulances, police, probation and courts lessen and the costs to the city go down.

The key to that happening is housing the homeless properly: Give them a lot of help. And be patient.

ts SRO residents

True stories from the DISH party

DONNA FOWLER, 54

She came to the Empress Hotel on Eddy Street eight years ago, after unsuccessful attempts to beat alcoholism and depression. Her 22-year marriage ended in 2002 and court orders severely limited access to her two teenage sons. She had no money and no job, but found a place to live in a faith-based recovery program in San Jose. It didn't work.

She returned to San Francisco, living outside during the day, using shelters at night. "I thought I'd do the hippie thing," she says. "You know, live outside, be free." But she didn't find a welcoming community in Golden Gate Park.

"I was scared, scared of being beaten, robbed, raped. I kept to myself," she remembers. When the winter rains came, she couldn't keep warm and dry. She



PHOTOS BY JONATHAN NEWMAN

Donna Fowler

volunteered at Coalition on Homelessness, initially as a way to cadge a few hours indoors away from the cold and damp. It was her first exposure to homeless services in the city and the first time she listened to some-

one's advice.

"When I was working at the Coalition, they saw I wasn't acting right. They said I could get help and I guess I was tired and scared enough to listen," she says.

Donna accepted a referral to Conard House and began therapy at the city's South of Market Mental Health Services. She got the proper diagnosis and eventually the right medications for her obsessive-compulsive disorder and manic depression. She learned that she qualified for Social Security disability benefits from her work 20 years earlier with the Theatrical Employees Union and she qualified for supportive housing.

"I'm safe here. I live in a clean and quiet unit. There are nurses on duty who help me with my medication and paratransit," she says. She hasn't yet seen her now-adult sons, but has stopped drinking.

ROY IS 63

He lives at the Pacific Bay Inn Hotel on Jones Street. "I get good help. These people know things. They're like my family," he says of the house staff and support personnel.

Roy came to the city from Chicago in 1973, already addicted to heroin and a cocaine user as well. Still, he managed with his wife to cobble a place to live and to find work in the shipyards, roofing and construction trades. "I wanted to change my lifestyle then, and I did for a while, but it didn't last," he says.

Roy turned to selling drugs. His wife became ill and returned to her family in Washington, D.C.,

where she died. Roy was homeless and selling and using drugs. "I'd hustle, stay in abandoned buildings, flop with friends when I could," he says. He got nabbed, charged with heavy possession, convicted and sentenced to San Quentin. In time the correctional system transferred him to Tracy. After five years he was released to San Francisco county.

Referred to Walden House, he sought stable housing through the city. "I learned to take responsibility for myself, to start choosing better things," he says. "Street life destroyed my family and it destroys other families, too."

Sometimes, Roy thinks of returning to Chicago's South Side where his brother lives. "There's a community there. I never saw anybody eating out of a garbage can in Chicago."

44-YEAR-OLD JOSHUA H.

He has lived at the Star Hotel for six months, after a lengthy stint on the street. "I'd sleep in the shelters, take my meal-a-day at the free places and drink. I'd panhandle, scavenge cans and bottles, enough for the booze. I was self-medicating, but I didn't know it."

Before homelessness, Joshua, born in the city and raised in Sonoma County, worked construction, owned a commercial fishing boat and a home. When he and his partner split, the legal bills in the ensuing property dis-

pute mounted. The custody battle for his 8-year-old son overwhelmed him and he fled to the street.

"I couldn't see my son. The only place I had was the playground, and that wasn't good enough — not right for the boy," he says. Eight years later, a street brawl over alcohol left him with multiple stab wounds; he spent a long recovery at S.F. General, where he was eventually diagnosed with bipolar disorder.

He has a case worker now at the Star Hotel and he takes his medications regularly. He has stopped drinking, but he's ashamed to be eating his meals at St. Anthony's and Glide. "Too



Joshua H.

much like the street days. All I want now is a job," he says.

SHE'S 43 YEARS OLD

She doesn't want her name used. "You can call me Margaret," she says. She once worked in banking in the international offices of a global corporation in Hong Kong and Japan, but lost her job in 2008 when the economy tanked. She returned to the city, found odd jobs and parttime work. Then she contracted MRSA, a rare staph infection that can mutate to resist antibiotic treatments.

"Thank God for Healthy S.F. It got me through," she says, referring to the city's mandated private employer health insurance. Still, the disease ravaged her health and her small savings. She spent months at S.F. General and lost her apart-

ment. When deemed well, she was discharged with a voucher for extended stay at Lutheran Services' women's shelter, but the infection returned and back she went to General.

Margaret has lived at Pacific Bay Inn Hotel for three months. Her case manager monitors her Social Security disability income and Margaret is growing adept with her wheelchair, a necessity to offset weakness of her back and legs from her serious infection. On weekends she works with cats and kittens at the city's Animal Care and Control. "I love them," she says. "I don't trust people who don't like animals." She drops her voice. "If there's one thing I could change about DISH, it's their no-pets policy."

— Jonathan Newman

Press Club honors Central City Extra

BY CENTRAL CITY EXTRA STAFF

THE SAN FRANCISCO Peninsula Press Club recognized The Extra's contribution to local journalism, with three awards in its annual media contest.

The 198 awards presented at the May 19 event went to print and online journalists, radio and TV personnel and PR professionals in 11 counties around the Bay Area. The Extra's awards were in the nondaily newspaper category.

Tom Carter, The Extra's community reporter, took home second place in the Series category for his four-parter on the neighborhood's efforts to install free toilets. The stories appeared in the February, June, July and November 2011 issues.

Our ongoing coverage of this social concern that is peculiar to the Tenderloin continues on Page One with Carter's update on the collaboration between the S.F. Rescue Mission and the Tenderloin CBD.

Extra Publisher and Editor Geoff Link took home third place for his headline for Carter's June 2011 story about the TL CBD's three-month pilot program: "Free toilet cost over \$5 a flush."

Senior Writer Marjorie Beggs' March 2011 "Internet Limbo" story about the growth of computer training and Internet access in the Tenderloin won second place in the Business/Technology category.

In the face of the tech explosion south of Market, income continues to be a factor in the digital divide represented literally by Market Street, despite Twitter, Zynga, Zendesk and others moving to the boulevard boundary but not across it.

"It's gratifying to be honored by our professional peers for our coverage of the Tenderloin," Link said. "It helps keep a spotlight on the neighborhood and its concerns."

Central City Extra in October received the Society of Professional Journalists Northern California Chapter's 2011 award for Community News among nondailies. The Extra competed with newspapers from Sacramento to Salinas, including the Bay Guardian, SF Weekly and the San Francisco Examiner.



Free toilet use soars; street waste plunges

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Mindful of disgusting filth in the streets and mounting complaints about it, the CBD tried to get a number of nonprofits last year to open their restrooms to the public but had no luck — until it turned inward.

CBD President Clint Ladine is Rescue Mission's program director. He helped form an agreement for the mission bathroom at 140 Turk St. to be open for public use during a three-month pilot.

Soon after, the CBD intensified its campaign in another direction. It awarded Hyphae Design Laboratory in Oakland \$20,000 seed money to develop a compostable outdoor potty for the public. It would be the nation's first.

Hyphae's plan for the prototype, based on its neighborhood surveys and feedback from public meetings, is to be delivered to a CBD committee June 10. Hyphae needs \$100,000 total to finance the toilet's development but has only the CBD grant.

Meanwhile, recent data from the mission's toilet show that CBD's gamble has paid off.

Results for the last three months show the toilet was used about 4,500 times, a great leap from the pilot's 748 uses for the same three months in 2011 when, on average, just 11 people a day visited the john. By fall the average had climbed to 32 per day.

Ladine attributed the popularity

burst to two main influences.

"The ink in The Extra and then other places, and word of mouth," he said. "I get calls from (Hospitality House) Self-Help wanting to know if it's open so they can send people down here. The numbers were so low in the beginning because it was new. But when it got consistency, and word was on the street, people started rolling in."

Typically, twice as many men as women use the toilet.

Ladine worried in the beginning that the program might get wrecked by plumbing stoppages that the mission couldn't afford.

"I thought we'd have problems with people shooting up, the toilet getting clogged and having hassles with people. But it hasn't been bad. We had one stoppage and I bought a \$40 snake and fixed it. A couple of times we've had to knock on the door to get someone out. But it has been a good surprise. Maybe we're just lucky. It's a model that can work in other places — with people taking care of it, it gets respect."

The CBD pays \$1,300 a month for supplies and a monitor, Carlos Jackson, who keeps an eye on things and maintains the data from the clipboard hanging on the wall next to the bathroom door. The CBD approved the project for all of 2012, with a review due this month.

Ladine and Jackson said they expect the toilet's usage during sum-



PHOTO BY TOM CARTER

The Rescue Mission's toilet survived a six-fold increase in usage and incurred only one plumbing problem.

'May I use your restroom?' Nearly 1/3 of businesses say yes

Hyphae Labs hosted a "public toilet workshop night" April 12, a rainy evening meeting attended by 14 people, most connected with Hyphae. On one wall were results of an unusual survey, accompanied by neighborhood crime data from one week in December to indicate "hot spots" unsuitable for siting the toilet.

The survey sought to find how hospitable Tenderloin and SoMa merchants are to someone off the street needing a bathroom. In both areas, nearly a third of the businesses said yes, an encouraging show of civility.

Hyphae had sent a white, formerly homeless man out in the Tenderloin and SoMa on sunny weekdays between 4 and 6 p.m. for a month. He was clean and casually dressed. Hyphae's Julia Schmitt. He asked markets, shops and hotels if he could please use the restroom. He visited 123 places in the Tenderloin, Schmitt said, and 40 said yes (32.5%). In SoMa, he hit 240 places and 70

said yes (29.2%).

"In the evening, though, I think people would have more problems," Schmitt said. "There were a lot of variables, so I took it with a grain of salt. Maybe it depends on the person coming in. We'll send a different ethnicity next time, or a woman. I think our guy looked too much like a tourist. He was wearing a sweat-shirt," suggesting that a shabby person would be less welcome.

Bankrolling the survey was \$3,000 from an anonymous donor. There's money left for a second survey, which Hyphae intends, Bucknum said.

Hyphae preferred anonymity for the businesses willing to help a noncustomer in need. Yes-and-no dots on a map showed no dominant area. Larger ringed areas showed four main spots where public voting last year suggested placing a public toilet. The main site was a Jones Street parking space near Golden Gate Avenue.

— Tom Carter



The Knox and Bayanihan House SROs provided by the Tenants and Owners Development Corporation (TODCO), has an open wait list for low-income affordable housing.

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	Maximum / Minimum Income Limit
Knox:	1 person - \$34,600 per year (maximum income) \$854 per month (minimum income) Rent: \$545.00 Deposit \$545.00
	2 person - \$39,520 per year (maximum income) \$854 per month (minimum income)
Bayanihan:	1 person - \$30,275 per year (maximum income) \$854 per month (minimum income)
	2 person - \$34,580 per year (maximum income) \$854 per month (minimum income) Rent: \$545.00 Deposit \$545.00

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

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



TDD: (415) 345-4470



mer to increase.

Meanwhile, Hyphae has ended its major public outreach after holding a monthlong informational drop-in at the Luggage Store's 509 Ellis St. storefront. The staff was available weekdays 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. for toilet talk, to hear ideas for a dream compostable W.C. in the Tenderloin, or to listen to grousing about the crapping on the concrete outdoors.

"We got a lot of people living on the street — 30 or 40 — who we wouldn't see at public meetings," said Bucknum. "Sometimes we had to walk out on the sidewalk to talk to them."

"We've met a lot of characters, junkies, too," Bucknum said. "But you see a sense of pride in the neighborhood. Some wanted to just talk about issues like crack and cocaine. So we'd talk about that, then ask how they'd design it (a toilet) so that wouldn't happen (inside). They came up with 15 to 20 features to consider."

On the storefront's outside, a sign invited people to write something, anything, about toilets with dry eraser markers on the windows. A lot written

was illegible. Sidewalk conversations varied. One man suggested the toilet should have a vibrating floor to signal when a user's time was up, and shake hard enough to wake a sleeper.

The ecological public toilet would be portable, maybe a three-unit stall, one each for men, women and disabled. Waste would be trucked to the Southeast Water Pollution Control Plant on Jerrold Street where 80% of the city's sewage is treated, including porto-potty "humanure." Hyphae hopes its contributions will return to the TL as "soil" to fertilize inedible vegetation.

If the toilet uses water, possibly the city's or rainwater, it would be only in a sink and for maintenance.

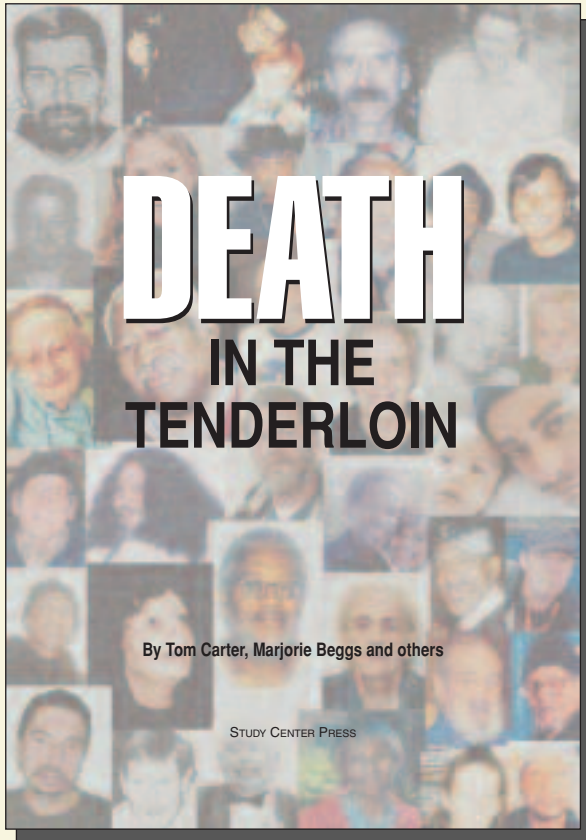
When perfected, Hyphae wants to sell models for \$50,000 to \$80,000 each.

Delivering the master plan will end the CBD's contract with Hyphae.

"The CBD will decide next steps then — whether to stand pat and let Hyphae go on its way alone, seeking grants, or to hook up with them in another arrangement," Hilliard said.

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

— Jim Mildon, Writer and Editor



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- * Marvel at the life and splendid works of selfless Hank Wilson, "Teresa of the Tenderloin."
- * And, to hear the message at its plainest, listen to the wisdom of Raymond Evans' good friend, Alexia Gleaves:
"Yesterday is history,
Tomorrow is a mystery.
Today is a gift. That's why
they call it the present."

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SPECIAL EVENT

Police Commission meeting in the Tenderloin, June 27, 201 Turk Community Room, 6 p.m. Info: 345-7400.

ART EVENTS

Summer of Art, June 5, U.N. Plaza, noon-2 p.m., *What's On Stage?*, a dance and theater preview series showcasing upcoming performances at neighborhood venues such as EXIT Theatre, A.C.T.'s Costume Shop and CounterPULSE, with music by Tenderloin resident artists.

Art on Market Street Poster Series, presented by the Arts Commission, kicks off June 11 between 8th Street and the Embarcadero with six original, full-color pen-and-ink drawings by Paul Madonna, well-known for his "All Over Coffee" illustrations in the *San Francisco Chronicle*. The posters will be on view through September 28. Info: sfartscommission.org/pubartcollection.

People in Plazas summer concerts, June schedule for free outdoor concerts in the central Market area: U.N. Plaza, noon-2 p.m., June 12 Colibri (Mexican), and Andre Thierry (zydeco) June 26. Concerts are part of the Arts Commission's Summer of Art.

"Two by 24: Love on Loop," June 19, U.N. Plaza, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. RAWdance's eight-hour outdoor contemporary dance installation includes 20-minute performances by 24 dancers from the city's major companies with music by composer Dan Wool. Info: rawdance.org.

Streetopia, through June 23, group exhibition of 132 artists, performers, writers, filmmakers, activists, thinkers and public policy makers, presented by the Luggage Store in central city venues to address the show's theme of Utopian aspirations for San Francisco. Info and schedule: streetopiasf.com.



Zydeco Andre Thierry plays zydeco June 26 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 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.

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-ticbd.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.

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City and County of San Francisco
June 2012 Monthly

BOARD of SUPERVISORS

Upcoming 2012 Regularly Scheduled Board Meetings

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

June 12, 19, 26
July 10, 17, 24, 31

The Members of the Board of Supervisors sit on eight committees which are open to the public. Please refer to the Board's website for up-to-date meeting announcements, information, agendas and minutes. www.sfbos.org

Budget and Finance Subcommittee meets every Wednesday, at 10:00am in Room 250. Supervisors Chu, Avalos, Kim

Budget and Finance - meets every Wednesday, at 1:00pm in Room 250. Supervisors Chu, Avalos, Kim, Cohen, Wiener

City Operations & Neighborhood Services - meets on the 2nd & 4th Monday at 10:00am in Room 250. Supervisors Elsbernd, Chu, Olague

Government Audit & Oversight - meets on the 2nd & 4th Thursday at 1:00pm in Room 263. Supervisors Farrell, Elsbernd, Chiu

Land Use & Economic Development - meets every Monday at 1:00pm in Room 263. Supervisors Mar, Cohen, Wiener

Public Safety - meets on the 1st & 3rd Thursday at 10:30am in Room 250. Supervisors Avalos, Olague, Mar

Rules - meets 1st & 3rd Thursday at 1:30pm in Room 263. Supervisors Kim, Farrell, Campos

Joint City & School District Select - meets on the 4th Thursday at 3:30pm in Room 250. Supervisors Campos, Olague, Chiu

All meetings take place in City Hall, #1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, 94102.

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To sign up, go to: <https://www.alertsf.org/>.

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