

Good Neighbor takes hit from City Planning

Commission won't allow liquor-sale transfer to new grocery store nearby

BY TOM CARTER

AFTER 17 years of doing business as Grand Liquors in the Tenderloin, owner Karim Rantisi faces a survival test after the Planning Commission stopped him from selling liquor across the street where he is relocating his grocery business.

The commission Sept. 10 voted 6 to 1 to deny the "liquor store" transfer from 67 Taylor St., while encouraging him to proceed with the new business about 60 feet away at 90 Turk St. as Tip Top Market.

The commission cited the saturation of liquor stores in the special use district and the need to stem problems from alcohol abuse. The commission has jurisdiction over liquor store transfers, but not licenses per se.

But a technical point over the commission's jurisdiction might send Rantisi's lawyer, former District Attorney Terence Hallinan, to a higher authority. When The Extra discovered that 90 Turk St. is outside the North of Market Residential Special Use District, we informed Hallinan. It is "a serious issue" that he'll look into, he said.

"There appears to be a mixup over the neighborhood versus the SUD and it has led to some confusion," Hallinan told The Extra. "It seems like an expansion

of the commission's powers and a good basis for appealing to the supervisors or maybe going into court."

The commission, by city law, considers liquor store relocations within the SUD to control them. The SUD boundaries are Taylor, Post, Polk and Golden Gate Avenue. Grand Liquors is at the SUD's edge at 67 Taylor St., but there's nothing in Section 249.5 of the City Planning Code that gives the commission control over stores transferring outside those boundaries.

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CENTRAL CITY



SAN FRANCISCO

CATHEDRAL HILL



Rendering of California Pacific Medical Center's proposed new Cathedral Hill Hospital, which covers a city block, is shown here from the corner of Van Ness and Post.

HOSPITAL-IZED

Central city gears up for battle with giant med center

BY MARJORIE BEGGS

CALIFORNIA Pacific Medical Center wants to build a 555-bed hospital on Van Ness between Geary and Post. Neighbors, nurses and some city officials think that's way too big.

"We want something the neighborhood can handle," says Melinda LaValle, a board member of the Cathedral Hill Neighbors Association, formed to oppose CPMC's plans for an even bigger hospital at the site three years ago.

CPMC also wants to demolish its 140-bed St. Luke's Hospital in the Mission and rebuild it with 86 beds. Neighbors, nurses and some city officials think that's way too small to be viable.

St. Luke's nurse Mary Michelucci wonders how a rebuilt hospital could meet community needs if it has only six intensive care beds. In July, reported Mission Loc@l Web news, she told a community meeting that she'd recently had 12 patients in intensive care, eight of them on ventilators.

Many believe building two 250-bed hospitals makes sense, an idea that CPMC rejects. It wants to put most of its acute care and its women's and children's inpatient programs — now pieced out at its California Pacific, Pacific Presbyterian, St. Luke's and

Davies campuses — in a single location on Cathedral Hill.

"Going to a 250/250 bed scenario would necessitate dismantling one or the other of these programs and moving them in parts," seriously compromising the quality of the specialized care, says Geoffrey Nelson, CPMC director of enterprise development.

CPMC's Institutional Master Plan has as many supporters as opponents, and discussions are reaching fever pitch. But both sides are climbing a steep path, littered with slippery statistics, looming deadlines, and issues as critical as how CPMC's plans fit into the entire city's health needs and as relatively mundane — but real — as how much construction dust is likely to settle on neighbors' windowsills.

The clock is ticking for CPMC. Like hundreds of hospitals around the state, it has six years to meet strict seismic standards mandated by the state. The California Pacific, Pacific Presbyterian and St. Luke's hospitals are out of compliance. Davies Hospital has been partially retrofitted.

Retrofitting all the others isn't an option, CPMC insists. It started doing studies in 2001, Nelson says, and found retrofitting was as expensive as replacement and service disruption was a nightmare.

"Where do all the 6,000 expectant mothers go while the California campus is shut down?" he asks, rhetorically.

Plus, under SB 1953, retrofitted facilities can't be used for inpatient care after 2030. So CPMC has to get moving: Hospitals had to be upgraded by 2008 or close; hospital owners that chose to rebuild now have a deadline of 2015.

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PHOTO BY TOM CARTER

A workman carries supplies into the Turk street grocery before it has opened.

GOOD NEWS for...

CENTRAL CITY EXTRA Geoff Link, editor and publisher of The Extra, has won the Northern California chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists' 2009 Unsung Hero Award for creating and guiding the paper, which began publishing in 2000. "Through its community-oriented reporting and a dedication to providing nuanced coverage of a marginalized community, the paper publishes local news, human-interest profiles and obituaries with humanity, intimacy and candor," the Society's announcement said. An accompanying letter to The Extra noted that Link had been chosen unanimously by the SPJ board to receive the award, which will be presented at a Nov. 10 ceremony. Link is the executive director of the 37-year-old nonprofit San Francisco Study Center, which publishes The Extra and provides organizational development, editorial and graphic services to community. He also is a full-time copy editor at the San Francisco Chronicle.

OUR GREEN CANOPY

Abused by vandals who rip their limbs off for amusement, 35 Tenderloin trees mostly ruined by such vandalism will get replaced Oct. 10. Volunteers organized by the TL CBD will join Friends of Urban Forest to plant the Brisbane Box, Primrose and Evergreen Pear trees, using a grant from software giant Oracle that will cover the cost of the trees, sidewalk preparation and follow-up care — \$235 per tree. The Friends' Heidi Lakics, who combed the neighborhood to identify the distressed arbors, is heading up the replanting. Brisbane Box with its reddish bark and big, oval-shaped leaves is the most common tree in the neighborhood; its greatest attribute is that it grows fast and tall, the quicker to escape abuse. "Also, it keeps its canopy all year," Lakics said. "But we do want variety in the neighborhood." The CBD, which has helped plant 138 trees over four years, says all the TL sidewalk locations for planting trees are taken, due to the prevalence of subterranean basements. To add more green, DPW in August put 24 yellow planter boxes, each with two palm trees, on sidewalks at the Ellis and Jones streets intersection. Volunteers for the Sat., Oct. 10 planting should report to the CBD office, 134 Golden Gate Ave. at 8 a.m.

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



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Where are you?

THE Tenderloin is home to many of the city's architectural treasures. Central City Extra challenges readers to identify the buildings based on the architectural details pictured here.

The first two people to correctly answer all eight buildings will be honored at a guest luncheon in November.

Submit your written responses with addresses of

the buildings to Marjorie Beggs, San Francisco Study Center, 1095 Market St., Suite 601, San Francisco, CA. 94103, or email her: marjorie@studycenter.org.

Be sure to include your name, address and telephone number. Deadline: Oct. 23, 2009.

Thanks to Bill Buetner and Alex Bebk of San Francisco Architectural Heritage for their assistance. ■

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PHOTOS BY JONATHAN NEWMAN

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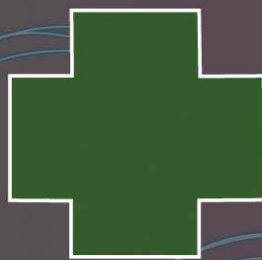
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Commission won't let grocery store sell liquor

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Zoning Commission Larry Badiner said he thought the addresses 60-80 Turk were in the SUD, which would place Tip Top also inside the SUD, but he referred the boundary question to planning's Rick Crawford, who The Extra was unable to reach.

Three weeks after the commission decision, Rantisi was uncertain about appealing before the Board of Supervisors. It would require a petition signed by owners of 20% of the property within 300 feet of Tip Top — or five supervisors subscribing to the appeal — paying a \$500 fee, and filing before Oct. 13.

"I'm undecided," Rantisi said, still shaken and upset by the rejection.

The challenge he faces is whether a retail operation that once may have derived 17% of its sales from liquor can live without booze and morph into a grocery popular enough to continue supporting Rantisi's and his employees' families, 25 people in all.

In an unusually large public turnout that jammed

the City Hall chambers to overflowing, nearly 60 people testified before the commission, the vast majority against the transfer, though many conceded admiration for the plucky Palestinian immigrant. He has maintained his small liquor store and grocery since 1992 on a gritty Tenderloin street plagued by loiterers, drunks and drug pushers, an area TL Capt. Gary Jimenez calls "ground zero for violence."

The wall of detractors posited that liquor sales contribute to an intimidating, dangerous scene outside the store and add to the neighborhood's ills. And City Planning, which led off the opposition, set the tone. Liquor stores in such high-crime areas are "magnets" for crime, said the department's Rick Crawford.

The sentiment was echoed by organizations such as The New Tenderloin coalition, TL Community Benefit District, Central City SRO Collaborative, and TNDC, plus the Department of Public Health, the Mayor's Office of Economic and Workforce Development, and the police.

Eliminating just one license in an area heavily oversaturated with liquor outlets is a step in the right direction, they said.

All of San Francisco has been over the top with its licenses since the state Alcoholic Beverage Control department 46 years ago established ratios limiting the number of licenses by a county's population. San Francisco, smarting under the crime-pocked neighborhood's reputation, tightened the squeeze in the Tenderloin in 1999 by creating a North of Market Residential Special Use District. As an added bureaucratic level, the SUD requires the Planning Commission to okay a premise-to-premise transfer within the district — even a mere 60 feet away — before the issue goes to the Board of Supervisors and, finally, the ABC.

"Without land use, the city trumps the state," inspector Dave Falzon, liaison to the ABC from SFPD's vice crimes division, said in an interview later. "If it's dead at Planning, it won't go to the supes. People underestimate the importance of land use. And the liquor issue is a real one. I'm not against liquor, I'm just for responsible dispensing of it."

Falzon said people assume that all mom-and-pop stores in the Tenderloin sell alcohol, and that they can't be profitable without it.

"But that's wrong," he said. "There have been six or seven over the last five years in the neighborhood that are making it as groceries."

Ten years ago the SUD banned new liquor stores in the area and imposed restrictions and "Good Neighbor" standards on existing ones. The legislation's author, then-Supervisor Leland Yee, said the "inordinate number" of liquor stores contributed adversely to the community's health and welfare. The area had 74 off-sale retail licenses, one for every 327 residents, a distant cry from the ABC's stated 1-to-2,000 ratio. But existing licenses cannot be taken away simply because of license oversaturation.

Hallinan represented Rantisi, 43, at the hearing. He said Rantisi is a Christian who had fled a Muslim world. He came to the United States at 21, worked in a Mission District grocery, then bought Grand Liquors five years later and sent for his family. Rantisi has been a good neighbor, doing his part to cooperate with police to curtail violence outside, Hallinan said.

"After he lost his lease, he's trying to make a nice grocery store across the street," Hallinan said. "He's been under pressure from the neighborhood to get rid of the bad liquor and he has greatly reduced the amount, such as the airline bottles."

The two-finger size bottles of hard liquor, fortified wine and jumbo cans of malt liquor are favorites of street alcoholics with the right change. The mini-bottles are also attack targets of neighborhood activists when a liquor license is vetted in public.

"He sells what the neighborhood wants," Hallinan continued. "Liquor is a necessary part. But profits are marginal. And to give up 10%-17% could be the difference."

The commission's denial shapes Rantisi's future business model.

Since signing a 15-year lease at 90 Turk St. in March, Rantisi carefully planned his fresh approach. He appeared at community meetings to describe what would occupy the new Tip Top build-out on 2,147 square feet, a big jump from his crowded 1,200-square-foot Grand Liquors.

It would have fresh meat, poultry and seafood,

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PHOTO BY TOM CARTER

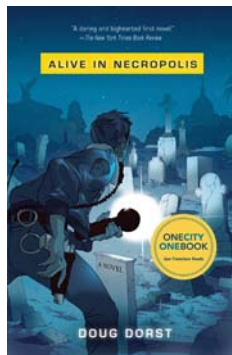
Owner Karim Rantisi, here in his new grocery, pledged to sell "fine" wines and liquor, but to survive he now has to be profitable without them.

Upcoming Events at the Main Library

Tricycle Music Fest West

Kids Rock Out at the Library
Main Library Event
Saturday, October 10
10 a.m.- 2:30 p.m.
On the Fulton Street steps

Performances by:
Charity and the JAMband
Frances England
The Devil-Ettes
The Hipwaders
The Time Outs
See all Tricycle Music Fest events
at www.tricyclefest.org



One City One Book

Tuesday, October 13, 6 p.m.
Lower Level, Koret Auditorium
One City One Book and Litquake present: **Doug Dorst**
in conversation with **Adam Johnson**, with special
guests foolsFURY Theater
See all One City One Book events at
www.sfpl.org/news/ocob/events09.htm



San Francisco Public Library

Main Library 100 Larkin St. (at Grove) (415) 557-4277 sfpl.org

Litquake

San Francisco's Literary Festival

Litquake at the Library

Off the Richter Scale
Saturday, October 10, 11 a.m.- 5 p.m.
Lower Level, Koret Auditorium
Writers who will shake up your literary world!

Shaken and Stirred:
Litquake in Conversation
Sunday, October 11, 12:30-4:30 p.m.
Lower Level, Koret Auditorium
Panel discussions that highlight the cutting-edge
subjects of literary life.

KidQuake
Elementary School program:
Wednesday, October 14, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
Middle School program:
Thursday, October 15, 10 a.m.-12:15 p.m.
Lower Level, Koret Auditorium
and Latino/Hispanic Community Meeting Room

TeenQuake
Friday, October 16, 6:30-9:30 p.m.
Main Library
Teens take over the Library

Special alcohol district boundaries in question

► CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

produce and frozen food, he said. Behind a marble counter, he'd serve made-to-order deli sandwiches and have coffee, tea, frozen ices, fruit juices and sodas. He promised no airline liquor bottles or fortified wine sales, but rather a collection of "fine" wine and liquor. He was reducing the liquor area in the new store to less than 10% and said he was open to "other restrictions" on alcohol.

The proposal seemed in line with the neighborhood's needs and its new emphasis as an arts district on three blocks of Taylor, north from Market Street. Leading the corridor's evolution at 55 Taylor St. is the soon-to-open Gray Area Arts Foundation, a handsome gallery and studios that replace an old porn theater. Next door, property owner Jack Sumski is pumping more than \$1 million into tenant improvements. He plans a retail art store and a cafe, supplanting the defunct Club 65 bar and the outgoing Grand Liquors commercial spaces.

As if to emphasize the new art thrust, Wonderland, an eclectic art project by more than 40 artists, will have a dozen creations ready in storefronts and other TL locations in October. It, too, will fuel growing hope in the neighborhood that more businesses will venture in and help the turnaround.

One block north, another neighborhood improvement is planned with an eye toward creating a big grocery store. On the northeast corner lot at Taylor and Eddy, diagonally across from TNDC headquarters, the giant nonprofit plans to build affordable housing with 17,000 square feet of retail rental space on the ground floor.

TNDC research showed that residents want a big neighborhood market, so TNDC hired Ventura Partners to analyze the business prospects. Its May 2007 findings said that a mainstream grocery wouldn't be interested because it isn't big enough. Research turned up a couple of model markets in the Mission, at about 5,000 square feet, but when Ventura Partners queried a score of grocery owners and managers whose stores fit the profile and could expand into the Tenderloin, "many" weren't interested. Profit margins are too "thin" and it's hard enough to get by with their own stores, they said.

Rantisi's move to slightly off the Taylor arts cor-

ridor and onto a grim block of Turk that hasn't yet received its Manhattanization booster shot. Tip Top would be the bright star between the Dollhouse strip club to the east and the little, boozeless mom-and-pop King Market to the west — which is snug against the dank but popular 21 Club bar on the corner. Mid-block, where street types hang out day and night, is Tenderloin Liquors and Market. Like Grand Liquors, it does a brisk business.

Rantisi was confident his loyal customers would stay with him. But without liquor sales, he clearly will need a broader customer base.

Chris Schulman of the of the Mayor's Office of Economic and Workforce Development thinks consulting help is at Rantisi's fingertips, if he wants it to find ways to reduce overhead. Schulman spoke against the liquor transfer at the hearing, but says he supports the grocery and is eager to work with Rantisi.

The mayor's office learned of Rantisi's lost lease in February and wanted to meet with him to suggest potential transfer sites outside the Tenderloin, Schulman told The Extra two weeks after the commission vote. But before that could happen, he said, Rantisi signed the 90 Turk St. lease.

In May, Michael Cohen, director of OEWD, and Mitch Katz, DPH director, sent Rantisi a letter saying they thought the market and deli would be a "positive addition to the neighborhood," but, given their "missions," they were "not at all enthusiastic" about the liquor transfer because of the TL's "oversaturation" of liquor stores.

"A coalition of community organizations as well as our two City departments and the Mayor's Office believe that a relocation of your establishment in the same area is against the general plan for (the) Tenderloin, and is a threat to the health and economic growth of the Tenderloin," the letter said.

If Rantisi decided to open without liquor, they said, they'd be happy to talk to him about tax incentives for hiring and equipment, and a potential facade improvement grant.

Those options are still open, Schulman said. He was arranging a meeting with Rantisi for early October that would include his office, the Small Business Development Center and the California Association of Enterprise Zones, experts on tax

incentives and credits for businesses in depressed areas.

"Many stepped up at the hearing and said what they needed was a grocery and deli," Schulman said. "And now we say it's the time to support this because his business model will change. It's a direction, and a number of stores do survive without liquor."

Schulman added, "We need to take a look at this after one year."

In the low, late afternoon light Sept. 28, a steady stream of customers went in and out of Grand Liquors. Some were disheveled and mumbling, and a few nicely dressed. Over 15 minutes they made small purchases of snacks, drinks and household items. Most seemed to know Jack Rantisi, Karim's brother, the daytime cashier. Very few bought half pints of liquor or an airline bottle of vodka or brandy kept in three blue milk cases on the floor near the door. The little bottles were selling for \$1 or three for \$2.

Grand Liquors has had one violation in the last eight years — for selling liquor to a minor. Rantisi paid a \$3,000 fine, records show, and ABC never closed the store.

"That's a good record for a liquor store operator, unless he has police problems," says Jon Mejia, the Glendale-based national sales manager for American Liquor License Exchange that advises clients on buying and selling liquor licenses. At the City Planning hearing, a commissioner asked about Rantisi's record. The police said they'd had no problems with him.

Mejia estimated that Rantisi's liquor license now is worth from \$15,000 to \$25,000. If his business had remained intact at 67 Taylor, he said, it could have been worth up to four times that.

Standing inside the Tip Top Sept. 28 with his father, Frank Rantisi, 86, and some friends, Karim Rantisi was still seething over the commission decision.

"It was unfair what they did," he said. "They did nothing to make it easy for me. I understand it's a crime area, but we need to pay the bills."

"Big family," Frank Rantisi interjected, his eyes large and incredulous. "Have to eat. Why do this?"

"We live here 20 years," said Rantisi. "We're good, honest people making a living. What did I do wrong?" ■

Your City Your Vote Your Voice

November 3, 2009 Municipal Election



This November, San Francisco voters will elect the City Attorney and Treasurer, as well as vote on 5 local ballot measures.

The last day to register to vote is October 19, 2009.

Visit sfelections.org for useful election resources, including:

- A voter registration form
- A vote-by-mail application
- Candidate statements
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BUMP
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2015 target date for CPMC

► CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

CPMC wants to tunnel under Van Ness to join the hospital to a nine-story, 502,000-square-foot medical office building across the street. And its master plan envisions converting Pacific Presbyterian to ambulatory care; selling California Pacific Hospital, keeping only the medical offices and imaging services; and remaking the Davies campus into a specialty site for neuroscience and acute rehab. (See sidebar for complete list of changes.)

All the changes hinge on getting the Cathedral Hill campus up and running, then shifting patients there. The tab for Cathedral Hill and the St. Luke's rebuild: \$1.7 billion.

Three years ago, when CPMC was shopping around its preliminary master plan — which called for a 20-story hospital on Van Ness covering a full city block — it faced some of today's same opponents. Their angry dissent erupted at Health Commission and Planning Commission hearings and at community meetings, forcing CPMC back to the drafting table.

Then, as today, loud objections came from

"backed into a corner by recommendations... on salvaging its St. Luke's Hospital," San Francisco Business Times reported. "Cathedral Hill hospital's fate is in the hands of the Board of Supervisors, which in turn is heavily influenced by labor unions."

Revised master plan in hand, CPMC is again making the rounds of meetings with community groups. The Planning Commission and the Health Commission held their first joint hearing Sept. 17 on how CPMC's plans fit in with citywide health care needs.

At the hearing, Public Health Director Mitch Katz said that two years ago, he and Health Commissioners wouldn't support CPMC's master plan, especially the closing of St. Luke's. Moving St. Luke's patients to somewhere else "just wouldn't work [because of] the health-seeking behavior of low-income people." While he wasn't ready to accept all of the latest master plan, he emphasized its importance: "The city needs to [have CPMC] rebuild its campuses because we need those hospital beds."

Forty people spoke at the three-hours-plus hearing, which filled the supervisors' main meeting room at City Hall.

Next: Oct. 15 the Planning Commission meets for its first hearing on the new master plan.

Anyone going up against CPMC is in for a battle. The nonprofit affiliate of Sutter Health has 6,600 employees plus 1,200 physicians, making it the city's largest private employer after Wells Fargo. Health care in San Francisco is intricately tied to its four campuses where, CPMC estimates, it provides about 40% of the city's health care — it delivers 56% of the city's babies, accounts for 33% of hospital discharges and handles 32% of ER visits.

SIZE, NOISE AND TRAFFIC

CPMC's current master plan drops Cathedral Hill Hospital's height 50 feet to 15 stories and the number of licensed beds to 555 from the original 621. The visual boxiness has been mitigated by a lower profile on Post Street. And more than 400,000 square feet have been shaved off — still, at 925,700 square feet, it's 305,000 square feet larger than the new 18-story Federal Building.

Traffic congestion and mass are the big stumbling blocks for the Cathedral Hill Neighbors Association. "We aren't against the hospital, just the size and scale of it," says LaValle. "We'd like CPMC to reduce the height from 290 feet to 190 feet on Van Ness, and from 230 feet to 130 feet on Franklin. We're asking for 250 beds here and 250 at St. Luke's. CPMC can unpack some services planned for this site, maybe some of the lucrative beds like for oncology, and move them to St. Luke's."

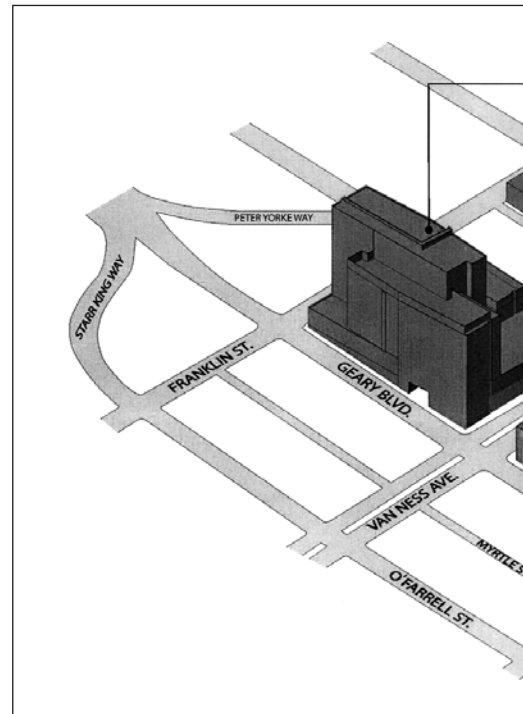
LaValle lives in a condo at One Daniel Burnham Court, on the block just north of the planned hospital. Her building, at 190 feet high, seems huge to her and she says she can't imagine a building 100 feet higher right next door. The Cathedral Hill Hotel (formerly the Jack Tar), which CPMC optioned to buy in 2003 and is to close Oct. 31, is 10 stories.

LaValle believes CPMC did respond to the pressure from her group and other residents, but she doesn't expect many more compromises.

"They seem immovable on most issues now," she said. "I think we made an impact, but perhaps [CPMC's changes were] less in response to neighborhood objections than to the economic downturn. It's hard for me to judge."

Nelson, a professional planner and land use expert as well as one of CPMC's main spokesmen, says he hasn't sat down with Cathedral Hill Neighbors for several months but knows what they want: Asking CPMC to reduce the height is "armchair health care planning," he says, and 555 beds is not too big to be safe or efficient — UCSF has 642 beds and CPMC's Pacific Presbyterian campus has 540.

"As a planner, I know the projects will affect the neighborhoods," he says, "and I come to the table agreeing with their concerns, but we'll manage the job sites with better ways of doing things than ever done before." For example, construction elevators will be in the middle of the work site, not the outside where



Massing diagram of the Cathedral Hill campus.

the constant noise can drive neighbors nuts, he explains.

"And regarding size, I say, let's agree what 'too big' means," Nelson says. "We believe in the appropriateness of a single main campus. Everything is positive about a state-of-the-art, seismically sound building."

And traffic? He says the best source will be Planning's traffic report in the EIR, which will be done by the end of the year.

"I think we'll find there won't be much more traffic than there is now," Nelson says.

But LaValle doesn't believe it.

"For every bed at the hospital there will be about seven CPMC employees coming and going, and that doesn't include doctors, patients' visitors and medical reps. It will affect all transit lines." Seven times 555 would be 3,885 employees.

Nelson's stats are different. He told the Tenderloin Futures Collaborative that at the peak shift — 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. — about 2,000 people will be working there, half of them employees. They'll be working, not coming and going, he said, plus those who drive to work will park at a garage in Japantown, where CPMC already rents 400 spaces for Pacific Presbyterian employees, and be shuttled to Cathedral Hill. "We just don't see traffic as a problem," he said.

But Paul Wermer, who has been active in the Pacific Heights Residents Association since the 1970s and lives near Pacific Presbyterian, disagrees. Shuttle buses blocking pedestrian walks, trucks obstructing intersections, noise and "significant traffic glitches" were commonplace until recently, he said.

"In the past, CPMC paid a lot of lip service to residents' concerns, though under pressure from the supervisors, that's changed in the last two years," said Wermer, who's concerned that CPMC is following the same path with Cathedral Hill residents.

Nelson counters that CPMC is, in fact, listening. In the new master plan, Cathedral Hill's loading dock and ambulance entrance both have been moved away from busy Van Ness and Geary traffic. The emergency department entrance and the large truck loading dock will be on Franklin, with the ambulance entrance and exit on Post.

THE BED BUGABOO

When CPMC published its 2008 master plan, neighbors raised a hue and cry over the number of beds. Hospitals count beds in two ways: The number the state Department of Public Health licenses it to operate, and staffed beds, those ready to accept patients with staff to care for them.

Last year, CPMC's four hospitals had 1,253 licensed beds but 869 staffed beds. When CPMC critics want the biggest bang for their statistical buck, they use licensed beds. By 2015, CPMC's planned licensed beds would drop 33% but staffed beds only 3% — from last



PHOTOS BY MARJORIE BEGGS

Melinda LaValle lives at One Daniel Burnham Court, whose towers would be dwarfed by parts of the Cathedral Hill Hospital on the next block.

Cathedral Hill and Polk Street neighbors stunned by the proposed new hospital's size, and from staff and neighbors of St. Luke's, which CPMC then wanted to turn into an outpatient-only facility.

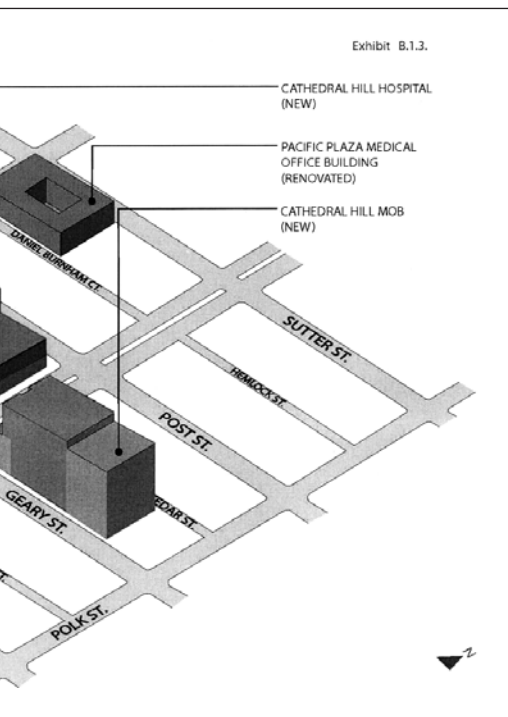
One neighborhood worried about a tsunami of people, cars, ambulances advancing on its community, the other that it would be left without vital acute medical services.

In response to a resolution from supervisors censuring CPMC for its St. Luke's plan, CPMC convened a 31-member blue ribbon panel of heavy-hitters — reps of labor unions, city offices, and health, business and community groups. Last year they thrashed out 11 recommendations for building a new St. Luke's Hospital "appropriate to the planned service mix" but didn't say how big it should be.

"The panel was a success in creating a political consensus for St. Luke's," Nato Green, California Nurses Association representative, told The Extra. "We pushed it as far as we could."

Green says the panel forced the hand of CPMC's board of directors — if they wanted to build Cathedral Hill Hospital, they also would have to build a new St. Luke's. CPMC was

C's Cathedral Hill Hospital



Source: EIR Application to City Planning

year's 869 down to 845. That's 555 at Cathedral Hill, 86 at St. Luke's and 186 at Davies, and 18 at Pacific Presbyterian.

Nelson says objections based on the number of licensed beds is crazy-making, especially for St. Luke's. Its licensed bed loss would be 62%, its staffed bed 38%. Neighbors acknowledge the difference, but counter that staff reductions have been decimating the hospital for years.

Nelson responded in an email to The Extra: St. Luke's is an "albatross" that's been unable to fill its beds for years, he wrote. Rebuilding it for 250 beds would keep the campus "from being the vibrant part of the neighborhood it should be by dumping scarce health care dollars into empty beds."

More worrisome for the Tenderloin is that by 2015, CPMC will eliminate all but the 18 psych beds at Pacific Presbyterian. None are planned for Cathedral Hill. Almost gone, too, would be CPMC's SNF beds — skilled nursing facility beds for patients needing short- and long-term rehab or who have chronic illnesses. Most of these patients are elderly. Of the 173 SNF beds at St. Luke's, California and Davies, only Davies' 38 would remain.

LOCAL ORGANIZING

Getting a handle on CPMC's master plan is a task: It's 391 pages, and in June, The Lewin Group, a national health care and human services consulting firm hired by the Health Department, released a 50-page master plan review. It was outdated when it hit the streets, Nelson says, because CPMC had already altered some master plan details in response to Health Department concerns. Regardless, the Health Commission passed a resolution with eight recommendations for CPMC, most drawn from the Lewin report.

Two of those recommendations should sound alarms for central city residents: CPMC needs to increase the number of its Medicaid patients and its charity care to be on a par with other San Francisco hospitals.

Nelson says CPMC is working on increasing its charity care. "One of the best ways to do that," he says, "is [for the plan] to move the emergency department out of Pacific Heights and closer to an underserved neighborhood." That would be the Tenderloin.

One more alarm: St. Francis Hospital is where many TL residents go for care. How will it fare with a new huge, modern hospital just six blocks away?

"We think it's a legitimate concern that CPMC will poach the lucrative patients from St. Francis and send it into a death spiral," says Green, the California Nurses Association rep.

The central city, with its concentration of poor, elderly, and physically and mentally disabled, will be affected by whatever CPMC finally builds on Van Ness Avenue, and the number of beds and kinds of medical services it has available citywide.

Tenderloin groups are just starting to organize to respond to the CPMC master plan. TNDC, the Central YMCA, Hastings, Community Housing Partnership and the TL Community Benefit District are surveying residents and other locals about the Cathedral Hill development, asking them to rank the neighborhood's and the city's most pressing health issues.

"So far, we have a small, informal committee called the Good Neighbor Campaign working on the organizing," said Dina Hilliard, TL CBD associate district manager. "We've gotten about 300 surveys back and hope to have 1,000 by the end of October. Then, we'll work on building a broad-based communitywide coalition."

The target of the organizing is still undecided, Hilliard says, but she's heard rumblings about the seven structures that will be demolished to build the medical office building. "CPMC has been very quiet about the fact that they are displacing residents," she said.

Scheduled to be razed are a 16-room SRO — Charlie's Hotel at 1030 Geary — plus a six-room SRO, a building with four residential units and another with one. At the joint hearing, Planning Commissioner President Ron Miguel wondered whether those buildings could even be demolished without approval from the supervisors, though CPMC's master plan says the units will be replaced.

Finally, will CPMC listen if the Tenderloin gets organized?

Gerry Crowley is a North Beach resident but she's been living and breathing CPMC plans for the last two years. In 2003, she co-founded the San Francisco Neighborhood Network, a group of about 20 people from all over the city who meet weekly with city officials and the media to stay on top of important issues. CPMC is now on its radar.

"CPMC and its consultants are not meeting with the communities as they should — it's just common courtesy to confer with the people who use their services and who vote," Crowley says. "It's a trust factor. No communication means no trust. The blue ribbon panel had almost no neighbor representation. And CPMC's parent, Sutter Health, is closing hospitals in the East Bay. That says they don't give a rap about the people who live in their communities."

Nelson says CPMC's critics are making assumptions and "getting information from single sources. Our biggest hurdle is getting accurate information out there. And we are still trying to get different cross-sections of public input. Our hopes are high." ■

California Pacific Medical Center Summary of Changes

Cathedral Hill Campus

- Demolish Cathedral Hill Hotel and 1255 Post St. office building
- Build 555-bed, 15-story, 925,700-square-foot acute care and women and children's hospital
- Build 245,000 square-foot underground parking garage
- Demolish seven buildings, including 16-unit SRO
- Build new 502,000-square-foot Cathedral Hill Medical Office Building
- Build Van Ness Avenue tunnel
- Renovate 1375 Sutter St. building, currently medical and general mixed use

California Campus

- Sell hospital
- Transfer acute services to Cathedral Hill
- Transfer ambulatory services to Pacific Presbyterian
- Transfer remaining services to Pacific Presbyterian
- Establish free-standing outpatient and imaging services

Pacific Campus

- Renovate or rebuild residential apartment building
- Transfer acute care and emergency departments to Cathedral Hill Hospital
- Renovate 2333 Buchanan St.
- Demolish Gerbode Research Building, Stanford Building, Annex Building
- Construct new Webster/Sacramento St. underground parking garage
- Construct 204,916 square-foot addition to the Ambulatory Care Center
- Construct north Clay parking garage
- Renovate 2018 Webster St. parking garage
- Convert 2018 Webster St. from residential to office building

Davies Campus

- Complete seismic upgrades to meet SB 1953 requirements
- Relocate acute rehabilitation services from the south tower to the north tower
- Consolidate neuroscience programs on the Davies Campus in a new medical office building
- Replace current parking garage with underground parking

St. Luke's Campus

- Construct new 86-bed acute care hospital
- Renovate interior including structural and cosmetic upgrades. Move emergency department and operating rooms to new hospital.
- Demolish old hospital and build new expansion building on same site, upon completion of new hospital.

Source: The Lewin Group



The seven buildings left to right on the north side of Geary all will be razed for the Cathedral Hill medical office building.

Life in an SRO: Residents' stories to take center stage

BY ED BOWERS

I'M in the foyer of the office of Poor Magazine's classroom at 2940 16th St. a block from Mission. Next to me on the couch in the foyer is a gentleman with movie star looks, if the movie happens to be

"Reservoir Dogs" or "Blue Velvet." His name is Nightmare Joey.

Mr. Joey has been in and out of the prison system since 1967. He's 59, one year younger than me. His last bit was 14 years for stabbing a man. But he said he didn't do it.

Now poetry and music is the way Mr. Joey survives. Amen. He plays harp, not the kind found in heaven, but the kind that blues musicians throughout the history of the devil's music have played. They are traditionally called harmonicas.

A harmonica isn't easy to play. Nightmare Joey played his for me and he was really professional. He plays subtle, gentle, beautiful blues. He plays almost every night in Golden Gate Park. Check him out.

Nightmare Joey and about 15 other people are here to participate in a writing project Tiny Gray-Garcia of Poor Magazine is starting in collaboration with Jeff Buckley of the Tenderloin Housing Clinic and Tony Robles of Bindlestiff Studio.

This project is to train SRO residents to be writers, directors, and stage hands and then to create a play about what it's like to live in an SRO.

This is particularly interesting to me because I live inside an SRO. I've survived two fires, a bedbug outbreak and several psychotic attacks on my person. Good for me. Let's turn this into art.

At the meeting there was a cornucopia of vital, fascinating people, from the 60-year-old woman who said she had a 27-year-old mind, to the man who came from a corporate family and was forced into the operation but really wanted to be an artist so he turned to narcotics until he ended up on the streets, to a man who worked as a geek in a carnival for three years.

These people are typical of the diversity

this endeavor has inspired, and it is truly an inspiration to me.

If I were to write in detail about the lives of all the people in that room, I would have to quit my job, sit on a desert island, eat coconuts, and get back to the reader in 20 years.

For a long time I've wanted artists in San Francisco to collaborate with each other. Poets and artists in this expensive city are an endangered species. Soon only trust-fund children will be artists, not carnival geeks or harmonica players, and San Francisco's legendary artistic culture will go down the tubes in mediocrity.

The organizers of this project are theater professionals like Robles who have been in the game for quite a while; they're willing to teach participants how to write, direct and become stage assistants. A course like this in college would cost.

But this is free.

Yesterday I was informed by Tiny Gray-Garcia that the project has a full house. In poker, that's a winning hand.

Dozens such projects should be started on a grassroots level by artists all over the city, particularly in the Tenderloin.

I have wanted to get various factions of the underground art community to merge into a collective that could truly make an impact in San Francisco. But there are so many big egos in small ponds in this scene that I'd pretty much given up on that idea.

However, Poor Magazine seems to have succeeded where I've failed, and I suggest that any Tenderloin poet, playwright, musician, journalist or whatever check out Poor Magazine.

Plus, those participating in this project get a sliding-scale stipend for their work. In San Francisco, where only the elite get paid, I find this refreshing. ■

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Wonderland audio project lets residents soar

BY ED BOWERS

THE office of the Luggage Store Annex, at 509 Ellis St. off Leavenworth, doesn't look glamorous. It has bare white walls and there is an old-fashioned lawn mower, an aluminum step-ladder, and a computer capable of recording the spoken word. The few artifacts in this room combine the '50s with the 21st century.

From an archetypal Jungian perspective, the lawn mower and the step-ladder are perfect in this context. Ranu Mukherjee and Mike Maurillo, the two individuals in charge of this operation, are not letting any grass grow under their feet.

They want this project to provide the citizens of the Tenderloin, an endangered metropolitan species, a chance to climb an aluminum stairway to the stars by expressing themselves through art, poetry and music so they can soar past their clichéd images like magnificent prehistoric pterodactyls into the Western sky.

I was invited there on Sept. 23 to read one hour of my hateful, demented, sad and quite frankly weird poetry to be used on a radio show sponsored by Wonderland, an art exhibition focusing on artists, writers and musicians in the Tenderloin.

Wonderland consists of 13 groups of artists who mostly live or work in the Tenderloin and was organized by international curator Lance Fung.

Mukherjee and Maurillo are recording poetry written by Tenderloin denizens to be read on an underground radio station that I was asked not to name because it is in conflict with the wonderful Federal Communications



Mike Maurillo and Ranu Mukherjee, working on the Tender Transmissions project for Wonderland, with their aluminum stairway to stardom.

Commission. It seems like everything I do is turning illegal.

Besides poetry, this ambitious audio project, called Tender Transmissions, also includes 33 children from the Glide Foundation Chorus, 10 seniors and young people interviewed on the subject of love, half a dozen people investigating fear by being blindfolded and led down the streets while recording ambient sounds and conversations, a screenplay derived from interviews with anonymous erotic dancers, and more.

Mukherjee and Maurillo are sincere and dedicated and smart enough to know that liv-

ing art is created by little people who are alive and invisible and who big people step on. All life comes from invisible microbes. Without bacteria there would be no oxygen. The lotus grows out of mud. I hate stating the obvious.

I asked Mukherjee and Maurillo if Wonderland would be ongoing, and they said they hoped it would be repeated in the future.

Please give them all the support possible. There will be a Wonderland symposium on Oct. 17 from noon to 6 p.m. at the Warfield theater.

I want this to be a success.

The unique souls who are attempting to survive in San Francisco and have nowhere else to live but the Tenderloin are living under a sword of Damocles.

A lot of people with vested interests want these individuals to die and be gone. Many here have been sliced in half by a sword of Damocles, sometimes called by the name of progress, and now they're sleeping on the streets.

They could be dead instead of sleeping and nobody would care. The average citizen suffering from anomie would step over them on his way to a high-paying job.

Bring some light to this area while respecting its citizens. Support Wonderland. Support the Tenderloin's citizens, too. Prevent them from dying on the streets and encourage them to express themselves. You might not like what they express, but that's good. Real art forces you to see what you do not want to see. It enlightens you.

Mukherjee and Maurillo can be contacted at 509 Ellis, 279-2314 or 6.blogspot.com.

Help this project and change the Tenderloin into Wonderland. ■

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The Central City Democrats began as a political caucus of TAC, the Tenant Associations Coalition of San Francisco. Most Club members are tenant leaders in low-income buildings and their supporters. CCD is a chartered Democratic Club in 2006.

PATRICIA CARLOS
Everyone's friend at the Senator

Patricia Carlos
with Senator resident, the late Dan O'Connell, and his dog Ruby, during a work day.

It was fitting that Patricia Carlos ended up at the Senator Hotel.

She grew up on the Salt River Pima Maricopa reservation near Scottsdale, Ariz., before fate brought her to the SRO on Ellis Street when she was 32.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WILLIAM DONLON

The Senator became famous as a harbor for American Indians when, on June 11, 1971, it welcomed the last of the American Indians from various tribes that federal marshals evicted from Alcatraz after their 19-month occupation. The hotel furnished them rooms overnight, plus the lobby for press conferences.

Ms. Carlos was present at the hotel's June 9, 2006, "Remembrance and Resistance" ceremony. It commemorated the 35th anniversary of the Indians' "last stay among the residents of the Tenderloin," a wall plaque near the front door says.

And in her second-floor room, Ms. Carlos kept her heritage close. A flag showing the "End of the Trail" solitary horseman — sculptor James Earle Fraser's famous uncopyrighted image — dominated one wall and pictures of handsome chiefs decorated other walls, according to her next-door neighbor William Donlon, 72.

But there was only one identity the 20 mourners who jammed her Sept. 8 memorial in the hotel's small community room cared about: first and foremost, she was a friend. Men and women passionately described the short, stout Pima Indian as a wonderful, cheerful spirit among them, a person who brought joy to their daily lives and someone who listened.

Ms. Carlos died Aug. 26 in UC Parnassus Hospital of cirrhosis of the liver, Donlon said. She was 51. Her health had been declining for a couple of weeks.

She was one of the hotel's longest-term residents. The Senator reopened as an SRO in 1992, according to its Website, but Donlon remembers Ms. Carlos being there several months before he moved in, in the summer of 1991.

Ms. Carlos was lively and inspiring, a person with "cute energy" who never complained, her friends said.

A gray-bearded man in a wheelchair struggling for words remembered her good sense of humor. Jessie, a black-bearded man, recalled how well they got along and said his loss hurt like getting "shot in the back." Tony Davidson, a large black man, was grateful for the eight years he knew her and said her personality brought the hotel's community closer. She often told him a "turtle story" that reminded him to slow down. A young black woman stood and sang "How Great Thou Art."

"My dog bit 14 people, especially alcoholics," said a tall, white man who had walked in with a black dog. "And if the dog didn't bite her, well, she had good qualities."

"She was the best friend I ever had," said another man standing in front and facing the crowd. "I'm separated from my family in Alabama and I'm happy to have had a

friend who was nurturing and supportive. It breaks my heart to lose a friend like that."

Ms. Carlos received the reservation's twice-a-month newspaper, AU-AUTHM Action News, in the mail and returned periodically to her roots. Her father visited her on occasion, too. A few years ago, he and his daughter and Donlon went to Muir Woods in Marin County.

"She loved to travel and went to Thailand twice and Hawaii once," said Donlon who helped clean her room. "We were going to go to Disneyland but we never made it."

"They sent her body back to the reservation. She was proud she was Indian." ■

—TOM CARTER

PANDORA BEDNAR
'Stood up for down-and-out'

For the second time in less than a month, residents and staff mourned the loss of a parent who lived among them at the Senator Hotel. Four years ago, Pandora Bednar moved into the hotel with her 6-year-old daughter, Destiny. They lived there until Ms. Bednar's death Sept. 6. She was 39.

"The bond between her and her daughter was wonderful to see," Janice Knight, a Senator resident for the last year, said at the Sept. 15 memorial. "I loved Pandora and I'll miss her, but she was in a lot of pain."

Staff Counselor Kelly McNeil said that while Ms. Bednar "had some barriers" in her life, she was loved by many.

"If you needed something, that became Pandora's greatest task," recalled Robert Webber, who knew her for a year and a half and was close to her. "She stood up for the down-and-out — she even took in others who needed a place to stay."

Taking care of her daughter was most important to her, and she often had pizza parties for Destiny and her friends, Webber said. Ms. Bednar grew up in the Bay Area, he added, and had been a drug and alcohol counselor at Walden House, which provides residential, outpatient and prevention services.

"I know that she had had some kind of brain trauma, but I don't know if that was the cause of her death," Webber said.

A Senator resident was visibly shaken as she recounted being with Ms. Bednar the day she died: "She was a good friend. We'd had a tuna sandwich together. We smoked a cigarette together. Then she went out."

Hotel staff said that Ms. Bednar's daughter has gone to live with her grandmother in San Francisco. ■

—MARJORIE BEGGS



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SPECIAL EVENTS

Free tax savings workshop for self-employed and small business owners, Tue., Oct. 13 4-6 p.m., 1850 Mission St. (between 14th and 15th streets). Sponsored by Tax-Aid and Mission Asset Fund. Info and reservations: 839-2118.

Volunteer cleanup, Compass Community Services' Tenderloin Childcare Center, Sat. Oct. 17, 144 Leavenworth, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Annual event to clean up center for 66 infants, toddlers and preschoolers. Details or to sign up: ldyas@compass-sf.org.

5K Fun Run/Walk for SAFEty, Sun. Oct. 25, Peacock Meadow, Golden Gate Park, 10 a.m. registration, 11 a.m. race, BBQ 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. SF SAFE's first event to promote awareness of personal and family safety, and to raise funds for community services. Registration: \$10 per person, children under 10 free. Info and registration: sfsafe5k.dojiggy.com.

Free walking tours of Tenderloin, Sun. Oct. 18, 9 a.m., meet at Market, Powell and Eddy (eastern Tenderloin), and Sun., Oct. 25, 9 a.m. at Leavenworth and McAllister (western Tenderloin). Led by Peter Field, tours highlight Tenderloin history from the 1920s on. Info: City Guides, sfcityguides.org, 557-4266.

ART EVENTS

Litquake, 10th annual Bay Area literary festival, Oct. 9-17, nearly 500 authors in venues citywide. Main Library Litquake events: Kidquake, Teenquake, Koret Reading Series. Info: litquake.org.

Wonderland, monthlong arts and performance events all over the Tenderloin, 13 projects, 53 artists. Kickoff is Oct. 17, through Nov. 14. Info: wonderlandshow.org.

"Zombie!" EXIT Theatre, 156 Eddy, Thu., Fri., Sat., Oct. 15-31, 8 p.m. Halloween rock, horror, tragicomedy by playwright and director Anthony R. Miller. Tickets: \$15. Info: sffringe.org

"My Blues," readings by Ron Hacker from his new book with accompanying music. EXIT Café, 156 Eddy, Fri., Oct. 16, 8:30 p.m. Free. Reservations: 673-3847.

COMMUNITY: REGULAR SCHEDULE HOUSING

Supportive Housing Network, 3rd Thursday of the month, 3-5 p.m., location TBA. Contact: Kendra Fuller, 421-2926 x304.

Tenant Associations Coalition of San Francisco, 1st Wednesday of the month, noon, 201 Turk, 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., CBHS, 1380 Howard, room 537. Call: 255-3695. Advisory group of consumers from self-help organizations and other mental health consumer advocates. Open to the public.

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

Healthcare Action Team, 2nd Wednesday of the month, Quaker Center, 65 Ninth St., noon-1:30 p.m. Focus on increasing supportive home and community-based services, expanded eligibility for home care and improved discharge planning. Light lunch served. Call James Chionsini, 703-0188 x304.

Hoarders and Clutterers Support Group, Mental Health Association, 870 Market, Suite 928. Call for dates and times: 421-2926 x306.

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 III-S.F., 3rd Wednesday of the month, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Family Service Agency, 1010 Gough, 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. See www.sfgov.org/sffd/nert, or call Lt. Arteseros, 970-2022.

SoMa Police Community Relations Forum, 4th Monday of the month, 6-7:30 p.m. Location varies. To receive monthly e-mail info: Meital Amitai, 538-8100 x202 or mamitai@iisf.org.

Tenderloin Police Station Community Meeting, last Tuesday of the month, 6 p.m., police station Community Room, 301 Eddy. Call Susa Black, 345-7300. Neighborhood safety.

NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT

Alliance for a Better District 6, 2nd Tuesday of the month, 6 p.m., 230 Eddy. Contact Michael Nulty, 820-1560 or sf_district6@yahoo.com, a districtwide improvement association.

Boeddeker Park cleanup, 3rd Saturday of the month, 9-noon,

organized by the Friends of Boeddeker Park. To RSVP to work or for information, call Betty Traynor, 931-1126.

Central City Democrats, meets four times a year, 301 Eddy St. Community Room. Information: 339-VOTE (8683) or centralcitydemocrats@yahoo.com.

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

Community Leadership Alliance. Monthly meetings and informational forums, Tenderloin Police Station community room. David Villa-Lobos, admin@communityleadershipalliance.net.

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

Gene Friend Recreation Center Advisory Board, 3rd Thursday of the month, 5 p.m. Board works to protect SoMa resources for children, youth, families and adults. Gene Friend Recreation Center, 270 Sixth St. Information: 538-8100 x202.

North of Market/Tenderloin Community Benefit District. Call District Manager Elaine Zamora for times and dates, 292-4812.

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

South of Market Project Area Committee, 3rd Monday of the month, 6 p.m., 1035 Folsom, between 6th & 7th sts. Health, Safety and Human Services Committee meets monthly on the first Tuesday after the first Monday, 1035 Folsom, noon. Information: 487-2166 or www.sompac.com.

Tenderloin Futures Collaborative, 2nd Wednesday of the month, 10 a.m., Tenderloin Police Station community room, 301 Eddy. Call 358-3956 for information. Network of residents, nonprofits and businesses taking on neighborhood development issues.

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, second Thursday, 10 a.m.-noon, St. Mary's Cathedral. Monthly committee meetings, 965 Mission #700: Pedestrian Safety, third Wednesday, 10 a.m.; Senior Housing Action, third Wednesday, 1:30; Information: 546-1333 and www.senioractionnetwork.org.

"Any Door Is the Right Door"

Mental health consumers and substance abusers can go to any Behavioral Health provider in the Tenderloin and be assured of being welcomed and helped.

All these service providers operate under a Harm Reduction policy, so you don't have to be straight to get help.

Office of Self Help is a Wellness and Recovery Center. All of our staff are consumers, peers with those we serve.

Drop in or call us. Check us out.

Other programs in the neighborhood also can be the Right Door for you:

Bay Area Addiction Research and Treatment
1111 Market St., 1st Fl., 863-3883

CATS (Community Awareness Treatment Services)
1446 Market St., 2nd Fl., 241-1199

Central City Hospitality House
290 Turk Street, 749-2110

Community Vocational Enterprises
1425 Folsom St., 544-0424

Family Service Agency — Tenderloin Family Program
1010 Gough St., 474-7310, Ext. 459

Hyde Street Community Services
134 Golden Gate Ave., 673-5700

Independent Living Resource Center
649 Mission St., 3rd Fl., 543-6222

Larkin Street Youth Services — Youth Clinic
1138 Sutter St., 673-0911 ext. 259

S.F. Mental Health Clients' Rights Advocates
1095 Market St., Suite 618
552-8100

SAGE (Standing Against Global Exploitation)
1385 Mission St., Suite 300
358-2719

Swords to Plowshares
1060 Howard St., 252-4788

Tenderloin Health
187 Golden Gate Ave., 437-2900

Westside Community Services
245 Eleventh St., 431-9000



OASIS

Office of Self-Help Drop-In Center, 1095 Market Street, Suite 202
A PROGRAM OF SAN FRANCISCO STUDY CENTER

575-1400

San Francisco is teeming with colorful characters.

Meet some of them on Neighborhood Free Days this fall at the **California Academy of Sciences**.



Discover an aquarium, planetarium, four-story rainforest and natural history museum—all under one living roof.

October / November 2009 Neighborhood Free Days

NEIGHBORHOOD	ZIP CODE	FREE DAYS
Richmond, Seacliff, Western Addition, Pacific Heights, Laurel Heights, Presidio	94121, 94118, 94115, 94129	October 2, 3, 4
Excelsior, Ingleside, Bayview, Hunter's Point, Visitacion Valley	94112, 94134, 94124	October 9, 10, 11
Russian Hill, Telegraph Hill, North Beach, Cow Hollow, Marina	94109, 94133, 94123	October 16, 17, 18
Mission, Bernal Heights	94110	October 30, 31, November 1
Chinatown, Tenderloin, Downtown, SOMA, Potrero, Treasure Island, Mission Bay	94103, 94107, 94130, 94111, 94105, 94108, 94104, 94102, 94158	November 6, 7, 8

Check the complete schedule on www.calacademy.org or call 415.379.8000 to confirm your Neighborhood Free Days.

Each visiting adult must prove residency by showing a driver's license or a utility bill. On each scheduled date, only residents from the specified zip codes will be admitted free of charge.

As part of Bank of America's longtime support of museums and local educational programs, the Academy offers Neighborhood Free Days to San Francisco residents.



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