

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## SPECIAL MEETING

**Citywide Tenants Convention** Mar. 29, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., State Building, 455 Golden Gate. Sponsored by the S.F. Tenants Union and others. Daylong meeting to identify pressing issues facing renters and develop ideas for solutions. Information: 282-6543.

## COMMUNITY MEETINGS (REGULAR SCHEDULE)

### HOUSING

**Consumer Housing Group**, 1st Thursday of the month, 6-7:30 p.m., Mental Health Association, 1095 Market St., Suite 408. Contact: 241-2926.

**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, facilitate communication.

**Supportive Housing Network, 3rd Thursday of the month**, 3-5 p.m., 111 Jones. Contact: Belinda Lyons, 241-2929.

**Code Enforcement Workgroup**, 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month, 2 p.m., 449 Turk. Sponsored by Central City SRO Collaborative, the sessions are for hotel tenants who want to improve the condition of their home and neighborhood. Information: 775-7110. [Note: for March only, the second meeting of the month will be held March 20 instead of March 27.]

### HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH

**Mental Health Board**, 2nd Wednesday of the month, 6:30-8:30 p.m., CMHS, 1380 Howard, Rm. 537 CMHS advisory committee, open to the public. Contact: 255-3474.

**Hoarders and Clutterers Support Group**, 2nd Monday and 4th Wednesday of each month, 6-7 p.m. Canon Kip Community House, Pool Room, 705 Natoma St. at 8th. Contact: 241-2926.

**CMHS Consumer Council**, 3rd Monday of the month, 5:30-7:30 p.m., 1380 Howard, Rm. 537. Contact: 255-3428. Advisory group of consumers from self-help organizations and other mental health consumer advocates. Open to the public.

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

### SAFETY

**S.F. Safe Kids**, 2nd Tuesday of the month. Contact Ana Validzic, 206-3350. Child health and safety.

**Tenderloin Police Station Community Meeting**, last Wednesday of the month, 6 p.m., police station Community Room, 301 Eddy. Contact Susan Black, 345-7300.

**Violence Prevention Network**, last Tuesday of the month, 10 a.m., 220 Golden Gate, Rm. 4D. Contact Christina Goette, 554-2741, Violence prevention.

**North of Market NERT**, bimonthly meeting. Contact Tim Agar, 674-6142, or Lt. Juanita Hodge, S.F. Fire Department, 558-3456. Disaster preparedness training by the Fire Department.

### NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT

**Alliance for a Better District 6**, 2nd Tuesday of the month, 6 p.m., 301 Eddy. Contact Michael Nulty, 820-1560 or sf\_district6@yahoo.com. Districtwide association, civic education.

**Mid-Market Project Area Committee**, 2nd Wednesday of the month, 5:30 p.m., Ramada Hotel, 1231 Market. Contact Carolyn Diamond, 362-2500. Market Street redevelopment from Fifth Street to Eighth.

**North of Market Planning Coalition**, 2nd Wednesday of the month, 6 p.m., 301 Eddy. Contact 474-2164. TL 2000, jobs, neighborhood planning.

**Tenderloin Futures Collaborative**, 2nd Wednesday of the month, 10 a.m., 121 Golden Gate. Contact Roscoe Hawkins, 592-2704, or Katie Mullin, 776-2151, for information. Network of residents, nonprofits and businesses sharing information and taking on neighborhood development issues.

### SENIORS AND DISABLED

**Mayor's Disability Council**, 3rd Friday of the month, 1-3 p.m., City Hall, Rm. 400. Contact: 554-6789. Open to the public.

**Tenderloin Police Station Seniors and Disabled Meeting** last Thursday of the month, 10 a.m., police station Community Room, 301 Eddy. Contact Susan Black, 345-7300. Concerns specific to seniors and the disabled.

### SUPERVISORS' COMMITTEES

**Land Use Committee** McGoldrick, Maxwell, Ammiano, Monday, 1 p.m., City Hall, Rm. 263

**City Services Committee** Dufty, Ma, Newsom, Thursday, 9:30 a.m., City Hall, Rm. 263

**Budget Committee** Daly, Peskin, Maxwell, Ma, Gonzalez, Thursday, 1 p.m., City Hall, Rm. 263

## Owners lament lack of financial aid for sprinklers

► CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

compliance, including paying DBI staff costs plus fines.

### NOT SO SIMPLE, OWNERS SAY

"The Board of Supervisors handcuffed its own self when it gave such a short time frame," said David Patel, 25, son of the owner of the Shree Ganeshai and cousin of Sam Patel. There wasn't time for the city to secure grants or low-interest financing for the hotel operators, as it did to help them conform to the UMB (unreinforced masonry

building) code, David Patel said. His father owns five residential hotels in the city, Patel said, and each presents different challenges to compliance, but the one that is most difficult is securing financing for the work.

Patel and Karnilowicz said there are only a "handful" of sprinkler contractors in the Bay Area, and some are unscrupulous. Patel also said the Fire Department's information on requirements has been inconsistent and he accused the department of stalling on some of his contracts because of its own backlog.

The sprinkler guidelines are clear, Fire Capt. Peter Schembri said, they are based on

the National Fire Protection Association's guidelines for sprinkler installation. He takes "umbrage" at the accusation that his department is lagging. "We're working very diligently," he said, explaining that if the six department plan reviewers receive "clean" plans (that include all necessary calculations) they can turn them around fast. If the plans are incomplete, they put a hold on them until corrected.

"The Fire Department has been at the forefront of this; we realize the value of sprinklers," he said. Schembri said his staff has worked overtime to help process the SRO load.

At the hearing for the Shree Ganeshai, one of the hearing officers said that as the hotel stands now, without a fire sprinkler system, "we could consider it pretty unsafe conditions by definition."

And Ellinger said, "That's my point exactly ... I just want to say in regards to extensions and all the running around in circles - just keep in mind that in the midst of this there are people whose lives and property are threatened."

At the end of the hearing for the Shree Ganeshai hotel, DBI hearing officer Ruiz decided to give the property owner the stiffest deadline: a seven-day order of abatement. By the end of the seven days the Shree Ganeshai hotel had still not complied, but Karnilowicz said that a contract with a sprinkler installer was being drawn up. ■

## NUTS AND BOLTS OF PUTTING THE SCREWS ON

CITY building inspectors have a few ways to encourage owners to comply - they call these their "tools." The first tool is to permit a period of "advisement," which allows an owner time to correct the problem, from 15 days to several months. If the problem remains uncorrected, the owner will receive an order of abatement.

An abatement order gives a deadline for compliance, usually seven to 20 days. Correct the problem by then or pay DBI the cost of its clerical work plus its inspection fees until the process is completed (at this stage in the process, this amounts to about \$500) and DBI will record that abatement on the property record.

DBI has generally been handing out notices of advisement that give owners 21 days to correct the problem or they will receive an abatement order of 30 days. Some have received 30-day orders of abatement without the advisement period. Now the plan is to get tougher, said DBI Chief Housing Inspector Rosemary Bosque, with more seven- and 14-day orders of abatement waiting in the wings.

An owner who does not correct the problem by the end of the abatement period will continue to be billed for DBI clerical and inspection costs and will be issued a citation that carries a bail fee of \$271 for each violation, such as a violation of the sprinkler ordinance or for having a leaky roof, broken water heaters, etc. "We're going to be doing that [issuing citations]. The reason we haven't done that yet is because we have these other tools to help us shrink down the numbers so that they're more controllable," Bosque said.

The next step will be to take the case to the city attorney, where liens can be levied against the property. Getting the abatement order or having any violation recorded on the property can have ramifications for a hotel owner, said Sam Patel, president of the Independent Hotel Owners and Operators Association. A mortgage company could claim an owner is in default and foreclose on the property, he said.

— Karen Oberdorfer