

GOOD NEWS for...

STAY IN TOUCH, Y'HEAR? A new California PUC grant to Central City SRO Collaborative will make it easy for low-income TL and SoMa residents to sign up for Universal Lifeline Telephone Service, which offers discounted rates as low as \$2.85 a month to qualified Californians. The performance-based grant starts at \$5,000 and can go as high as \$31,000, depending on how many folks the Collaborative signs up. To encourage people to take advantage of Universal Lifeline, the Collaborative will let residents use its office phones to arrange the service, and will make staff available to help them fill out forms and navigate the bureaucracies and sales pitches of the phone companies so they get only the services they need. The Collaborative previously operated the sign-up service for about a year under a grant from the Evelyn and Walter Haas Jr. Fund. "With that grant we averaged about 30 sign-ups a month," said Meredith Walters, Collaborative tenant organizer. "With the new grant, we're hoping to increase that to 50 a month. With an affordable phone, a resident can stay in touch with friends, family and employers, and have access to emergency services." Call Walters for more information: 775-7110.

BUDDING CYBERCUBS Boeddeker Park now has six recently state-of-the-art Pentium 2 computers and hopes to have a total of 15 by early October, thanks to a generous donation from Marin Catholic High School. "We still need tables to put them on, and have to work out a schedule for using them," said Al Wimberly, the park's program director. He expects kids will be the biggest users of the computers, after school and on weekends, but adults will also get a crack at them. Training will be available, and once all the computers are in, they will be connected to the Internet. Students from the Marin school are doing more than feeding residents' desire to get hands-on computer experience: They also come on Saturdays to do a food program in the park. For more information about the computers, or to donate tables or desks: 292-2019.

— MARJORIE BEGGS

This column needs regular infusions. If you have some good news (no events, please), send it to marjorie@studycenter.org.

ADVERTISEMENT

641 O'Farrell welcomes you!
Nice apartments for rent, 1920s bldg. Section 8 considered, cats OK, laundry. Call Wendy, (415)203-3862 for info!

Daly storms out of Collaborative session

Leaving meetings in a snit getting to be a habit with supervisor

BY MARJORIE BEGGS

THE talk of the September Tenderloin Futures Collaborative meeting started the way of many excitements: mundanely.

TNDC's Jerry Jai, sitting at one end of a long table next to District 6 Supe Chris Daly, was updating stats on his organization's Façade Improvement Program, which is helping to spruce up the neighborhood through five \$9,500 matching grants and four \$7,500 full grants to SROs, grocery stores, a restaurant and an auto body shop.

"We have one matching grant left for the year," said Jai. "If anyone knows of a business that's interested, have them get in touch with me."

Thus, Jai unwittingly opened a can of worms, loosed the human ills out of Pandora's box, stepped in doo-doo.

"I know a business that could really use it," said Ed Evans, member of the Mayor's Disability Council, "the Campus Club."

Now called Club 220, that venue at 220 Jones is owned by Terrance Alan, head of the city's new Entertainment Commission and chairman of the S.F. Late Night Coalition. Seated next to Evans, Alan grinned, knowing at least part of what was coming.

Jai blanched and swallowed hard. "We're not allowed to give grants to adult entertainment businesses," he said, explaining that the restriction comes with the federal block grant money from the Mayor's Office of Community Development. Also nixed are private residences and liquor stores.

At the far end of the table, Antonia Manor resident David Villa-Lobos protested that the restriction is illogical. The Campus Club, he said, is a "responsible" neighbor that keeps its customers in check and its sidewalk clear, unlike establishments that cause quality of life problems on the street. He named Hospitality House's Tenderloin Self-Help Center as an example.

Daly fumed, "That's the most disrespectful statement I've ever heard." He grabbed the papers in front of him, stood and delivered his salvo: "I don't think this group represents the neighborhood." And out he strode.

Whoa! People around the table looked at their neighbors, blinked in disbelief, were stunned into silence at having been tarred with the same brush, justified or not.

Alan wiped the grin off his face, got serious and, in a nice segue, went calmly to the next agenda item: his presentation of Entertainment Commission doings.

Toward the end of meeting, Villa-Lobos tried to explain his position to the group, but Chair Glenda Hope cut him off.

This wasn't the first time Daly beat a retreat, unceremoniously, from a community meeting. Although TL resident Lea Curry wasn't at the Collaborative meeting, she'd heard what happened and the next day called The Extra. Back in March, she said, Daly had attended a meeting of about 80 tenants from 111 Jones and 205 Jones. The topic was quality of life and lack of security on the street around St. Anthony's Dining Room and the St. Boniface shelter.

"Many people there didn't speak English and there was some translating going on," Curry said. "Suddenly, several people told me, Chris mouthed, 'This is a waste of my time,' and stormed out."

Curry is still unsure what it was all about — something was being translated at the time for a Russian-speaking resident — but Daly's behavior and demeanor sure didn't impress her, she said.

"He came in 25 minutes late, looked unkempt and was totally impatient. He treated us like yuppies, when basically we're a bunch of low-income residents, just a bunch of refugees."

Curry wondered, "Who does he think the Tenderloin constituency is if it isn't residents and isn't the collaborative?"

And there's more. During last year's election, Daly huffed out of a July 27 South Beach meeting for supervisorial candidates. According to an e-mail The Extra received through the Alliance for a Better District 6 network, rival candidate Michael Sweet was telling the audience that as a supervisor who wanted to attract new businesses to the city, he wouldn't protest outside the Bechtel offices with a megaphone, as he said Daly had.

Several in the audience asked Daly to respond to Sweet's comments, but, instead, Daly began talking about his activism in international human rights, the e-mail said. "He kept talking, oblivious to the audience. A couple of men stood up and told him to shut up and let someone else speak. Within 10 seconds Daly gathered up his stuff and walked out."

Villa-Lobos also told The Extra that he had had another run-in with Daly recently, this time in Daly's office where Villa-Lobos had come to talk about security issues and the self-help community.

"Chris threw a book at me — literally, literally — and ordered me out of his office," Villa-Lobos said. "That man needs anger management."

To his credit, Daly did some damage control. According to Villa-Lobos, Daly called him the day after the Collaborative meeting "to apologize to me. He said he should have stayed at the meeting, and he elaborated a little more about our previous conversation concerning the Self-Help Center. And he said he wanted to apologize to the community, too."

Jai, titular staff of the Futures Collaborative, said Daly sent a letter of apology but, as The Extra went to press, Jai still had been unable to get Daly's approval to share it with us.

The Extra called Daly's office twice to say we were reporting on the incident and wanted to give him the opportunity to explain. After the second call, Daly called Extra Publisher Geoff Link and asked, "Why do you think this is news?" He said he might call back to explain — and he might not.

Within the hour, Daly aide Bill Barnes called this reporter to say Daly wouldn't be calling. It was non-news, Barnes said, especially in a community where the local paper should be "trying to pull people together, rather than pull

them apart."

"Unusual public behavior by elected officials is news — as Chris well knows," Link said. "With Chris, the examples are piling up and people are talking. We felt that by offering him the chance to explain we were being helpful."

WORK, EAT AND BE MERRY

In other Collaborative news, two more places to eat and drink are in the planning stage. At the old Polo Lounge at 34-38 Mason, building owners Mike Boco and Ray Vernazza, artist and self-named "tech guy" Andy Harris, and Terrance Alan are trying to open The Music Incubator.

People with music-related ideas could drop in and use cutting-edge communications and computer gear to test out their creations for free. Only requirement: Buy something to eat or drink while you're working. Also available would be training on how to use the digital audio workstations, high-end microphones, editing software and other geeky appurtenances.

"This is economic development disguised as a party," Harris told Collaborative members. Half the income to operate the place will come from food sales, half from alcohol, he said, but the booze is essential — "it's a social lubricant," he said. The owners have applied for an alcohol license.

Over at 222 Hyde, Joe Caplan, owner of the popular Emmy's Spaghetti Shack in the Mission, plans to open a café with beer and wine called the 222 Club. Formerly the 222 Lounge, the space will have a bar and some seating on the main floor and

➤ CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



CENTRAL CITY EXTRA is published monthly by San Francisco Study Center Inc., a private nonprofit serving the community since 1972. The Extra is published through grants from the S.F. Hotel Tax Fund and the Richard and Rhoda Goldman Fund. The contents are copyrighted by the San Francisco Study Center, 1095 Market Street, Suite 602, San Francisco, CA 94103.

PHONE: (415) 626-1650
FAX: (415) 626-7276
E-MAIL: centralcityextra@studycenter.org

EDITOR AND PUBLISHER: Geoffrey Link
ADVERTISING: Joseph Thomas
SENIOR WRITER/EDITOR: Marjorie Beggs
COPY EDITOR: Gerry Fregoso
REPORTERS: Tom Carter, Karen Oberdorfer, Ed Bowers
DESIGN AND LAYOUT: Carl Angel
DESIGN CONSULTANT: Don McCartney
ARTIST: Carl Angel
PHOTOGRAPHERS: Lenny Limjoco, Mark Ellinger
CONTRIBUTORS: Adrian D. Varnedoe, Diamond Dave, William Crain, Mark Hedin, Phil Tracy, John Burks, Anne Marie Jordan, Eric Robertson, Meg Dixit
EDITORIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE: David Baker, Michael Nulty, Debbie Larkin, Nicholas Rosenberg, Brad Paul, Tariq Alazraie

Central City Extra is a member of the SAN FRANCISCO NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION