

GOOD NEWS for...

THE LITTLE CAR THAT COULD

People seem to love City CarShare's Honda Civic, the hybrid that CarShare members can pick up at a "pod" at Glide's parking lot and drive away as needed. In August, just two months after the organization opened its first Tenderloin site, we reported that two to three people each weekday were using the car, and that it often was out all day on weekends. (Cars can be reserved for 15 minutes or 15 days or more.) Latest stats: The car was used 75 times in December, a 25% jump from November, and is more than paying for its maintenance. Business is so good that CarShare is looking for a second TL site. The ideal, says Eliot Dobris, CarShare director of marketing and communications, is a surface lot with 24-hour access that has good visibility of the pod from the street. Next best is a garage. CarShare also is still looking for CalWorks participants who want to become members but can't afford it, Dobris said. A Metropolitan Transportation Commission grant offered 300 subsidized memberships with reduced fees, and some are still available. More information: 415-995-8588 and www.citycarshare.org.

FAITHFUL FOOLS Copy Shop now can receive your pdf files via e-mail and give you back high-end, digital color copies — up to 11" x 17" — from its brand new Minolta CF3102 color copier. "It's digital direct and it's great for posters," says the shop's Richard Nichols. Proceeds from all work done at the shop go directly to the Faithful Fools Ministry. More information: 673-4567.

DUI PREVENTION S.F. Department of Public Health has \$10,000 grants this year for four nonprofits to develop projects that reduce driving under the influence in the city. DUI is deadly: It was responsible for 16,653 traffic deaths nationally in 2000. In California, 31.6% of all accidents involve alcohol, and young drivers have double the DUI arrests of adults over 21. In San Francisco, eight people died and 583 were injured in "alcohol-involved" traffic accidents in 2001, according to SWITRS, the California Highway Patrol database. SFPD, which collects DUI information from collision reports but doesn't include freeway accidents, tallied two deaths in 2001 and 185 injuries. Funded through the California Office of Traffic Safety, the DUI Prevention Program grants are for projects that "address changing community and driver attitudes toward alcohol use and driving" and especially young people's and new drivers' attitudes, according to the DPH Request for Application. Application due date: Feb. 3, noon, for this round of grants (a second round of DUI prevention grants may become available for 2005). Contact Nicamer Tolentino at DPH, 581-2420 or nicamer.tolentino@sfdph.org

— MARJORIE BEGGS

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

Closing off Ellis St. entrance makes Boeddeker safer inside

BY TOM CARTER AND MARJORIE BEGGS

Solving one problem sometimes creates another, Boeddeker Park authorities recently found. No sooner had Rec and Park locked the Ellis Street entrance to slam the door on drug trafficking, than the area outside became a trash dump and a snoozing site of the homeless.

"I pass that spot on my way to work," Terrance Alan, chairman of the Entertainment Commission, said in response to a park report at the Dec. 10 Tenderloin Futures Collaborative meeting. "It's a trash dumping place and where people are camping out. It seems to be a recurring problem."

The Ellis gate was locked two months earlier so that the entrance and inside walkway wouldn't be "a runway for drug dealers," according to Rec and Park Principal Recreation Supervisor John LeTourneau. The Jones Street gate stays open.

"Closing the gate has really helped with the safety issues," LeTourneau said at the meeting. "It's a real park now, not a zone."

In the more than 20 years since it opened, Boeddeker has had to fight for its park purity as drug dealing and illicit rest room activities have continually soiled it. Rest rooms, open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily, are hard to monitor, LeTourneau said.

"It's the only playground in the city that's open 365 days a year," he said. "Things are encouraging, but we know they can backslide. It is safer now." He said that he'd look into the trash problem. A month later, the situation was vastly improved because Rec and Park staff and TL residents cooperated, he said.

34 MASON UPDATE

Alan, now a regular at Collaborative meetings, in December briefly updated his newest venture: His partnership in a business at the old Polo's Lounge, 34 Mason. His info was short on details but long on optimism, to paraphrase: It's going to be a great place, and he said it would open in February.

Last September, Alan and partner Andy Harris told the Collaborative about their plans for the site, which they called The Music Incubator, a destination with booze, food, and hands-on training in cutting-edge communications and computer gear for testing out new musical ideas.

In mid-January, the building had been gutted and workers were coming and going, so The Extra contacted Harris to get an opening date and find out whether the plans had panned out. He offered to meet with us the next day and bring Alan, too, but the morning of the meeting, Harris canceled, saying that they weren't ready to go public with the information.

Mike Bovo, owner of 34 Mason, was cordial when we called, but he deferred the details about the building's innards to his tenants. He did say, however, that the opening date has been pushed to April and that an attorney is drafting the application to reactivate the liquor license.



PHOTO BY TOM CARTER

Trash and debris have been dramatically reduced outside the park.

TRINITY PLAZA REPRIEVE

January's Collaborative meeting continued the parade of land use issues. Central City SRO Collaborative Program Director Sam Dodge offered hope of a reprieve for tenants of Trinity Plaza, threatened with eviction by owner Angelo Sangiacomo, who wants to demolish the 411-unit building.

According to the Planning Department's Web site, the Planning Commission in December adopted new temporary residential demolition policies that will be in effect for half a year, then refined and adopted as long-term policies. Owners now must have an independent specialist complete a "soundness report" that compares the economic feasibility of repairing a structure versus demolishing and replacing it.

"Essentially, it'll make it illegal to raze housing that's determined to be sound," probably the case with the Trinity, Dodge said. "A lot of Trinity residents are hanging on — their apartments are good, a step above SRO rooms — but some have moved out, saying they can't deal with the stress."

Back in April, Sangiacomo

offered tenants \$1,000 toward relocation expenses and told them that as soon as Planning and the supes approve his demo permit, they'd get 120-day eviction notices. (The permit goes nowhere until approval of the EIR, which is in draft form now and won't be ready for a month or more, Dodge said.)

Most of the Trinity apartments are still occupied, Dodge said, because as people leave, others, desperate for affordable housing, take their place. They have to sign waivers, however, acknowledging that they know of the potential demolition.

The latest news is that it looks like the supes will pass an anti-demolition ordinance, introduced by Supe Chris Daly in October, that makes it much tougher to demolish buildings of 20 units or more. The Land Use Committee hears the ordinance Feb. 9, and Dodge expects that the next day the full Board of Supervisors will pass it.

COPING WITH 'ENCAMPMENTS'

Last summer, St. Anthony's Foundation was embroiled in a

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