

# AVT 102 Central City

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## SPECIAL ELECTION ISSUE

- Meet the candidates for District 6 supervisor p. 6
- Ballot proposition analysis p.
- Where to vote – map of polling places p.
- How to vote – new procedures p. 4

All this plus much more!

# The Re-Greening



PHOTOS: CARL ANGEL

## of The Tenderloin

### Donation sparks first tree planting of new millennium

by Stan Hutton

**T**hirty or so volunteers assembled in Boeddeker Park on a Saturday morning in September to make yet another tree-planting assault on the streets of the Tenderloin. This was the 10th time in 18 years that Friends of the Urban Forest had come to the neighborhood to dig holes in the Tenderloin's sandy soil and plant trees that everyone hoped would thrive and grow in the midst of the most intensely urban setting in the city.

At the completion of this Sept. 23 planting, organized in part by Adopt-A-Block and fueled by a donation from Tenderloin businessman Charles Mosser, 35 new trees would be growing the district.

Volunteers began gathering shortly after 8 a.m. Elyn Shea, the Friends of the Urban Forest planting manager in charge, put several people to work cutting squares of wire screen that would be wrapped around the young trees as protective armor. Others loaded pickup trucks with wooden poles that later would be driven into the ground, three per tree, to support the fragile trunks for the next several years until each tree grows large and strong enough to support itself.

With all preparation completed, volunteers gathered around a hole dug in the ground on Eddy Street just outside the park entrance. Shea

demonstrated the proper way to plant a tree.

Planting a tree in the Tenderloin is really no different than planting a tree elsewhere in the city with the exception that all trees receive protective wire screens.

Then the volunteers split into four groups, each supervised by a FUF volunteer crew chief. Each crew chief carried a hand-drawn map, prepared by Shea, directing them to the locations where they would plant trees.

Greg Noblet led his group of six helpers to 318 Leavenworth, in front of the Bay Area Women's and Children's Center, to fill an empty tree basin with a new magnolia tree. The bulk



A *Tristania conferta* ready for the final stages of planting.

of the digging and pounding during the 45-minute operation was done by four young people participating in FUF's youth program. Three times a year, FUF recruits 12 teenagers through

Enterprise High School and Arriba Juntos and teaches them job skills related to urban forestry.

The magnolia will be watered and cared for by Bruce