

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SPECIAL EVENTS

LaborFest2009, July 2-31 events honoring the 75th anniversary of the San Francisco General Strike and the West Coast maritime workers strike. Most of the 60 events are free: art exhibitions, tours, lectures, parades, films, music. Info: laborfest.net.

Boeddeker Park design meeting for seniors, July 21, 2:30 p.m., Marlton Manor, 240 Jones, to gather seniors' ideas for changing the park. Suggestions will go to Trust for Public Land, which is holding a series of meetings to help it plan an \$8 million park renovation. Info: Michael Cooper, 885-0361 ext.103.

Positively 6th Street Fair, Sat., Aug. 1, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Stevenson Alley between 6th and 7th streets. Bands, dance and cultural performances, children's play area, family activities, food, community information tables, free health and social services, job help and more. Info: positively6thstreetfair.org. To volunteer: Meital Amitai, 538-8100, ext. 202 or mamitai@iibayarea.org.

NEW ART EVENTS

"Art and Labor Today" exhibition, July 9-25, SoMarts Cultural Center, 934 Brannan, curated by David Duckworth as part of LaborFest. Free. Info: <http://blog.somarts.org>.

"The Ballad of Polly Ann," dance performance by Jo Kreiter's Flyaway Productions, July 14-18, and July 21-25, 8 p.m., SOMArts Cultural Center, 934 Brannan. As part of LaborFest, the premiere celebrates the women who built Bay Area bridges. Tickets: \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. Info: flyawayproductions.com and <http://blog.somarts.org>.

Thursday Night Combo hosted by Mark Romyn, July 16, 8:30 p.m. EXIT Café, 156 Eddy. Variety show with excerpts of plays, songs, magic, and other works-in-progress by Bay Area theater artists. \$5 donation requested. Info: sffringe.org.

"Lady of the Loin," chanteuse Shannon Day with songwriting team Don Seaver and Sean Owens, July 25 and Aug. 1, 8 and 15, 9 p.m., EXIT Theatre, 156 Eddy. Day sings about "good girls gone wrong, wronged girls getting the goods, and lowlives living the high life." Tickets: \$15. Reservations 673-3847. Info: sffringe.org.

Sixth Annual SF Theater Festival, Sun., July 26, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Yerba Buena Gardens and Contemporary Jewish Museum. Free showcase for Bay Area theater groups and performers features 227 actors, 130 shows, all less than 30 minutes. Info: 291-8655 and sftheaterfestival.org.

The Upper Crust, docent tours, first Tuesday of the month, through November, noon-1 p.m., across from City Hall. The plaza's sycamores, in full leaf, are growing up through Patrick Dougherty's large-scale environmental work, 4,500 pounds of willow saplings woven into the trees. Info: 252-4638 and startcommission.org/pubartcollection.

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

Safety for Women in the Tenderloin, every 3rd Wednesday, Central City SRO Collaborative, 449 Turk St., 4-6 p.m. Informal, friendly environment, refreshments, gender sensitive to LGBTQ community and sex workers. Discuss how to make Tenderloin SROs safer for women. Information: Alexandra Goldman, volunteer campaign coordinator, 775-7110 x102.

Neighborhood Emergency Response Team Training (NERT). Central city residents can take the S.F. Fire Department's free disaster preparedness and response training at any neighborhood location. See Website for schedule and training locations, www.sfgov.org/sffdnert, 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. Addresses District 6 residential and business concerns, voter education forums. Information: 339-VOTE (8683) or centralcitydemocrats@yahoo.com.

Central Market Community Benefit District, board meets 2nd Tuesday of the month, 989 Market St., 3rd Fl., 3 p.m. Information: 882-3088, <http://central-market.org>.

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 Planning Coalition, 3rd Wednesday of the month, 6 p.m., 301 Eddy. Call: 820-1412. Neighborhood planning.

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.

Tenderloin nonprofits brace for city's Mega RFP

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end," says Debbie Lerman, administrator of San Francisco Human Services Network, an association of health and human service nonprofits. "We know there will be cuts, we know there will be changes in who delivers the services." But in any event, she says, the net result will be a loss. "The system is not likely to be as strong as it is today." Some insiders speculate that Behavioral Health could lose as much as a third of its programs after the shakeout is complete.

Adding to the uncertainty is confusion over how much money will be available for services. Under the Mega RFP, says Lerman, "Contractors will apply not necessarily knowing how much money is available for their services."

CUTS COMING IN SEPTEMBER

In addition to figuring out how to provide their services for less money, contractors will have to factor in the possibility of even deeper cuts in the future. "We hear there may be another mid-year cut as early as September," Bassiri said. "It's a dire situation." The mayor can make such mid-year cuts without approval by the Board of Supervisors, causing speculation that some programs the supes add back in July may be whacked a few months later.

Behavioral Health initially issued the Mega RFP Dec. 1, but it was postponed because it was rife with difficulties, including complicated and confusing guidelines; the fact that no one knew how much money would be available after the budget ax started cutting; and bad timing — it was issued during the stressful holiday season.

In the meantime, the department held 46 meetings with 164 stakeholders to flesh out recommendations for a revamped system of care in the wake

of budget cuts. Stakeholders included representatives from civil service, city staff, community organizations and the Service Employees International Union.

According to a Health Department report on the stakeholder process, the group crafted a series of recommendations aimed at coordinating patient care, data-sharing, addressing cultural and linguistic needs, shoring up community-based organizations and establishing performance measures.

BLUPRINT FOR FUTURE OF MENTAL HEALTH

Bassiri says he hopes the recommendations — which were presented to the Health Commission — have been used to craft the revamped RFP, which will essentially be the blueprint for mental health care till the contracts expire — a period ranging from one to 10 years, depending on the type of contract.

Lerman is also concerned that the scope of the RFP means the Health Department will be flooded with applicants, creating a backlog that could hurt service providers financially. "DPH has a past history of taking a long time to certify contracts," she said, noting that the department will be further hampered by staff cuts of its own. If contract certifications are delayed, providers' reimbursement will be late, even as they continue to offer services. "Some may be able to get a line of credit to cover their costs, but then they'll have to pay interest. Others may not be able to get credit at all," she said.

Bassiri is concerned that small community organizations unfamiliar with the RFP process or unable to afford experienced grantwriters may wind up being aced out by agencies with deeper pockets. "They could end up losing their programs even though they're providing good services," he said.

The city's dire economic situation has already

hurt some care providers. Tenderloin Health lost funding for its drop-in center, which closed last month. Hyde Street Community Services is preparing to shutter its Clubhouse, a mental health recovery program on Golden Gate Avenue. Many providers are so wrapped up in attempts to ward off cuts under Newsom's proposed budget that they haven't had time to ponder the unknowables of the looming RFP.

Jackie Jenks, executive director of Central City Hospitality House, says she's simply unable to plan until she learns the particulars of the RFP. "It's really difficult, because we just don't know what to expect," she said.

HOLES IN THE SAFETY NET

Jenks dodged a bullet last month when funding for her organization's self-help center on Turk Street was unexpectedly restored. Now she's lobbying on behalf of other service providers in the neighborhood. "We're concerned about the social safety net," she said. "We're spending so much energy trying to save [other] programs we know are on the chopping block that it's not productive to future-trip on the RFP."

Cindy Gyori, executive director of Hyde Street Community Services, says she expects new contracts under the RFP will be doled out to providers that offer the most services for the least amount of money. "My strategy is to be able to say I can do it all," she said. "If you're a small contractor and you're not a one-stop shop, you go out of business."

The only thing Gyori says she's certain of is that the RFP — which, based on the first Mega RFP's guidelines, will require 60- to 70-page applications per contract — is going to keep her awfully busy.

"When the Mega RFP comes out, I'm going to disappear for awhile," she says. "It's the most important thing to happen to contractors in quite a while." ■