

CVIA NEWS

COLE VALLEY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Volume XXXIV

SERVING ALL RESIDENTS OF THE GREATER HAIGHT ASHBURY

WINTER 2020

Our District Has Biggest Burglary Spike in the City

According to the most recent data from the San Francisco Crime Dashboard, the San Francisco Police Department's Park District has had the largest spike in burglaries of any district in San Francisco in 2020.



Thieves focus on bicycles.

From January 1 to October 18, 2020, burglaries have skyrocketed over 100 percent, from 219 in 2019 compared to 420 in 2020 during the same period. In comparison, citywide burglaries are up only 57 percent since the March Shelter-In-Place order. Motor vehicle theft is up more than 37 percent compared to the same period in 2019.

—safehealthyhaight.medium.com

Haight Safe Sleeping Village: A Model for the City?

The City-authorized tent site at the former McDonald's and its forerunner at Civic Center are such successes that Supervisor Rafael Mandelman (D-8) has introduced



The 730 Stanyan Safe Sleeping Site: It's hard to think of tent living as acceptable unless one has experienced the alternative.

legislation that would create duplicates all over the city. "A Place for All" would require that the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (HSH), working with others, provide a citywide network of temporary Safe Sleeping Sites to accommodate the thousands of homeless

Continued on Page 2, Column 2

Dean Preston Reelected

Dean Preston successfully defended his position as District 5 supervisor on November 3, beating former supervisor Vallie Brown by over 10 percent. With four years in front of him, the far left "progressive" agenda of the current Board of Supervisors will continue to challenge the policies of a moderate mayor.

Prior to becoming a member of the Board, Preston helped lead the fight to save rent control in 2008, formed California's only statewide tenant rights organization, and wrote San Francisco's law providing a right to counsel for all tenants facing eviction. As a Democratic Socialist, he advocates for fundamental change at the local, state and national levels.



Photo: SFChron.com

Preston, a New Yorker, attended law school in San Francisco at UC Hastings, graduating magna cum laude. He served as a staff attorney at the nonprofit Tenderloin Housing Clinic (THC) where for seven years he represented low-income tenants. His legal work at THC included defending tenants against Ellis Act evictions, suing landlords for substandard housing conditions, and fighting condo conversions of rent-controlled housing. Preston is the founder and director of Tenants Together, California's only statewide tenant rights organization.

Unlike last year's narrow victory, Dean Preston defeated Vallie Brown by 10 percent.

Preston has lived in District 5 (Alamo Square) for over 20 years with his wife Jenckyn Goosby and his two daughters, both of whom attend public school.

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Controversy Over Closure of Twin Peaks Boulevard

Because of complaints about increased congestion, car break-ins, littering, noisy gatherings and lack of access to the look-out point, the City's well-intentioned car ban on



Including Twin Peaks Boulevard in the City's Slow Streets program may have been a miscalculation as complaints mount.

Twin Peaks Boulevard had to be modified. Portola Gate is now open to vehicles from 6 pm to midnight allowing access to the overlook area (technically called "Christmas Tree Point.")

The San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department, which oversaw the original closure, said the nighttime-only opening of Twin Peaks Boulevard represents a compromise between the needs for neighborhood safety and socially distanced recreation.

They're Mad as Hell

A law suit was filed against SF Muni by the law firm of Reuben, Junius and Rose, representing Safeway Stores, with transit activist David Pilpel also filing, over the cuts to public transit during the



Lack of ridership has forced Muni to shorten or eliminate some routes.

coronavirus emergency. More precisely, they are objecting to the statutory exemption Muni received from the SF Planning Department from environmental review of bus service and street/parking changes required by CEQA. Buena Vista neighbor Richard Magary added his voice to many outraged by the changes, writing, "I see that Muni has finalized the unfortunate decision to lop off the Buena Vista/Cole Valley leg of the 37 Corbett, screwing us and many others who need this vital community service. (Grrrr.)"

Exercise Challenged?
How about joining neighbors on the first Saturday of every month for a free walk around Stow Lake? Meet at the Boathouse at 10 am.

Sleeping Village, continued from page 1, column 1.

people for whom the city has no place.

Even Haight neighbors who have had doubts about the Stanyan and Haight tent site, admit that **it is the proliferation of ad hoc tents and the boisterous lounge scene on Haight's side streets that diminish neighborhood life, not the Safe Sleeping Village.**

In his press release, Mandelman quotes Dr. Lena Miller, founder of Urban Alchemy and the operator of the city's first Safe Sleeping Village at Civic Center, saying, "Guests can sleep at night without fear of violence, sexual assault, and theft. They can go to appointments and to work without fear that their few possessions will be gone when they return. The Village allows guests to maintain their agency and dignity while they engage in the process of stabilizing their lives."



Privacy barriers were subsequently installed around the Civic Center site as in the Haight.

Mandelman has proven he is the real deal. Explaining the legislation to the CVIA Board at its November meeting, he admitted that this is indeed a desperate measure. But he also recognizes but

that we can't simply take refuge in a "Housing for All" position. The fact is that we can do both. People are dying on the streets while it takes five years to put up a building. For years, a safe, clean shelter system was undermined by homeless advocates deriding it as "warehousing the poor." Now there is a pragmatic plan that will spread the responsibility citywide and give many access to safety and basic services.

The measure will go before the Board of Supervisors before Christmas. If approved, HSF will have 60 days to submit a plan to the Mayor and Board of Supervisors. They will then have nine months in which to open enough Safe Sleeping Villages to serve 500 homeless people.

While other city leaders blame City Hall, Mandelman, supported by Supervisor Sandra Fewer, has taken action.
—Karen Crommie

Bold Measures for Hard Times

Mayor London Breed announced a new temporary permit program to ensure safer outdoor entertainment and amplified sound activity as a part of San Francisco's gradual reopening. Administered by the Entertainment Commission, the new JAM or "Just Add Music" permit will help



businesses, organizations, and individuals hold responsible entertainment activity at Shared Spaces and other outdoor locations consistent with public health rules.

The JAM permit program provides a free and streamlined pathway for the arts and entertainment sectors to support themselves. Whether this will come at the expense of neighborhood peace and quiet remains to be seen.

Haight Street: The Trees Were Planted After All

As promised, trees have been planted in spite of deep suspicions by us tree-huggers that the City, who removed trees on Haight Street for the refurbishment would leave the spaces empty. Much social media chatter was spent on this speculation. But now drought tolerant Australian Brisbane Box trees with large root structures are finding a home amid an awakening street culture. The moniker was long—"The Upper Haight Transit Improvement and Pedestrian Realm"



Irrigation pipes were added prior to the tree planting.

project was aimed at "revitalizing the streets, sidewalks and public spaces in the historic Haight Ashbury neighborhood," although, at the time it began, you couldn't have found a more vital street in the city than Haight. Maybe the Planning Department had a crystal ball? The proposal said that the upgrades would "enable the greatest possible degree of flexibility by creating urban spaces that are able to evolve with the changing demands of the neighborhood." Well, the demands of the neighborhood certainly changed with the arrival of the coronavirus. Haight Street became a dystopian nightmare. Not since the departure of the hippies in the early 70s had I seen it look so scary. Nevertheless the City continued to work through it all. Now, as the dust and ash settle, and jackhammers retreat, we do indeed see a new, improved Haight Street.



Still to come are traffic signals on the intersections of Clayton, Shradler and Central.

The project spanned a half mile from Stanyan to Central and included sewer work, increased pedestrian lighting, bulb-outs and curb ramps, bus bulbs, sidewalk replacement, repaving, fiber conduit work and, yes, tree planting.

—Karen Crommie

Regretfully, due to Covid-19 restrictions, **SANTA ON COLE** has been cancelled this year

Cole Valley Corner For Sale

The massive corner building on Cole and Carl (103 Carl Street), home to Padrecito, Mane Attraction and Lavande has been on the market for two months. Offered by Compass Realty, it includes six recently refurbished living units and the three ground floor commercial businesses. Built in 1904,



103 Carl Street recently underwent a "soft story" upgrade. No small task in a building this size.

It has a rich history in our neighborhood. The building has five three-bedroom units and a single one-bedroom. It boasts hardwood floors and washer/dryer within each unit. It's the opportunity of a lifetime if you have nine million bucks handy (actually, \$8,995.00). Public transportation is no problem, parking is another story. The seller has owned the building for 40 years and, from all reports, kept it up quite well.

Holiday Gift from Rec & Park

An art installation coming to Golden Gate Park on December 1 will transform Peacock Meadow (between McLaren Lodge and the Conservatory of Flowers) into an enchanted forest of otherworldly shapes and ever changing light.

Called "Entwined," by San Francisco artist Charles Gaden, the installation will run through February 29 to honor Golden Gate Park's 150th Anniversary. Says Rec and Park, "It will create a whimsical wonderland where visitors can explore paths and sit under a grove of three entwined sculptural trees while practicing social distancing."



More than 2,000 LED bulbs clustered into small flowering bushes at varying heights will fill Peacock Meadow.



Would you like a copy of this newsletter sent to a neighbor? Send an email to cviasf@aol.com or Leave a message at 415-431-1414 with their name and address and consider it done.

Former Mayor Speaks Out Against UCSF Plans

UC San Francisco has a well-deserved reputation of excellence in research, teaching and health care delivery. That's the "medical" side; but the "developer" side is seeking to strangle the Parnassus Heights neighborhood by proposing an additional 2.4 million square feet of new development — the equivalent of the Salesforce Tower and Transamerica Pyramid buildings combined — to the existing campus.

UCSF aims to squeeze almost 8,000 more people onto campus, in addition to the 17,500 who already go there daily. All this despite promising for 45 years that it would never again expand its boundaries or facilities at this already overbuilt site.



Former Mayor Art Agnos

In 1976, the UC Board of Regents signed an official resolution establishing a permanent limit on expansion of the UCSF Parnassus campus. UCSF has used this permanent limit to justify expansion elsewhere in the city, including the Mission Bay campus.

The most significant building of the plan is a 16-story hospital, which at nearly 300 feet tall will be the tallest building on the entire west side of San Francisco. It will cross current boundaries into public green-space, reducing the historic Mount Sutro Open Space Reserve.

UC has excellent options without breaking its promises and altering the character of our city.

In 1989, I was asked by UCSF Chancellor Krevans for space in the newly emerging Mission Bay project. Instead, I offered 400 acres for a new campus in the Hunters Point Shipyard. My idea was rejected because the "faculty committee" said the shipyard was "too remote."

Not today. The shipyard is convenient to UCSF's Mission Bay campus. There are hundreds of acres available for development.

The hospital and supporting buildings would increase economic development and workforce housing for the entire south east area, while allowing the Parnassus campus to retain the facilities essential to its mission including the ER.



UCSF will expand from 3.5 million to 5 million sq. ft.

Other unstudied alternatives are Mount Zion and Mission Bay. In addition, UCSF's current 2014 Long Range

Development Plan, adopted only six years ago would modernize and update the campus, uphold the space ceiling, and have a much better environmental impact.

The draft environmental impact report for the project received many responses from civic groups and individuals pointing out serious consequences of the expansion plan:

- Enormous pressure on housing and tenant displacement requiring an estimated 4,000 more units of housing. UCSF has proposed adding 1,000, with only 134 in the near term;

- UCSF's 2019 commitment to "advance health equity" by "increasing its capacity to train, lure, and promote" San Franciscans for new campus jobs has been ignored even though it would lessen transportation and housing impacts;

- Impacts on air quality that will not meet current state or federal standards and cannot be mitigated. This is especially ironic considering that UCSF is at the forefront of research and advocacy on the impact of poor air quality on health. The EIR also shows significant increase in cancer risk as the result of toxic emissions, with inadequate mitigation plans.

- The new hospital will cut into public open space, and substantially increase bird fatalities resulting from collisions with the new hospital. Public views from popular hiking trails and from Golden Gate Park will be obstructed.

- UCSF projects a daily population of about 25,000. The housing shortfall and lack of adequate public transportation options for that many people will force many more to commute by automobile, making quick access to the emergency rooms problematic.

UCSF's plan for the expansion of its Parnassus campus is expensive, deeply flawed, and again violates its long-standing promises not to expand its Parnassus campus. Our city deserves the same kind of superb caring attention always provided by the medical side of UCSF.

—Art Agnos

Reprinted from the SF Chronicle 9-21-20

Parnassus Neighbors Want a Fair Hearing on UCSF Plan

A group of us have come together to establish the Parnassus Neighborhood Coalition (PNC) to formally oppose UCSF's proposed expansion of its Parnassus campus.

The members of PNC are strongly supportive of UCSF as a world-class academic, research and healthcare institution but believe its development activities are ill-advised and injurious to its neighbors and the City of San Francisco.

We are working with other neighborhood groups, including San Franciscans for Balanced and Livable Communities, Cole Valley Improvement Association and Yerba Buena Neighborhood Consortium who also vigorously oppose UCSF's expansion plan. For further information call me at 415-640-7080.

—Bob Goodman

Grattan Playground is now open Friday and Saturday
10 am to 6 pm until mid-December

The Booksmith is now open for browsing
everyday from 11 am to 2 pm. Curbside
pickup is available 10 am to 6 pm daily.

Park East Entrance Now Open

It's finally open. You can now walk through the Alvard Lake area at the Stanyan Street entrance to Golden Gate Park and experience new lawn, paths and the lovely little lake with its frog fountain surrounded in blooming plants. It is the gateway to the many wonders of the eastern section of the park: the Children's Playground, Sharon Art Center, Lawn Bowling, the



Planted areas are separated from the new path by bollards soon to be linked by chains.

Conservatory of Flowers, the museums and, very soon, the renovated tennis courts. Formally dubbed the "Golden Gate Park Stanyan Edge Project," it was funded by the 2012 Clean and Safe Neighborhood Parks Bond.



ing kiosk coffee bar run by Flywheel Coffee, the café directly across the street.

Finishing touches still in the works include adding chains between all the new bollards, minor irrigation upgrades, some additional planting, and regrading the main asphalt pathway so that it complies with current ADA codes.

Nothing happens in this city without an outspoken constituency. Special credit goes to Susan Strolis, the tireless leader of the Alvard Lake volunteer gardening team, who has worked so hard to make this happen. Alongside her was Ted Loewenberg, president of the Haight Ashbury Improvement Association, the neighborhood's oldest resident/merchant organization. We thank them along with the park's general manager, Phil Ginsburg, who secured the funding, Dan Mauer the sensitive and strong project manager, and long time resident Alicia Noyola, who made sure the site and fountain remained as close as possible to its historic design.



Park activist Susan Strolis

730 Stanyan After Tents?

Most Recent News

At a virtual community meeting on October 29, the developers of the affordable housing at the site of the former McDonald's announced that the building will be 63 feet in height and contain 120 units—75 percent for families, 25 percent for "transitional age youth" (TAY), those between the ages of 18 to 25, who were formerly homeless. There will be no units set aside for seniors. The zoning limit of 50 feet was extended because, being designated "100 percent affordable," the project qualifies for a "density bonus" of 13 extra feet. Residents must have income within 30 to 100% of the Average Median Income (AMI)—from \$38,000 to \$128,000 for a family of four. The big question: Is it too late to change these decisions? Does the neighborhood have any further input, outside of more gratuitous multiple-choice polls?

Where We Are Now

The presence of the Safe Sleeping Village (SSV) at the site has fostered both supporters and antagonists—with most people somewhere in between. It's hard to think that allowing the tent campers to be off the street and in a clean safe environment with access to services is not a good thing. **But the accompanying ad hoc tent and hang-out encampments on the streets adjoining Haight seem to be growing.** Burglaries have also doubled. Is there a connection? On the near horizon is a repeat of the battle for interim use of when the SSV closes, designated for the end of November, but highly unlikely during the holiday season.

How We Got Here

Back in January of 2018 a press release by the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development (MOHCD), gave three alternatives: a 50-foot, 5-story building, a 65-foot, 7-story building, or no new construction at all. Two years later at a community meeting on August 20, 2020, the height choice included a height option of 83 feet. Already at work YIMBY Action smelled blood in the water and stepped up their mail campaign. Joining them are the Housing Action Coalition (HAC) and the Haight Ashbury Neighbors for Density (HAND).

Supervisor Dean Preston Pushes for 80-foot Height.

Recently reelected Supervisor Dean Preston is also pushing for the 80-foot height, posted on Medium.com (9-14-20), "The community overwhelmingly supports maximizing the number of affordable unit on the site. Current laws allow an eight-story building. Our office has not heard from any community group in direct opposition to the eight stories...Indeed neighbors are far more focused on affordability levels and the populations served."

What Does HANC Think?

Two years ago, the Haight Ashbury Neighborhood Council (HANC), long the guardians of low-impact zoning in the neighborhood, made the following statement in its newsletter (12-17). "HANC is confident that, with the right design, affordable housing can be constructed on this site in one or more 50-foot, 5 story residential buildings that will have a less-than-significant impact on environmental quality and neighboring historic resources. We are concerned that a 65-foot building would degrade the historic value of the east end of Golden Gate Park and the neighboring Stanyan Park ↩

Seniors Not Welcome

There was some significant neighborhood backlash last month about not having designated units for seniors. The developers responded by calling a special meeting to address this on October 5. Eric Shaw, the new director of MOHCD, refused to consider changing the plans which, he explained, "...involved months of funding strategies," adding that, "Seniors might be included as part of a family unit." TNDC project manager Emily Van Loon said, "We were directed by MOHCD to focus on TAYs, not seniors. That is the underserved population in the Haight."

The October 29 Meeting

At the last community meeting, the inclusion of seniors was considered a moot point by the developers, but that didn't stop members of the seniors working group of the Coalition for a Complete Community (CCC) to continue making their case. "The only space you have for us is a three by six-foot hole in Colma," said a woman identified only as Louise.

In an impressive visual presentation, we saw fingers arranging blocks in different ways as the architects supposedly pondered different solutions for the design of the building. We held our breath and, finally, the working model was revealed: A modern museum? A powerful fortress? Maybe another EU headquarters? A handsome building for sure, but



Proposed design for 730 Stryan building.

not anyone's idea of family housing in the Haight Ashbury. Especially when the architects went to elaborate lengths to assure us they had assiduously studied the neighborhood's signature Victorian buildings.

I want to emphasize, here, that the architects OMA, a New York firm, represented at the meeting by Jason Long and Christine Yoon, fulfilled their mandate: squeeze as many units into the space as possible, with a nod to green spots here and there. That's what was ordered and no one can say they didn't deliver with style. Partnering with them is YA Studio, a respected San Francisco architecture firm.

Pleasing Everyone Is Tricky

Of concern is the conflict-of-interest between a homeless youth drop-in center (possibly including showers), in the same building as the 30 or more formerly homeless TAY residents, presumably trying to establish a firm footing in life—not to mention families with young children coming in and out. As it is now, the ground floor will have centers for daycare, resident social services, seniors, tech training, community meetings and a fast food restaurant. A mix of incentives that would challenge even building managers with as much experience as TNDC.

—Karen Crommie

Key to Acronyms: MOHCD is Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development, CCDC is Chinatown Community Development Center, one of the two chosen developers, TNDC Tenderloin Neighborhood Development Corporation is the second developer, CCC is the Coalition for a Complete Community, SSV is the Safe Sleeping Village, HAND is the Haight Ashbury Neighbors for Density, SFHAC is the SF Housing Action Coalition.



Thank You For Your Support



It certainly isn't expected, but when a member sends in an extra contribution, we appreciate it greatly. Because of the business climate this year, we have not asked Cole Valley merchants to contribute to the daily cleaning of Cole Street's business district, which costs CVIA \$1,033 each month. We will make up the deficit with member contributions, and a discount from CleanScapes. So we would like to take this opportunity to thank the following members for their generosity during the period October 2019 through September 2020. Please notify us if your name has inadvertently been omitted.

Beacons (\$1500): Abby & David M. Rumsey, Michael Siliski

Benefactors (\$250 - \$500): Karen and David Crommie, Linda Erkelens, Linda C. Hothem, Jane & Michael Miller, Michael J. Sullivan

Donors (\$100 - \$249): Susanna Lorant & Mark Anthenien, Cecile & Jeff Bodington, Gina Centoni, Elaine Robinson & Andrew Citizen, Linda Coda, Thomas Ports & Catherine Covey, Diane and Christopher Davies, Mary Ann de Souza, Sandra Norberg & Richard Drake. Tresa & Jim Eyres, Margaret & Russell Garvin, Robert Goodman, Marianne Hesse, Mary & John Hooper, Randy & Rich Lavinghouse, Jenny Lee, Deborah Robbins & Henry Navas, Janan New, Sigrid Schafmann, Robert G. Jones & John T. Smith, Tracy Grubs & Richard Taylor, Kathe Traynor, Nicole Valco

Contributors (\$50 - \$99): Anonymous, Travis Becker, Sharon Birenbaum, Chris Broderick, Philip Brodey, Chris Bunga, Lena Emmery & Charles Canepa, Frances Dependahl, Claudia Scharff & Timothy Dunn, Irene Jang & Matthew DuVall, Deb & Todd Frederick, Robert Gordon & Bill Haskell, Douglas Hall, Van Hart, Lyn & Harold Isbell, Sarah & Neema Jalali, Margareta Ekblad & Vojtech Licko, Michelle & Wallis Lim, Bahereh & John Manning, Craig Newmark, Ineke Ruhland & Bill O'Such, Jan Platt & Jeff Ross, Francine M. Prophet, Ellen Rashbaum, Kendra & William Robins, Diane & Bob Silver, Jay Stevens, Brenda Stone, Fabienne Thuillier, Mary Ann Wolcott, Victoria Zaroff, Brenda Stone, Fabienne Thuillier, Mary Ann Wolcott

Supporters (\$25 - \$49): Anonymous, Gail & Howard Berman, Mary Helen Briscoe, Kristina & Howard Case, Kay Cockerill, Warren Cockrel, Sheila Cordon, Joseph Creitz, Ellen Curry, Adele Dorison, Mari Coates & Gloria Galindo, Melissa & Glen Gee, Carole Glosenger, Marissa Gomes, Mike & John Greenwood, Ethel Konopka, Lynn Kormondy, Laura Lai, Richard Magary, David Amiss & Azadeh Moghtaderi, Michael Moore, Barbara Mow, Thomas Nicoll, Robert Page, Brian Presley, Celia Price, Sandra Radtka, Helen and Allan Ridley, Shannon Riordan, Marie Samson, William Simpson, Susan Strolis, Jillian & Blake Tyrrell, Ilya Kaltman & Jack Vognsen, Connie Kullberg & Robert Weaver, Cindy Morton & Peter Weiss, Elsa Rosenberg & David Zuckerman

Boosters (\$24 and below): Beverley Epstein, Minette & Isac Gutfreund, Beverly Ku, David Oates, John Priest, Aisling Robins, Erin Shigekawa, Jennifer LaVail & Russell Snyder, Cynthia Travis, Ken Wilcox

Frida Kahlo Exhibit Finally Opens at DeYoung

At the time of Frida Kahlo's death in 1954, a treasure trove of the artist's highly personal items—including jewelry, clothing, and prosthetics—were locked away. Fifty



Frida and Diego were remarried in San Francisco in 1940.

years later, these belongings were unsealed—now they're on view for the first time on the West Coast. Discover what these objects reveal about their iconic owner in the long-delayed exhibit "Frida Kahlo: Appearances Can Be Deceiving."

If you go to see her paintings, you will be disappointed. This is a much more intimate and unusual look into the artist's personal life. Projected footage of her and Diego during a playful photo op reveals Frida to be much more appealing than she appears in her many self-portraits and photographs.

The Museum is extending hours to 7:45 pm every Friday and Saturday throughout November. All guests must reserve timed tickets to enter (the latest time slot is 6:45 pm). Tickets sell out. Booking in advance online is recommended. Go to tickets.famsf.org.

RescueSF: Neighbors Taking Action on Homelessness

RescueSF was started by neighborhood activists Lori Brooke and Mark Nagel to solve the seemingly intractable homelessness that is plaguing our city. They are not waiting for City Hall to act.



Tired of City Hall bumbling, San Francisco's neighborhoods are uniting.

Building a coalition of residents from every neighborhood in the city isn't easy. But they have been working for months to evaluate best practices from cities across the

country in order to identify solutions that could work here in San Francisco. They are directing public pressure on political leaders to adopt proven policies and support people who are on the right track. Attend their virtual speaker series and receive updates by signing up at RescueSF.org.

Cole Street: Parklets R Us

Neighborhood restaurants were slow in adjusting to the sequester. Whether this was the initial red tape of getting



permits, reluctance to put out hard cash for a parklet with winter coming, or inaction simply due to shock, is anyone's guess. But soon, if they hadn't done it before, restaurants got permits to place tables outside. Bambino's, Crepes on Cole, Beit Rima, Ino Vino, Padrecito and Reverie all have sidewalk seating. But some went further.

Zazie's parklet was filled from day one.

Early on, even before they constructed their

parklet, Kezar Pub on Stanyan had placed tables and chairs outside their building with strings of lights and large TV screens tuned to sport channels. Then, on Cole Street, Zazie built the mother of all parklets, running north past the now-closed Finnegans Wake. One week after construction it was rare to see an empty table, prompting co-owner Megan Cornelius to tell the Chronicle's Nora Mihanec that the outlay of \$20,000 "was well worth it." Six weeks later both Kezar Bar & Restaurant and Peet's came on board.



Coming a little late to the game, Kezar Bar and Restaurant constructed a parklet parallel to its frontage and half that of Val de Cole.

The City has issued some 1,300 permits for sidewalk dining and 400 for street closures, such as the recent car ban



Peet's was the third parklet to appear on Cole.

on Page Street. The City's "Shared Spaces" program is scheduled to end on December 31, while the parklet permits are good until 2023. Both may undergo some revision

because of extended coronavirus restrictions and problems for people with disabilities who have difficulty navigating the sidewalks between outdoor tables.

—Karen Crommie

CVIA Board Minutes

Every meeting begins with a reading of the minutes of the last meeting and reports from delegates to the Kezar Stadium Advisory Committee (KSAC), Community Police Advisory Board (CPAB), UCSF Long Range Planning Citizens Advisory Group (CAG), Waller Center Advisory Committee, and the Westside Transportation and Accessibility Coalition. To join the virtual meeting contact CVIASF@aol.com.

Virtual Meeting on Zoom - September 8, 2020, 7:00 pm

Guests: Members Chantal Byrne, Cathy Haller, Tom Hubbard and HANC president Tes Welborn.

■ Treasurer Joan Downey reported a bank balance of \$52,896.65, out of which \$15,827.37 is presently held in the Clean Cole Street fund and \$25,267.20 held in the account (as fiscal sponsor) for the Stanyan Parklet.

■ Vice president Breana Wheeler reported that Joan Downey established a Zoom account in CVIA's name through which any board member can host a virtual meeting. Each Board member now has an ID on the shared Google Drive. Access is denied after 2 weeks of non-use so password has to be renewed. She also reminded us that, according to our bylaws, any motion to be valid must be voted on by all members.

■ Chris Hock said he would send all members copies of the bylaws for review.

■ Tes Welborn (HANC) asked if CVIA would join them in a letter asking the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development (MOHCD) to include seniors in the demographics of 730 Stanyan residents. Karen Crommie said she would draft a letter and, after getting Board approval will send it to Tes for input. Karen will also invite HAIA and BVNA to sign on. Final letter will not go out without CVIA's approval. Copies should be sent to Mayor, development corporations THDC and CCDC, and D-5 supervisor.

■ Motion to sign on to SF Transit Riders letter in support of Muni's "Transit Recovery," which was initially approved until it was pointed out that part of the "Recovery" includes installing a "temporary" emergency transit lane on Masonic Avenue, leaving only one lane for cars. In a later vote by email, motion failed. Joan to respond to SFTR.

■ Breana urged all members to take the poll issued by "730 Stanyan," the new name of the developers' consortium. Agreed Breana should forward it to all members.

■ After discussing items to be included in a membership survey, Breana urged all Board members to put suggestions for questions in the Slack "membership" file.

■ Tes invited CVIA to join HANC in a proposed candidate debate on October 2. President Carole Glosenger said the Board would discuss it and get back to her.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Virtual Meeting on Zoom - October 5, 2020, 7:00 pm

■ Treasurer Joan Downey reported a bank balance of \$53,651.62, out of which \$15,919.58 is presently held in the Clean Cole Street fund and \$24,267.20 held in the account (as fiscal sponsor) for the Stanyan Parklet. She noted an insurance rebate and also receipt of a notice for a pre-application meeting for an expansion of 140 Belgrave.

■ Motion passed unanimously: to send a letter to State Assembly Member David Chiu, State Senator Scott Weiner and Governor Gavin Newsom opposing the scale of UCSF expansion adding an additional 1.5 million square feet to its Parnassus campus. Joan to write. Chuck Canepa noted that former planning commissioner Dennis Antenore is appealing to the Planning Department for reexamination of the project's neighborhood impact.

■ Joan reported with regret that CVIA member Serena Unger's 10-minute appeal for carbon reduction in Golden Gate Park (fewer cars) was eliminated from the last meeting's minutes of the West Side Transportation and Accessibility Coalition.

■ President Carole Glosenger noted that burglaries in Park District have now doubled. Whether there is a link to the growing tent population has not been determined. When she asked tent owners pitched along Waller Street why they were not camped inside the Safe Sleeping Village, they replied that there was no more room but were told to "stay near," (e.g. outside the sleeping site on the Waller Street sidewalk).

■ Motion passed unanimously: to send a letter to Mayor London Breed protesting the current street life in the greater Haight Ashbury. Tents, fights, drug use, burglaries and assaults have increased markedly. Police are rarely seen. Residents are at the breaking point. Copy to Supervisor Dean Preston and Park Station Captain Chris Pedrini.

■ Because of Breana Wheeler's absence, the Internal Communications Review was postponed until November.

■ Karen Crommie reported on the ad hoc "community planning" meeting held by the 730 Stanyan developers on October 5, called to discuss the neighborhood demand for inclusion of seniors in the resident demographic of the affordable housing project. For the first time, future residents were described as "homeless," rather than "low income," which is a very different population and not in the original description. (See article on pg. 6.)

■ Carole announced a D-5 candidate debate on Friday, October 16 in partnership with the Inner Sunset Park Neighbors (Martha Ehrenfeld), Buena Vista Neighborhood Association (David Burke), Haight Ashbury Improvement Association (Ted Loewenberg), and Safe Healthy Haight (John Logan). All candidates for supervisor have been invited. Event is planned as a Webinar and link will be posted on the CVIA website.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Virtual Meeting on Zoom - November 2, 2020, 7:00 p.m.

(Guests, Supervisor Rafael Mandelman (D-8), and CVIA members Serena Unger and Tom Hubbard)

■ Treasurer Joan Downey reported a bank balance of \$53,1039.35, out of which \$15,221.79 is presently held in the Clean Cole Street fund and \$25,267.20 held in the account (as fiscal sponsor) for the Stanyan Parklet.

■ Supervisor Rafael Mandelman described his pending legislation, called "A Place For All," establishing safe sleeping sites across the city in a temporary emergency effort to stop people from sleeping on the sidewalks. (See article on page 1.)

■ Motion passed unanimously: To support A Place For All by writing to all supervisors encouraging them to approve Supervisor Mandelman's legislation.

■ Motion passed unanimously: To formally support RescueSF, the citywide organization evaluating best practices to deal with

unhoused people in order to identify solutions that could work here in San Francisco.

■ Lena Emmerly reported that the lights at Kezar Stadium have been restored. In a subsequent report on the last CPAB meeting, she said that the current staffing at Park Station is comprised of 85 officers, with 52 on patrol. There has been only one coronavirus case among them. Park Station community meetings have returned online every last Thursday of the month.

■ Serena Unger and Joan Downey discussed an appeal by the SF Westside Transportation and Accessibility Coalition (SF-WTAC) to study reopening JFK Drive to cars as soon as the pandemic is over. Right now, Golden Gate Park’s main artery is closed to traffic seven days a week from Stanyan to 19th Avenue for walking, biking and skating, part of the SFMTA’s and Rec and Park’s Slow Streets initiative. The museums believe the loss of access and street parking impedes visitors while others, such as Unger, see an opportunity for carbon reduction consistent with the San Francisco Climate Action Plan. Some advocates see a future in which a car free JFK Drive will extend all the way to the beach. Since the CVIA Board was conflicted, the matter was tabled.

Adjourned 9:10 pm

CVIA Executive Board: Chuck Canepa, David Crommie, Karen Crommie, Joan Downey, Lena Emmerly, Carole Glosenger, Marianne Hesse, Chris Hock, Shannon Cooper Hock, Edward Walls, Breana Wheeler

City Nixes “Lounge” at Stanyan Street Pot Shop

The City has given its approval to the application for opening a cannabis shop at 768 Stanyan, next door to the Kezar Pub. It started with plans submitted by Matthew Henri and Marti Brass, owners of the Waller Street pinball arcade Free Gold Watch. Because the specific site is the only spot left in the greater Haight far enough away from a school to qualify for cannabis sales, the couple decided to remodel their basement and go for it. Not without partners, however. As is the case of most cannabis stores, they are supported by product suppliers, managers, security companies and equity partners.



What is now a residential garage will become a cannabis dispensary.

Part of their plan was to make it a venue, not only for buying cannabis products, but also

for consuming them—described as a “lounge.” The City did not warm to that aspect so the store will open as cash-and-carry for now.

Belvedere Residents Call off Halloween But Give Back Thousands of Dollars

Residents of Belvedere Street have hosted a Halloween trick-or-treat party for more than 30 years. The crowds of children and their parents are so large that barriers and police presence are required. One resident reported giving out 2,000 pieces of candy last year.



But this year they are heeding the City’s coronavirus suggestion that large gatherings are a bad idea. There was no trick-or-treating or street party this year. Instead, the residents put their Halloween cash toward more urgent fare, donating their usual candy expenditures to the San Francisco-Marin Food Bank and calling it “Candy to Carrots.”

Laura Myers broached the idea to the neighborhood email list in late September and many of the households contributed \$300-\$500. Yes, that’s what they each put out for candy and decorations every year. They’ve collected \$40,000. About \$10,000 of that is from residents and much of the rest came from corporate matching grants including a three-to-one grant from Delta Dental.

—Joan Downey

(Ed. Note: San Francisco-Marin Food Bank distributes groceries to neighbors at the west end of Kezar Stadium every Wednesday from noon to 4:00 pm.)

Broken Windows: DA Will Pay

A pilot program to help small businesses facing the costs of vandalism during the coronavirus shelter-in-place will be administered by the D.A.’s office. The citywide program has allotted \$100,000 to District 5 from “add-backs” (left-over money) from this year’s city budget process.

Currently reserved for D-5 businesses that gross less than \$25 million annually, the program will allocate \$1,000 per incident to qualifying shops for up to two incidents a year to help shoulder the costs of replacing broken storefront windows.



Vandals have broken windows twice at Berner’s Cannabis dispensary on Haight St.

These funds are meant to help small businesses such as Haight Street’s Hobson’s Choice and nearby cannabis shop Berner’s on Haight, both of which experienced damage as a result of the backlash from the George Floyd murder.

Haight Street Named After a Benevolent Woman

In spite of records stating that Haight Street was named after Governor Henry H. Haight, and others citing city Supervisor Henry W. Haight, indefatigable San Francisco historian Angus McFarlane discovered it was neither. It was Weltha Ann Buell Haight who was so honored.

Weltha Ann Buell was born in 1825 in Rochester, New York. She married a banker, Henry W. Haight, and moved to San Francisco in December of 1852. Upon arriving, Weltha became involved with the San Francisco Ladies' Protection and Relief Society and was a prominent figure in the San Francisco Protestant Orphan Asylum (SFPOA), dedicating 53 years to the organization.

The orphanage was established in 1851 to provide for children and families of all faiths and backgrounds who arrived in the city in need of assistance. In the mid-1800s, this was a common occurrence, especially as many fell sick while traveling to the frontier.

When an orphan-carrying ship, *The Northerner*, arrived in port on December 30, 1850, here's what the *The San Francisco Daily Courier* had to say:

"This is truly a sad and melancholy affliction to these little ones, who are cast upon our shores parentless and helpless. They are entitled to the aid and sympathy of our people. We hope that measures will be taken at once to provide for their relief. It becomes our people to see to these little children, and provide them homes."



Weltha Ann Buell Haight and daughter Minnie lie in rest at Olivet Cemetery in Colma.

1852 and began construction of a new building and school in what is today Hayes Valley.

In her 1900 memoir "Some Reminiscences of the San Francisco Protestant Orphan Asylum," Weltha wrote an anecdote about the 1853-1854 move of the orphanage building.

"Before any steps could be taken towards building...it was necessary that portion of the city should be surveyed, and the streets marked off, so that a proper site for the building could be selected. My husband, being a member of the Board of Supervisors, soon had this accomplished, and out of compliment to two of the Managers, Waller street and

Haight street were named."

With this statement, Weltha, in her own words, stated that two of the streets directly connected to the orphanage were named for two of the institution's managers—herself and Mrs. Waller. "This is the only first-hand mention of how Haight Street came to be named," said McFarlane. "And it's done so modestly. Just that modesty gives it extra weight to me."

Weltha passed away on February 7, 1906. She, her husband, who died in 1869, and eldest daughter, Minnie, are buried together in Colma. The SFPOA continued to serve orphans in its Hayes Valley location through 1919. It survived the 1906 earthquake and fire but, eventually, the organization moved to the Parkside neighborhood. Today, it's known as the Edgewood Center for Children and Families.

Ed. Note: This fascinating piece of neighborhood history was excerpted from "Herstory: Who is Haight Street Really Named After," by Amanda Gonzales (Hoodline.com 8/20/17). With many thanks to her and renown San Francisco historian Angus McFarlane.

Postscripts



Photo: Joan Downey

The Patriot of Carl Street, Jay Streets, made sure everyone could find his polling place on November 3.

Visit our website at
CVIASF.org

Post-Thanksgiving Gardening

Saturday, November 28 is the fourth Saturday of the month and volunteers are needed to help park gardeners at the Alvord Lakelet in Golden Gate Park. Connect with this magnificent park and help give back to the community. We begin at 10 am and finish by noon.



Meet at Haight and Stanyan Street. Look for the Rec and Park vehicle to determine our location.

Typical gardening tasks include weeding, planting, mulching and clean-up. The air will be fresh. It is a great way to start the weekend.

Please wear appropriate clothing for working outdoors and prepare for varied weather. The event will occur rain or shine. Bring work gloves if available—but some will be supplied. If you are registering to volunteer within 24 hours prior to the start of this event, please contact Jadd Correia at 415-244-2548.

—Susan Strolis

Help

- Emergency**911
- Disturbance** (415) 553-0123
- Blocked Driveways**..... (415) 553-1200
- Abandoned Vehicles**..... (415) 781-5865
- Health Department** (415) 255-3610
- Litter Patrol** (sofas, mattresses, etc.).....311
- Graffiti and Illegal Sign Removal**.....311
- NextBus**311
- Street Lighting**..... (415) 554-0730

- Mayor London Breed**..... (415) 554-6141
 City Hall - Room 200
 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
 S.F., CA 94102
- Chief of Police William “Bill” Scott** (415) 553-1551
 SFPD
 1245 Third Street
 S.F., CA 94158
- District Attorney Chesa Boudin**..... (628) 652-4000
 350 Rhode Island Street North Building, Suite 400N.
 S.F., CA 94103
- Captain Chris Pedrini**..... (415) 242-3000
 Park District Police Station
 1899 Waller St.
 S.F., CA 94117
 Christopher.Pedrini@sfgov.org

San Francisco Board of Supervisors
 City Hall - Room 244
 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
 San Francisco, CA 94102

Telephone: (415) 554-5184 FAX: (415) 554-5163

<i>District</i>	<i>Telephone</i>
1. Sandra Lee Fewer Sandra.Fewer@sfgov.org	(415) 554-7410
2. Catherine Stefani Catherine.Stefani@sfgov.org	(415) 554-7752
3. Aaron Peskin Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org	(415) 554-7450
4. Gordon Mar Gordon.Mar@sfgov.org	(415) 554-7460
5. Dean Preston Dean.Preston@sfgov.org	(415) 554-7630
6. Matt Haney Matt.Haney@sfgov.org	(415) 554-7970
7. Norman Yee, President Norman.Yee@sfgov.org	(415) 554-6516
8. Rafael Mandelman MandelmanStaff@sfgov.org	(415) 554-6968
9. Hillary Ronen Hillary.Ronen@sfgov.org	(415) 554-5144
10. Shamann Walton Shamann.Walton@sfgov.org	(415) 554-7670
11. Ahsha Safai Ahsha.Safai@sfgov.org	(415) 554-6975

CVIA Officers

- President.....Carole Glosenger
- Vice President Breana Wheeler
- Treasurer Joan Downey
- Recording Secretary..... Karen Crommie
- Corresponding Secretary..... Breana Wheeler
- Membership Lena Emmery
- Special Projects.....Joan Downey
- Chris Hock, Shannon Cooper Hock

Call for News

We need news items, articles, letters, opinion pieces. Please tell us what you know about Cole Valley and the greater Haight Ashbury: handwritten, type-written, e-mailed or scrawled on a cocktail napkin. We want to hear from you! CVIA News: 628 Ashbury St. or cviastf@aol.com



CVIANEWS is published quarterly as a forum for residents of the greater Haight Ashbury neighborhood. The views expressed reflect those of the writers. Contributions for the Spring edition should be sent before February 1, 2021 to CVIASF@aol.com. We encourage submissions from anyone interested in our neighborhood. Send questions or comments to the above address or call 415-431-1414.

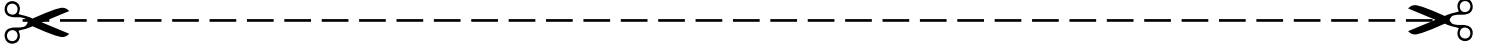
- Editor Karen Crommie
- Production.....David Crommie
- Editorial AssistanceJoan Downey

BECOME A CVIA MEMBER

Membership in the Cole Valley Improvement Association is open to anyone interested in the greater Haight Ashbury. CVIA's mission is to promote a sense of responsibility and mutual respect throughout the district; preserve the character of its architecture; support the police in law enforcement efforts; encourage neighborhood-serving business; and be

constructively involved in San Francisco's governmental process. Annual dues are \$25.00. Membership provides contact with other responsible neighbors, a quarterly newsletter and participation in an active forum for effecting change. If you would like to become a member, please send in your dues with the form below.

Please clip and mail the coupon below to CVIA, P.O. Box 170611, San Francisco, CA 94117



Yes! I'd like to become a CVIA member!

Here's my check for \$25.00 made payable to: COLE VALLEY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION Renewal

NAME _____ E-MAIL _____

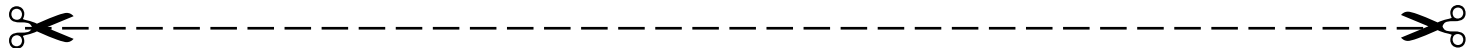
ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____

What I like about the neighborhood: _____

What I dislike about the neighborhood: _____

Optional contribution to Cole sidewalk cleaning \$ _____ Do NOT acknowledge my contribution in the newsletter

Dues and contributions to Clean Cole Street may be taken as charitable deductions. Contact your accountant regarding the tax law.



**Cole Valley Improvement Association
P.O. Box 170611
San Francisco, CA 94117**

SAVE THE AGGRAVATION
Shop for Holiday Gifts
in Cole Valley and the
Haight. (If you can't find it
here, they don't need it.)

