

# CVIA NEWS

COLE VALLEY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Volume XL

SERVING ALL RESIDENTS OF COLE VALLEY AND HAIGHT ASHBURY

FALL 2022

## CVIA Summer Social August 27, 1-4 pm



Special guest will be Cole Valley's new supervisor Rafael Mandelman. Snacks, wine and beer are included in the \$10 per person entry fee. Members and their guests only. Location:

**Supervisor Rafael Mandelman Finnegans Wake** at 937 Cole St. near Carl. Please RSVP to CVIASF@aol.com so we will be sure to have enough appetizers, wine and beer. See you there.

## Update: 730 Stanyan Developers Go Ahead with Eight Stories and Homeless Youth Drop-In Center During the Interim

In a recent email from the "730 Team," as they prefer to be called, it was clear that the affordable housing project is going ahead with the additional two stories without any input from the community. They wrote, "We are currently in the midst of putting together our State financing ap-



Artist's rendering of the affordable housing project running the full block of Stanyan from Haight to Waller.

plications for two very competitive programs (MHP\* and IIG\*\*) [which was] due in June, and Tax-exempt bonds and Low-Income Housing Tax Credit applications [which were] due on August 3.

"The notification of allocation of funding will be at the end of the year. Therefore, if all goes well, and the project receives the requested funding, we are required to start construction within 180 days of the allocation. (That's before June 28, 2023).

"Of the total 160 units, 25 percent or 40 units will be set aside for the formerly homeless population. Twenty of

## Cole Valley Fair Returns

We are thrilled to announce the relaunch of the 18th annual Cole Valley Fair on Sunday, September 25th, 10 am - 5 pm on a closed-to-traffic Cole St. from Grattan to Frederick. Because of the erections of parklets, we are extending the fair booths north to Frederick to better include more retail shops in the Fair area. As in previous years, this Cole Valley tradition is free, family-friendly, and features local makers, merchants, artists, causes, delicious food, live music, Chuck



The laid-back joy of a fair in the heart of Cole Valley is a gift for every member of the family . . . including dogs.

Canepa's vintage automobile exhibition, fun activities for the kids and so much more, all surrounded by the amazing shops and restaurants of Cole Valley. More details and vendor registration at [www.sunsetmercantilesf.com](http://www.sunsetmercantilesf.com) or 415-465-2475.

—Carol Lau, Head of Operations  
Sunset Mercantile/Outer Sunset Farmers Market

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those units will be for families and the other twenty will be for Transitional Age Youth (young adults between the ages of 18 and 24).

“Plans to construct a temporary drop-in center at 730 Stanyan to provide services to homeless youth will be limited and constrained by the California grant deadlines and approvals...and limited to a maximum of 12-months confirmed by the dates and deadlines sent by the 730 Stanyan Team. July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023.”

The numerous meetings having assumed a six-story building on the site, were frivolously wasted on fake issues like color choices and window treatment. The extra two floors were added at the last minute without community approval.

—Tom Hubbard

*\*MHP is the Multifamily Housing Program, a low-interest, long-term deferred-payment loans for new construction, rehabilitation, and preservation of permanent and transitional rental housing for lower-income households.*

*\*\*IIG is Infill Infrastructure Grant, which promotes infill housing development by providing financial assistance for capital improvement projects that facilitate the development of infill construction.*



## Our Neighborhood Heroes 2022 Merchant Participants

930 Cole Associates, Cole Cleaners,  
Cole Hardware, Cole Valley Pets,  
Crepes on Cole, Finnigans Wake,  
Ino Vino, Padrecito, Postal Chase,  
Wooden Coffeehouse

## POLICE COMMUNITY FORUM

Captain Jack Hart holds community forums the Fourth Wednesday of every month (except December) from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. He gives briefings on upcoming permitted events, reviews neighborhood criminal activity, and addresses the safety concerns of residents. It's an excellent way to stay in touch with what's going on in the neighborhood. The meetings are held at Park Station's Community Room (1899 Waller). Or join the meeting via Zoom. To register go to: Jack.Hart@sfgov.com



September 28, October 26, November 23.  
Mark Your Calendar



## Thank You For Your Support



It certainly isn't expected, but when a member sends in an extra contribution, we appreciate it greatly. Unfortunately only a few of our merchants contribute to the daily cleaning of Cole Street's business district, which costs CVIA \$1,033 each month. We 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 September 2021 to August 2022. Please notify us if your name has inadvertently been omitted.

**Daddy Warbucks: Anonymous (\$3000)**

**OMG: Tracy & Patrick Jennings (\$2500)**

**Beacons: Abby & David M. Rumsey (\$1000)**

**Benefactors: (\$250-\$500): Anonymous, Lena Emmerly & Charles Canepa, Karen & David Crommie, Robert Goodman, Jane & Michael Miller, Jennifer Braun & Raymond Ryan, Michael Siliski, Michael J. Sullivan**

**Donors: (\$100 - \$249): Cecile & Jeff Bodington, Megan & Bruce Bourne, Chris Bunga, Chantal Byrne, Linda Coda, Elaine Robinson & Andrew Citizen, Ellen Curry, Diane & Christopher Davies, Elinor Diamond, James Diwik, Joan Downey, Sandra Norberg & Richard Drake, Linda Erkelens, Tresa & Jim Eyres, Margaret & Russell Garvin, Carol & Richard Harris, Marianne Hesse, Shannon & Chris Hock, Thomas Hubbard & Sam Jackson, JJL Corporation, Jacqueline Kelly & Dylan Morse, Jim Laufenberg, Randy & Rich Lavinghouse, Janan New, Judith, Bishop & Robert Liner, Joanne & Bill Prieur, Jan Platt & Jeff Ross, Michael Rafferty, Sara Hirsch & Jay Stevens, Brenda Stone, Tracy Grubbs & Richard Taylor, Jillian & Blake Tyrrell, Victoria Zaroff**

**Contributors (\$50-99): Susanna Lorant & Mark Anthenien, Sharon Birenbaum, Cindy Roberts & Mike Burbank, Philip Brodey, Pete Chung, Gloria Galindo & Mari Coates, Sheila Cordon, Kathryn Demas, Frances Dependahl, Claudia Scharff & Timothy Dunn, Irene Jang & Matthew DuVall, Deb & Tod Frederick, Kevin Dede, Jeanne Blamey & Rob Fram, Lyn & Harold Isbell, Sarah & Nee-ma Jalali, Catherine & Brian Kane, Laura Lai, Margareta Ekblad & Vojtech Licko, Michelle & Wallis Lim, Barbara & John Manning, Jamie & Michael Moore, Ineke Ruhland & Bill O'Such, Francine M. Prophet, Ellen Rashbaum & John Wallace, MeMe Riordan, Kendra & William Robins, Valerie Walker, Mary Ann Wolcott**

**Supporters (\$25 - \$49): Anonymous, Barbara Alexander, Azadeh Moghtaderi & David Amiss, Rob Bakewell, Molly Barry, Gail & Howard Berman, Mary Helen Briscoe, Robert G. Burkhead, Kristina & Howard Case, Meredith White & Steve Cheng, Rita & Richard Felciano, Carole Glosenger, Minette & Isac Gutfreund, Lynn Kormondy, Jennifer LaVail & Russell Snyder, Marcia Sollek Lenard,**



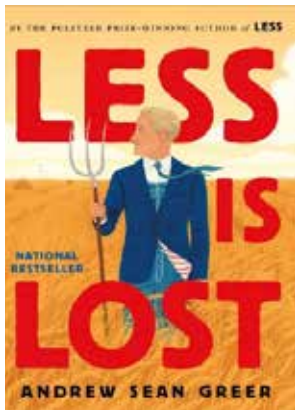
**Adele Dorison & David Neuman, Steven Madrid, Thomas Nicoll, Helen & Allan Ridley, Serena Unger & Cole Roberts, Diane & Bob Silver, Bruce Steir, Fabienne Thuillier, Nicole Valco, Edward C. Walls, Cindy Morton & Peter Weiss, Ken Wilcox, Kack & Doug Wilhelm, Elsa Rosenberg & David Zuckerman**

**Boosters: (\$24 and below): Anne Buchanan, Beverley Epstein, Maryann Hrichak, Davelene Israel-Hanniford, John Priest**

## Booksmith Launch Party for "Less is Lost"

Booksmith is thrilled to welcome back Andrew Sean Greer for the launch of "Less Is Lost," the follow-up to his Pulitzer Prize-winning novel *Less*. More information will be announced soon, but please save Monday, September 19 and join us for a very special release party.

This is a ticketed party at Alembic (1725 Haight St.). Because we are limiting capacity to keep our staff, authors and guests safe, we cannot guarantee admission for walk-ups. We are happy to offer signed copies of "Less Is Lost": Order a Ticket with Book bundle if you'd like to pick up a signed copy at the event. Go to [app.gopassage.com](http://app.gopassage.com)



Safety: ID and proof of full vaccination, including booster, will be required at the door. Masks will be required throughout the duration of the event, capacity will be limited to allow indoor distancing, and we'll have extra ventilation in place.

Alembic's door will open at 6 pm for full service, and drinks will be available for purchase throughout the event. If we feel it is not safe to gather, as the event gets closer, we will pivot to a virtual event and your registration will remain valid. Questions? Write [events@booksmith.com](mailto:events@booksmith.com).

## Cviasf@aol.com

Please contact us by email if you have an issue to raise, a newsletter article, address change, or an update to your membership information. Send us *your* email address if you want to be notified of upcoming meetings and events of importance to our neighborhood.



Would you like a copy of this newsletter sent to a neighbor?

Send an email to [cviasf@aol.com](mailto:cviasf@aol.com) or Leave a message at 415-431-1414 with their name and address and consider it done.

## Become a FOG Reading Tutor

Reading tutors are making a tremendous impact in the city. You can work with a student in grades 1-4 to improve



Photo: timesunion.com

A new program provided by the SF Public Library helps struggling readers in grades 1-4.

their reading skills and confidence. Students enrolled in the FOG Readers Program typically gain an average half-grade level in the first 3 months and read more at home, for fun.

FOG tutors serve children who live or attend school in San Francisco. Parents or guardians sign up online to request a tutor. They have an ongoing waitlist.

### Requirements

- Seven and a half hour training sessions, where you will learn how to build reading skills starting from letter-sound relationships, how to decode words, how to break down words into parts and learn about how parts of words can provide clues about meaning.

- Assignment to a student for weekly sessions of 1 hour and 1 hour of preparation time each week. (Preparation time varies from tutor to tutor)

Reading development takes time and consistency is key. If you are considering this as a volunteer opportunity, we ask that you make sure you can commit at least six months, from the time you get paired with a student. Training, fingerprinting process, verification and matching can take several weeks.

High schoolers, age 15 and older, are welcome to apply to become tutors but we ask for the same six-month commitment starting from the time you get paired with a student. Please let us know if you are in high school and under age 18. Ready to get started? Please go to [sfpl.org](http://sfpl.org) and click on FOG Readers.

### Park Branch Library Open Hours

(1833 Page Street)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1-5	12-6	10-9	12-8	10-6	1-6	10-6

## Not Your Usual Police Captain

During the time between CVIA newsletters, there's been a changeover at Park Police Station. Captain Chris Pedrini has moved on to Airport Commander and Captain Jack Hart has replaced him. Instead of the typical bio we've received over the years, as Captains come and go at the end of Waller Street, Captain Hart issued the fascinating story below.

Hello, Park District residents:

Just six years into the turn of the 20th Century, Charles and Georgia King had their first son, Charles Jr., in a San Francisco hospital. The celebration was dampened because of a serious bleeding complication which required Georgia's hospitalization for several weeks. After determining the cause of the problem, the doctor informed the family that Georgia would need to be sterilized as any future child-



Photo: David Crommie

Captain Jack Hart played master of ceremonies at the annual National Night Out on August 2 at the Harvey Milk Center in Duboce Park.

births would likely kill her. Since Georgia's father was a prominent physician (that named the town of Santa Maria and whose main street is named "Miller Avenue" after him), she resigned herself to her fate. Suddenly, the great quake of 1906 struck. The brick chimney collapsed in the middle of her ward. Weak and anemic, she stood from her hospital bed, collected her three-week-old son, and walked down Market Street to the Ferry Building, where they boarded a ferry and spent the following three weeks in the town of Alameda waiting for the fires to be extinguished and the dust to settle. Charles King Sr., a cable car operator at the time, didn't know if his son and daughter-in-law had survived the hospital collapse and where they went thereafter. From that date, Charles Jr. went on to join the San Francisco Police Department. Since the sterilization never happened, they decided to try for a second son, and then a third. Their fourth died at 2 years old. They then had two miscarriages; then they had my grandmother. So, if it weren't for the great

quake of 1906, I wouldn't be here.

As a fourth generation San Franciscan, I am humbled, excited, and grateful to be assigned to Park Station. While this is my first time working at Park Station, I am bringing 23 years of experience, (including the past six as a captain), and prior station experience from Ingleside Station. Park's officers, sergeants, and lieutenants have brought me up to speed with crime trends, community events, and neighborhood issues, so I'm ready to amplify our Station's efforts in partnering with you, our neighbors, our merchants, our community-based organizations, and leveraging our City's resources to address your concerns, issues, and challenges. You will find me responsible, responsive, and accountable—in short, if you ever thought to yourself "I wish I knew someone in the Police Department" to be a resource for you and your family, please don't hesitate to reach out to me ([jack.hart@sfgov.org](mailto:jack.hart@sfgov.org)) and my staff ([sfpdparkstation@sfgov.org](mailto:sfpdparkstation@sfgov.org)).

—Captain Jack Hart

## Supervisor Mandelman Speaks Out on Monkeypox

The Bay Area Reporter said that "District 8 Supervisor Rafael Mandelman did not mince words during a Board of Supervisors committee hearing on July 19, calling on the Department of Public Health 'to get its act together' regarding monkeypox vaccines and communicating with the public about the outbreak. Dr. Stephanie Cohen, the medical director of City Clinic, informed the supervisors' government audit and oversight committee that people who've received the first dose of the monkeypox vaccine (two doses a month apart are needed) might not get the second shot on time.

DPH, she said, has prioritized getting first doses of the vaccines into the arms of people so that they at least have some protection. The drop-in vaccine clinic at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center was also discussed, with Supervisor Dean Preston bringing up the issue of equity as those who can afford to take a day off from work wait in line for hours, while others don't have that luxury."



Supervisor Mandelman has taken on the mantle of predecessor Scott Weiner in his advocacy for LGBTQ San Franciscans.

### The CVIA Board Proposes to Update the Bylaws to Reflect the Practices of the Recent Past

- ✓ Non-residents can become members but not serve on the board nor vote.
- ✓ Board votes can be submitted via email.
- ✓ Board can be comprised of up to 15 members.



## Buena Vista Park Long Needed Upgrades Will Not Be Cheap

At a virtual meeting on July 12, a Rec and Park team headed by Monica Scott laid out what is needed to restore the safety and beauty of Buena Vista Park. The staggering total was \$50 million, a big chunk of which is allocated to walkways, retaining walls and historic park entrances—we're talking asphalt here—which will come as no surprise to those of us who use the park. Oh, yes, trails and landscaping took a big bite too, as to be expected. The costs of



*Park repairs will center on walkway safety issues.*

maintaining city parks is always jaw-dropping. (The public restroom on the Panhandle came in at \$400,000 and that was twelve years ago. Don't ask.)

Speaking of restrooms, the one at the top of the park has been closed for years and has long been a subject of controversy. The reason can be best explained by the careful testimony of the late good friend of CVIA Richard Magary at a meeting of the Rec and Park Commission in 2009:

“The current location of the restroom, now used by the gardening staff and closed to the public, is not ideal. It's not visible and has security issues.” Richard further stated, diplomatically, that, “there will likely be people against re-establishing a restroom at this site but given the topography and layout, there aren't that many options.”

With the number of lawsuits coming before the Board of Supervisors each month, this long delayed repair of walkways been needed for a long time and should not be further postponed.

—Karen Crommie

## Coming in September

An innovative new shop is opening on the corner of Stanyan and Carl Streets called “Simple.” It will be a neighborhood eco-market that will offer a full range of zero-waste items, including a large selection of refillable products for the home and body, with a focus on local goods and local makers. For more information go [www.simple-sf.com](http://www.simple-sf.com) or @simpleshop.

The best time to plant a tree is 20 years ago.  
The second best time is today.

## Say It Isn't So: Club Deluxe on the Brink of Closure

Club Deluxe has been near the corner of Haight and Ashbury for 33 years. This retro neighborhood live music venue has blissfully eschewed pop trends of the last decades and could guarantee some good jazz, Latin or bluegrass as well as bumping in to a few neighbors on any evening. They even featured the Alpha Rhythm Kings, the “big” little retro band with its charismatic leader Rob Dehlinger. Now Deluxe is facing closure because of back rent incurred during the COVID closure.

SFGATE reporter Nico Madrigal-Yankowski queried Jeff Jerden, Chief Operating Officer for owner Veritas Realty, who told him in an email, “Club Deluxe is on a month-to-month lease. The amended lease (we) offered would have secured their space through 2023 with a substantial rent reduction, and a proposal to forgive two-thirds of their past due rent, over \$200,000. Despite the owner's unwillingness to engage in meaningful negotiations, we have not initiated eviction. To the contrary, this new lease would have allowed Club Deluxe to remain in their space through at least 2027.”

Club Deluxe owner Sarah Wilde made the announcement of closure on Facebook “It is with sadness, and a hint of disbelief that I must let you know Deluxe will be closing. Please allow me to say, I have done everything I can.” This was followed by a lambasting of big real estate owners and heartless landlords and so forth but it doesn't change the situation—Deluxe is in deep trouble.



*It's hard to think that this very mellow and local crowd will be shut out.*

There will never be another place like it. A cozy neighborhood room to relax and listen to music with a respectful audience, who filled a passed hat generously for the band. Sometimes there was a small entrance fee but only if they had to.

To his credit, Supervisor Dean Preston has offered to nominate the business to receive legacy status. This would involve receiving a small stipend from the City and some much-needed publicity, but is hardly a solution. We can only hope that negotiations between Sarah and Veritas will be renewed and eventually resolved.

*Thanks to native-born San Franciscan Nico Madrigal-Yankowski for pursuing this story and allowing us to reprint so much of it.*

—Karen Crommie

# Cole Valley Sidewalk Eyesores

Reported August 11, 2022



**Issue: Leaning young tree on Carl Street at Cole**

Action: Reported to Bureau of Urban Forestry

Response: The inspecting arborist for the area is aware of the tree and has created a service order to have it replanted.

Reference: 15678708

**Issue: Battered news racks opposite Peet's on Cole.**

Action: Reported to DPW  
Response: Would send an inspector out within 7 days.  
Reference: 15678725

Note: This was not done. Will report again.



**Issue: Graffitied glass barrier on Carl at Cole.**

Action: Reported to SF Muni  
Response: Will clean within 48 hours.

Reference: 15678719

Note: This was not done. Will report again.

# Help With Vital Fall Gardening

Saturday, August 27 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.



No one is too young to take part.

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. Meet at the plaza above the lakelet at Stanyan and Haight streets. Look for the Rec and Park vehicle to pinpoint our location.

Volunteer slots are limited so don't wait to sign the waiver in the link. Go to [sfrpd.secure.force.com/SFRPD-Calendar](https://sfrpd.secure.force.com/SFRPD-Calendar). Scroll down to "Golden Gate Park Alvord Lake," click on Sign Up box and fill out the form. Your help will be greatly valued.

—Susan Strolis

# Chief Scott Fights Back

In case you've been out of town, the Board of Supervisors has been bickering over the 2022-23 city budget all Summer. They are to be commended for their attempts to reduce the pressure from its overinflated \$9 billion dollars price tag, but SFPD Chief Bill Scott, is saying "whoa!" He made a somewhat alarming case for the department's chal-



A unique sequence of events presents Chief Bill Scott with new challenges.

lenges over the next year and beyond, laying out his case for the need to restore staffing to more effective levels and to continue modernization and reform.

"Our most recent workload analysis indicates that San Francisco's Police Department is currently 486 sworn officers below the recommended level...[especially when], the department is already severely short-staffed in analyst positions.

—Karen Crommie

# What is the Legal Definition of These Often-Used Words?

**Battery** - (Misdemeanor battery) is any willful and unlawful touching of another.

**Felony battery** is the use of force or violence upon the person by another that causes serious bodily injury.

**Assault** is when a person swings their arm and battery is when that arm makes contact with another person.

**Aggravated Assault** – Assault upon another person with a deadly weapon or instrument other than a firearm or by any means of force likely to produce great bodily injury.

**Burglary** – The intent upon entry into a property to commit grand theft, petty theft, or any felony. Grand Theft – Grand theft is theft committed when the value of the money, labor, or property taken exceeds \$950.

**Petty Theft** – Theft where the value of the property taken is less than \$950.

Because police dispatch cannot identify the location of a 911 call made from a cell phone, use 415-553-8090 instead.



## Hardly Strictly Bluegrass is Back After Two Years

This free musical event, the legacy of Warren Hellman, one of San Francisco's more famous financier/philanthropists, amateur banjo player and lover of Bluegrass, who



*Benefactor Warren Hellman*

passed away in 2011. The program kicks off Friday, September 30 and runs through Sunday, October 2, making it the non-official height of Summer weather in the cool gray city.

Veronin writes in the *sfstandard.com*, "Hardly Strictly is more akin to a giant picnic than a music festival, one whose attendees are simply there to socialize, bliss out and hopefully flag down Michael the Coconut Guy for a deliciously potent rum drink."

This year's roster includes musicians Buddy Miller, Charley Crockett, Galactic, Allison Russell, Dashawn Hickman, Lucius, Joy Oladokun, Las Cafeteras and others. Marcus Mumford will play the theme from *Ted Lasso*.

Located in Hellman Hollow, off John F. Kennedy Drive around 25th Avenue, the large venue was formerly Speedway Meadow and, joined by Lindley and Marx meadows, it can accommodate a large crowd. Be prepared for street closures around the area. Muni bus transport is highly advised.



*The event has drawn as many as 750,000 fans over the three days.*

Access is available from the Muni lines, 5 and 5R Fulton, 31 Balboa, 38 and 38R Geary, N Judah light rail, 7 Haight/Noriega and 29 Sunset, which runs through the park on Crossover Drive. Alternatively, you can buy a 3-day shuttle pass for \$29.50 to and from Civic Center.

Like other large events, Hardly Strictly is anathema to some residents living on the edges of Golden Gate Park, who report that, because it's both free and alcohol is not only permitted but, some would say, encouraged, it produces a three-day annoyance of amplified music and drunks stumbling out of the park at 7 pm. However, with its five stages, it generates nowhere near the volume of Outer Lands, because if it were too loud, it would disrupt the other performances. But it does produce garbage on the sidewalks and trampling of the park's turf. Some choose to leave town while others make the best of it, listing their homes on Airbnb. But, let's face it, noise is a chronic complaint with all Park mass events. This has been addressed incrementally over the years by having the police measure decibels but with no real remedy.

—Karen Crommie

## What Prop A's Loss Means For San Francisco's Riders

There are a variety of reasons for Prop A's loss this June, despite the fact that it was not a new tax and that it had the support of the Mayor and all eleven Supervisors. For one, SF Transit Riders recognizes that it is difficult for voters to put their faith in a transit system that does not always meet their needs. Past projects like the long delayed and over budget Central Subway have also weakened confidence in Muni.

And then, of course, there's the pandemic. The majority of San Francisco's public transit lines were suspended in 2020 when the pandemic hit the city, with only 17 of 69 bus lines remaining in operation for essential workers and trips. While SFMTA has committed to restoring service on



*In spite of ballot box loss, the 6 Haight-Parnassus is back in service.*

nearly all the shut-down lines thanks to the local organizing of riders and community advocates, the experience jaded many riders. Furthermore, ridership is still only at 55% of pre-pandemic levels. While Muni still provides essential trips that power our local economy and quality of life, less riders means less people actively buying in to improving the system during our recent election.

Finally, we can no longer pretend transit exists outside the broader political context. Proposition A was on a recall-dominated ballot that was pretty hostile to government. It bore the backlash of voters who are broadly frustrated by the state of the city, the pandemic, and government in general.

Taken together, we are living in unprecedented times that leave unanswered questions about transit funding and possibilities for success at the ballot going forward. At the same time, Proposition A's loss leaves a gaping hole in Muni infrastructure that needs to be filled. Its loss will continue the decades of disinvestment in public transit that has resulted in the inadequate service we have today and denies SFMTA the funding it needs to rebuild voter's trust in public transit and government.

*Thanks to the SF Transit Riders from whom the above was excerpted. [sftransitriders.org](http://sftransitriders.org)*

## 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), Waller Center Advisory Committee.

### Virtual Meeting (Zoom) –July 6, 2022 at 7:00 pm

■ Treasurer Joan Downey was away this month and will submit a combined June-July Treasurer's Report at the August 1 Board meeting.

■ Lena Emmerly reminded us again of supporting the SFPD Park Station's National Night Out on August 2, from 5 to 7 pm at Duboce Park.

■ The remainder of the meeting was a discussion of the upcoming Summer Social on August 27 at Finnegans Wake.

### Virtual Meeting (Zoom) –August 1, 2022 at 7:00 pm

■ Treasurer Joan Downey submitted a report that CVIA currently has a bank balance of \$18,625.69, with \$6,947.36 held in the Clean Cole Street fund, and \$4,667.20 in an account (as fiscal sponsor) for the Stanyan Parklet (American Cyclery).

■ Minutes from July were corrected to reflect that the Summer Social Postcards were processed at ExpressCopy, not PPrint. The former completed the job, including mailing, in four days.

■ Discussed the CVIA website updating and the necessity to post all pertinent news received by CVIA in the Blog section. Susan to do this.

■ Shannon to write an article on the importance of reporting every crime, even small ones, so that Police have a record and can track patterns. Due August 12.

■ President Carole Glosenger suggested that we meet directly with the two developers of 730 Stanyan to protest the last-minute addition of two extra floors to the building, going from the agreed-on six stories to eight.

■ CVIA Member Joe Klosterman made a presentation describing a long-needed survey (opinion poll) for all residents of Cole Valley and Haight Ashbury. This was followed by lengthy discussion, amending, eliminating and adding questions. Joe's work was thoughtful and thorough and much appreciated by the Board. He showed a timeline estimating final draft on August 8, followed by the final draft review with circulation in early September, closing off responses at the end of that month with results released to CVIA members in early October. Karen to send Joe list of neighborhood organizations.

■ Discussed a mailing committee for the Fall issue of CVIA News. Shannon agreed to pick up newsletters from the printer and take them to Carole's. Marianne will assist provisionally.

■ Park Station Community Advisory member Lena Emmerly encouraged everyone to attend the National Night Out on August 2 in Duboce Park. Captain Jack Hart of Park District Police Station, along with his staff, will be there to meet with Cole Valley and Haight Ashbury residents. Board member Chuck Canepa will run the popcorn machine, which

is a traditional part of the event.

■ Joan reported having two Symphony tickets left for the "All San Francisco performance" (for community organizations).

■ Joan reminded the Board that they voted to support keeping the SkyStar Ferris wheel in the Golden Gate Concourse, in part because Rec and Park agreed to look into replacing the diesel powered generator with an alternative, energy efficient electrical power source. Two plus years later, the SkyStar wheel relies upon the same loud, noxious generator that burns 1000 gallons of diesel fuel a week. We are still awaiting the Department's plans to replace this polluting generator with a renewable, clean energy power source. Joan to draft another letter to the Rec and Park Commission and Supervisor Connie Chan, whose district covers that part of Golden Gate Park, asking that its presence in the Park be curtailed or converted on the basis of air pollution.

Adjourned at 8:30 pm

**CVIA Executive Board:** Chuck Canepa, Shannon Cooper Hock, David Crommie, Karen Crommie, Joan Downey, Lena Emmerly, Carole Glosenger, Marianne Hesse, Chris Hock, Tom Hubbard.

## UCSF To Begin Soil Testing

Starting August 31 through November 10, UCSF is mobilizing a large crane and drill rig to evaluate the soil-bearing



Rendering of new hospital by Herzog & de Meuron.

capacity for the new hospital. Activity will take place in the Langley Porter Psychiatric Hospital and clinics courtyard and the Emergency Department parking lot. There will be some nighttime activity from 12 am to 6 am to deliver and mobilize the crane and drill rig, in compliance with SFMTA permit requirements.

August 31 - September 1

October 4 - October 5

Week of October 17 (exact date to be determined)

Week of November 7 (exact date to be determined)

### Potential Noise Impacts:

During the evening, there will be crane and drill rig movement. Expect large equipment running and backup alarms similar to residential trash trucks. Work during the day will be between 8:00 am - 5:00 pm.

Questions? Contact project manager, Brad Whitney, at 415-476-6577 or newhospitalPH@ucsf.edu.



## Jim Siegel Quits After 46 Years

The neighborhood was shocked to see the “For Sale” sign posted in the window of Distractions. Coming the same week that Club Deluxe announced its closing at the end of the month, it was a double whammy that will change the Haight Ashbury forever. Siegel had left clues on social media, but when it came in a crudely printed sign in the shop’s window, we knew it had actually happened.

Below are excerpts from an in-depth interview with Siegel by ace Hoodline reporter Camden Avery in 2016 and Marina Times former editor Susan Dyer Reynolds in 2020.

Siegel told Camden Avery that he’s been in love with the Haight ever since he first saw it, as a teenager growing up in Daly City. In 1972, when he was 16 years old, he moved to the neighborhood.

“I was a street kid,” he said. But unlike a lot of people arriving in the early 1970s, he said, “I was very blessed.” He volunteered at the Switchboard, an information center with a 24/7 phone line. New arrivals could call to get

information on apartment rentals and jobs, advice on where to obtain free healthcare, survival guides for living for free in San Francisco, and tips on organized crash pads.



*Distractions at 1552 Haight was Siegel’s fifth shop in the neighborhood he loves.*

qualify for mental disability income from the government. So in 1976, he and two friends, also street kids who were also living on Supplemental Security Income (SSI), then applied to the government for additional rehabilitation grants; they were awarded \$5,000 each. They used the money to go into business as White Rabbit at 1409 Haight St. [The space most recently occupied by Topdrawer.]

“White Rabbit had previously been Bob Stubbs’s store, the Phoenix, which was founded in 1966. But by the time Siegel moved to the Haight, it was one of the last holdouts of hippie life from the 1960s. ‘By 1976, most of Haight Street’s commercial spaces were boarded up with plywood or operating as liquor stores,’ Siegel said, with the exceptions of Robert’s Hardware, Mendel’s, and a few others.

“Stubbs ...gave the store’s merchandise to Siegel and his friends outright. The landlord was so happy to have the space occupied that he didn’t charge the three friends any rent for the first year. When they did start paying rent, it was \$250 per month.



*Jim Siegel was a candidate for SF Supervisor in 2004.*

“White Rabbit opened as a combined plant store, head shop, and pet supply store. ‘We didn’t count on the money,’ Siegel said. ‘We did it to have fun.’ He said White Rabbit was largely a place to hang out; he and his friends invited people to come in and take LSD or smoke pot.

“Over the years, Siegel has operated shops at five different locations in the Haight. One relocation was forced by a 1989 fire at Haight and Cole; another time, he was evicted by a landlord for displaying gay magazines for sale in the window. But he’s been settled in at 1552 Haight since 1989.

Siegel told Avery, “The store’s format changed as frequently as its location. We went from a hippie store, to a head shop, to a new-wave clothing store to a Grateful Dead-type store, to a raver shop,” Siegel said. ‘I’m gay, and I like young guys on Haight Street, so whenever I get a new boyfriend, I change the vibe. It’s worked out pretty well.’

“He said the store became Dead-themed right before the Dead’s popularity re-exploded in the late 1980s . . . In 1992, he began shifting to a shop primarily for ravers. By the late 1990s, Distractions was San Francisco’s exclusive outlet for Burning Man tickets, and Siegel was on the committee that convinced Burning Man to include more than just one “rave night,” which at the time was held in a segregated camp.

“That really shaped the direction the store has gone for the last 20 years. We cater to the counterculture, as the counterculture changes. My whole idea was never to make money, [but] to keep the spirit of the ‘60s alive, because I love the neighborhood.”

Susan Dyer Reynolds in an interview with Siegel for the Marina Times wrote, “With the money he made in the store, Siegel bought his first

property in Dogpatch for \$17,000, in 1977. “I’m a good example of a street kid that turned his life around with some hard work and guidance,” He is now the proud owner of one of the largest and most beautifully restored Victorian mansions in San Francisco, the Westerfeld House, which he generously opens up for non-profit fundraisers.

Reynolds wrote, “His differences with Christin Evans, head of the Haight Ashbury Merchants Association began with her distribution of tents without any place to put them.” Also with his desire to hire a security guard to patrol Haight Street. Neither did Siegel hide his disapproval of District 5 Supervisor Dean Preston, telling Reynolds, “He’s only there to protect tenants and he’s very divisive.” So there’re many reasons Siegel might have grown weary of the old ‘hood.

*Excerpted from a 2016 Hoodline interview by Camden Avery and an interview with Marina Times editor Susan Dyer Reynolds in 2020. Thanks to both distinguished journalists. And good luck to Jim in this next phase of his life. He will be greatly missed on Haight Street.*



*Westerfeld House is Siegel’s home.*

# Do You Know The Man Behind The Kezar Plaque?

Bob St. Clair may be the only player in NFL history to have spent nearly all of his entire playing career in the same city, playing in the same stadium, Kezar, at all levels. He



attended San Francisco's Polytechnic High school, known as "Poly," located on Frederick, across from the stadium. Now, only the boys and girls gyms remain and are home to the Circus School and Acro Sports.

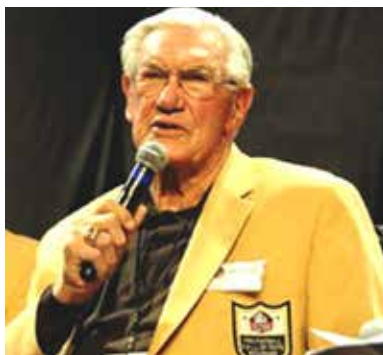
After Poly, St. Clair attended the University of San Francisco and was part of USF's undefeated 1951 team.



Plaque is mounted at the Frederick Street entrance to Kezar.

He was then drafted by the San Francisco 49ers in 1953 and played his entire professional career in San Francisco until his retirement prior to the 1964 season. Per NFL Hall of Fame archives, St. Clair is credited with blocking 10 field goals in 1956. In 2001, as a tribute for playing a total of 17 seasons and 189 home games at Kezar Stadium, the city renamed the stadium's field in his honor. He was elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1990.

While still an active player, St. Clair served as Daly City's mayor from 1961 to 1962 and was a county supervisor for San Mateo County from 1966 to 1974. For many years he owned a liquor store at 24th and Sanchez in Noe Valley (3900 24th Street) that still bears his name.



Hall of Famer St. Clair is a Kezar legend.

St. Clair broke his hip in February 2015; complications led to his death on April 20, 2015 in Santa Rosa at the age of 84.

# Neighborhood Electrification Project Seeks Volunteers

Seeking a core group of individuals to form a neighborhood task force to support the transition of existing homes in Cole Valley from gas to electrical power. The goal would be to assemble a "how to" manual of sorts providing a pathway to electrification, starting with the planning and design/permitting phase, and to include, for example, information ranging from coordination with PG&E to retro-fitting existing structural components, installation of solar panels,



Natural gas appliances can release carbon monoxide, formaldehyde and other pollutants into the air.

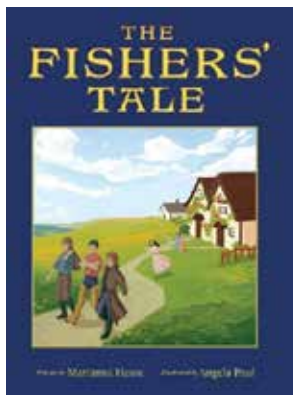
stationary energy storage, identification of attractive options to gas appliances, help finding qualified contractors, state-administered financing for home energy upgrades, and available tax incentives.

Desirable skill sets include backgrounds or experience in city permitting, legal/regulatory, solar energy, kitchen design, electric appliances, HVAC, and residential construction contracting (or, absent any specific technical expertise, a passionate concern for the planet).

If you think you might be interested in participating on this task force, please contact [cviasf@aol.com](mailto:cviasf@aol.com), with Attn: Kit Crocker in the subject line.

—Kit Crocker

## Postscripts



CVIA Board member Marianne Hesse has just released her third children's book **The Fishers' Tale**. But she's not the only one in Cole Valley to work in this delightful genre. Attorney **Kit Cooper** published the well-received **The Audacious Little Frog and Other Whimsical Poems** while, **Julie Downing** has illustrated over 45 children's books from her studio on Page Street. Her latest is **Lotus and Feather** by **Ji-Li Jang**.

\*\*\*

Who can pass the empty **Mane Attractions** storefront on Carl Street without a deep sadness over the early death of owner **Grant Phillips** and the memories it contains. Stylists who launched their careers, the gentle roar of hair dryers, a new look after a breakup, the first dye job on virgin hair, the scent of cream rinse, the chihuahuas in the back room, and always, the neighborhood news. The sounds still linger in the air around the now-silent shop.





Several days after **Supervisor Dean Preston** said that SF is not too liberal because we recalled District Attorney Chesa Boudin, Preston took to Twitter to blast a scathing essay in The Atlantic that laid the city's failures at the feet of its progressive policies on homelessness, drugs and prosecuting crime. "I don't know how anyone who is actually human could write this," said Preston, a leader of the local Democratic Socialists of America. Wonder if he read **Scott Alexander's** "San Fransicko."?



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\* \* \*

**Ron Chun** reminds us that San Francisco lost a dedicated advocate for pedestrian safety and accessible public transportation with the recent passing of **Bob Planthold** earlier this year. Having contracted polio at an early age, his firsthand experience of the obstacles people with disabilities may face in getting from place to place and accessing services made Bob a tenacious and persistent champion for pedestrian safety and accessible transit.



—Karen Crommie

**CVIANEWS** is published quarterly as a forum for residents of Cole Valley and Haight Ashbury neighborhoods. The views expressed reflect those of the writers. Contributions for the Winter edition should be sent before October 15, 2022 to [CVIASF@aol.com](mailto: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 Assistance .....Joan Downey

### Call for News

We need news items, articles, letters, opinion pieces. Please tell us what you know about Cole Valley and Haight Ashbury: Handwritten, typewritten, e-mailed or scrawled on a cocktail napkin. We want to hear from you! CVIA News: 628 Ashbury St. or [cvi-asf@aol.com](mailto:cvi-asf@aol.com)



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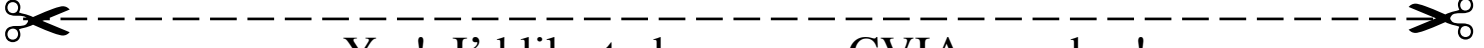
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# BECOME A CVIA MEMBER

Cole Valley Improvement Association (CVIA) is a nonprofit, member-funded, volunteer organization working to continuously enhance and improve Cole Valley and Haight Ashbury.

Our mission is to promote a safe, respectful community, help enhance the lives of all residents, support our merchants, and present an active voice to address civic, social and safety issues in our neighborhood.

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

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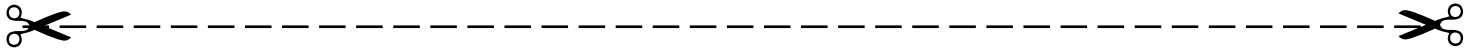
What I like about the neighborhood: \_\_\_\_\_

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Optional contribution to Cole sidewalk cleaning \$ \_\_\_\_\_ or the community work of CVIA \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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