

CVIA NEWS

COLE VALLEY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Volume XLIV SERVING ALL RESIDENTS OF COLE VALLEY AND HAIGHT ASHBURY FALL 2023

Cole Valley Fair September 24!

Sunset Mercantile is honored to continue the tradition of the Cole Valley Fair, in collaboration with CVIA—back for the nineteenth year—featuring fine arts and crafts, food booths, live music, historic Cole Valley photo exhibit, a



Widely known for being the most family friendly street fair in the city.

full block of vintage automobiles owned by neighborhood residents, helpful resources from City agencies, actionable information from local organizations and oodles of fun games and activities for all ages!

Join us on September 24 from 10 to 5 pm on TWO blocks of Cole Street, between Frederick & Grattan, and Parnassus Avenue, between Shrader & Belvedere for this very special Cole Valley community celebration! To be part of it, volunteer at sunsetmercantilesf.com.

—Angie Pettitt

UCSF To Buy St. Mary's Hospital

St. Mary's Medical Center in San Francisco now loses \$22 million per year. The 166 year-old hospital serves



The purchase of St. Mary's will expand the influence of UCSF in the Inner Sunset and Cole Valley as well as cementing their position as a world class healthcare center.

20,000 admitted patients per year but most of their beds are usually empty, according to the American Hospital

Continued on Page 2, Column 1

Groundbreaking Ceremony at 730 Stanyan Is Upbeat

Mayor London Breed made some hard choices in reducing the 2023-24 budget. One was a cut to the Chinatown Community Development Corporation (CCDC), one of two nonprofits currently building the 160-unit, subsidized housing project at 730 Stanyan. "It could potentially mean



Mayor London Breed is joined by executives from both development corporations and the City in this traditional ritual.

layoffs of 10 to 12 employees," Matthias Mormino, the organization's chief of staff told the SF Chronicle, noting that over the past five years, the CCDC has helped house more than 300 families that were living in SROs and technically considered homeless.

This did not however stop the groundbreaking ceremony from taking place at the site on July 28. The eight-story building, a joint project with the Tenderloin Neighborhood Development Corporation (TNDC), is earmarked for formerly unhoused individuals, families, and transitional-aged youth (TAY.) It will likely have a major impact the neighborhood. Whether this will be for better or worse will be up to the building's management. The TNDC has been designated that responsibility.

—Karen Crommie

INSIDE

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Board Minutes.....8 | O'Such Photography.....3 |
| Boyd Memoriam.....7 | Officers.....11 |
| Business Closures.....6 | Police Community Forum.....4 |
| Contributors.....2 | Postscripts.....10 |
| District 8 Groups Meet.....8 | Register Your Property.....4 |
| Flower Piano Returns.....3 | SF Historical Society.....4 & 11 |
| Hard Take at Drug Use.....8 | Summer Social.....9 |
| Hardly Strictly.....7 | Supes Fights for Shelters.....3 |
| Join Historical Society.....4 | Symphony Tickets.....2 |
| National Night Out.....4 | Water Tank on Clayton.....7 |

Directory, which said the hospital only fills about a quarter of them. By contrast, UCSF said its beds are 94 percent filled. Owned and operated by Dignity Health, a California nonprofit whose parent is the nationwide Catholic hospital chain CommonSpirit Health, said that UCSF's "values" make it an attractive buyer.

"The proposal the regents will consider includes four St. Mary's addresses: its main hospital at 450 Stanyan St., a psychiatric hospital at 2200 Hayes St., and medical office buildings at 1 Shrader St. and 2250 Hayes St. Records show its endowment — essentially an investment fund — at about \$10 million. UCSF's, by contrast, is more than \$4 billion. The sale is part of a package including Saint Francis Memorial Hospital with its four locations."

At a time when hundreds of hospitals have been taken over by private equity firms blamed for a mercenary approach to health care, Dignity Health said it considers UCSF to be the "right partner to continue our legacy of caring for the underserved." Most notably for Haight/Cole Valley residents is the Sister Mary Philippa Health Center, the outpatient service that treats so many of the neighborhood's unhoused and those living with HIV.

(Condensed from an article in the SF Chron by Higher Education Reporter Nanette Asimov, July 15.)

\$12 Symphony Tickets

The Symphony's All San Francisco Concert pays tribute to the Bay Area's most impactful community groups and nonprofit organizations for their invaluable work in enriching our city. This year's concert is on Saturday, September



The Louise M. Davies Symphony Hall is an experience in itself.

23 at 7:30 pm. The program includes Don Juan (Richard Strauss), Songs of a Wayfarer (Gustav Mahler), Rap Notes (Anders Hillborg), and Boléro (Maurice Ravel).

CVIA purchased 32 tickets for our members. If you're interested in a ticket, send an email to board@cviasf.org with your name and number of tickets you want. First-come-first-served and, unless there are extras, we'll limit the number per household membership to two. If you're one of the lucky ones, we'll ask you for a payment of \$12 per ticket.

—Joan Downey, CVIA Treasurer



Thank You For Your Support



It certainly isn't expected, but when a member sends in an extra contribution, we appreciate it greatly. Only 10 Cole Valley merchants contributed to the daily cleaning of Cole Street's business district this year, which costs CVIA \$1,033 each month. We make up the deficit with member contributions, and a discount from CleanScapes and proceeds from the "Santa on Cole" photo shoot. So we would like to take this opportunity to thank the following members for their generosity during the period September 2022 to August 2023. Please notify us if your name has inadvertently been omitted.

Beacons: (\$1,000) Robert Goodman, Abby & David M. Rumsey

Benefactors: (\$250 - \$500) Lena Emmery & Charles Caneppa, Debbie Beck & Len Conway, Karen & David Crommie, Pam & James Diwik, Michael Siliski, Michael J. Sullivan

Donors: (\$100 - \$249) Anonymous, Gina Bartlett, Cecile & Jeff Bodington, Megan & Bruce Bourne, Chris Bunga, Elaine Robinson & Andrew Citizen, Linda Coda, Ellen Curry, Mary Ann de Souza, Kathryn Demas, Joan Downey, Gloria Galindo & Mari Coates, Margaret & Russell Garvin, Marianne Hesse, Shannon & Chris Hock, Drew Howells-Tabacco, Ice Cream Bar, Robert G. Jones & John T. Smith, Randy & Rich Lavinghouse, Wallis & Michelle Lim, Barbara & John Manning, Karen Mar, Jane & Michael Miller, Janan New, Robert Page, Michael Rafferty, Maryann Rainey, Elizabeth Corden & Ken Shannon, Sara Hirsch & Jay Stevens, Sloane Sturzenegger, Kathe Traynor, Jillian & Blake Tyrrell, Nicole Valco, Mary Ann Wolcott

Contributors: (\$50 - \$99) Alma Management, Azadeh Moghtaderi & David Amiss, Susanna Lorant & Mark Anthenien, Molly Barry, Sharon Birenbaum, Philip Brodey, Meredith White & Steve Cheng, Jonathan Claybaugh, Frances Dependahl, Linda Erkelens, Ruben Giraldo, Robert Gordon & Bill Haskell, John & Mary Hooper, Sarah & Neema Jalali, Dianne & Steve Leonoudakis, Margareta Ekblad & Vojtech Licko, Judith Bishop & Robert Liner, Ineke Ruhland & Bill O'Such, Francine M. Prophet, Kendra & William Robins, Susan & Steven Rosen, Katherine Bird & William Rothrum, Ellen Rashbaum & John Wallace, Victoria Zaroff, Zazie

Supporters: (\$25 - \$49) Gloria Lau & Robert G. Burkhead, Sheila Cordo, Sarah Crocket, Karin de Brer, Claudia Scharff & Timothy Dunn, Beverley Epstein, Glen & Melissa Gee, Elizabeth Lee Giles, Mike & John Greenwood, Minette & Isac Gutfreund, Douglas Hall, Thomas Hubbard & Sam Jackson, Steven Madrid, Jamie & Michael Moore, Adele Dorison & David Neuman, Jack & Gay Reineck, Helen & Allan Ridley, Serena Unger & Cole Roberts, Marie Samson, Diane & Bob Silver, Fabienne Thuillier, Edward C. Walls, Ken Wilcox, Cack & Doug Wilhelm, Susannah Wise, Elsa Rosenberg & David Zuckerman

Boosters: (\$24 and below) Anonymous, Rob Bakewell, Maryann Hrichak, Margo Kieser, Denise Lever, John Priest

Some corporations will match your donations to CVIA. Check to see if your employer has this policy and double your contribution.

Street Photographer Bill O'Such

Prior to living the past 20 years in Cole Valley, Bill O'Such worked for Kodak on early digital camera technology in Rochester, New York and then Paris, France through the 1990s. One day he was inspired by a photo exhibit of Willy Ronis in June 2010, to start capturing "street photography" images and since then has refined his style of preserving those ephemeral moments whether in Paris, London,



O'Such is continually fascinated by happenstance subjects.

San Francisco, Tasmania or elsewhere. "Sometimes I don't know where I'm going except forward and stumble across things that I love, interest me or make me wonder." You've probably seen his images on the facebook page, Cole Valley, a Not-So-Secret SF Neighborhood, or on the screens at Cole Valley Tavern. Over the past months, he has moved his images online. One of his future ideas is to create different collections of his photos that can be delivered in a digital frame to enjoy. Visit his website at www.osuchphotography.com.

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, typewritten, e-mailed or scrawled on a cocktail napkin. We want to hear from you! CVIA News: 628 Ashbury St. or cviasf@aol.com



"The American Dream starts with the neighborhoods" —Harvey Milk

Cole Valley Supervisor Fighting City Hall for Shelters

Supervisor Rafael Mandelman recently called on the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (HSH) for a hearing on temporary shelters as a way to provide an alternative to people sleeping on the streets. He took issue with what he deemed as the department's fixation on permanent housing over shelter. Mandelman argued that the city is not responsible for permanently housing everyone who



District 8 Supervisor Rafael Mandelman

arrives in San Francisco, and asked the homelessness department to shift its focus to more temporary options. "I simply don't believe this department is serious about ending unsheltered homelessness in San Francisco," Mandelman said. "It seems that you're almost unwilling to contemplate a more transitional housing-based approach." Representatives from the department contended that an excessive focus on shelter would require the perpetual addition of new beds. Therefore, it could be more expensive in the long run. The department plans to release another five-year plan to address homelessness next month.

—Karen Crommie

Flower Piano Returns to Enchant the Sensibilities

Visiting the Park's Botanical Gardens during the second week of September gives you a unique opportunity to explore its 55 acre global plant collection while searching for the 12 pianos, hidden in particularly inspiring spots. At each of the pianos, there will be scheduled professional



Photo: Natalie Jenks, SF Curbed.com

performances and open play time for participants—reflecting a range of genres, ages, and cultures.

If you're lucky, you might find a seven-year-old banging out Rachmaninoff, or an elderly man playing Chopin, bringing tears to your eyes.

Flower Piano will take place between September 8 and 12, 10 am to 6 pm. Free for SF Residents with valid ID. Non-Residents: \$13 Adults (\$15 Weekends), \$7 Youth & Seniors (Ages 12-17 and 65+), \$3 Children (Ages 5-11), Free for Toddlers (Ages 4 and under)

Advance tickets recommended! (even for San Francisco Residents).

—San Francisco Botanical Garden
9th Avenue, Golden Gate Park

What is National Night Out?

National Night Out is an annual party hosted by local police stations all over the nation on the second Monday of August promoting camaraderie between the police and residents in their jurisdiction—but just as important, between neighbors themselves, in order to “promote unity and create a more caring place to live.”

It began in the western suburbs of Philadelphia in 1983 with a neighbor who was part of a Watch program and, over the years, as more studies were released, law enforcement



Captain Jack Hart responds to longtime neighborhood activist Flip Sarrow at Park District Station's event on August 7.

began to understand that being more integrated into lives of people in their districts was part of their job. This developed into the institution of National Night Out.

For the Park District Station the event took place in the parking lot of the station at the end of Waller Street. There was information about Neighborhood Watch groups, youth programs, disaster training, animal adoption, home safety assessments, as well as a display of emergency vehicles and entertainment by students of the San Francisco (Xian Yun) High School for the Arts (Page Street.) As the fog rolled in, CVIA's representative to the Police Advisory Board Lena Emmerly and husband Chuck Canepa continued to dispense hot popcorn, while others bent the ear of the always-ami-able Captain Jack Hart. We all went away grateful for the officers of Park Station and the folks they protect.

—Karen Crommie

Join the SF Historical Society

Membership is open to anyone with an interest in our city. All members receive the following basic benefits:

- 📖 Panorama—the Society's quarterly newsletter announcing programs, historical articles and book reviews
- 📖 The Argonaut—our semiannual journal of original articles about San Francisco history
- 📖 Free admission to monthly programs featuring presentations on remarkable aspects of San Francisco history
- 📖 Invitations to events such as the Annual Awards Luncheon
- 📖 Guided walking tours of San Francisco neighborhoods and districts and the Barbary Coast Trail

\$80/year for one person, \$110/year Dual. Discounts for seniors, students, teachers and disabled persons. For more information go to sfhistory.org. and see bottom of page 11.

Have You Registered Your Property With the City Yet?

An ordinance was passed unanimously on December 8, 2022 by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors that established a mandatory inventory of all private residential property by March 1, 2023. (Yes, six months ago.) The reporting require-



Even single family homes must be registered with the San Francisco Rent Board. A whiff of the Soviet State?

ments apply to all residential units in San Francisco, including single-family homes, vacant units, and owner-occupied units.

Importantly, the law created a new licensing requirement for San Francisco landlords. Property owners who report

that a unit is tenant-occupied will receive a rent increase “license” that allows them to impose annual allowable and banked rent increases. Landlords who have not fulfilled their reporting requirements will not receive a license and are not permitted to impose annual allowable and banked rent increases on a tenant until reporting is completed.

As part of our public outreach, the Rent Board is looking for opportunities to work with neighborhood organizations to effectively disseminate information about this change. To learn more go to rentboard.inventory@sfgov.org

[Ed. note—Sent to CVIA from the SF Rent Board on May 31, 2023]

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: <https://bit.ly/ParkCommMtgAugust2021>



Sept. 27, Oct. 25, Nov. 22
Mark Your Calendar

District 8 Groups Unite at Last

In a vibrant and diverse city like San Francisco, community engagement plays a vital role in shaping the quality of life for its residents. Neighborhood associations serve as the backbone of local involvement, representing the collective interests of residents and working towards common goals. Recently, an unprecedented event took place in the heart of District 8 as various neighborhood associations came together for the first time. This meeting aimed to discuss shared concerns, exchange best practices, and foster social connections, paving the way for a stronger, more united community.

Creating a Platform for Dialogue:

The gathering, a very informal affair at the beautiful home of one of the EVNA members, brought together representatives from different neighborhoods within District 8. Residents from Bernal Cut, Cole Valley Improvement Association (CVIA), Corbett Heights Neighbors (CHN),



Representatives from a wide spectrum of District 8 neighborhood organizations, including CVIA board members Chris Hock & Joe Klosterman, met for the first time.

D-8 Resident Task Force, Duboce Triangle Neighborhood Association (DTNA), Duncan Newburg Association (DNA), Eureka Valley Neighborhood Association (EVNA), Glen Park Association (GPA), Mount Olympus Neighborhood Association (MONA), and Upper Noe Neighbors (UNN) eagerly participated, representing their respective associations. The primary objective was to provide a platform for open dialogue.

Common Issues and Collaborative Solutions:

After some socializing over refreshments and snacks, the meeting began with introductions and an opportunity for each group to express their neighborhood-specific challenges. It quickly became apparent that many concerns transcended individual neighborhoods, emphasizing the importance of collaboration. The core themes of neighborhood improvement and beautification as well as how the city can add more housing but still preserve the charm and character of its neighborhoods were shared amongst all groups.

Other areas of focus varied slightly among groups. For example, those organizations that include a commercial corridor such as CVIA and EVNA shared concerns around graffiti abatement, vacant storefronts and the homeless encampments they often attract. Other organizations that represented neighbors in the more hilly parts of our city, e.g., MONA, UNN, DNA and CHA, were focused on beautification projects such as stair repair, garbage removal, and clean ups in green spaces and parks.

Sharing Best Practices:

Attendees shared innovative strategies that had proven successful in their neighborhoods. For instance, the DTNA team talked about working with Cal Berkeley students on

traffic calming ideas for the streets of Duboce Triangle. EVNA members shared how they work with the city to get supplies to cover graffiti in their neighborhood. We described how CVIA works with Cleanscapes to remove litter from the Cole Street commercial corridor.

Most neighborhood representatives highlighted their efforts in enhancing the sense of community through street fairs, newsletters and other cultural events. These examples inspired other attendees to explore similar approaches in their respective neighborhoods. The meeting fostered an environment of collaboration, allowing participants to learn from one another and adapt successful practices to their specific contexts. It was evident that the spirit of unity and collective action was gaining momentum.

Building Social Connections:

Beyond addressing common issues, the gathering also served as a means to build social connections, strengthen community bonds, and learn more about our neighbors. Who knew that there are 11 parks in the little Corbett Heights Neighbors area? We learned that the D-8 Resident Task Force conducts a weekly census on homeless in the neighborhood so the city has that information for shelter planning. And, while we get a little winded walking a couple of blocks uphill as we meandered home from the N-Judah, we felt sympathy for the Upper Noe Neighbors who have to traverse the 280 vertical feet of their hood to get home.

Looking Ahead:

Informal feedback on the effectiveness of the event was pretty positive. Most voiced that it might be valuable to continue to do this on a regular basis. Bringing together residents from different neighborhoods encouraged cross-pollination of ideas, promoted best practices, and fostered social connections. The event served as a stepping stone toward a more cohesive, proactive, and em-

—Chris Hock

A Hard Take at SF Drug Problem

Earlier this month Susan Dyer Reynolds (former Haight resident) wrote in the Marina Times about a recent CNN special.

“Former Bay Area reporter Sara Sidner asked people living on the streets why they came to San Francisco to be homeless and got the same answers I’ve gotten for years: ‘It’s easy. Easy to get drugs, do drugs, put up a tent, steal to support your habit — and San Francisco will pay you more than \$600 a month for the pleasure.’

“It may not come as a surprise, but cities that offer general assistance payments have more than twice the rate of homelessness as cities that don’t. For example, San Francisco and New York City have the highest rates at 10.4 and 10.9 per 10,000 people respectively, while Las Vegas has the lowest (2.3).

“Still, San Francisco’s homeless advocates believe money is the answer, with organizations coaching new arrivals to say they’re “from San Francisco” while helping them navigate the system. The nonprofits themselves complete what has become a billion-dollar industry chasing its own tail, with 59 providers receiving \$240.6 million in fiscal year 2019–20, according to the latest audit by the city’s budget and legislative analyst.”

—Susan Dyer Reynolds

(For full article, go to, www.marinatimes.com/category/reynolds-rap)

Not the Thriving Little Village We've Grown Used To



When Walgreens bought out the 22-store Pharmaca chain, no one knew what they had in mind, but recently a "For Lease" sign has appeared. Their website is soliciting other drug store owners to sell to Walgreens. So they'll be the last one standing? Or is it simply buying leases when the price is right?



MadKat, in business for 17 years, has been closed since March of 2020 with no apparent effort to rent the prime Cole Valley space. Attempts to find out why, have been unsuccessful. If you know how to contact the owner, please let us know at cviasf@aol.com.



In October last year Padrecito closed abruptly but not without a lovely letter of thanks to the Cole Valley community from owner Nate Valentine, who felt that the economics didn't make sense in the "new restaurant climate." Shortly after, a Blue Barn sign went up in the window signifying that the same San Francisco based consortium would still be in charge, but serving salads and sandwiches.



Anyone taking a peek through the door can see that a full-scale remodel is in progress—far from the original configuration of the old Ironwood restaurant of the last century. How long is our wait for the opening of the promised Blue Barn café? And does a sandwich shop duplicate nearby eateries?



Reverie's long list of unheeded Building Inspection citations and needed upgrades are keeping this choice Cole Valley property empty. The Owner wanted \$9,000 a month from prior tenant Roger Soudah, but who knows how much she will need after renovations? If Cole Hardware is the neighborhood's anchor, surely Reverie was its heart.

**A CLEAN
COLE
STREET**



**Our Neighborhood Heroes
2023 Merchant Participants**

930 Cole Associates, Cole Cleaners, Cole Hardware, Crepes on Cole, Finnegans Wake, Ino Vino, Luke's Local, MARJANG Architecture, Postal Chase, Wooden Coffeehouse

Hellman Legacy to Return in September

This may be the Fall issue of the CVIA News but it's summer in San Francisco and that means that by the time you read this issue you will have just survived the Outside Lands' three-day wipeout in the Polo Fields and are bracing yourself for the slightly sweeter Hardly Strictly Bluegrass festival in Hellman Hollow, Marx and Lindley meadows between September 29 and October 1.

Hardly Strictly, originally began as a bluegrass event bankrolled by venture capitalist Warren Hellman, but has



Photo: newsroom.haas.berkeley.edu

A Lowell High School graduate, Warren Hellman, became a partner at Lehman Brothers at the age of 28, the youngest in the firm's history.

since expanded in scope to encompass a broader range of music styles. SFGate culture editor Dan Gentile notes that this year marks what would have been Hellman's 89th birthday (he died in 2011). Admission is free, thanks to Hellman's generosity, and accessible by the N Judah as well as other crosstown lines. For the schedule of performers and other information, go to hardlystrictlybluegrass.com.

—Karen Crommie

Water? We Got Water!

The large water tank at the top of Clayton Street has a direct connection to the Twin Peaks reservoir and has a total



The 500,000 gallon water tank sits proudly on Clayton at 17th Street.

capacity of 500,000 US gallons. The tank is set at 494 feet and, when combined with the Jones Street tank, can provide hydrants with 214-psi pressures.

San Francisco has a high pressure water supply network built for the city in response to the failure of the existing emergency water system during the 1906 earthquake. It was originally proposed by San Francisco Fire Department chief engineer Dennis T. Sullivan in 1903, with construction beginning in 1909 and finishing in 1913. The system is made up of a collection of water reservoirs, pump stations, cisterns, suction connections and fireboats. While the system can use both fresh or salt water, it is preferential to not use salt water, as it commonly causes galvanic corrosion in fire equipment.

Ed. note—It's actual name is the Auxiliary Water Supply System (AWSS), although often referred to on manhole covers and hydrants as HPFS for High Pressure Fire System.



Longtime CVIA member Joan Boyd served with the U.S. Agency for International Development providing medical care to Vietnamese children in the most rustic conditions in Pleiku during the Vietnam



war. Upon her return to the U.S., she earned her master's degree in public health at the University of Chapel Hill, NC, and became an assistant professor at the University of California School of Nursing in San Francisco. She was on the faculty

that initiated one of the first pediatric nurse practitioner programs in the U.S.

Most of her career was in administration of primary health care in low-income Hispanic communities. She developed three school-based clinics and started programs in diabetes, prenatal care and sex education in schools, as well as family planning and primary care in a mental health clinic setting.

Joan traveled the world and loved music, especially opera, in her beloved San Francisco. She was also a volunteer and advocate for the Haight Ashbury neighborhood, where she lived for more than 40 years. Joan befriended many young, troubled people in her neighborhood and was a mentor to many. When she became ill, she and her dog Harry moved back to Arkansas to be near family.

(Thanks to Diane Silver for bringing Joan's passing to our attention.)

CVIA Board Minutes

The following is a summary of proceedings at CVIA Board meetings during the last two months. Those wishing to bring a neighborhood issue before the Board, or simply attend are welcome to do so. Meetings take place on the first Monday of every month at 7:00 pm at the home of a member. There is no meeting in December. Email board@cviasf.org to learn the location.

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), and Waller Center Advisory Committee.

Meeting at the Home of Shannon Cooper and Chris Hock on June 5, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

■ Treasurer Joan Downey submitted a report that CVIA currently has a bank balance of \$18,420.90, with \$5,848.46 held in the Clean Cole Street fund, and \$4,667.20 in an account (as fiscal sponsor) for the Stanyan Parklet (American Cyclery).

■ After discussion, the Board agreed to keep paying the monthly fee from MailChimp in order to keep in touch with all those who have expressed interest in CVIA.

■ Joan applied to Sunset Mercantile (Cole Valley Fair producers) for a booth at the fair along with sponsorship. We will have three 6 ft. tables and 3 chairs. Shannon offered to buy plastic bins to hold the Cole/Carl T-shirts that we will be selling.

■ Agreed to send a letter to Bo Han (CCDC), Board of Supervisors and Supervisor Dean Preston expressing concern over the prospect of a 24 hour youth drop-in center at the site of the affordable housing at 730 Stanyan. Board felt that, based on the neighborhood impact of the former drop-in center on Haight (with only limited hours) and for the questionable effect on resident families of the building, it is not an appropriate use of the space.

■ Discussion of upcoming Summer Social continued from last meeting. Date has been finalized as July 15. Agreed that Supervisor Mandelman will be informed and invited to attend and be told that main speaker will be Muni Director Jeffrey Tumlin. Shannon and Joan to arrange catering by Say Cheese and Carole to firm arrangements with Lindy Frankel at Finnegan's Wake. David Crommie to provide and set up sound system.

■ President Carole Glosenger reported on the Mayor's funding cut from the developers of the affordable housing at 730 Stanyan: Chinatown Community Development Corporation Center (CCDC) and Tenderloin Neighborhood Development Corporation (TNDC). How this will affect the project remains to be seen.

■ Joan reported her intention to apply for an Avenue Green Light grant next year to help cover the monthly cost of the ongoing Clean Cole project (daily cleaning of Cole Street). Chris Larsen, co-founder of crypto company Ripple, has recently donated \$2 million to the GLA which helps revitalize the city's 34 neighborhood commercial centers.

■ Chris Hock reported on the unprecedented D-8 meeting he and Joe Klosterman attended in which a group of neighborhood associations, all within the district, had a discus-

sion regarding common problems and shared goals.

■ Joan noted that neighborhood historian Jessica Justino is planning, as part of her photo gallery at the Cole Valley Fair, a section on quirky things people generally don't know about Cole Valley, such as the Shrader Street wood carving of the winged woman (Jack Mealy's Angel of Hope) and a large pinball gallery on a residential block (Gold Watch).

■ Chris Hock reminded us of the CVIA members who have applied to their companies for matching funds doubling their contributions to the organization. Agreed it should appear in the Fall newsletter. A regular "helpful hints" feature was suggested for the newsletter.

■ Board nominated the following for CVIA officers: Carole Glosenger, president; Chris Hock, vice-president; Joan Downey, treasurer; Karen Crommie, recording secretary. Admin positions: Chris Hock, media outreach; Lena Emery, membership; Joan Downey, special projects.

■ Decided on the two colors of Cole/Carl T-shirts: dark grey and teal with kids sizes in red, to be sold at the CVIA's Fair booth. Maker is Bella Canvas. Price to be determined.

Adjourned at 9:15 pm

Meeting at the Home of Carole Glosenger on July 10, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

■ Treasurer Joan Downey submitted a report that CVIA currently has a bank balance of \$18,643.69 with \$5261.67 held in the Clean Cole Street fund, and \$4,667.20 in an account (as fiscal sponsor) for the Stanyan Parklet (American Cyclery).

■ President Carole Glosenger noted that the plans most recently posted for the affordable housing at 730 Stanyan now shows "micro retail" in the area where the drop-in center was designated.

■ Discussed a policy of posting of notices on CVIA's social media and to members' personal email. Because of the great variety of newsletters and announcements emanating from the City's various departments, it was decided that we will only send CVIA members a link to the monthly Park Police newsletter. Carole will send link to assistant Susan Pedrick who will post it on the website. In addition we will include a list of links to the pertinent sources of public announcements in the newsletter, letting members decide which city departments they wish to follow.

■ It was suggested that we have an article in the newsletter with all the senior discounts at stores in Cole Valley/Haight.

■ There was a long discussion regarding essential tasks at the Summer Social on July 15. Joan said we now have 57 responses so far. Reviewed wording of commendations to be presented.

■ Carole said she will need help in sorting the Cole/Carl T-shirts prior to transporting them to the Cole Street Fair on September 24. Shannon said she will assist.

Adjourned at 9:00 pm

CVIA Executive Board: Chuck Canepa, Shannon Cooper Hock, David Crommie, Karen Crommie, Joan Downey, Lena Emery, Carole Glosenger, Marianne Hesse, Chris Hock, Tom Hubbard, Joe Klosterman, Edward Walls.

CVIA Summer Social Tops All

As it happens, July 15 was a lovely day, the beer and wine were flowing, the staff at Finnegans Wake was atten-



Photo: Susan Strolis

tive and efficient, the buffet table groaned with choice food from Say Cheese, CVIA members got reacquainted and, well, what was not to like?

I frankly didn't think SFMTA's director Jeff Tumlin would be a big draw, but I was wrong. Tumlin arrived in the bars's backyard wearing short shorts and a good start on a tan. (Nothing like showing some skin to break the ice.) Unlike his predecessor, he seemed delighted to respond to hard questions, all the more to display his virtuosity in knowing all the transit lines, the problems of each, the reasons for their continuance/demise, and needed future changes—it was a virtuoso performance. The harder the questions, the more enthusiastic he became. Why? Because he knew he had the answers. In fact, he continued on unphased for over an hour and seemed disappointed when the queries finally petered out. The man was clearly born for the job.



SFMTA Director Jeffrey Tumlin

Photo: Susan Strolis

Photo: David Crommie

But despite its glamorous leader, we learned that the MTA has serious problems. It faces a structural deficit, meaning that projected revenue will not keep up with the



Photo: Susan Strolis

projected expenditures. Transit is funded by multiple sources. On the operating side, money comes from the general

fund, fares, fines and fees the agency charges, grants, and revenue from parking facilities. On the capital side, funding comes from at least 38 different sources at the local, regional, state, and federal levels. It's not enough.

But, there's more. In his District 8 update, our usually laid-back supervisor was also turned on full force. Supervisor Rafael Mandelman took the mic with gusto and responded to questions



Photo: Susan Strolis

D-8 Supervisor Rafael Mandelman



Cole Valley Fair's Angie Pettit spoke enthusiastically about the upcoming event and encouraged volunteers.

them that we cannot supply homes for everyone who comes to the city.

At four o'clock the horses turned to pumpkins. CVIA Board members cleaned up the dishes, put the tables and chairs back (undoing Fran Dependahls skillful arrangement) and let the usual Saturday afternoon regulars take our place in the garden. Some of us moved to the bar but all of us were happy that this year's Social went so well. If you were there, thanks for coming, if not, try to make it next year. Coming up: the Cole Valley Fair and "Photos with Santa" in early December.

—Karen Crommie



Photo: Susan Strolis

Jessica Justino (Historic Photos) and Chuck Canepa (Car show) received commendations for their longtime contributions to the Cole Valley Fair.

Just in . . . "All the vendor spaces have now been taken at the upcoming Cole Valley Fair," says Angie Pettit, founder and director of Sunset Mercantile and the producer of the fair (September 24). But she needs volunteers to help with the event. Contact: carol@sunset-mercantilesf.com if you can lend a hand.

Postscripts

Cole Café, near the corner of Cole and Haight. has closed. The owner will move the soft ice cream equipment to their



other café, **Stanza**, nearby on Haight Street, and will reopen Cole Café as a sandwich shop. The well-respected **Musleh** family also owns the Cole Street sandwich shop **Bite Me**, a half block away, as well as the **Pork Store Café**, **Blue Front Deli** and **Stanza**.

* * *

Mi Familia Taqueria at 1797 Haight closed this summer. Formerly called **Zona Rosa**, it dated back to the 1990s. **Ramiro Cardenas** and his family rebranded it in 2019 changing the name to Mi Familia. But it should be noted that after rebranding, the restaurant received 17 health code



violations. Rumors that a Subway franchise would take over the lease have not seemed to materialize. For zoning mavens: “A formula restaurant such as Subway can go into a small strip of Haight Street where Mi Familia is located with a conditional use authorization. However, surrounding areas do not allow formula restaurants.” (Thanks to SFGate’s *Mario Cortez and Jessica Flores 6-2-23.*)

Visit our website at
CVIASF.org

When COVID struck, Lower Haight sports bar **Mad Dog in the Fog** owner **Cyrill Hackett** made a bold prediction on Facebook: “We will return louder and more wicked at a new location.” Last year



he opened his new version on Haight Street, at the site of the former **Michael Collins**’ (before that, **Joplin’s**, and originally **Martin Mack’s**.) First rate in every respect, it particularly attracts Brits and Irish fans of football (soccer). Dogs like it too, mad or otherwise.

* * *

Dan Serot of **Finnegans Wake** told us that a group of Cole Valley merchants are working together to form an official **Cole Valley Merchants Association**. They are still in the early stages of the process but hope to have the CVMA off the ground in the next few months. They held their first meeting on August 22 at Cole Valley Tavern to review initial formation plans.

* * *

If you’re a senior, are you taking advantages of local discounts? **Walgreens** shoppers and all **AARP** members, receive 20 percent off all eligible purchases on the first Tuesday of every month. While **Goodwill** offers a 10 percent discount



to seniors every day. **Luke’s Local** has a daily 10 percent senior discount and, and at **Cole Hardware**, on their birthday, anyone holding a “rewards membership” can get a discount equal to half of their age: Turn 30, get 15 percent off! Turn 50, get 25 percent off! Needless to say, proof of age is required.

* * *

San Francisco **Mayor London Breed** vetoed the city’s fourplex bill which was authored by District 8 Supervisor **Rafael Mandelman**. Breed claimed that “*instead of cutting bureaucracy and reducing project costs, the Board of Supervisors added many new requirements and imposed new financial barriers.*” (Thanks to *Camille Cohen/The Standard.*)

Letters

Hi CVIA,

(Re Summer Social on July 15) I was hoping to learn more about Director Tumlin’s participation in the event. The Frederick block between Cole and Shrader has a speeding issue, and one of our residents was almost struck by a driver while crossing the unmarked intersection last week. The neighbors are organizing and submitting a proposal to the SFMTA to introduce traffic calming infrastructure (painting a crosswalk, day lighting the intersection, etc). We are hoping to invite Director Tumlin to take a brief walk over to the intersection before/after the event so he can see the conditions.

Debs Schrimmer

Hi all,

I’m not sure if CVIA has debated the use of security cameras as a tool for SF government and police to use to enforce SF drug violations. Mayor Breed and BOS have approved the use of security cameras “to hold those who break the law accountable.” Supes Mandelman and Safai support this legislation. The trial legislation was approved last September, it’s now August. This trial use of security cameras will expire in September. I think we should ask Supervisor Mandelman (and Mayor Breed) to provide CVIA with an update or progress report on the effectiveness of using security cameras to reduce drug and other crimes.

Tom Hubbard

Help

- Emergency (crimes in progress)911
 - Homeless Outreach Team628-652-8000
 - Disturbance (415) 553-0123
 - Blocked Driveways (415) 553-1200
 - Abandoned Vehicles (415) 781-5865
 - Health Department (415) 255-3610
 - Litter (sofas, mattresses, etc.)311
 - Graffiti and Illegal Sign Removal311
 - NextBus311
 - 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 Brooke Jenkins (628) 652-4000
350 Rhode Island Street North Building, Suite 400N.
S.F., CA 94103

Captain Jack Hart..... (415) 242-3000
Park District Police Station
1899 Waller St.
S.F., CA 94117
Jack.Hart@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. Connie Chan ChanStaff@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. Joel Engardio EngardioStaff@sfgov.org | 415-554-7460 |
| 5. Dean Preston Dean.Preston@sfgov.org | 415-554-7630 |
| 6. Matt Dorsey Matt.Dorsey@sfgov.org | 415-554-7970 |
| 7. Myrna Melgar MelgarStaff@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, President Shamann.Walton@sfgov.org | 415-554-7670 |
| 11. Ahsha Safai Ahsha.Safai@sfgov.org | 415-554-6975 |

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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 Winter edition should be sent before Oct. 15, 2023 to board@cviastf.org. We encourage submissions from anyone interested in our neighborhood. Send questions or comments to the above address or call 415-431-1414.

EditorKaren Crommie
ProductionDavid Crommie
Editorial AssistanceJoan Downey

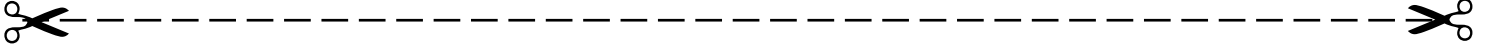
In 1887 a baseball field opened in the Haight at Stanyan and Waller called the Haight Street Grounds. The grandstands had a combined capacity of 10,000. A portion of the left field stands, called the kindergarten, was set aside for young boys with its own ticket booth and gate. Prior to the start, a band played from 1:00 to 1:30 pm and then the teams took the field for warmups. Each team had its own clubhouse/dressing room.
(From the current edition of The Argonaut, SF Historical Society's quarterly magazine)

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 \$ _____ or the community work of CVIA \$ _____

Do NOT acknowledge my optional 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**