

CVIA NEWS

COLE VALLEY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Volume XXVII

SERVING ALL RESIDENTS OF THE GREATER HAIGHT ASHBURY

SPRING 2014

Crisis Brewing on UCSF Parnassus Campus

At a February 11 community meeting called by UCSF, campus planners announced plans to make major changes to the “space ceiling,” the only mechanism limiting the impact of growth on the Parnassus Campus—including its daily campus population. The new proposal will exclude all “housing” from space ceiling limits, including the Aldea Housing complex and the new hous-



Two issues enrage the community around UCSF: The exclusion of student housing from the established “space ceiling” and the discontinuation of the management plan for Sutro Forest.

ing to be assigned to UC Hall, the building that was to have been demolished in a 1975 mitigation agreement with the community.

This is taking place as UCSF plans to publish its next Long Range Development Plan (LRDP), and appears to be a precedent setting reversal in long standing commitments to the Parnassus neighborhoods. For three decades UCSF has pledged to demolish a series of older buildings in order to reduce its gross square foot overage. These commitments began in 1975, reaffirmed in 1982 and 1996 only to be suddenly abandoned as we approach the 2014 plan.

This comes on top of the announcement last fall that left neighbors, the conservation community, and environmentalists stunned. After 15 years of community planning and commitments to maintain and begin restoration of the 61-acre UCSF Mount Sutro Open Space Reserve, the University said it intended to abandon all planned conservation efforts on Mt. Sutro in favor of “mowing” 25 acres of understory as a “hazard reduction measure” and leave the remaining 36 acres untouched.

This will in effect remove critical habitat for wildlife as well as wipe out some of the few remaining indigenous plant colonies. Further, the revised UCSF plans ignore the invasive ivies that are in effect killing the older and healthier eucalyptus trees, effectively suppressing re-growth and preventing the reintroduction of other

Continued on page 2, column 2.

Red Vic Movie House Reborn as “Second Act Marketplace”

The transformation of the Haight’s Red Vic Movie House is officially complete, and the new space is set to debut as the Second Act Marketplace, a food stall and events space inside the now-defunct theater. Having opened officially on February 3, Second Act is designed to serve as a neighborhood hub, offering coffee, juice and food options alongside book readings, film screening, shows and more. Betsy and Jack Rix, who were part-owners of the original Red Vic, are behind the metamorphosis, which brings five food vendors to the new space.

Up front in a window spot is High Cotton Kitchen, a lunch spot with both a New Orleans and New Mexico inflection. Louisiana native and former CIA instructor Terrell Brunet is behind “High Levee,” a changing menu of gumbo, red beans and rice, po’ boys and salads, and New Mexico-born cook Cailen Sutherland heads up “High Desert,” the southwest-inspired menu.



Robert Hac is proud of the baked goods offered at Second Act’s Community Craft.

Beauty’s Bagels, Meetinghouse biscuits and Sightglass coffee will all be available for early birds starting at 7 a.m., with the baked goods a crossover from Brunet’s second stall, Community Craft.

Community Craft is a cooperative bakery that’s a team effort from Brunet and Bar Tartine alum Neely Thomas, and they’ve got an impressive lineup that will cover everything from pies, gluten-free bread, challah and cookies to cakes, trifles and more. Baked goods will come from Bread SRSLY, Park Bench, Ebb’s Bakery, Butter Water Salt Flour and



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more, plus the aforementioned and much-loved Beauty's Bagels.



Elyse Thogerson of Raw has been working as a bartender at Kezar Bar and Restaurant for years while she has been developing her juice company.

In the other window spot is RAW, a juice bar by 20-year mixology veteran Elyse Thogerson that offers an array of organic fresh-squeezed fruit and vegetable juices, plus one-to-five-day cleanses and a popular almond milk. Also in the marketplace mix is Anda Piroshki, a second location of Anna Tvelova's piroshki, borscht, and kompot outlet, and Spice Hound, a new location of Tammy Tan's exotic spice shop.

The Red Vic's landmark status in the Upper Haight leaves big shoes to fill, but Second Act hopes its community-minded vendors and events will be embraced by locals who feared for the space's fate when the movie house closed back in 2011. A much-needed expansion of neighboring cocktail spot Alembic's kitchen is another notable benefit to the new digs.

Hours for the different stalls will vary slightly, but look for High Cotton to be open for 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Community Craft from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., RAW from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Anda Piroshki

—Rose Garrett (reprinted from sfeater.com)

Ed. Note—Jack Rix reminds us that for take-out dinner options, High Cotton is an excellent choice, also that Community Craft has several vegan and gluten-free offerings.

Help Clean up the District

The Department of Public Works is planning a Community Clean Team on Arbor Day in Districts 2 and 5 (Cole Valley/Haight). This will unfold in a manner similar to before, excepting that, this year, the two districts will be the sharing the event.

The kick-off site will be the Ella Hill Hutch Community Center at 1050 McAllister (between Webster and Buchanan) on March 15th at 9:00 a.m. DPW will be shuttling people to sites in each District. Cleanup will end at noon.

If anyone has additional suggestions for clean-up sites, please contact DPW's public information officer Ahmad El-Najjar at (415) 336-4039.

POLICE COMMUNITY FORUM

Captain Greg Corrales holds community forums the second Tuesday of every month (except December) from 6 to 7:00 p.m. He gives briefings on upcoming permitted events, reviews neighborhood criminal activity, and addresses the safety concerns of residents. It's a good way to stay in touch with what's going on. The meetings are held at Park Station's Community Room, (1899 Waller)



**March 11, April 8 and May 13
Refreshments and Raffle Prizes**

UCSF—Continued from page 1, column 1.

species where ivies dominate the forest understory. Also ignored is the restoration of the Woodland Canyon, Woodland Creek, riparian corridor which is Mount Sutro's last remaining watershed and seasonal creek where water often flows well into the summer.

This stunning reversal by the University is in stark contrast to UC's own legacy within the conservation movement including the founding of the National Parks system, the Sierra Club and the role it played in creating Yosemite National Park. It also ignores San Francisco's own environmental policies and those of the neighboring GGNRA and Presidio National Park. By not including the conservation options within the revised DEIR this move could in effect prohibit all forms of environmental stewardship to take place within the 61-acre property. Further, by continuing the mismanage-



Photo: Craig Dawson

UCSF will no longer support the the long range restoration plan.

ment in 36 acres of forest and proposing to leave it untouched, the fire danger will continue to grow on the Northern and Eastern and Western slopes of Mount Sutro as the rapid decline accelerates.

If UCSF can reverse course on long standing commitments without penalty or consequence where does that leave the rest of us? How can we work to ensure the University is held to its commitments to remain self policing and accountable for Campus growth, the maintenance of its forest and the ever increasing daily population? The answer is through community action to make commitments binding and for the community to become the vocal force that ensures the proposed changes bring benefit, not harm, to those living in the shadow of the Parnassus Campus.

—Craig Dawson.

Executive Director, Sutro Stewards
craig@sutrostewards.org

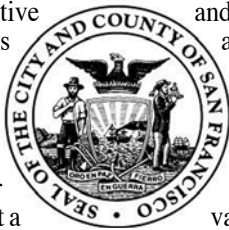
Muni Needs Your Input!

Muni is considering proposed service and route changes as part of the Transit Effectiveness Project (TEP). Developed with extensive analysis and community input, the TEP proposals will modernize Muni for its 700,000 daily passengers. To provide input or learn more, attend one of the community meetings scheduled for March or visit www.TellMuni.com to give feedback and sign up for updates.

THURSDAY, MARCH 6th, 6-8 p.m.
SATURDAY, MARCH 8th, 10 a.m.-NOON
*Both meetings will be held in the SFMTA Atrium
2nd Floor, One South Van Ness Avenue*

The One-Year Commitment That Will Change Your Life

The Civil Grand Jury—the “watchdog” of the City and County of San Francisco—needs a diverse group of informed, intelligent, and interested San Francisco residents/U.S. citizens to serve a one year term beginning on July 1, 2014. If you are passionate about a government that is effective and efficient, acknowledges the citizens’ needs as a priority, and you are willing to devote 20 or more hours a week, please consider volunteering for the San Francisco Civil Grand Jury. You will come away with an in-depth knowledge of how your local government functions, as well as meet a variety of fascinating people while making a significant contribution to your community. For additional information and to apply, visit: <http://civilgrandjury.sfgov.org>.



Park Station Tip Line

Everyone is encouraged to utilize the Park Station Tip Line. The Tip Line is a tool that has not been utilized nearly as much as it should be. If you have information regarding a crime that has occurred or any information that would assist in any investigation, you are encouraged to call the Tip Line and leave the information for Park Station officers. Because people are sometimes very apprehensive to come forward and provide information, the police have provided this way to remain anonymous. On the other hand, if you would like to be contacted by an officer just leave your contact information. **The Tip Line number is (415) 731-2865.**



*What does this circle mean?
(Answer on Page 11)*

CVIA Officers

- President.....Carole Glosenger
- Vice PresidentAmy Blakeley
- TreasurerJoan Downey
- Recording SecretaryKaren Crommie
- MembershipLena Emmery
- Community RelationsAmy Blakeley

Clayton Street Tragedy: Lesson for Homeowners

If you’ve ever had to hire a scaffolding company for a painting or roofing job, you know how surprisingly expensive it is. For that reason, many people with smaller renovation jobs try improvising. Such was the case during the last week of January when Robert Dolan sent three workers up a makeshift wooden platform nailed to the side of the house at 1412 Clayton. When the platform gave way, the workers fell 25 feet on to the concrete below. They were taken to SF General Hospital with broken bones and internal injuries.

In her SF Chronicle article (1-25-14), Vivian Ho wrote that officials found no building permits had been filed and a number of other safety codes had been ignored. They also looked at the next door building undergoing renovation involving the removal of as-



Photos: Leah Willis, SF Chronicle

Makeshift scaffolding was nailed to the side of the building. When it collapsed, three workers were hospitalized.

bestos tiles. This was also owned by Dolan and required a hazardous material permit, which was, of course, nonexistent.

From his history of code violations, it’s clear that Dolan likes to live on the edge. But the accident has brought with it an avalanche of violations and expense. A stop order has been issued on both properties, more than \$4,500 in fines and a pending criminal investigation by Cal/OSHA. How the workers will be compensated remains to be determined. Surely there is no shortage of attorneys

who will jump to represent them, depending on how deep Dolan’s pockets are. (Insurance companies seldom pay for the results of illegal actions.)

Most of us complain about the city bureaucracy forcing us to file permits for simple jobs such as window replacement and security gate installation, but here’s an incident that could have been prevented had Dolan followed the rules.

—Karen Crommie

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.

Sunset Tunnel Will Have Trackway Improvements

The Sunset Tunnel, which runs for 4,232 feet from Carl and Cole to Duboce and Noe, was opened in 1928 and is badly in need of seismic improvements. The tracks, last replaced in the 70s, need complete replacement. The MTA is expected to begin work on this project in April or May of this year. The work will progress for 15 weekends, excluding major holidays and days of scheduled ball-games, and is projected to be completed in April of 2015.

There will be bus substitution from the Duboce or Market and Church to the ocean during construction.

The project also includes Overhead Contact System replacement and fire safety upgrades within the tunnel. Outside the tunnel there will be upgrades to the signals at nine intersections from Carl and Stanyan to Sunset and Judah. These "transit signal priority"



The Sunset Tunnel will be closed for 15 weekends over the next year.

upgrades mean that traffic signals will detect when a train is coming and respond by holding the green light longer, enabling the train to pass through.

It is inevitable that noise and disruption from construction activities will impact those near the tunnel entrance. Parking spaces will be temporarily removed around the tunnel and at transit signal locations.

When the project is finished, we'll hopefully see improved travel times and on-time performance for the N-Judah and a reduced need for infrastructure maintenance.

For project updates, see www.sfmta.com/sunsetunnel. The project manager is Tess Kavanagh, (415) 701-4212, Tess.Kavanagh@sfmta.com and the public relations officer is Jay Lu (415) 701-4387, Jay.Lu@sfmta.com.

—Joan Downey



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

Makeover for Kezar Triangle

With support from the David and Carla Crane Foundation, the Friends of Kezar Triangle have moved forward with their project to transform a neglected corner of Golden Gate Park into a site for art installations linked by an accessible pathway and flanked by thick lawn, perfect for recreation.



Photo: Joan Downey

Neighbors are invited to the opening celebration on March 22 from 1 to 5 p.m.

Letter Addressing Tank Hill

Dear Supervisor Breed,

I am contacting you out of concern for the safety of the hundreds of people, residents and tourists alike, who make the trek up to Tank Hill from Belgrave Avenue, a street and city park in your district.

My husband and I have been walking up and down the trail to Tank Hill almost daily for many years now. We have witnessed the trail degrade to its present state of disrepair. The log stairs are falling apart, some have been altogether gone for awhile, rebar sticks up every now and then before Rec and Park gets a notice from someone that they need to come out and hammer it in, rocks settle on the trail due to erosion and make it tricky to walk without stumbling, and people are now resorting to walking off trail to avoid the difficulties of the trail, thus trampling vegetation and encouraging further erosion. In short—it's a bad situation getting worse by the day.



Photo: Ilya Kaltman

Dangerous west stairs to Tank Hill.

Some of us Belgrave neighbors have been in touch with Rec and Park. They have been responsive, but tell us that there are no funds for doing anything. So, there appears to be no recourse. Unless there is motivation to make this a priority.

Believe me, if you witnessed the kids from Grattan school scrambling up the hill, and the scores of people clutching on to one another's arms to avoid falling down, you'd be alarmed. This is not a park to be proud of, despite the glorious view one gets once arriving to the top. We must do better before someone gets really hurt.

I urge you to come and take a look (and hike!) for yourself. Perhaps you can help out and find a way to get something done. Thank you for paying attention to this.

Ilya Kaltman

Ed Note—CVIA thanks Ilya Kaltman for sending us a copy of the above letter. Since this was written, she has taken the suggestion made by Breed's office and Rec and Park to apply for a Community Opportunity Grant to stabilize the steps. We give her our full support.

**Don't say we didn't tell you.
Bay to Breakers takes place on
Sunday, May 18th**

Youth Group Leaves Haight Digs to Offer Aid From a Van

Over their 12 years of existence, CVIA's relationship with the Homeless Youth Alliance has been ragged. Headquartered in the ground floor of the large corner building (Bill Graham) at Haight and Cole—long abandoned by the Free Clinic, it was for years easily identified by the knots of indigent youth panhandling out in front. After complaints from CVIA about pedestrians having to penetrate this phalanx of youth, director Mary Howe persuaded clients not to congregate during their closed hours and cleaned up the entrance to the facility. Clearly, Howe was receptive to change and, just as clearly, she and her staff were filling an unmet need.

Nevertheless, on Christmas Day, the HYA closed its doors. The owners, among whom is Dr. David Smith, founder of the



Photo: Mike Koozmin, SF Examiner

Homeless Youth Alliance Director Mary Howe.

Haight Ashbury Free Clinics, want “to take the building in a different direction,” said building manager Paul Gaetani to an Examiner reporter. In addition, the building must be vacated for seismic work. The apparent plan is to convert the building back to its original use as residential apartments with retail below. Howe's group had stayed far longer than they had anticipated, considering the escalating value of rental units. In spite of a fund-raising surge, including \$75,000 of city money arranged by Supervisor London Breed, they have had to move their operation to a “mobile unit.”

Bevan Duffy, the Mayor's Director of Housing Opportunity, has been working alongside Howe for months, both in trying to locate an alternative venue in the Haight and to assist her work with homeless youth. Quoted by Examiner reporter Jessica Kwong, he said, “We didn't just come to them when the fire alarm got pulled, we've been working very closely with them [all along] to help find more housing or transitional housing for youth in the Haight-Ashbury.”

Kwong reports that the 2013 San Francisco Homeless Count and Survey found that there were 914 unaccompanied 18 to 24 year-olds living here.

HYA is still providing therapy and services from the van, which Howe plans to keep in the neighborhood or nearby park. She writes on their website, “We can still provide food, hygiene kits, safer sex supplies, one-to one counseling, case management, therapy and psychiatric care. We can still connect kids to housing, medical care and drug treatment out in the open or making use of tents....” One of HYA's services is needle distribution. (The term



“needle exchange” is inaccurate, since clients are not required to turn in a like amount of used needles.) This is important to intravenous addicts because few non-profits want to engage in this kind of assistance in neighborhood settings.

HYA is based on the theory of meeting the client where he/she is, which means that they do not have to change behavior to be welcomed. Following a “harm reduction” model, Howe and her staff attempt to prevent clients further injuring themselves through overdosing, becoming infected with HIV-AIDS, malnutrition and the other health challenges that come with living on the street. Saving lives is their goal, not rehabilitating or prescribing change of lifestyle and it has its place in the panoply of services provided by the city, both by taxpayer dollars and private contributions.

The downside for Haight/Cole Valley residents is that if HYA provides services from a van in Golden Gate Park, it will bring more indigent youth into that area during daylight hours (they already camp there at night). Park users can rightly complain that it is a misuse of precious park land, so much of which has already been claimed by non-recreational activities.

—Karen Crommie

A New Way to Age at Home

For CVIA members who are getting up in age and who hope to stay in their homes until the last breath (like me), **San Francisco Village** is having an “Open House” at the Park Branch Library on March 15. Their network of volunteers offer help around the house, a ride to the doctor or grocery store, someone to walk the dog, a check-in phone call or visit—the list is long. And their small “neighborhood circles” connect you to neighbors for everything from friendship to emergency assistance.



Why move out of the neighborhood you love if you don't have to?

The cost of San Francisco Village membership is \$50 per month for an individual and \$62.50 for a family. However, there are also scholarships available for anyone who would like to get involved but cannot afford the cost of monthly membership.

San Francisco Village will also provide prescreened referrals for services—some at reduced prices—when volunteers aren't available: A home healthcare provider, for instance, or a plumber, attorney, handyman, gardener. Most of us have made these contacts already but sometimes postpone arranging for the needed service. That's where SFV comes in.

San Francisco Village strives to build “community” within an already existing community. They arrange member-led groups of all kinds: discussion and book groups, lunch and movie groups and private docent tours of museums. In short, they facilitate the kinds of services and activities that one could expect in an expensive retirement community, only, you're still at home surrounded by the things you love. It's certainly worth taking a look at. For more information contact Steve Burdo at stephen@kathleenrussell.com.

The San Francisco Village meeting will be held at the Park Branch Library (1833 Page Street) on Saturday, March 15 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

—Karen Crommie

A CLEAN COLE STREET

2013 Merchant Participants

Alpha Market	Cole Cleaners
Bambino's Ristorante	Cole Hardware
Boulange de Cole	Crêpes on Cole
BurgerMeister	Padrecito
Postal Chase	



Thank You For Your Support



It certainly isn't expected, but when a member sends in an extra contribution, we appreciate it greatly. Only nine Cole Valley merchants contributed to the daily cleaning of the Cole Street business district last year, which costs CVIA \$900 each month. We make up the deficit with member contributions, a sizeable 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 January 1, 2013 to November 10, 2013. Please notify us if your name has inadvertently been omitted.

Benefactors (\$250 - \$500): Brittny Bottorff & Asim Bhansali, Tracy & Patrick Jennings, Jessica Justino & Bill Hancock, Loic Nicolas, Abby & David Rumsey

Donors (\$100 - \$249): Anonymous, Cecile & Jeff Bodington, Linda Coda & Robert Brigante, Karen & David Crommie, Lena Emmery & Charles Canepa, Tresa & Jim Eyres, Virginia Joosen, Janan New, Jane & Michael Miller, Deborah Robbins & Henry Navas

Contributors (\$50 - \$99): Dag & Todd Frederick, Douglas Hall, Marianne Hesse, Colleen Kavanagh, Randy & Rich Lavinghouse, Wallis & Michelle Lim, John R. Manning, Kendra & William Robbins, Elaine Robinson, Susan & Steven Rosen, Jan Platt & Jeff Ross, Ineke Ruhland & Bill O'Such, Mary Ann Wolcott

Supporters (\$25 - \$49): Kathleen Bertram, Jeanne Blamey & Robert Fram, Megan & Bruce Bourne, Joan Boyd, Byron G. Bray, Jr., Sheila & P.J. Brooker, Margareta Ekblad & Vojtech Licko, Beverley Epstein, Mary Ann de Sousa, Joan Downey & Ilie Gaceu, Linda Erkelens & Ronald Dion, Carole Glosenger, Robin & Richard Hornung, Gerardo Joffe, Dennis Martino, Olympia & Douglas Montgomery, Robert Page, MeMe Riordan, Elsa Rosenberg & David Zuckerman, Deborah Van Atta

Boosters (\$24 and below): Rob Bakewell, Judith Bishop, Tina & Oliver Brock, Chris Broderick, Gina Centoni, Janet & Mark Hall, Maryann Hrichak, David Keller, Sigrid Schafmann, Suene & Eric Waldman

AT&T Box Installation Delayed

Along with two neighbors, I attended the Department of Public Works' hearing on January 27 for the permit to install a "surface mounted facility," which is a fancy way of saying, "a large piece of phone company equipment" on the public sidewalk. AT&T notified the neighborhood around Clayton and Frederick with a letter showing a photoshopped idea of what their refrigerator-sized utility cabinet would look like installed there. But the image of the box was about 1/3 smaller than it actually is. Fifteen such licenses were being sought by the telecommunications giant that day.

We all spoke to the problems presented by such equipment: graffiti magnet, cluttering the walkway, conflicting with the city's effort to make San Francisco more walkable, urban blight and public safety. (People can hide behind them doing nefarious things or launch attacks on pedestrians.)

Most importantly, I was outraged over the fact that AT&T lied to those of us who had gone to the "box walk" in November, where



The AT&T boxes sit on a concrete platform and are surrounded by bollards that extend the original footprint by a third.

we discussed the issues around this site, on Clayton south of Frederick. When asked why the device was not put into the park across the street, AT&T representative Julian Chang said, "We can't put it on Rec and Park property." We responded that the

park (along side the Sunset Tunnel) was property of the Municipal Transit Agency. (This shows how poorly researched the site selection was.) That caused a walk across the street, and into the park. We pointed out a suitable location, between the disabled ramp and the adjoining building to the south. "Perfect," said Chang.

But at the hearing, the AT&T rep repeated the claim of this being "park" property. Hence, they asked for the sidewalk site. The DPW hearing officer did not accept the company's claim, noting my objection. She directed the matter be continued. Now we are waiting to hear when this will be reviewed again, and if the city will participate with its lands, to mitigate the impacts of blight on our neighborhood. Stay tuned for new developments.

—Ted Loewenberg

Media Were Duped by AT&T

I just made a rather disturbing finding. AT&T's U-verse service — its broadband, internet and TV service — is a copper-to-the-home service. More importantly, it is a fiber-to-the-press-release. Going through hundreds of blogs and articles as well as AT&T's state and federal testimony and filings — including AT&T's recent FCC petition to close down the Public Switched Telephone Networks, (PSTN), AT&T never once mentioned that AT&T's U-verse is a copper-based PSTN service. U-verse uses the same, exact wires that have been in homes and offices for decades, even though AT&T is claiming that the PSTN is "too old" and needs to be "retired," closing down about 50 percent of their 22 state territories' utility networks.

AT&T has also told anyone who will listen that the company needs to "transition" the PSTN networks to an "all Internet protocol

network” to make “Voice Over the Internet Protocol” (VOIP) work.

And yet—AT&T has pulled off a massive deception: The PSTN is the U-verse delivery vehicle for cable, broadband, internet and phone and yet AT&T has

*Bruce Kushnick, Executive Director
New Networks Institute (Huffpost)*

CVIA Opts Out of Plan to “Revitalize” Haight Street

Because CVIA has worked hard over many years to improve the greater Haight Ashbury, and also because we know that the Planning Department is making a sincere effort to upgrade neighborhoods across the city, it was with some sadness that, after much discussion and consideration, CVIA’s board of directors decided to remove its support from the Public Realm Plan.

Although enhanced street lighting would be very nice, things such as additional parklets, signage, sidewalk widening and bulb-outs are not only superfluous; they are a detriment to the area. Especially when Haight Street’s other needs are so blatant: sidewalk steam cleaning; merchant compliance with storefront cleanliness and



Both tourists and neighbors alike flock to Haight Street for shopping and eating. Its problems are not addressed by the Public Realm Plan.

timely garbage can removal; cleaned tree wells; removal of graffiti from news racks and parking signs; limitation on tour busses; more frequent corner trash receptacle pick ups; more vigorous police enforcement of the Civil Sidewalks ordinance; and the longtime need for a public toilet between Clayton and Lyon streets.

In spite of these needs, Haight Street is more vibrant than we have seen it in many years. Tourism is so great that, among the Planning Department’s preliminary recommendations, “widening of the sidewalks” to accommodate crowds was included. We believe this speaks for itself.

So we asked the Planning Department’s Alexis Smith to consider our view a “reality check” in meeting the challenges of genuine neighborhood improvement, which is, of course, our common goal.

*—Carole Glosenger
CVIA President*

Be aware that 4/20 (the traditional cannabis holiday) falls on a Sunday this year. The Haight will be mobbed as mellow hordes make their way to Sharon Meadow.

Police Brass To Hold Meeting in Cole Valley: Be There

On Wednesday, February 26, the San Francisco Police Commission will meet at the Grattan Elementary School (165 Grattan St.) at 6:00 p.m. Most of the SFPD Command Staff will be present. This is a once-a-year opportunity to let the big shots know what’s working and what’s not in law enforcement in Cole Valley and the Haight Ashbury. Captain Greg Corrales would like a great turnout for the Commission meeting and so would CVIA.

If there is a robust crowd, the decision-makers are much more likely to allocate resources to our district and address our concerns. Think about it: bike theft, car break-ins, sidewalk obstruction, inconsiderate dog owners, merchants who block the rights-of-way with merchandise or un-permitted tables, misuse of Golden Gate Park, slow response from the non-violent dispatch number, street cops patrolling inattentively—this is your opportunity.

Just as important is to tell the Commission about the GOOD things that are happening in our neighborhood: Fewer drug dealers at Alvord Lake, beat cops moving people lounging on the street, fewer indigent people with shopping carts, quick response from 911 calls, more frequent policing in Buena Vista Park, less nightly congregation at the Muni Park on Carl (near Cole), continuous citing of camping in the Park and in the Panhandle, citing of vehicle-dwellers and an accessible Captain.

Even if you have nothing to say, attendance at this meeting shows your interest and commitment to the neighborhood and your support of our Park Station men and women who work 24 hours a day to insure our safety.

—Karen Crommie

Magnolia Brewpub Kicks off Annual “Strong Beer Month”

Eleven months out of the year we talk your ears off about the merits of balance, subtly, nuance, session-ability...then we do a 180°, hitting you over the head with six high-octane, very limited-release beers.

Like many questionable ideas, it started over a beer with Shaun O’Sullivan, commiserating about a slow February back in 2002.



SpencerBrownPhoto.com

Dave McLean will soon open Smokestack BBQ, a full production brewery in the Dogpatch neighborhood.

The following year, Strong Beer Month was born and we pulled out all the stops to overflow our mash tuns, cajole our yeast into fermenting high gravity worts, figure out food pairings that hold up to glass after glass of over-the-top-ness, and, most importantly, try to convince a few people to visit [Magnolia] in February.

Pick up a “ticket” and get it punched for each beer you order at Magnolia [or at Shaun O’Sullivan’s brewery, 21st Amendment]. Collect all 12 punches and keep the commemorative glass. Food pairings await you and there will be other events, tastings, and more as the

month goes on. Beers and the glass are good while supplies last and, whatever you do, please drink responsibly.

—Dave McLean

CVIA Board Minutes

The following is a summary of what took place at the CVIA board meetings the last three months. Those wishing to bring a neighborhood issue before the Board are welcome to do so. Meetings take place on the first Monday of every month at 7:00 p.m. in the home of a member. There is no meeting in December. Call 221-7379 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, SFMTA Citizens Advisory Council, the Community Police Advisory Board (CPAB), Graffiti Abatement Committee and the Coalition for S.F. Neighborhoods.

January

Location: Home of Carole Glosenger – January 6, 2014

■ Treasurer Joan Downey reported \$12,089.41 in savings, \$3,830.37 in checking for a total of \$15,919.78, out of which \$3,438.79 is being presently held in the Clean Cole Street fund. Joan also asked that board members check the pictures taken during the Santa on Cole photo session for a good photo to be used in advertising next year.

■ Lena Emmery reported from the Kezar Advisory Committee that the track replacement has no start date yet. The committee has new members.

■ In her review of the Community Police Advisory Committee, Lena also reported that funding for bike licenses program has been approved. The SF Bicycle Coalition is on board.

■ Motion approved: To write Alexis Smith of the Planning Dept. stating that CVIA will not support the Haight Ashbury Public Realm Plan until the following pressing needs are addressed: a public toilet between Clayton and Lyon streets; sidewalk steam cleaning; merchant compliance with storefront cleanliness, and timely garbage can removal; clean tree wells, graffiti-free newsracks and parking signs; and police enforcement of the Civil Sidewalks ordinance. Since one of the identified problems for Haight Street is over crowding of sidewalk space due to heavy tourism, we do not feel that the Haight Ashbury needs any signs to attract more people. Send cc to Christen Evans, board member of the Haight Ashbury Merchants Association.

■ Discussion of how to attract new members brought the following suggestions: a no-host social at one of the bars/restaurants in Cole Valley partnering with the establishment to offer food and beverages at a discount; hand-delivering copies of the newsletter with personal notes inviting membership (this should be an issue that highlights the organization's history and accomplishments; suggesting (in the newsletter) that members give gift memberships to friends and neighbors;

■ Website: Amy Blakeley is working with Danielle (referred by Patrick Kelly, manager of La Boulange) who has offered to assist her in incorporating a plug-in enabling visitors to the CVIA website to sign up for membership.

■ Chuck Canepa, member of UCSF's Long Range Development Plan CAG, reported that UCSF has decided to abandon maintenance of Sutro Forest. Responding to neighborhood objections to tree thinning (including threat of a law suit) the university decided to back away from their forest management plan. Mt. Sutro Stewards, who has organized volunteers to do as much clearing as possible, are dismayed that the work they have been carrying out for the last few years will not be augmented with the resources available to the University. A vocal group of neighbors has effectively halted the much needed management of this urban wilderness.

■ Diana Gray and Margaret Garvin presented their case against the construction of a proposed mid-block house at 209 Grattan St.

The house is on a half-size lot, the result of a corner lot (Shrader) being split over 100 years ago. The owner of the building wants to construct a four-story, single family home with back yard open space 15 by 25 feet. The project has been signed off by the Planning Department (Glen Cabreros, planner) "with notes." The owners have applied for variances to zoning requirements for setbacks. Neighbors are requesting that the building be no higher than adjacent buildings and that they remove the fourth floor. Hearing at the Planning Commission on February 27, 2014.

■ Motion approved to write a letter supporting the neighbors. Lena Chuck Canepa to draft a letter to Glenn Cabreros (neighborhood coordinator assigned to project) as soon as they receive the "notes" which accompanied the department's approval.

Adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

February

Location: Home of Lena Emmery and Chuck Canepa – February 3, 2014

■ Treasurer Joan Downey reported \$12,089.93 in savings, \$4,370.77 in checking for a total of \$16,460.70, out of which \$3,854.19 is being presently held in the Clean Cole Street fund. She said that CVIA received its first membership/donation via "Network for Good;" that the total profit from the Santa on Cole photo-op in December was \$1600; and presented the 2014 budget.

■ In her review of the Community Police Advisory Committee, Lena also reported that implementing the bike licenses program is its main consideration at this time.

■ After a conversation with 2013 Cole Valley Fair organizer Erica Kajdasz of Midline, Joan was not certain that there would be a fair this year.

■ Discussed Supervisor Chiu's push for the approval of "secondary units" (currently illegal in-law apartments). Since adding a rental unit to a single family building brings that building under the city's rent control regulation, there is widespread support from tenant's paid lobbyists.

■ Discussed the positive improvements made to the area of Golden Gate Park between Lincoln Way and Kezar Drive by the Friends of Kezar Triangle which has, with Rec and Park's blessing, devoted funds to its development into an art venue.

■ Amy Blakeley announced the soft opening of the former Red Vic Movie theatre as the Second Act Marketplace today. (See article on page 1.)

■ Craig Dawson, founder of the Mt. Sutro Stewards, gave a report on the withdrawal of UCSF for responsibility in maintenance of the forest. (See article on page 1.)

■ Joan Downey reported on the plans for new tracks in the Sunset Tunnel (entrance at Carl, near Cole). (See article on page 4) She also asked what could be done to clear the public transit routes through the inner Sunset, Cole Valley and the Haight during the annual April 20th (4/20) marijuana smoke-out. Last year transit came to a standstill.

■ Discussed a possible mural on the side of Doug's Suds to welcome people descending the N-Judah arriving into Cole Valley. Doug Hall to determine building owner, amiability to art work, contacting Precita Eyes, cost of design and painting.

Adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

CVIA Executive Board: Amy Blakeley, Chuck Canepa, Shannon Cooper Hock, David Crommie, Karen Crommie, Joan Downey, Lena Emmery, Carole Glosenger, Douglas Hall, Marianne Hesse, Chris Hock.

Friends of Alvard Lake Move Forward with Upgrade Plans

Since the fall of 2012, a broad community based effort has been investigating issues around the rehabilitation of the Alvard Lake area of Golden Gate Park. The 9.5 acre area is defined as lands between the stub of Waller St. and the intersection of Kezar Way, Oak and



The Stanyan Street portals mark the main pedestrian entrance into Golden Gate Park. Landscape renovation could solve ongoing problems at the site.

Fell Streets at Stanyan. Several projects have been identified that would solve some immediate problems commonly associated with the site, such as removing the planter at the Haight St. entrance, putting a sidewalk on the west side of Stanyan between Haight and Kezar/Oak/ Fell, and reversing the erosion of oak tree roots and the slope descending to the walkway toward the tunnel.

The group has decided to name the effort Friends of Alvard Lake (FoAL), and has begun working with Rec and Park's Eric Anderson, the Superintendent of Golden Gate Park. Additionally, FoAL will be working under the San Francisco Parks Alliance for business management and fund raising efforts.

At the January 30 meeting, FoAL reviewed what has been proposed so far by the group, as well as a presentation of images of Tongva Park, in Santa Monica. Tongva was created to improve a 6 acre lot in front of Santa Monica's City Hall, to make it more inviting and interesting to all, by installing native plants, fountains, sculptures, a picnic area and many other features. The resulting reconstruction of the city block makes it more resistant to abuse by camping, drug dealing and lingering on the planting, in addition to attracting a broad range of residents and visitors.

FoAL will soon call for several community meetings where neighbors of the Park can offer their goals, ideas and guiding principles for repurposing the Alvard Lake area. As the plan for dates and locations of these brain-storming sessions are developed, they will be published through the neighborhood organizations, along with social network sites such as Nextdoor.

—Ted Loewenberg

**The SFPD has recovered over 800
stolen bicycles waiting to be claimed.
Registering your bicycle gives you the
best chance of getting it back.
Go to Safebikes.org**

CVIA's Stand on 209 Grattan

Based on the information that was made available to us on January 13, 2014, the CVIA board makes the following recommendations to the SF Planning Department for the proposed demolition and construction of a building at 209 Grattan Street. This is in direct response to the four suggestions submitted by the Grattan Project Working Group.

1) We ask that the city's Residential Design Team reconsider its decision on the 4th floor, either by further mitigation of its visual overall height /sunlight impact, or remove (as RDT originally recommended).



Existing building at 209 Grattan.

2) We believe is not realistic to significantly reduce the building width (to less than 25' wide), as 25' is the standard structure width in our neighborhood, and any less could be both functionally compromising and could create a visual oddity. Moving the structure west (reducing yard) to create an east property line setback could make the street frontage unbalanced by the resulting narrower west yard.

3) While CVIA treasures the ca. 1890-1910 feel of our neighborhood, we understand it is not appropriate that all new structures be made to look old, as this can detract from the "true historic value" of the existing older structures. Having said that, this current design for the proposed front (north elevation siding areas) looks like it may be another large imposing flat vertical slab, substantial window trims, or other visual breaks, not in keeping with the surrounding structures and neighborhood style.



Architect Jonathan Perlman's elevation of proposed new residence at 209 Grattan.

We hope that you will take another hard look at the proposal. Increasing size by two-thirds is a significant change. If the building is an eyesore, it is something the neighbors will have to live with for the rest of their lives. We respectfully ask that our recommendations be seriously considered and that we remain informed on the project as it goes forth.

—Charles Canepa
CVIA Board Member

Ed Note—The Planning Department has approved the project with certain qualifications. Those interested in joining the group of concerned neighbors (The Grattan Project Working Group) can get more information by contacting 209grattanproject@gmail.com

Ed Note—Another demolition and construction of a building with double the square footage has just been filed for 89 Belgrave.

Location of Burglaries in Park District From January 1 to 29



Looking for More Space for Your Business? (Like, lots)

UCSF has put out a request for qualifications for developers to transform its Laurel Heights campus. The 10.3 acre property contains a 447,000 sq. ft. of building space, and is currently zoned



UCSF's Laurel Campus at Presidio and California is up for grabs.

for residential development with a 40-foot height limit. UCSF is open to sale of the property or a ground lease agreement, and is floating the idea of reusing the property as offices or knocking it down to make way for condominiums, rental apartments, or senior housing. Zoning could allow 550-700 units. Or maybe they'll just turn it back into a cemetery? The move is seen as part of UCSF's shift toward Mission Bay, with their new \$1.6 billion hospital set to open in late 2014. [The university has just announced a selection of three preferred bids from a field of twelve.] [Thanks to curbedsf.com]

Photo: Frank Farm (Flickr.com)

The SFPD has recovered over 800 stolen bicycles waiting to be claimed. Registering your bicycle gives you the best chance of getting it back. Go to Safebikes.org

Postscripts

When Alan Tse parked his SUV on Waller Street at Cole the night of February 14, he didn't expect a tree to fall on his roof. Thanks to John Fricke, we have this picture.



In news from Buena Vista Park, Richard Magary copied CVIA his letter of thanks to SFPD Park Station's Captain Greg Corrales, his officers, and the SF Department of Public Works/Sheriff's SWAP program for several "sweeps" in Buena Vista Park. They cleared people from illegal campsites with their accumulated trash, substance abuse and late-night noise. He also expressed gratitude for the daily visits by Park Station patrol officers—citation books out—to again address the camping and other illegal activities.

The 3-alarm fire that spread through 218 Baker Street on Christmas



night destroyed much of the newly restored, three-story Victorian near the Panhandle and resulted in the tragic death of one of the owners Randy Sapp, co-owner of the magic shop The Sword and Rose, and the injury of his husband, Patrick. Former District 5 Supervisor Christina Olague, who also lived in the building, lost all of her possessions. Three weeks later, a fund-raising event along with a crowd funding campaign brought in more than \$11,000 to help her recreate a background for her life.

There have been repeated reports of people living in their cars along Kezar Drive. Police have been citing them but less successfully than they would hope. Seems the Coalition on Homelessness is advising them not to open their car door when the officer approaches. Evidently their attorneys have told them, "No contact, no citation." (You learn things like that when you attend the monthly Police Community Meetings every second Tuesday at Park Station.)



Angie Pettit-Taylor and Jerry Emerson just celebrated the six-year anniversary of Cole Valley Antiques. This little gem of a shop is one of the things that makes Cole Valley what it is. We send them congratulations and hope they will stay at 90 Parnassus for many more years to come.

The SFPD has just released the stats on the locations where most automobile collisions occur. Some are predictable but others not so. The most collisions with bicyclists was at Fell and Masonic. The most taking place due to excessive speed were on 7th Avenue and Lincoln. and Fulton and Masonic. The most due to red light running was on Fulton at Divisadero and on Geary at Scott.

—Karen Crommie

Letters

Dear CVIA:

I was just forwarded your website [article] about your opposition to the skateboard park at Waller Street.

I am completely appalled by your uninformed blatant lies that you are trying to spread to your readers. Where can you get a basis for your statement?

“This will create extreme noise pollution and will degrade public and private property (sidewalks, structures, etc).

“This neighborhood is already a magnet for homeless, vagabonds, and drug dealers, and we can expect that these quality of life issues will only get worse, not better. Drug dealers will be drawn to the skateboard park for potential for new customers.

“If the permanent concrete skateboard park is built, it will alter the landscape of this neighborhood forever and there is nothing residents will be able to do about it. The Stanyan Park Hotel will have a harder time filling rooms, and the two Yoga studios adjacent will have a harder time attracting clientele due to the noise pollution.”

This can't be farther from the truth. Have you EVER spoken with any city officials from other cities around the country that have put in high quality skateparks and found these complaints. I would like to meet with you to help share some of the truths about skateparks and help you understand how this can in fact better the community.

And, there is a great guide written up about Skateboard Park development and the positive impact on communities. I would like to ask that you please read this before trying to spread blatant lies about skateboarders and skateparks with out any true grounds for the statements. <http://publicskateparkguide.org/>

I look forward to a rational discussion/debate with you about this topic. Thank you!

Marcus Rosenthal

(Skateboarder for 29 years, President, owner, and CEO of Revolve Robotics, a tech company based in San Francisco, San Francisco Bay Area resident for 15 years, 415-735-5502)

Answer to Quiz on Page 2

Location: Haight Street at Ashbury.

The circle with the “T” is to let the Muni operator know that there is a switch activator. As the trolley pole passes that, it will set the switch for the direction the bus is to go. Generally, if the bus is going straight, the switch remains in the closed position requiring the operator to do nothing. But, if the bus is turning, as in the case of the 33 Ashbury, the driver has to take action to open the switch to use the right turn signal.

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 Summer edition should be sent before May 1, 2014 to CVIASF@aol.com. We encourage submissions from anyone interested in our neighborhood. Send questions or comments to the above address or call 431-1414.

EditorKaren Crommie
ProductionDavid Crommie
Editorial AssistanceJoan Downey

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1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
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Hall of Justice - 850 Bryant St.
S.F., CA 94103
- Captain Greg Corrales242-3000**
Park District Police Station
1899 Waller St.
S.F., CA 94117
Greg.Corrales@sfgov.org

San Francisco Board of Supervisors

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

Telephone: 554-5184 FAX: 554-5163

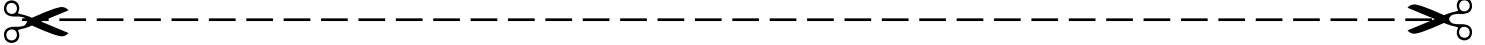
District	Telephone	Fax
1. Eric Mar Eric.L.Mar@sfgov.org	554-7410	554-7415
2. Mark Farrell Mark.Farrell@sfgov.org	554-7752	554-7483
3. David Chiu, Board President David.Chiu@sfgov.org	554-7450	554-7454
4. Katy Tang Katy.Tang@sfgov.org	554-7460	554-7432
5. London Breed London.Breed@sfgov.org	554-7630	554-7634
6. Jane Kim Jane.kim@sfgov.org	554-7970	554-7974
7. Norman Yee Norman.Yee@sfgov.org	554-6516	554-6546
8. Scott Wiener Scott.Wiener@sfgov.org	554-6968	554-6909
9. David Campos David.Campos@sfgov.org	554-5144	554-6255
10. Malia Cohen Malia.Cohen@sfgov.org	554-7670	554-7674
11. John Avalos John.Avalos@sfgov.org	554-6975	554-6979

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 _____

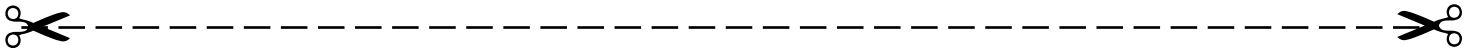
ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____

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 paid to CVIA are not deductible as charitable contributions, however, contributions to Clean Cole Street may be taken as a charitable deduction. Contact your accountant regarding the tax law.



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

**SAVE THE DATE!
POLICE COMMISSION MEETING
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26 at 6 p.m.
GRATTAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**