

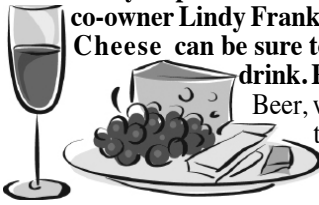
CVIA NEWS

COLE VALLEY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Volume XLIII SERVING ALL RESIDENTS OF COLE VALLEY AND HAIGHT ASHBURY SUMMER 2023

CVIA Summer Social July 15!

It will be the usual relaxed Saturday afternoon of snacking, sipping and schmoozing with neighbors—both those you know and those you don't (yet). There will be presentations, commendations, officers elections and news about the upcoming Cole Valley Fair. Please join us from 1 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, July 15 at Finnegan's Wake (937 Cole Street). **Let us know if you plan to attend so that Finnegan's Wake co-owner Lindy Frankel and Roger Soudah of Say Cheese can be sure to prepare enough food and drink. RSVP to CVIASF@aol.com.**



Beer, wine and food are included in the \$10 per-person entry fee. Although a members-only event, guests are welcome.

The Neighborhood's Anchor Store Needs Us Now

Recently I had the pleasure of working on the sales floor during our special sale in April. I had a ball. It was fun to assist customers and greet patrons as lifelong friends. I've worked in the Cole Valley store since I was a teenager, and I've grown up with many of the neighborhood's long-time residents. My responsibilities as the CFO of our family-owned business require me to work on the business more than in it. During my time working the sale I was reminded that nothing compares to the nonstop meet-and-greet on the sales floor. Visiting with customers, I'm often asked, "How's business?" I thought I'd let you know.

Take a walk in your neighborhood and count the vacant storefronts. What you see is not pretty. The pandemic was not a friend to retail shops. The shift away from in-person

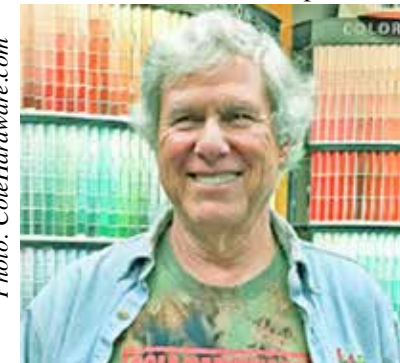


Photo: ColeHardware.com

Rick Karp's family has owned Cole Hardware since 1959.

shopping fueled the fire of our retail-killing Amazon addiction. Though we've returned to some of our pre-pandemic habits, retailers that survived the pandemic are not seeing nearly enough footsteps through their doors to counterbalance pandemic-induced population flight coupled with online shopping.

How's Cole Hardware faring? Fair at best. There's a lot going on in our stores as usual, but sales are still way down from prepandemic 2019. Your generous patronage enables us to care for our staff and their families. This becomes increasingly challenging, however, as fewer visitors to our stores results in declining sales. Coupled with the continual march of in

More Details on 730 Stanyan

The developers of 730 Stanyan, the 37,000 square-foot lot housing the former McDonald's, its play structure and large parking lot, held a public meeting on April 4 to update the neighborhood on the project.

After going through a review of the proposed eight story building, all of it pretty familiar to everyone after three and a half years of planning, a few things stood out.

Because the building will use the Stanyan side for delivery and receiving, the whole east side of Stanyan from



730 Stanyan is a 150-unit subsidized housing project due to break ground in the next few months.

Haight to Waller will be closed to pedestrians during construction. "A safety issue," said architect Yakuh Askew. "Just cross the street and walk on the park side, it's much nicer," said an assistant cheerily.

Another surprise was that construction, initially to begin in April, has been postponed to June with total build

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creasing expenses and declining sales, it's difficult to make ends meet and run a profitable business. It makes for many sleepless nights, but who needs sleep anyway?

We've been examining how we can adjust and are doing the hard work of going over finances with a fine-tooth comb, eliminating as many nonessential expenses as possible. It's a delicate balancing act, because many expenses that seem "nonessential" are funding elements that make Cole Hardware a unique and rewarding place to visit, shop, and work.


So, yes, business is just fair. I'm an optimist, though, and spring is here! Hardware Happy Hour and other fun events are planned for the coming months. It's gardening and grilling season, and our stores are chock-full of what you need, and lots that perhaps you don't need but can't resist, like an oh-so-cool octopus mug and more! Please come visit and find what you need or are tempted by here with us.

As we do the soul-searching and hard work necessary to keep our business viable, I encourage shoppers, with a bit of urgency, to reflect on how individual shopping choices affect the fabric of our local communities. As a longtime champion of small business I am surely biased, but I hope there are enough like-minded individuals who see value in vibrant and varied in-person shopping corridors to keep them bustling for years to come.

The convenience and breadth of online shopping are undeniable. But communities depend on engagement. So the next time you need something you know your local shop can provide, stroll through your door instead of scrolling from your couch. Your local small businesses need you.

—Rick Karp

**A CLEAN
COLE
STREET**



**Our Neighborhood Heroes
2022 Merchant Participants**

**930 Cole Associates, Cole Cleaners,
Cole Hardware, Crepes on Cole, Fin-
negans Wake, Ino Vino, Luke's Lo-
cal, MARJANG Architecture, Postal
Chase, Wooden Coffeehouse**

**Outside Lands Music & Arts Festival
August 11 to 13.
3 day ticket \$449.00**

ing time expected to take over two years. A representative from Cahill/Hercules Construction assured us that workers would adhere to a strict schedule of 7:30 am to 3:30 pm but that there would be no parking on the three streets surrounding the site during the two-plus years during construction.

The initial 30 units reserved for TAY youth has been reduced to 20 but 30 are now allocated for formerly homeless people (those with "vouchers" from HUD).



A food hall will be located on the ground floor corner of the building.

Qualified applicants will be placed in a lottery weighted toward those who have lived in the Haight Ashbury and also to seniors.

There was some interest in how what was originally described as a "café" on the corner of Haight and Stanyan has become a "food hall" with four stations. The RFP will not be issued until closer to opening so we really won't know what kind of business it will be, only that it will serve food and have a training program for restaurant workers.

Trees on Stanyan will be cut down. Landscape architect Gary Strang said "They are species of trees no longer recommended by the arborists for city planting. They will be eventually replaced by Ginkgo trees that are airier and more appropriate.

Because of the vulnerability and special needs of the tenants and the bureaucratic red tape they must cut through, the leasing specialists Bob Sorro Housing Program (BI-SHIP) will manage a series of eligibility workshops to guide interested people through the application process.

There was some concern about the use of the community center. Once described as a senior center, it is now designated as multi-purpose, leaving those who hoped to run programs there in a competitive situation for space and hours.

Senior Project Manager Bo Han would not respond to a query by Ted Loewenberg of the Haight Ashbury Neighborhood Association who wanted to know how many people will be living in the building. But a rough estimate based on the various unit sizes and maximum occupancy it could be as high as 500 people

CVIA supports the project, and always has, but drew the line at six stories, 80 units. This project is simply too large for our small neighborhood. The City is trying to solve too many problems at the same time, at the same place. 500 more people on our streets, will bring a conservative esti-

—Karen Crommie



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 Cole Street's business district this year, which costs CVIA \$1,023 each month. We make up the deficit with member contributions and a discount from CleanScapes. So we would like to take this opportunity to thank the following members for their generosity during the period May 2022 through April 2023. Please notify us if your name has inadvertently been omitted.

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

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

Donors: (\$100 - \$249) 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, Marianne Hesse, Drew Howells-Tabacco, Robert G. Jones & John T. Smith, Randy & Rich Lavinghouse, Michelle & Wallis Lim, Judith Bishop & Robert Liner, Barbara & John Manning, Karen Mar, Jane & Michael Miller, Janan New, Joanne & Bill Prieur, Michael Rafferty, Maryann Rainey, Elizabeth Corden & Ken Shannon, Sara Hirsch & Jay Stevens, Brenda Stone, Sloane Sturzenegger, Tracy Grubbs & Richard Taylor, Kathe Traynor, Jillian & Blake Tyrrell, Nicole Valco, Mary Ann Wolcott

Contributors: (\$50 - \$99) Susanna Lorant & Mark Anthenien, Sharon Birenbaum, Philip Brodey, Cindy Roberts & Mike Burbank, Meredith White & Steve Cheng, Jonathan Claybaugh, Frances Dependahl, Linda Erkelens, Ruben Giraldo, Shannon & Chris Hock, Mary & John Hooper, Sarah & Neema Jalali, Dianne & Steve Leonoudakis, Ineke Ruhland & Bill O'Such, Francine M. Prophet, Kendra & William Robins, Susan & Steven Rosen, Katherine Bird & William Rothrum, Victoria Zaroff, Zazie

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

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



Mary Marguerite
(Me Me) Riordan
Sept. 13, 1931 - March 30, 2023

Me Me Riordan, longtime CVIA member and SF City College English professor, was raised in Taft, California, before moving with her family to San Francisco in 1947. She was the daughter of John Jeremiah Riordan and Genevieve McNulty, the sister of John Patrick, and beloved aunt to Liam O'Boyle (Bangor, Maine) and Sean Patrick Riordan (SF), both of whom she treasured.

Me Me graduated from the Academy of the Presentation, Lone Mountain College, and earned her MA at SF State. She had research interests in Gerard Manly Hopkins, Lillian Hellman, and Elizabeth Bishop, and she enjoyed rich connections with Emmanuel College (Boston), the Sisters of Notre Dame, and Sisters of the Presentation. She was a board member of the Children of Mary, Alumnae of the Sacred Heart/USF, and the Irish Literary and Historical Society.

A devoted daughter, sister, and aunt, she was an extraordinary teacher and formed lifelong friendships with many former students and colleagues. She valued the life of the mind, the visual and performing arts, and the natural world of the Bay Area.



Lynda Beigel
1940 - 2023

On April 12, 2023 our beloved Lynda passed away peacefully in her home. She did not suffer and for that we are grateful. A strong, feisty, intelligent and caring individual, she will be sorely missed far and wide by all whose lives she touched.

Born in Winthrop, Massachusetts and raised in Miami, Florida, Lynda Beigel moved to San Francisco more than 50 years ago. For 30 of those years she worked as a letter carrier, including many years as a union rep. She was a supporter of the arts, the environment, and women's rights. She had a passion for poetry and it became a major focus during her 20 plus years of retirement. She loved the neighborhood and never locked her door. While not obvious, she often assumed the best in people and was willing to provide whatever help she could.

She is survived by her one child by birth, James Sword, and three more picked up over the years. Lynda claimed anywhere from 8-12 grandkids. She was a 5 foot force of nature and will surely be missed.

On June 4, 2023, we will be holding a Zoom memorial. To be sent the link please contact James at jbsword@gmail.com

In the interim, in keeping with her altruism and her love of creative writing and poetry, wherever you are, lift your face to the sun for a moment and smile in her memory.

Cole Valley Fair to Return with a Bang on September 24

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



Valley photo exhibit, a full block of vintage automobiles owned by neighborhood residents, helpful resources from city agencies, enriching information from local organizations and oodles of fun games and activities for all ages.

Join us on September 24th from 10-5 pm on two blocks of Cole St. between Frederick & Grattan and Parnassus between Shrader & Belvedere for this very special Cole Valley community celebration. Please

consider volunteering to help make this the best fair ever. Contact Carol Lau at carol@sunsetmercantilesf.com to learn the range of jobs and time periods.

Greg Gaar Is Still Contributing

The Chronicle's Peter Hartlaub reported that our neighborhood's preeminent environmentalist and photographer



Greg Gaar, "quietly dropped 1,114 of his best images through a searchable database on the 'Open SF history' site at the Western Neighborhoods Project, where 53,000 donated historic San Francisco images have been scanned. While Gaar retains the copyright, the images can be downloaded for free. The photos are a stunning document of the time, with Gaar taking particular delight in outdoor

shows, and featuring San Francisco nature and architecture in the images."

Starting in the early 2000s, Greg Gaar opened a native plant nursery as part of the recycling center, propagating plants native to San Francisco that he made available to local gardeners and to habitat restoration projects across the city. CVIA sponsored one of his unforgettable San Francisco history slide shows two decades ago when, although he was employed there, he admitted that Golden Gate Park was no place for a public recycling center. Greg moved to the Mt. Davidson area some years ago but still volunteers at the Frederick Street Community Garden and has cultivated the area around it with native plants.



The tennis-playing, dumpster-diving San Francisco artist, recycling pioneer and free spirit whose magnetic charm and dedication to creative pursuits inspired many, including a documentary filmmaker, died in last September of cancer at 91. She graduated from Stanford University in 1953 with a degree in philosophy and was living in San Francisco when she met Ron Fimrite, a reporter and sports columnist for the San Francisco Chronicle and later a senior writer at Sports Illustrated. They were married in 1957, had two children, purchased a home on Shrader Street and a rundown cottage at Stinson Beach, which became her bohemian second home. They were divorced in 1971.

Von Briesen, who lined the front steps of her home with body-shaped stumps that she called the "torso forest," was a founding member of SCRAP, a nonprofit creative reuse center for discarded paper and materials.

"I feel sorry for things that are not valued, and that probably comes from a feeling that I didn't feel that I was valued when I was younger," she told Ethan Goldwater in "Lady Bountiful," a 2017 documentary about her life after being diagnosed with cancer. (Search Joan Von Briesen YouTube). Goldwater was one of the many artists, actors, writers, musicians, scientists, filmmakers, medical and foreign exchange students who were boarders in her house, which was always filled with interesting people and good conversation.

She played tennis, swam in the ocean, rode her bicycle to tai chi and zumba classes on the Panhandle and in Golden Gate Park well into her 90th year, always maintaining her keen sense of humor and eye for the unusual.

"Life itself exists, and it's this marvelous miracle," she said in the documentary. "And it, in itself, is enough."

Ed. Note—Thanks to CVIA member Cynthia Travis for alerting us to the passing of this unique individual.

Park Police Community Forum with Captain Jack Hart

Park Station 1899 Waller
May 31, June 28, July 26, Aug. 23
6:30 - 8 pm

Find out what's going on!

Days Numbered for Haight Blight

Haight leader Christin Evans reported that the five contiguous storefronts on Haight, starting at the intersection of Clayton and going westward, are finally being prepared for marketing. Christin, board member of the Haight Ashbury Merchants Association (HAMA) and owner of The Alembic and The Booksmith wrote, “The soft story retrofit is complete and I spoke to the realtor leasing out the spaces. If those five spaces are rented out we will be back to near 2015 vacancy rates on the Street. There is also a notice posted on the old Raspitins/Flamingos building about a vacancy hearing for that space. I’m glad to see the Storefront Vacancy Tax has had an impact in filling spaces.



The five adjacent storefronts have been empty for nearly three years attracting litter and graffiti.



Christin Evans

In April 2021 there were 32 vacancies (out of approximately 150 storefronts between Central and Stanyan). As of April 2023 we have only 14 vacancies. If those five fill in, then there will be only nine vacancies. Real estate professionals will tell you a 5 percent or lower vacancy rate is a sign of healthy and robust demand.”

Ed. note—Congratulations to Christin for recently being appointed to the city’s newly-established Homelessness Oversight Commission.

Take a Seat and Rest a Bit

Have you noticed the whimsical benches scattered throughout Inner Sunset? Chris Duderstadt, Inner Sunset Park Neighbors board member, has supplied more than 170 benches over the past few years throughout the City “to provide a comfortable place for the weary to rest and to thereby foster positive casual community interaction.”



The Sunset’s JJ Ice Cream gets a new flavor with its very own ice cream-themed bench.

On his website, Chris writes “Benches are a wonderful way to contribute to the neighborhood. A bench builds community by giving people a place to meet friends and neighbors; provides a rest space for tired walkers, the elderly, and others; adds an artistic piece of furniture for all to see; and lets the world know that you care about community.”

You must place your bench in public, hopefully with a decent volume of foot traffic where there would still be 6 feet of sidewalk open. No permit is required unless benches are bolted into the sidewalk. This a not-for-profit effort. All benches are donated but Chris accepts a donation to defray the cost of the next bench.

—Joan Downey

Ed. note—To get a bench, email Chris at publicbenchprojects@gmail.com. It’s that easy. For more information go to publicbenchproject.wordpress.com.

Muni Track Noise in Cole Valley

Below is the response to a letter from CVIA Treasurer Joan Downey about the screeching sound from the N-Judah as it exits the tunnel.

Dear Ms. Downey,

Thank you for sharing the feedback from Ms. Glosenger and the Cole Valley Improvement Association. We do appreciate the suggestions regarding cleaning and coating and are always investigating new options to improve the railway. There is actually no better way to clean the track than operating the train service itself continuously over the rails. The majority of the noise you are hearing generally comes from the wheel flange (vertical section guiding the vehicle within the trackway) meeting the inside portion of the track itself (flangeway). Coating or even lubricating the wrong portion of the rail can actually have negative consequences, impacting breaking and/or traction that a train needs to safely control speed.

Track lubricant is applied automatically by rail lubricating machines throughout the network. Our maintenance teams service and inspect them on a regular schedule. As you have correctly identified, the largest sources of track



Neighbors living on curved blocks hold their ears when an N passes.

noise are at the curves and turnouts specifically where the radius is very small. In order to comply with EPA and California Environmental Standards we use only approved lubricants. The lubricants are water based and safe but are also easily water soluble and lose their ability to perform over long periods when conditions are wet and specifically when standing water flushes through our track flangeways on a paved surface.

Because it will take several days for the vehicle wheel flanges to collect and distribute lubricant over long stretches of dry track, our normal routine following a storm or any periods of multi-day drizzle is to dispatch track maintenance teams out on the system to manually lubricate the inside edges of our curves and turnouts. Vehicle wheel and track gauge are continuously verified by inspections to meet specifications to ensure safety and consistency throughout the system. All wheel and track preventive maintenance is conducted regularly and certified by SFMTA maintenance staff. If there are any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you,

—Charles Drane (he/him)
Chief Maintenance Officer
Maintenance of Way | Transit Division

Storm Impacts and Opportunities on Mount Sutro

With climate change comes extreme weather, drought and deluge, and our stand of aging, and disease challenged eucalyptus and cypress trees fared particularly poorly in the bomb cyclone that hit the Bay Area in late March. Woodland Canyon and the North Ridge were especially hard hit, with



A fallen tree whose trunk remains perfectly vertical despite breaking in recent storms.

many downed and damaged trees added to the ones that had already fallen in the previous storms. The lower Historic (from Stanyan Street) and Edgewood trails will remain closed until safety concerns in Woodland Canyon can be addressed. But with every hardship there is also opportunity, and while the March storm has resulted in some delays to our Edgewood trail repairs, we are hopeful to get to work on Edgewood at our next trails volunteer workday. Come help us ensure these important trails for connectivity are reopened as soon as possible.

The Status of Mount Sutro's Trails

Unfortunately, we anticipate the North Ridge trail will take longer to reopen. Owls and hawks are currently nesting in the area, so work to clear and remove fallen trees must take this into account and will begin once there's been clearance from consulting biologists. Extended closures are also expected for a segment of the Historic Trail above Medical Center way given the unstable nature of the hillside caused by the landslide below the trail. Please remember, access to the upper Historic Trail is possible via the gravel forestry access road.

Clarendon, Quarry Road, Gardener's, and Upper Historic trails are currently accessible, and our trails team was able to get out to the East Ridge and begin repairs last Saturday so the trail is expected to fully reopen soon following removal of a stump from a storm felled tree. The upper segment of the North Ridge remains accessible from Rotary Meadow to the Mystery Trail.

Why We Need to Stay Off Closed Trails

As we invest as a community in the repairs of our trail

system, please respect closures and understand that while a tree already on the ground might not seem dangerous, there are trees still standing that have received damage and are unstable, as well as cracked branches that are at risk of falling. Ignoring trail closures can cause erosion of the area, further extending the work needed to repair the trail system and walking around holes in the trails from uplifted trees can erode soil into the hole further, again, increasing the repairs necessary.

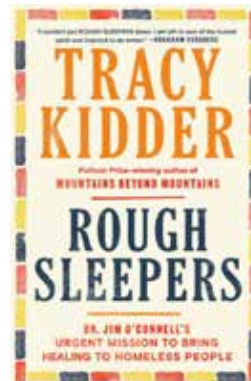
Not only do biodiverse native ecosystems capture and store carbon more effectively than degraded landscapes with monocultures of invasive species, but they are also safer in the face of extreme weather. As aging eucalyptus trees come down, light reaches the forest floor, and opportunities abound to replant our local grassland and coastal shrub ecosystems for wildlife and humans to enjoy. Come be a part of this work and join our volunteer conservation programs every Wednesday and Thursday. Go to sutro.stewards.org.

—Ildiko Polony, *Sutro Stewards Executive Director*

Ed. note—But the damage was much wider. Astrid Kane of The Standard commented, "The damage to the city's tree canopy has been done, and this city was already far behind its stated goal of planting new street trees. Instead of the 5,000 per year needed to stay ahead of natural attrition, San Francisco managed to plant barely half that number last year. San Francisco has no fewer than 22 agencies sharing responsibility for street trees, creating a vast and complex oversight network that creates confusion and makes it difficult to count and care for them. The Department of the Environment has not received any funding to plant trees, and Proposition E, which was passed by voters in 2016, covers tree maintenance and removal but not tree planting."

BOOK REVIEW: Rough Sleepers

Pulitzer Prize winning author Tracy Kidder tells the inspiring story of Dr. Jim O'Connell, a Harvard educated M.D. who dedicated his career to bringing healthcare to "Rough Sleepers"—the most vulnerable homeless on the streets of Boston, and while doing so, developed a national model for homeless healthcare.



In this book the reader travels with the author and O'Connell, getting to know his patients—the difficult, the charming, the self-destructive, the brave, revealing the humanity and challenges of those living on the streets. In the process, our cultural myths about who the "rough sleepers" are and how they end up living on the streets are exposed. I found greater empathy towards the homeless after reading this book.

As the complexity and intractability of this problem is detailed, it becomes clear that there are no easy fixes for homelessness. It's going to require economic and social change on a grand scale. The good news of this book is that there are things that can be done that make a difference, and selfless, dedicated individuals like Dr. Jim O'Connell who dedicate their lives to doing them.

—Steve Leonoudakis

Preston Holds Haight Town Hall

The Park Branch Library on March 29, was packed for Supervisor Dean Preston's first neighborhood forum since COVID hit. He was obviously delighted with the turnout, twice that expected.

He began with a review of his recent legislation and advocacy—well known to Cole Valley/Haight residents: Fourteen pieces of legislation to ban evictions during the pandemic, taxing unoccupied residential housing, fighting against a proposed rise in Muni fares, championing conversion of Page to a “slow street,” promoting “legacy businesses,” supporting the development of 730 Stanyan, pushing for 100 percent affordable housing at the DMV site (yes, that project is being considered in Sacramento), and the recurring call for a publicly-owned bank, city ownership of private rental property, creating land trusts, etc.—all polishing his reputation as the most left-leaning supervisor in the city.

Measured by vocal audience reaction, he seemed to be preaching to the choir, but a few brave souls questioned the logic behind the city's high priority for additional housing when 7 percent of the population has headed for the hills; the necessity of preserving recreational use (slow street



D-5 neighbors crowded into Park Branch Library for the Supervisor's first town hall meeting.



Staff checks crowd as D5 Supervisor Preston takes pre-meeting questions.

designation) of Page when the Panhandle is a block away; the City's programmatic reduction of parking spaces; habitual speeding on Oak and Fell; and the Haight merchants' continuing blockage of establishing a 4-hour preferential parking district (“letter”) for the Haight so that residents without garages can find parking at night. One comment that produced a universal agreement (measured by groans) was the lack of bus transportation on Haight Street after 10 pm—problematic for night workers as well as visitors.

A second speaker, Jesse Jones, spoke about the Community Ambassadors program now operating in District 5

to monitor neighborhood streets, specifically targeting those who might need steering to social services.

The third speaker was HANC president David Woo, who gave a brief history of the organization and its social activism. He pointed out that HANC's monthly meetings now take place at Flywheel Coffee roasters on Stanyan near Haight.

The final panel member was Christin Evans, head of the Haight Ashbury Merchants Association and also owner of The Booksmith and The Alembic, who gave an update on Haight Street vacancies (See article on page 5). Evans is also working with The San Francisco Reinvestment Working Group in writing a business plan for a municipal bank with the primary goal of serving the community.

—Karen Crommie

Absolutely No Resident Parking at 730 Stanyan?

The Parking question has come up many times during our Community Meetings, and our team has explained every time that due to the Haight Ashbury being a “high resource area” which includes many public transit lines within walking distance from 730 Stanyan, our project will be highly competitive under State funding for affordable housing by providing no parking. As you are aware, obtaining state

funding for 100% affordable housing has been super competitive, and we were fortunate to be awarded the funding at the end of last year as we explained at our Community Meeting #7 held a few weeks ago on April 4th at the Park Branch Library.



Senior Project Manager Bo Han

Additionally, under the 730 Stanyan Project website, we have

RESOURCES tab that includes PROJECT FAQ (<https://www.730stanyan.org/faq>). Please click on the last question under ABOUT THE BUILDING, which asks “Will the building have off-street parking?” We have provided our explanation as well as link to a full study that shows less parking leads to lower car ownership and more transit, bike, and walk trips. 730 Stanyan will have over 120 bicycle parking spaces to encourage residents to take the healthier transit option.

We believe the addition of our building for families and transitional age youth at 730 Stanyan will positively activate the terminus/gateway to Haight Ashbury to enliven the businesses and lives of those in the neighborhood. We appreciate your concern and thank you for your continued interest.

—Bo Han

Chinatown Community Development Center

**Visit our website at
CVIASF.org**

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 pm at the home of a member. There is no meeting in December. Email board@cviastf.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 Karen and David Crommie on March 6, 2023 at 7:00 pm.

■ Treasurer Joan Downey submitted a report that CVIA currently has a bank balance of \$19,055.58, along with \$5,907.83 held in the Clean Cole Street fund, and \$4,667.20 in an account (as fiscal sponsor) for the Stanyan Parklet (American Cyclery). She reported that four merchants had immediately paid the 2023 dollar-a-day contribution to the Clean Cole Street project: Crepes on Cole, Cole Cleaners, Finnegans Wake and Luke's Local. Their early response was appreciated by Board..

■ Approved CVIA budget for FY 2024 as proposed by treasurer.

Joan asked that draft minutes be distributed to Board members in a timely fashion so that motions could be acted on more promptly. Recording secretary Karen Crommie agreed.

■ Joan also asked for advice on reducing our mailing list of 788 to less than 500 to avoid the \$25.00 per month MailChimp fee. Motion approved to make the cut based on the year the person signed up for notices and also number of times they have opened the site. Administrative assistant Susan Pedrick to implement.

■ Joan reminded us to send any item of interest to Cole Valley/Haight Ashbury residents directly to Susan for posting on our website and social media.

■ Chris Hock reported that Sutro Stewards can now be directly contacted from our website.

■ President Carole Glosenger announced that DPW' project manager Arun Batia has promised that the Cole/Carl transit stop wind screens will be replaced by tempered glass covered with a graffiti-resistant film, cleanable with methods that will be known both to the Board and the Clean Cole Street crew. It will be between six to eight weeks before crews will be on site to replace the panels.

■ There was a protracted discussion as to what CVIA can do to assist in filling the three empty Cole Street storefronts. MadKat has been vacant the longest, with Pharmaca and Padrecito more recent. The latter is being kept by the same consortium and will reopen as Blue Barn, a casual sandwich shop—its third location in San Francisco. The Pharmaca national chain was bought by Walgreens but what they intend to do with the Cole Street lease is unknown. The former MadKat site, unoccupied for three years, is more of a mystery. Board requested that a letter of concern be sent to building owner. Results of inquiry will be reported at next meeting.

■ Motion approved that a letter of support should be sent to all supervisors for an increase in the SFPD budget.

■ Agreed that a letter be sent to SFMTA requesting oiling of the tracks at the exit of Sunset Tunnel. CVIA has received complaints of a high-pitched screech irritating nearby neighbors.

■ Complaints have also been received about the misuse of the Kezar Triangle as a “dog park,” which it is not. (There is, however, one in close proximity.) People have also contacted CVIA regarding “stripes” appearing on the lawn.

Adjourned at 9:00 pm

Meeting at the Home of Marianne Hesse on April 3, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. Guest: Steve Leonoudakis.

■ Treasurer Joan Downey submitted a report that CVIA currently has a bank balance of \$19,435.17, along with \$5,634 held in the Clean Cole Street fund, and \$4,667.20 in an account (as fiscal sponsor) for the Stanyan Parklet (American Cyclery).

■ Discussed applying for a grant to Avenue Greenlight supplementing the city's street cleaning services to pay for the present daily cleaning of the Cole Street commercial corridor. CVIA has been able to raise enough money over the last eight years but an imminent 300 percent raise in price by provider CleanScapes is creating need for financial assistance. Joan suggested including Haight Street in the proposal.

■ Joan also reported that the plan to reduce our mailing list of 788 to less than 500 to avoid the \$25.00 per month MailChimp fee is being implemented by administrative assistant Susan .

■ Discussed empty storefronts: MadKat (915 Cole), Pharmaca (925 Cole), Reverie (848 Cole). A construction permit on MadKat, empty for three years, is promising. President Carole Glosenger to contact new owner of Pharmaca's lease (Walgreens) to express concern about effect of the shuttered store on the vitality of Cole Street. She will also contact Jennifer Samson, owner of the building housing the former Reverie Café as to her strategy in finding a new tenant. Joe Klosterman suggested she engage Supervisor Mandelman's office for assistance to which she agreed.

■ Carole presented a draft letter to the Cole Street merchants who have, year after year, failed to participate in the Clean Cole Project (a dollar a day), leaving the responsibility to other merchants and CVIA members. After discussion, Board asked her, for various reasons, to hold off for now. Carole also said that there had been no progress on the replacement of the wind screens at the Carl-Cole transit stop but DPW had told her to expect an 8 week delay.

■ Approved renewal of a \$2,000 grant to the Sutro Stewards for their maintenance of hiking trails, restoring habitat, volunteer organizing and guided walks on Mt. Sutro.

■ Karen Crommie presented four poster ideas for the Cole Valley Fair, one of which was chosen. She and David Crommie, who did all the Photoshop production (as he does for this newsletter), will make suggested changes before submitting it for approval to Sunset Mercantile, producers of the Fair. They include insertion of the “Sunset” Mercantile logo, varying the size of the sponsor names according to level of sponsorship, lengthening spaces between sponsor names and adding separating dots.

■ CVIA member Steve Leonoudakis offered to write a review of “Rough Sleepers” about Bill O’Connell’s examination of homelessness. “This is really about accountability, system design, and performance. Until that’s fixed, (we are) basically standing at the bottom of a cliff, trying to save people.”

Adjourned at 9 pm

Meeting at the Home of Lena Emmery and Chuck Canepa on May 1, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

■ Treasurer Joan Downey submitted a report that CVIA currently has a bank balance of \$20,807.85, long with \$5,637.25 held in the Clean Cole Street fund, and \$4,667.20 in an account (as fiscal sponsor) for the Stanyan Parklet (American Cyclery). She said that the monthly rate raise announced by CleanScapes at the first of the year, has been put on hold temporarily.

■ Lena Emmery reported that the Kezar Advisory Board is advocating for the repair and replacement of sections of old stadium seats which are becoming a danger to attendees at sporting events. Vice-chair Marc Christensen is leading the effort

■ Lena also reported that D-7 Supervisor Melgar held a community meeting at St. Brendan’s on April 26 to which Park Station CPAB members were invited. This was in lieu of having the usual monthly meeting at Park Station. Among those present were Captain Hart (Park Station) as well as DA Brooke Jenkins, Chief Scott and, of course, Supervisor Melgar. They were informed that the Highway Patrol and National Guard will be involved in policing San Francisco. The Highway Patrol will be a visible presence but the National Guard will have a background role. DA Jenkins and Chief Scott spoke about how they are working well on the common goal of reducing crime in the city. Chief Scott emphasized the critical shortage of police officers, down from 2000 to 1300.

■ President Carole Glosenger reported on a meeting being conducted simultaneously discussing establishment of drug consumption sites in the city. Moderated by John Rothmann, it was notable because of the preponderance of residents rather than non-profit professionals. We look forward to an analysis and report at the next meeting. Carole also said that there had been no progress on the replacement of the wind screens at the Carl-Cole transit stop but the expected eight-week delay had not yet been reached.

■ Karen Crommie presented her poster design approved at the last meeting announcing the 2023 Cole Valley Fair (September 24). Additional color adjustment was suggested and, that done, it will be sent to Carol Lau, of Sunset Mercantile, which, for the second time, is producing the fair.

■ Protracted discussion regarding Cole Valley t-shirts that will be on sale at the CVIA fair booth. Design will be the Cole and Carl street sign, used in past years, but color, size distribution, unit numbers, etc. will be decided by a committee made up of Shannon Cooper and Carole Glosenger.

■ Decided the CVIA Summer Social will be held at Finnegan’s Wake from 1 to 4 pm on June 24 or July 15, depending on availability. Carole to inquire. Say Cheese will again be asked to do the catering.

■ Joe Klosterman will attend the upcoming D-8 mixer and report at next Board meeting.

■ Decided that organizers of new resident group Hi-5D5 should be invited to the next Board meeting.

Adjourned at 9:30 pm

Flower Shop Around the Corner

Walk down Cole, head East on Parnassus and just a few steps from the corner you’ll find the delightful and charming new shop, The Sidewalk Flowers.

When I walked through the door, I was inspired by the beauty of the blooms—like walking through a spring meadow. I was impressed by the carefully curated items including ceramics, candles, soaps and lotions, many of



Sidewalk Flowers at 90 Parnassus was formerly the site of Jerome’s Antiques.

them created by women owned businesses and local artisans. I was greeted by the delightful and talented staff that thoughtfully helped me put together a bouquet for a friend’s birthday.

The afternoon that I spoke with owner Amanda Vidmar, she and her crew were busy creating bouquets for a wedding the next day, but she still took time to chat about her background and how she found her way to the flower design and retail business.

After graduating from UC Santa Cruz with a degree in economics, Amanda started working for a flower farm in Santa Cruz where she found her passion for floral design. After about a year and half she moved to the city where she worked as a floral designer. In 2016 she opened her own studio, Amanda Valdimar Design, specializing in floral design for weddings, events and restaurants.



Business was flourishing until in 2020 when the pandemic postponed many of her weddings and events. It was then she decided to open a retail store so that she could continue to share her passion for flowers with a community. Lucky for us she chose Cole Valley. In addition to providing beautiful bouquets for retail customers at The Sidewalk Flowers, she creates arrangements for weddings and events. If you haven’t had a chance to stop by The Sidewalk Flowers, take some time to check it out, pick up some flowers and say hi to Amanda and her lovely staff.

Amanda is also hoping to partner with local artists for art shows and events at the store. Keep an eye out for that on the website and for floral design workshops and activities over the summer. (thesidewalkflowerssf.com)

—Shannon Cooper-Hock

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

Sutro Stewards Seeks Board Members

Joining the advisory board of the Sutro Stewards at this moment would position you to have an impact at a time of new potential and growth. Among other things, Sutro Stewards has recently launched a campaign to restore Woodland Canyon Creek, one of few remaining above ground creeks in San Francisco; and is completing its first pilot year of our Health in Nature program in partnership with UCSF. Board members will have input into new strategic and conservation plans that are in development.

Sutro Stewards are seeking folks with experience in any of the following areas: Finance, strategic planning, restoration ecology, native plant propagation, environmental education, engaging with underserved communities, environmental education programming, fundraising.

Board members devote 2-3 hours, 6 times per year to advisory board meetings and review materials before meetings. Opportunities to join special sub-committees are also available. In addition to regular board meetings, board members are encouraged to participate in our conservation and/or trail management efforts on Mt. Sutro. If interested, please contact Steve Leonoudakis at sndleonoou@gmail.com,

Postscripts

There's a new sandwich shop called **Sandy's** (1457 Haight) specializing in **Muffuletta**, the famous New Orleans sandwich, which has several distinct (and many would say, non-negotiable) features.



It's served on a large, round loaf of bread dotted with sesame seeds. Stuffed

with multiple kinds of Italian cold cuts—typically salami, ham and mortadella—topped with Swiss and provolone cheeses, it's then slathered with a green olive spread. There's no mayo, and it's not toasted. Save yourself the air fare and try one right here.

* * *

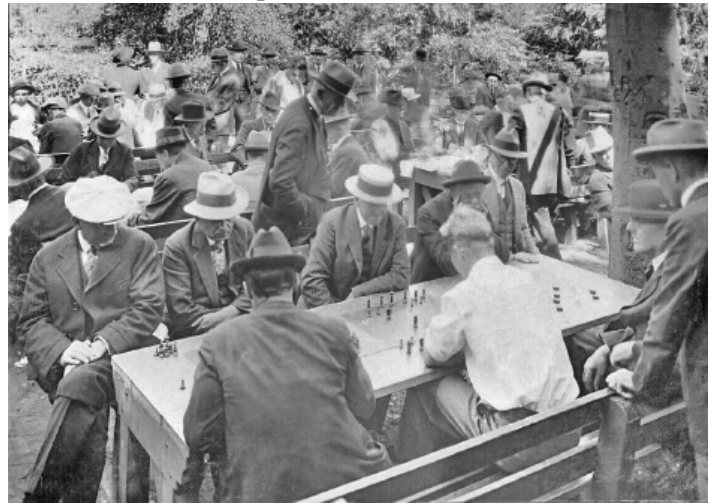
Blue Barn will be a new style of neighborhood deli dedicated to quality food. Located at the Padrecito site, the menu will offer salads, toasted sandwiches, grilled cheese and soups.* They say they are "committed to improving the way people eat, pursuing sustainable and organic ideals that support the greater slow food movement, and hope you will join them in these efforts." Further they write, "We are inspired most dearly by the seasonal produce harvests of Oak Hill Farm, a small, sustainable, and family-run farm located in Sonoma." Look for a September – October opening.

*Salads will be \$16-20; sandwiches \$14-18

Did you know that **Kezar Parking lot** has reduced rates for seniors at \$85 per month? (Normal resident rate is \$221).

* * *

This photograph came to the attention of one of CVIA's founders and former president **Carole Isaacs**. She believes



it shows a group of men playing chess at tables that used to surround **Alvord Lake**. We cannot verify it but if you recognize a tree, or maybe your grandfather, please let us know.

* * *

Lupita Franco Peimbert reminds us that we can volunteer



close to home. Families, seniors and individuals benefit from food banks and programs. Volunteer or donate if you want and can. Monetary donations can be mailed by check or money order to: **Haight Ashbury Food Program**, PO BOX 170202, San Francisco CA 94117. To volunteer, just show up on Saturdays at 9 am or after, and help

for at least a couple of hours. The program runs through 2 pm, located at 1525 Waller Street.

* * *

When SF's flock of parrots noisily cruise over Cole Valley, think of what **Supervisor Aaron Peskin** (hardly a softy), recently tweeted, "San Francisco's parrots have played a profound role in my life. I'm thrilled to call them neighbors and now our SF mascot! When you see these birds flying in unison or gathered in a tree upside-down, it's just a little moment that changes your day and reminds you that we live in a beautiful world."



Photo: AtlasObscura.com

Relive the Past

Golden Gate Park Bandshell

Lunchtime Concert Friday, June 2, Noon to 2 pm

Citrus College Wind Symphony

A unique business has opened on Haight Street's west side—a do-it-yourself school for adults called **WorkshopSF** that features basic craft classes from beginning knitting to leather crafts. You can even learn how to use a sewing machine. The choices are inventive and the classes well attended. Cost of a three hour class is approximately \$50. Founded in 2009 it recently moved into 1310 Haight Street. Check out the schedule at workshopsf.org.



* * *

Last weekend, **Luke's Local** celebrated the opening of its newest market in North Beach. Situated in a building on the corner of Green and Stockton that formerly housed a bank, it joins two other locations in Cole Valley and Cow Hollow. "The grand opening was amazing," says Luke's Local COO **Kayleigh Kahn**. "Everyone was so excited we're here. We're continuing to get everything up to our standards and prepare for the neighborhood." As for their Cole Valley store, **Lukes Local** has a daily 10% discount for seniors.

* * *



We last reported that **Club DeLuxe**, near the corner of Haight and Ashbury, had gotten a reprieve but, alas, the party is finally over. The popular jazz venue is shuttered and the graffiti vandals are having their way. The building is owned by **Veritas Investments**, the largest landlord in the city and currently in financial straits.

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CVIA Officers

President.....Carole Glosenger
 TreasurerJoan Downey
 Recording SecretaryKaren Crommie
 Media Outreach..... Chris Hock
 MembershipLena Emmery
 Special ProjectsJoan Downey
 Chris Hock, Shannon Cooper Hock

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 Fall edition should be sent before Aug. 1, 2023 to CVIASF@aol.com. We encourage submissions from anyone interested in our neighborhood. Send questions or comments to the above address or call 415-431-1414.

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 Editorial AssistanceJoan Downey

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- SFPD
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- 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
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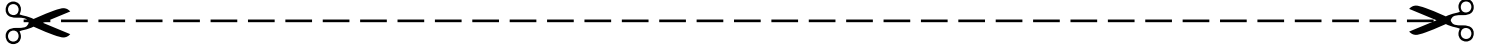
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BECOME A CVIA MEMBER

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