

CVIA NEWS

COLE VALLEY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Volume XXV SERVING ALL RESIDENTS OF THE GREATER HAIGHT ASHBURY Winter 2012

New Supervisor for District 5

It's finally over. After five IRV rounds, London Breed got the nod in a 12 point spread. In one of District 5's most contested supervisorial races, eight qualified candidates had the gloves on for most of the year, escalating to an alarming level of animosity during the last few weeks. Fliers clogged our mailboxes, door hangers built up in layers—many ending up on the sidewalk. The lineup of candidates was outstanding. Five of them waged all-out battles; two of them tapped major money sources. The big loser was the bright

Continued on page 2, column 2.

Tully's Coffee Closes

The loss of a coffee house near the Cole and Carl corner resulted in a change of life for many Cole Valley commuters. Taking over from Spinelli's some 15 years earlier, Tully's had become a staple in the neighborhood. With little seating, it was primarily a take-out operation, excepting when the weather was fine and the two sidewalk tables overflowed with dogs, strollers and contented coffee lovers.

Based in Seattle, the company gave customers and employees a scant six days notice before closing on September 16. There were



Tully's customers bid at a silent auction to help unemployed baristas.

lots of tears on both sides of the counter. One employee said that she wanted to find another job in Cole Valley because the people were so wonderful.

During past Cole Valley Fairs, Tully's provided coffee and pastries for volunteers in return for sponsorship. Even though they had already closed their doors by the time this year's fair took place, manager Zack arranged with Blanca, manager of their Fillmore store and former manager of the Cole Valley store, to deliver coffee and pastry at 6 a.m. on the morning of the fair.

A few years ago Tully's sold their business to Green Mountain Coffee, a Vermont based company. Tully's kept their coffee shops but were still posting losses, finally filing for Chapter 11.

At a silent auction held for the unemployed baristas, loyal customers opened their wallets: a \$10 gift certificate for BurgerMeister went for \$100.

—Joan Downey

Photo with Santa Helps Fund Clean Cole Street Program

Because of overwhelming response, CVIA is again providing neighborhood families with an opportunity to have their children (and pets) photographed with Santa.

This is a fund-raiser for the 7 day-a-week cleaning of the Cole Street commercial corridor. It is made possible through the generosity of photographer Loic Nicolas, who volunteers his time, and Maryo Mogannam, who provides the use of Postal Chase. There are scores of other volunteers, too, particularly CVIA board member



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 25TH
11 - 5 P.M.

Chuck Canepa, known best for his vintage car show at the Cole Valley Fair who has agreed to don the Santa suit again this year.

Bring your children, dogs, cats or birds to Postal Chase (912 Cole Street) on Sunday, November 25th between the hours of 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. Sign up and pay \$20. The next day go online to select your prints, which are priced at \$1.00 for a 4x6 print, \$4.00 for a 5x7, \$10 for an 8x12, you get the idea. The cost to download a file runs from \$15 to \$35, depending on the resolution. For more information, visit Loic's special website for this shoot at <http://loicphoto.com/santa/>. Such a deal.

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CVIA ONLINE

Since we started the CVIA website (www.cviasf.org) in 2008, we've had over 82,500 visits. Wow! The Cole Valley Fair page is the most visited, almost always outranking the home page as people search for information about the Fair. In September alone, there were 6,669 visitors to the website while most other months we average 1,000 visitors. And 4,735 people in September returned more than once. Approximately 98% of the keyword searches that led people to the CVIA website in September was "Cole Valley Fair." That may be small potatoes compared to company and culture sites, but we're pretty happy about our numbers.

When we first entered the Facebook arena (Facebook.com/CVIASF), we created a generic page called "Cole Valley Neighbors" with the intention that it wasn't member-specific but rather neighborhood-centric. After accumulating a small number of followers on that page, we decided it was more important to have a true CVIA presence and thus retired the "Cole Valley Neighbors" page. At the time of the switch a few months ago, we went from 64 followers to down to 13, and have now climbed back up to 66 page followers. I think that's pretty good considering we had some serious drop off when asking people to move over to the new page.

The bigger news is the Facebook "reach" statistic. Reach is how many people of the 66 actually see it and read it, forward it, like it, share it, etc. But most importantly, it's the number of people who see it – that means they actually read what we posted. I've looked at our history and it appears our average reach per FB post is 45 people – that's 85% readership, probably better than the percentage that open and read CVIA emails. You can "Like" us on Facebook, too! Just go to www.facebook.com/CVIASF.

—Amy Blakeley



Thank You For Your Support



It certainly isn't expected, but when a member sends in an extra contribution, we appreciate it greatly. Only eight Cole Valley merchants contributed to the daily cleaning of the Cole Street business district this year, which costs us \$900 each month. We make up the deficit with member contributions, a sizeable discount from CleanScapes and proceeds from Santa on Cole and the Cole Valley Fair. So we would like to take this opportunity to thank the following members for their generosity:

Rita & Richard Felciano, Abby & David Rumsey, Les Silverman & Irv Govan, Rosemary Southwood, Whitney & Mark Gilkey, Virginia Joosen, Randy & Rich Lavinghouse, Eileen Lemus, Britny Bottorff, Mark Brennan, Cecile & Jeff Boddington, Michael J. Sullivan, Ellena Ochoa & Ted Ridgeway, Lena Emmerly & Charles Canepa, Jessica Justino & Bill Hancock, Virginia & David Keller, Byron G. Bray, Jr., Gina Centoni, Juliet Pries, John Manning, Margareta Ekblad & Vojtech Licko, The Ice Cream Bar, Virginia & Kenneth Brown, Tresa & Jim Eyres, Tom Nicoll, Cole Hardware, Billy & Kendra Robins, Timothy Dunn & Claudia Scharff, Janan New, Susan Hills, Kay Bertram, Jan Platt & Jeff Ross, Linda Coda & Robert Brigante, Gail Berman, Ellen Curry, John & Molly Hooper, Harold & Lyn Isbell, Robert G. Jones & John T. Smith, Dennis Martino, MeMe Riordan, Linda Smith, Richard Taylor & Nancy Grubbs, Tina & Oliver Brock, Chris Broderick, Marion Elliott, Nancy Hutt, Deborah Robbins & Henry Navas, Susan & Steven Rosen, Mary Ann Wolcott, Stuart Gasner & Kate Ditzler, Marion Elliott, Robert Bakewell, Tracy & Patrick Jennings, Karen & David Crommie, Jeanne Blamey & Robert Fram, Mark & Janet Hall, Gerardo Joffe, Elaine Robinson, Judith Bishop, Megan and Bruce Bourne, Bill O'Such & Ineke Ruhland, Sam Truslow, Deborah Van Atta.

New Supervisor (continued from page 1)

young Julian Davis. Anointed by Aaron Peskin, he was soaring with left-leaning voters, until one, and then two, women accused him of sexual shenanigans.

As appointed incumbent, it was Christina Olague's race to lose. An oft declared "progressive," she learned how fickle and punitive that group can be when one acts independently. They started to quaver when she voted to permit the construction of a high rise on the waterfront (8 Washington), but dumped her when she accepted funding from the Lee-Pak-Brown troika. She partially redeemed herself to some by casting one of the four votes to keep Mirkarimi in the Sheriff's office, but it was too late. Showing a tinge of remorse, the SF Bay Guardian asked, "Could she actually be voting her conscience?" This, after an article lambasting her for inconsistency.



Although commonly referred to as a political "moderate," London Breed prefers "Practical Progressive."

Breed's success, although popularly attributed to money from the SF Association of Realtors and other downtown interests, was helped immensely by the dedication of her diehard Haight Ashbury organizer, Ted Loewenberg, president of our sister organization, the Haight Ashbury Improvement Association. He fired up Haight residents to back this young politico whose bombastic personality and clear focus has spurred the African American Art and Cultural Complex (AAACC) into a life-changing resource for both youth and adults in the Western Addition. She has been a tireless leader of scores of major African American empowerment projects. She currently serves on the Fire Department Commission and formerly on the Redevelopment Agency Commission.

After graduating from UC Davis with a BA in Political Science in 1997, Breed interned at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, and then with the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services. She was given a position with the Treasure Island Development Authority. In August of 2002, Mayor Willie Brown appointed her Executive Director of AAACC. During those years she received an MBA from USF.

There were other fine candidates in the race, notably Thea Selby and John Rizzo but only one can win. CVIA welcomes the new Supervisor of District 5 and hope she remains a good friend of the Greater Haight Ashbury.

—Karen Crommie

Call for News

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



The Upheaval is Over (almost)

It's been a long haul for Carl Street residents. Replacement of the N-Judah tracks that started in February is just now finishing. We've pushed to have this done for over ten years because the track bed was not sufficient to carry the heavy Breda cars causing our houses



Photo: J. Downey

to vibrate whenever one passed. Along with the new tracks we have newly paved streets on Carl and Parnassus, bulb-outs to make



Photo: J. Downey

boarding easier and faster, sidewalk-corner ramps, track lubricating equipment at the corners, and new electric lines and poles.

The project schedule took longer than expected due to weather and coordinating around scheduled special events (Cole Valley Fair was one of them).

Overall, the project was well organized but there were times that residents were not given sufficient notice of the weekend work – especially important because it involved jack-hammering, welding and pouring concrete. Starting on Friday nights, it continued

round-the-clock until Monday morning. Contractors were not always respectful of the neighborhood—leaving their trash and reserving parking spots where no work was being done.

Businesses were especially hit hard with the construction. Crepes on Cole was nearly empty for Saturday breakfast and dinner



Photo: R. Liner

because of the construction noise outside. Tantrum, the new kid's shop, had no customers when the sidewalk was torn up.

Jay Streets sums up all of our feelings with, "The noise is less but I'll be glad when they are gone for good!"

—Joan Downey

La Boulange's Secret Edge

Didn't you always wonder how Rigo Pascal did it? Opening bakeries in every neighborhood of the city replete with deep inventory of fresh French breakfast pastries, not to mention the quiches, tarts and array of breads? How many bakers did he have? Where did all of this fabulous foodstuff come from? I also wondered if, now that the chain was bought by Starbucks (for a cool \$100 million), would they be able to keep up the quality and quantity?

Well, it turns out that Rigo may have had a little "edge." CBS 5 revealed on October 13 that 400 La Boulange workers had received



The San Francisco-based chain has a daily offering of over 80 different high-quality baked specialties in each of its 19 stores.

dismissal notices because they were undocumented.

While Starbucks denies it, saying they only wanted to offer employees a better contract with medical insurance, and other benefits, workers are telling a different story.

CBS 5 reported that, "An estimated 200 cooks, dishwashers, and other prep workers could be let go at La Boulange's 19 stores. Another 200 workers may be fired from the South San Francisco bakery where the artisan pastries are made."

—Karen Crommie

“Haight Street Plan” Holds First Community Meeting

A new plan for revitalizing Haight street was presented at a community meeting hosted by the Planning Department and the Haight Ashbury Merchants Association. Christin Evans, co-owner of The Booksmith, sent CVIA the first draft of the plan, which we reported in last Summer’s newsletter. The fact that the Planning Department decided to formally add it to its projects was a great boost for the Haight merchants and, hopefully, for neighborhood residents.

The Plan is to advance the Haight Ashbury as a tourist destination, such as Chinatown and North Beach, while incorporating increased pedestrian safety for residents.

The changes are small but important: more bike parking, signage identifying the Haight Ashbury on main arteries as well as historical landmarks, bike lanes, better street lighting—including



Supervisor Christina Olague, at lectern, lends her support to the Haight Street Plan. To the right is David Alumbaugh (Planning Dept).

Panhandle paths, a stop sign at Stanyan and Beulah (Kezar Pavilion pedestrian traffic), extending the improvements to be made under the “Fix Masonic” project (approved) into a renewal of Haight Street.

Planner Alexis Smith discussed what they called a “Public Realm Plan,” that deals with the spaces between the buildings and how the community wants sidewalks and streets to function. There will be several more meetings and possibly outreach using social media to stimulate full community participation. Smith said they still have to identify funding sources.

Audience questions revealed some fear that signs directing tourists to the Haight Ashbury would commercialize the neighborhood even more than it is now. One resident reminded the crowd that, under the rules of the Haight Neighborhood Commercial District, businesses are to be primarily “neighborhood-serving.” To this Evans, who lives a few feet from Haight Street herself, agreed that it was also one of her concerns.

The attendees were broken into five smaller groups of 10-12 people with a planner at each table equipped with a huge map of the neighborhood. As the discussions progressed, red dots were added for aspects of the plan thought negative and green dots for things thought beneficial. The first remarks, of course, were about indigent people and personal safety: The improvements mean nothing if the sidewalks are not safe. Evans agreed but admitted that the Public Realm Plan could not control this aspect of the neighborhood. There was one thing everyone agreed on: parklets are terrific. The date of the next community meeting will be posted on CVIASF.org.

—Carole Glosenger

Parklets? We have Parklets!

And now there are three. The latest parklet was constructed in front of the Haight Ashbury Market by the Vardakastanis family, the way they do most things...beautifully. The custom-made hardwood slat benches are a joy to view and have been heavily used from the first day. Principally because of the excellent takeout food sold at the deli and Blue Bottle coffee bar.

While the Vardakastanis’ seating area is usually full, the Haight’s other two parklets, one in front of Martin Mack’s, and



The beautifully designed parklet in front of Haight Street Market is the neighborhood’s most actively used.

another at Magnolia, are hampered by a basic flaw: no liquor is allowed in the city’s parklets. Since that is what both establishments are selling, gone is the hope of having a beer on the street. To their credit, Martin Mack’s now makes that perfectly clear with a large chalkboard sign.

—Karen Crommie

Captain Packs His Purple Pen

I am very sad to report that due to my crime fighting responsibilities I will be delegating the production of the Park Station Newsletter to a member of my staff. I have enjoyed writing the newsletter very much and I appreciate the tremendous support I have received, but I must devote all of my time to the safety of the district. The newsletter will now be in “Dagnet” format (just the facts). We will resume dissemination of the newsletter in 2-3 weeks. Thank you for your understanding.

—Captain Greg Corrales

Ed. Note—We received the above message from Captain Corrales on October 26 and will miss his many puns and humorous alliterations. If you want to receive the neighborhood crime reports (even if written in Dagnet style), ask to be put on the mailing list at SFPDParkStation@sfgov.org.

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)



January 8, February 12 and March 12
Mark Your Calendars

Oak-Fell Bikeway: Not All Cheering

As bicycle commuters all over the city were celebrating the passage by the Board of Supervisors of the bike path on Fell and Oak streets (between Scott and Baker) eliminating 55 parking

Proposed Conceptual Design



spaces and streamlining the cross-town bike route, a prominent San Franciscan viewed it as the “final straw.” Below are excerpts from a letter written by Howard L. Chabner, for years a familiar face and articulate spokesman for disabled people, to Mayor Ed Lee.

Dear Mayor Lee:

For five years I've served as Chair of the Mayor's Physical Access Committee. Since 1990 when I began using an electric wheelchair, and even before then, when I walked with difficulty, I've seen and experienced great progress in many aspects of disability access in San Francisco, especially in access to buildings, curb ramps at intersections and disaster preparedness.

However, when it comes to access for people with major mobility disabilities, San Francisco is becoming a tale of two cities. In one city, the progress mentioned above is continuing. But in the other city, San Francisco's campaign against cars is threatening our safety, transportation options, mobility, independence and equality of opportunity. People with major mobility disabilities, many of whom are seniors, rely heavily on private cars, paratransit and shuttle services. The campaign against cars is harming many San Franciscans, visitors and businesses, but is having a disparate impact on us. Moreover, we are one of the most vulnerable groups of pedestrians, and the lack of serious enforcement against aggressive, dangerous and illegal behavior by bicyclists is deeply problematic and troubling.

During the past year, I and others have communicated these concerns many times to you Mayor Lee, the Board of Supervisors, the SFMTA Board of Directors and SFMTA staff. In that time the campaign against cars has intensified and become more insidious, and our concerns have not been addressed in a major way. Therefore, after careful consideration and with regret, I have chosen to resign.

Howard L. Chabner

Ed. Note—The author has been joined by Mark Brennan and Ted Loewenberg in filing an appeal to the decision of the SFMTA. Examiner staff writer Will Reisman reported (11-15-12) that they are hoping to halt the project pending further environmental review. The appeal states that the project “drastically alters the streets, makes it more difficult for residents to access their driveways and impedes visibility, among other issues.”

Cole Valley's No-Name Sushi Restaurant Closes

Of course, it really had a name. It was just that so few people knew it, there being no sign outside. Hama-Ko at 108 Carl Street has closed after 28 years in business. Chef Tetsuo “Ted” Kashi-yama and his wife Junko have finally opted to retire. The prices



Word of mouth alone made Hama-Ko one of the city's top sushi bars.

and leisurely service did not deter people like food critic Patricia Unterman from putting it on her favorites list. With an anonymous exterior, just up the hill from Crepes on Cole, Hama-Ko was like a family secret. Without any fanfare the owners succeeded where many failed by providing the freshest of fish, beautifully prepared and doing it over and over again. Cole Valley will miss the tiny restaurant and wish the Kashi-yamas well in their golden years.

—Karen Crommie

**A CLEAN
COLE
STREET**

2012 Merchant Participants

Alpha Market	Bambino's Ristorante
BurgerMeister	Cole Cleaners
Cole Hardware	Cole Valley Fitness
Crepes on Cole	Postal Chase

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.

Proposed Edgewood Project Questions Homeowners' Rights

CVIA has made it a point not to take sides in planning issues when the project complies with the city's zoning and planning codes. On the other hand, when a prospective demolition is highly contested, it is incumbent that, as a neighborhood organization, we present both sides. The issue here is a proposed demolition of a single-family residence at 226 Edgewood. People wanting to weigh in on this may contact Mr. David Lindsay of the Planning Department at 1650 Mission St., Suite 400, SF CA 94103 or email David.lindsay@sfgov.org. Please refer to permit application 2012.0651E.

The Homeowners Argument

We feel very fortunate to have found 226 Edgewood, as we were looking for the perfect place to raise our family. We love the neighborhood; we have already met many wonderful neighbors and know it will be a great place for our two young boys to grow up. Unfortunately, we found that the house itself has many challenges.

It is in very poor condition, including but not limited to: extensive areas of rot and mold, the foundation out of compliance with the current earthquake code, and insulation deficiencies that don't meet current energy compliance codes.

It was renovated extensively in the 70s, butchering the integrity and logic of the original design. Three respected historical review firms have independently deemed it to be lacking historical or architectural significance.

Is it possible to repair? Yes. When we started working with Olle Lundberg, a respected local architect who has designed many beloved San Francisco spaces, we planned to renovate. For a variety of reasons, we determined that a new home makes a lot more sense—and would be better for the street and neighborhood, as well.

Before we started the design process, we reached out to our immediate neighbors to get feedback. We met with them again several months later to share some initial ideas. We felt those meetings were constructive, and have incorporated changes into our evolving plans to accommodate some of their concerns. Only very recently were our preliminary plans developed enough to submit to the Planning Department as an initial schematic review. In the meantime, our immediate neighbors have expressed opposition to our project and organized others to do the same.

Naturally, no one wants construction next door. It's one of the temporary inconveniences we all understand is part of living in a city. We also understand the quality of neighborhoods gets better not only with preservation, but with investment, as well.

The house is designed to be 12 feet lower than the existing building (20 feet below the height limit), and set back further from the street—enhancing views and highlighting the greenery. While trees will be removed during the construction, we will replace them with trees of similar size. Living amid beautiful greenery is one of the things that drew us to the house in the first place.

We will take every reasonable action possible to mitigate any inconvenience caused by construction. After the project has been approved per the applicable codes, we will move as expeditiously as possible to complete the project.

San Francisco has an extensive and transparent planning process that makes a tremendous amount of information public and gives all concerns a chance to be heard. We welcome that process and are going beyond what the process requires to provide information and get feedback from our neighbors. Thank you for considering the facts of our project. We welcome your input.

Sara Williams

The Argument Against the Project

226 Edgewood Avenue is a historic, sound family home designed in 1911 by an important S.F. master architect, Louis Christian Mullgardt. In the 1920s, master landscape architect Emerson Knight designed the lovely mature gardens. Architect owners Eden Brothers, students of Frank Lloyd Wright, renovated part of the home in the early 1970s. Pedestrians look down a beautifully landscaped curved driveway to gardens, mature trees, and the Mt. Sutro Greenbelt beyond. It sits at the edge of a steep hillside over Willard St. and boasts expansive downtown city views.

New owners, who have never lived in the home or on the street, purchased the home in 2010 and have proposed its demolition and its replacement with a lower profile but much larger home, which would require extensive excavation into the hillside. This presents significant concerns for our neighborhoods. No home on Edgewood, Belmont, Farnsworth, Willard or Woodland Avenues has been demolished in recent memory. This is possibly a historic district of pre and post quake Arts and Craft homes with a definite historic and architectural esthetic. The planning commission's 1976 architectural survey rated 226 Edgewood "3 out of 5," mentioning the addition as "great, using details and idiom of the original design" and that it was "Louis Christian Mullgardt's only S.F. House." It clearly contributes in a significant way to the beauty of Edgewood and its history.

Around 400 residents of District 5 have written to the Planning Department in opposition to the demolition of 226 Edgewood. They are against the project on several grounds:

- It is a sound family house that is of architectural and historic significance and which is in synchrony with the design esthetic of the neighborhood.
- Retention of the home with appropriate modifications would result in a far "greener" project than demolition and a new building.
- The environmental impact of demolition, excavation and rebuilding is wasteful, polluting and potentially dangerous to surrounding homes. The proposed excavation will be extensive and concerns have been raised about the integrity of the hillside on the East Side of Edgewood Avenue above Willard St., which has suffered erosion issues in the past as well as the requirement for underground drainage. Underground streams draining the Mt. Sutro forest course beneath the hill, making such excavation uncertain as to its effects on hillside integrity as well as the foundations of adjacent homes.
- The proposal will result in the loss of at least 4-5 mature trees, including 30-foot buckeye trees that serve as bird refuge, and provide coverage of the house as viewed from the public Historic Trail in Mt. Sutro Forest off of Stanyan St.
- The views of the Mt. Sutro Greenbelt that the public currently enjoys while walking up Edgewood would be lost.

Most importantly, however, is the precedent that this sets for the neighborhoods of the Cole Valley area and beyond. When a beautiful family home can be torn down simply for personal taste, it places all homes in S.F. neighborhoods at potential risk of the same fate,



A demolition permit was filed for 226 Edgewood.

changing the face of our neighborhoods and subjecting neighbors to unnecessary noise and environmental pollution.

*William P. Dillon, MD, Nancy Hersh, JD,
Irene B. Dillon, MD, Joe Boyle, JD*

Open House on Waller Street

At the site of the former Hamilton Methodist Church, neighbors were welcomed on Sunday, October 20, to tour the new Urban Retreat and Camping Center. Since the report in the last CVIA News, Director Kelly Newell has brought in teams of volunteers to clean out the buildings—ripping up old carpets and painting walls so that, although clearly a work in progress, one can see its great potential as a gathering place for organized groups. She has also found a manager who will live on the premises—a very important requirement of those neighbors living near the facility.

Working in concert with the neighborhood and surrounding Methodist United Churches, such as Glide Memorial, the Waller Center, when completed, will be able to offer a 18,530 square



Director Kelly Newell discusses plans for the new Methodist Urban Retreat Center with Rev. Kenneth L. Schmidt, pastor of All Souls Episcopal Church, also on Waller Street.

foot facility with a dormitory area and accompanying bathrooms, showers, a food service area, gymnasium, performance space and meeting rooms for up to 120 attendees.

The food pantry will still operate on the weekends separately, as will the CarShare operation in the parking lot.

All this will take money and Newell knows it. She has inaugurated a Campaign for Renovation. She estimates the total cost as \$600,000. This capital investment will be raised incrementally as follows:

\$100,000 for basic renovations, including immediate property improvements, permitting and licensing requirements, insurance coverage and initial equipment.

\$200,000 for major remodeling and beautification

\$300,000 for programming and staffing.

If they build it, will they come? The truth is that many organizations are currently looking for housing options within San Francisco, says Newell. Currently Glide Memorial Church, has over 55 groups participating in their urban ministry program. The local United Methodist Churches and Conference office receive a minimum of 40 requests from groups annually looking for places

to stay in the San Francisco Bay Area for a short stay, mid-week or weekend retreats. This will fill that need.

—Karen Crommie

Coyote on Shrader

One night in late September, around 10 p.m., I looked out my front windows on the 1500 block of Shrader and noticed a coyote roaming in front of our house. I pointed a camera out my window and captured a short clip of the guy,

We live about a block from Tank Hill, a block from Sutro Forest, about eight blocks from Golden Gate Park, and about ½ mile from Twin Peaks, so the coyote could have come from any one of those places. When people started approaching, the coyote ducked



into a neighbor's backyard, obviously trying to avoid being seen. To learn more about coyotes in urban areas, go to <http://coyotesinsf.com> or www.projectcoyote.org.

—Chris Hock

Mayor Dallies on Relocation of Recycling Center

Even though the eviction process was initiated more than two years ago and in spite of the fact that they lost their case in the Court of Appeal, the SF Superior Court and the California Supreme Court, the HANC Recycling Center remains open for business in Golden Gate Park.

Negotiations are in the questionable hands of Mayor Ed Lee and Supervisor Christina Olague, both of whom have reasons to keep the recycling center's owners happy. Their latest tack is creating a mobile recycling service—picking up recyclables from large markets, which are, incidentally, the ones legally responsible for recycling. Months ago at a meeting at McLaren Lodge, manager Ed Dunn said they were approaching district markets with this idea. Now it reemerges as a “new idea” from the Mayor's office.

In the last year the Recycling Center has desperately tried to rebrand itself as a community garden, even going so far as to position themselves as spokespeople for citywide Urban Agriculture. The belief that Rec and Park, which has earmarked the approximately one-acre space for one of their city-supervised community gardens, could not evict if HANC preempted their plan by installing their own planting beds. They hoped no one would notice that the real issue was, not gardens, but who has *control* of the land. A fact they never mention in their proclamations that the city is “evicting a garden only to build a garden.” Like other long-time Park concessionaires, HANC feels entitled to that piece of public parkland. Let's see if the Mayor has the fortitude to reclaim it for the citizens of San Francisco.

—Karen Crommie

CVIA Board Minutes

The following is a summary of what took place at the CVIA board meetings the last two months. Those members wishing to bring an issue before the Board or attend a meeting are welcome to do so. Meetings occur the first Monday of every month at 7:00 p.m. in the home of a member. Call 431-1414 to learn the location.

October

Location: Home of Joan Downey – October 1, 2012

- Reviewed last meeting's resolutions, discussed current Cole Valley/Haight issues, and heard reports from committee heads and from delegates to the Kezar Stadium Advisory Committee, SFMTA Citizens Advisory Council, the Community Police Advisory Board, Graffiti Advisory Board, and the Coalition for S.F. Neighborhoods. Board welcomed Cole Valley Fair's music coordinator, Chris Hock and Prop E's Matt Toulle.

- Treasurer Joan Downey reported \$12,078 in savings, \$12,573 in checking, to be distributed as follows: \$5,354 in the Clean Cole Street fund and \$17,640 in the Cole Valley Fair fund and \$1,656 in CVIA reserves. There were 50 renewals from the Fair. Joan reviewed fair accounting in detail.

- Discussion of Cole Valley Fair. Tent vendors were two hours late and gave us a \$300 reimbursement of their fee. The lessons learned from 2012 are: If vendors do not show up by 9:30, they lose their spot. Make certain the date chosen does not coincide with "Eat Real," as it made it very hard to get food vendors and too few meant that food ran out early. Parking Control officers demanded pay for their travel time, which seemed unreasonable. And do we really need four medical officers for first aid? There is a need to identify power sources (plug-in) within the Fair's perimeter. Several people have expressed interest in taking over the fair, the most qualified seem to be Erica, wife of Midline (gym) co-owner Jason are, Niana Liu, and Orlando (Taraval Fair). Need to establish criteria for new organizer.

- Guest speaker Matt Toulle presented the case for Proposition E.

- On the subject of Proposition C, Karen Crommie reminded board of what City Controller Ben Rosenfield said in the Voters Pamphlet, "It would affect the cost of government for a 30-year period by setting aside funds for affordable housing that would otherwise be available for any public purpose...(It) does not identify or create new revenue sources and is not in compliance with a non-binding voter-adopted city policy regarding set-asides."

- In the interest of saving printing costs, discussed offering the CVIA News by email. Report from Webmaster Amy Blakeley at next meeting.

- Chris Hock reported on the sighting of a coyote on Shrader Street. Will send photo for newsletter.

- Discussed wording on renewal forms indicating the wish not to be mentioned as a donor to the daily sweeping of Cole Street. People are not letting us know so we are assuming they don't mind.

- Discussed upcoming Santa on Cole publicity. Standing in front of La Boulange handing out cards was suggested among other things. Joan and Carole said they would volunteer. Karen to draw distribution districts for hand delivering notification postcard to neighbors.

- Adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

November

Location: Home of Carole Glosenger – November 5, 2010

- Reviewed last meeting's resolutions, discussed current Cole Valley/Haight issues, and heard reports from committee heads and from delegates to the Kezar Stadium Advisory Committee, SFMTA Citizens Advisory Council, the Community Police Advisory Board,

Graffiti Advisory Board, and the Coalition for S.F. Neighborhoods. We welcomed photographer Loic Nicolas.

- Treasurer Joan Downey reported \$12,080.50 in savings, \$11,846.79 in checking for a total of \$23,927.29. This is allocated as follows: \$4,484.62 in the Clean Cole Street fund, \$17,623 in the Cole Valley Fair fund, and \$1,749.88 in CVIA reserves.

- In her report on the Coalition for SF Neighborhoods' October meeting, Karen Crommie announced the upcoming CSFN Annual Dinner on December 18 and urged the board to partially subsidize the cost of the board tickets. CSFN is still fighting the placement of artificial turf on the GGP soccer fields, even though approved by the Board of Supervisors. There is legislation pending in Sacramento to eliminate the impact of automobiles from CEQA reports.

- Joan Downey reported that it is now DPT policy that cars are allowed to park on the sidewalk if four feet remains between the car and the curb. (Note: See Postscripts)

- Discussed criteria for those wanting to organize next year's Cole Valley Fair (now that CVIA is bowing out) before giving complete access to all former producer Joan Downey's contacts and records. Agreed that the person should have demonstrated 1) community involvement 2) management experience and 3) a viable volunteer coordination plan.

- Agreed that Val de Cole could buy our old Cole Valley Fair t-shirts and sell them—probably in the store.

- Santa on Cole - Chuck Canepa generously agreed to serve as Santa all day on Nov. 25th if we can't get someone to work a second shift. We will ask Craig Newmark. Must find someone to provide hot chocolate for the children now that Tully's has closed. Guest Loic Nicolas reported on the promotion, set-up and photo retrieval procedure for participants in Santa on Cole

- Karen reported on the recent open house staged by the Hamilton Church/Urban Camping organization. The facility will be open for groups of all kinds who want simple lodging in the city (see article on pg. 7). Board agreed that there is the potential for negative neighborhood impact.

- After hearing a report from Amy Blakeley, decided to offer the option of receiving newsletters by email.

- Meeting adjourned at 9:45

—Carole Glosenger

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

**THIS HOLIDAY SEASON SUPPORT
OUR NEIGHBORHOOD BUSINESSES.
THEY ARE THE LIFEBLOOD OF
OUR COMMUNITY**



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.

Tenth Cole Valley Fair Rocked

This year's Cole Valley Fair was a phenomenal success. We had wonderful weather, newly paved streets, talented musicians, artists and crafts-people, hard-working volunteers, and fantastic neighbors to share the day with.

The day started at 6 a.m. with only one car having to be towed. The many hours spent by the CVIA board hanging signs, delivering warning notices to homes and cars was well worthwhile. The Fair got off to a late start as the Hartmann crew was short-staffed so took two hours longer than normal to set up the canopies, tables, and chairs.

The mostly-veteran volunteer staff had things humming during the set-up. The early morning crew measured and chalked off the booth spaces, placed barricades, and hung signs, and directed traffic. Others directed vendors to their booths and then to the parking lot.

The CVIA booth was busy all day with t-shirt and poster sales. The popular design was created by CVIA board member Carole Glosenger. Besides selling t-shirts, we also recruited new CVIA



Pet Tricks, always staged by the irrepresible Bill Hancock (seen in the background), was a highlight of the fair. Pictured is 2012 winner "Max," a Lhasa-Poo with his proud owner, Phil Farrelly.

members and accepted renewals from existing members.

Jessica Justino's History Corner is always a hit and had an added contribution of before and after photos from the Muni archives. If you want to see any of the photos shown on the Muni banner – plus lots more – visit historypin.com and enter Cole Valley, San Francisco on the map page.

Chris Hock did a bang-up job again this year selecting the music groups. Naming and decorating the three different "stages" differentiated the types of music and added extra appeal.

Chuck Canepa did another outstanding job of setting up the Car Exhibition. New additions were a Lotus Europa, a Czech Tatra, a few MGZB's and an Austin Healy 3000.

The biggest challenge of the day was to not allow the fair to turn into a political rally. Freedom-of-speech rules allow campaigners to walk through the fair but we don't have to give them space to stop and campaign within the fair boundaries. A few respectfully passed out their literature outside the barricades, but most had to be reminded to keep walking while within the fair.

The chilly wind and fog hit the neighborhood at 4:30 so everyone was ready to close down at 5 p.m. Hartmann packed up their canopies and the great CleanScapes crew left the street cleaner than before. The CVIA board retired to Kezar Restaurant and Bar at 7 p.m. for a celebratory toast and dinner.

I'm pleased that everything went smoothly for my last fair as organizer. I look forward to attending next year as a spectator.

—Joan Downey

Haight Street Musical Chairs

Ed. Note—I don't know how many readers of this newsletter are interested in the comings and goings of businesses on Haight Street, but longtime CVIA member Pat Nathe, who for years owned Forever After Books, demanded I look into the changes that have occurred and report it in the newsletter. So, here, out of reverence to Pat, is a smattering of news.

The biggest change on Haight is undoubtedly the closing of the venerable checkcashing store that was so prominent on the corner of Haight and Masonic and lent such class to the neighborhood. The new tenants, Gypsy Streetwear, are already present on Haight in the 1400 block. Yes, another "second store"—familiar to all of

us as a pattern for successful Haight Street businesses. But the best part is that they hired a painter to create an inlaid wrap-around jewel box effect for the first floor of the corner building. SUCH an improvement. By the way, for those street mural fans, the gorgeous medusa mural across the street has been changed to a much more conservative, but still beautiful, Mandela.



The long time check-cashing service on Masonic and Haight has been reborn as a stunning second venue of Gypsy Streetware.

An important addition to the 1600 block is the opening of Rasputin Music in the space last occupied by Villains. The small



Rasputin will be a formidable competitor of Amoeba Music.

California record store chain has nine other venues. There is a second San Francisco location on Powell Street and another in Berkeley, but also in places you wouldn't expect such as Stockton, Vallejo, San Lorenzo and Concord. Selling both new and used music and DVDs, it will be in direct competition with Amoeba Music at the other end of Haight. Go at it, guys.

Decades of Fashion has moved upscale into the bank building at the corner of Belvedere (owned by former Booksmith proprietor Gary Frank) and most recently inhabited by Villains Vault. There's an eclectic shoe/outdoor wear store called Pipers that took over the Villains annex. Coco-Luxe was replaced by a coffee and wine bar called Stanza (Hey, when CVIA backed the former owners in their quest for a liquor license to hold "wine and chocolate tastings," didn't they tell us that, should they leave, the license was untransferable?). Snookered again.

—Karen Crommie

Cole Valley Residents Praise Home Energy Upgrade

Ed.note—Cole Roberts and Serena Unger recently completed a whole building retrofit along with their co-owners of a 3 unit building on Carl and Stanyan. Here is their report of the experience and generous offer to CVIA members and their friends.

■ **Investment** - It was the best financial investment we could have made during the past few years. By our own conservative calculations, the combination of added resale value and predicted savings pays back instantaneously. If we just look at the energy savings alone, it still pays back during the period we plan to live in our home.

■ **Comfort** - On the topic of comfort, everyone in the building is more comfortable. One of the units was always cold, even after installing insulated glazing decades ago. Once we insulated the floor, the difference was profound. In another unit, we thought we were reasonably draft free, only to discover outside air leaks that equated to a 4' diameter permanent hole in the wall.

■ **Safety** - A side benefit we didn't expect was improved safety. By sealing the top of our exterior wall attic connection, not only did we reduce drafts, we reduced the likelihood of a fire spreading from one unit to the next through the perimeter framing. Our gas appliances were also checked for safety and complete combustion.

■ **Disruption** - The contractors who worked on our building were professional, clean, and organized. We didn't really experience any significant disruption in our regular daily lives.

■ So, we're fans and would encourage any homeowner that is considering this to go ahead and do it. Although we didn't



Serena Unger and Cole Roberts have generously offered to pass on a \$250 "friend" coupon to any CVIA member interested in participating in the Energy Upgrade program.

can also pass on a \$250 "friend" coupon to those interested. Currently there are rebates of up to \$5,000 available to single family and 2-4 unit homeowners who complete a project by April 2013. Rebates are first-come, first-served.

To learn more about the Energy Upgrade program please visit: www.sfenvironment.org/sfhip or call (415) 355-3769. If you'd like to talk to Cole and Serena, or simply get their coupon for \$250, call (415) 661-9614.

If you would prefer to receive this newsletter by email, please let us know at CVIASF@aol.com

Update on Kezar Triangle Improvements

Ed. Note— Thanks to a grant provided by Carla Crane (assisted by Sam Bower), Miller Company Landscape Architects is analyzing possibilities for transforming that neglected plot of grass bordered by Frederick and Kezar Drive called Kezar Triangle Below is a report on the last community meeting.

In August we presented two different circulation patterns for the Kezar Triangle: one that follows (more or less) the existing paths and one that bowed outward to create a larger central area. The second



The neglected field on the periphery of Golden Gate Park is mainly used by UCSF employees who daily park their cars nearby.

scheme also meets the sidewalk at the corner of Arguello. Both would include added perimeter plantings to reinforce the sense of meadow, screen views to the street and parking, and control erosion.

The existing discus cage is retained as a feature in the plans but it would be upgraded and relocated to minimize the conflict between the discus throws and the pedestrians crossing the space. Both plans also allow for temporary art to be installed around the park. The idea is that the art installations and events would be located and timed such that the discus practice, youth soccer games and the general use of the site would not be impeded.

—Kyla Burson, LEED AP
Miller Company Landscape

ANNUAL HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING

Thursday, December 6 from 5 to 7:30 p.m.

McLaren Lodge, Golden Gate Park

Postscripts

Who knew? After years of a strict prohibition against parking on the sidewalk, evidently the law has, shall we say, softened. **Lea Militello**, of the Municipal Transportation Agency (note, DPT is under their mantle) recently stated at an **MTA Citizens' Advisory Council meeting** that current enforcement policy allows a car to be parked across the sidewalk, up against a garage door, so long as four feet are left behind the car for pedestrians to pass. Needless to say, the CAC will try to have it changed. Cole Valley and the Haight suffered for many years from people parking their cars on sidewalks until the absolute abolition was established. Now, it seems, we're going back to the bad old days.





Two months ago **Nate Valentine** wrote us that the remodeling was finally under way at the old Eos restaurant site (901 Cole) in preparation for his new Mexican cantina, now called "**Bocazote.**" Wrote Nate, "We are, sadly, about three more months from opening so we won't be a big factor with food this year but next year and after, for sure." To that we say godspeed. The Margaritas offered in his Marina restaurant are among the best in town. Cole Valley's getting thirsty.

* * *

In case anybody cares, renegade ex-supervisor **Chris Daly** closed the doors on the Irish bar ("Buck's) that he's been running since leaving office. My guess is that he found out there was a whole lot more to being a publican than talking politics with the patrons. But not to worry, Chris has secured a job with the powerful Service Employees International Union (SEIU) as organizer for Northern California. Clearly, a better fit.

* * *

It will be just one year from now that **Target** will take over the 119,000 square foot former Sear's building at the corner of Masonic and Geary. They estimate hiring 250 full time employees. Their Metreon location opened two weeks ago.

* * *

Anticipating the world of Obamacare, **UCSF** is cutting 300 full time jobs while, at the same time, continuing to build the \$1.5 billion new campus at Mission Bay.

* * *



Mark your calendar: Haight neighbor, noted author and charming oddball **Lemony Snicket** (Daniel Handler) will be at the Booksmith on December 5 from 5 to 8 p.m. He will be chatting and signing his new book "Who Could That Be at This Hour." A signed copy might be just the thing for Christmas giving.

—Karen Crommie

CVIA Officers

- President.....Karen Crommie
- Vice President Shannon Cooper Hock
- TreasurerJoan Downey
- Recording SecretaryCarole Glosenger
- Membership Lena Emmery
- Community RelationsAmy Blakeley

CVIANEWS is published quarterly as a forum for residents of the greater Haight Ashbury neighborhood. The views expressed reflect those of the writers. Contributions for the Winter edition should be sent before February 1, 2013 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.

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 Editorial AssistanceJoan Downey

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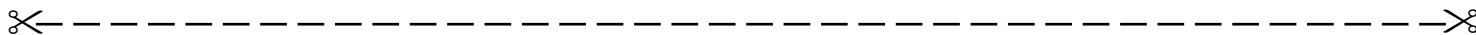
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BECOME A CVIA MEMBER

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 _____

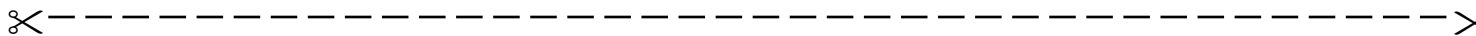
ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____ FAX _____

What I like about the neighborhood: _____

What I dislike about the neighborhood: _____

Optional contribution to Cole sidewalk cleaning \$_____ Do not acknowledge my name in newsletter

Dues paid to CVIA are not deductible as charitable contributions, however, amounts greater than the membership dues 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

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and please "like" us ASAP

