

CVIA NEWS

COLE VALLEY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Volume XXXIII

SERVING COLE VALLEY AND THE GREATER HAIGHT ASHBURY

WINTER 2019

Santa Comes to Cole Street on Sunday, December 1

Come and have your picture taken with Santa without the hassle of driving to a mall or waiting in long lines. The proceeds help fund the Clean Cole Street project.

Loic Nicolas, a popular photographer with consistent 5-star reviews on Yelp (and a CVIA member), originated



Photo: Loic Nicolas

Santa explains the fine points of the holiday season and the virtue of generosity to Jackson Arnold. (Just kidding.)

this fundraising idea and annually donates a day of his time for the good of his neighborhood.

As always, Chuck Canepa is our handsome Santa. He even bought his own Santa suit a few years ago and so is fully committed (we hope). Chuck not only looks good, but he's also great with the kids. And, yes, this is the same Chuck who organizes the car show for the Cole Valley Fair.

Maryo Mogannam graciously allows us to use Postal Chase for the event every year. Board members serve as the "elves" who usher the kids and parents through the process while trying to calm the littlest ones who are not too sure about the guy with the white beard (although those in distress sometimes make the best photos).

Please come by with your kids, grand kids, pets, or yourself on Sunday, December 1 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Postal Chase, 912 Cole St. The cost of the sitting is \$20 and prints start at \$1. All proceeds go toward the daily cleaning of Cole Street by the Cole Valley Improvement Association. And spread the word!

—Joan Downey

ANNUAL HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING
Tuesday, December 3 from 4 to 8 p.m.
McLaren Lodge, Golden Gate Park

San Francisco Beautiful Honors CVIA for "Clean Cole"



CVIA board member Shannon Cooper Hock accepts commendation for CVIA.

At its annual awards ceremony at Marines Memorial Club on October 21, CVIA board member Shannon Cooper Hock accepted an award on behalf of CVIA "for outstanding contribution to beautifying San Francisco," for its Clean Cole project in which the commercial area of Cole Valley is swept every day (twice a day on weekdays), by CleanScapes.

Dean Preston Elected D5 Supe

With all eyes on the city's only supervisory race, it was a spirited match between two strong candidates that got down and dirty toward the end. This was Dean Preston's second run for the District 5 seat and he was fighting for his political life. When the results showed that he had won, he knew it was a short-term victory. Even though he will replace Vallie Brown as D-5 Supervisor, it is only for the remaining term of London Breed, former D-5 supervisor, who left the post to become mayor. The terms are staggered so that only half the board is elected every two years, thereby providing



Photo: Kate Munsch/The Chronicle

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continuity. Supervisors representing odd-numbered districts (1, 3, 5, 7, 9, and 11) are elected every fourth year, which will be 2020. This means that Preston must immediately embark on a second campaign to beat whomever chooses to run against him in the November 2020 election. If Vallie Brown chooses to run again, she will be joined by Board of Education President Stevon Cook who announced last week his intention to give it a try.

The Chronicle quoted Preston at his victory party saying “What is missing in so many campaigns is a vision of what this town could be if we did not surrender to the darkest forces of capitalism and neo-liberalism. We are going to change [this town] with mass mobilization, democratic socialism and fearless advocacy for the things we know are right.”

Dean Preston attended law school in San Francisco at UC Hastings College of the Law and graduated magna cum laude. He served as a staff attorney at the nonprofit Tenderloin Housing Clinic (THC) in San Francisco where for seven years he represented low-income tenants fighting to preserve their housing. His legal work at THC included defending tenants against Ellis Act evictions, suing slumlords for substandard housing conditions, and fighting conversion of rent-controlled housing. Preston is the founder and director of Tenants Together, California’s only statewide tenant rights organization.

Preston, a Democratic Socialist, will tilt the balance of the Board of Supervisors even further to the left than it already is, and his win removes a vote from the Board that was consistently loyal to the mayor.

—Karen Crommie

*Virginia Ann Joosen,
(October 1, 1945 - October 6, 2019)*

Long time CVIA member Virginia Ann Joosen was a true San Franciscan having attended Grattan Elementary, Roosevelt Junior High, and Polytechnic High School. After graduation, Virginia began her first job at the Hartford Insurance Company where she met a young man who would become her husband. Virginia and Pieter were married at Old Saint Mary’s Cathedral and went on to have three children, Jennifer Lisa, Pieter Michael and Anne Elizabeth. Virginia, who lived on Shrader Street, was a loyal volunteer at the Cole Valley Fair and a good friend to many who will remember her fondly.

Visit our website at CVIASF.org

Established SF Fitness Chain Claims Iconic Cole Corner

Hoodline.com ace reporter Camden Avery could not get a response from Cole Fitness owner Andrew Chaban following up on an interview some six months ago. At that time Chaban said he was renegotiating the lease and would use the mandatory seismic retrofit to make needed improvements and also replace the fitness equipment. But soon after, as we all know, the “For Lease” sign appeared in the window.



Last week, there was a sign of hope in the window. LiveFitGym claimed its intention of taking over the site, indicating that there won’t be a change-of-use at this important corner. LiveFit is no piker, having five other San Francisco locations: Hayes Valley, Nob Hill, Polk Street, Inner Richmond and Mission. Basic group classes, personal training and open gym hours are offered throughout the week, but in some studios, there are treatments such as massage therapy, acupuncture, facials and waxing and even chiropractic. Regional manager Danielle Tellier assures us that will be the case in Cole Valley.



And down on Haight Street, Generation X, a fashion-forward store for nearly

For 30 years, Kids Only was owned by Cole Valley’s Marie and Bruce Samson.

twenty years on the corner of Masonic and Haight, is shuttering at the end of the year. Nice Kicks and Rasputin, too, are vacating; Peoples Cafe and Braindrops have left; True, owned by the son of former mayor Willy Brown, closed one of its two stores; while the Haight Ashbury Music Center is having its final closing sale. The long empty storefront that for many years was Kids Only still leaves a dead spot on that block—ironically amid the shoulder-to-shoulder tourist traffic. The customers are here. Why have so many businesses gone out? (See article on pg. 6) There must be *something* the neighborhood’s thousands of visitors want to take home with them besides used clothes and Tibetan jewelry. We’ll see how well the upcoming cannabis shop does. My guess is socko.

—Karen Crommie

David Oates Joins CVIA Board



Software innovator David Oates has accepted CVIA’s invitation to join its Board of Directors. Originally from Charlotte, NC, he moved to San Francisco in 2015 after attending Northeastern University in Boston. David and a few of his friends from high school (and fellow Cole Valley neighbors) founded Curtsy, a resale app for women’s clothing. Generous with his time and considerable talent, he is currently working to update the CVIA website.

Good News for Buena Vista Park

It's no secret that some in the Greater Haight Ashbury are more affluent than others, but I was surprised to read the recent posting of the Buena Vista Park Needs Assessment by Rec and Park. The report by Rec and Park project manager Brett Desmaris noted a grant from the Buena Vista Neighborhood Association (BVNA) of \$50,000 (gasp) triggering a matching add-back from the City's budget of another \$50,000 and an additional \$162,000 from the 2012 parks bond. This news came shortly after the neighborhood defeated,



A large donation parked City funds.

a vigorous movement to create a Green Benefits District requiring a tax on each surrounding property to improve and maintain the park. The long and controversial campaign left hard feelings among some neighbors.

It looks like BVNA decided to use their capital to nudge the City into making sorely needed upgrades in maintenance including the hardscape, erosion control, water and forest management. Where there's a will (and money), there's a way. Good for them. The park is a neighborhood treasure and, in spite of a group of dedicated volunteers, needs major work.

—Karen Crommie

CSFN Urges Pause in 5G Towers

The wireless industry is in a race to roll out 5G service. The network is supposed to be nearly 100 times faster than current data speeds, but it requires cellphone tower equipment to be closer to users than before. Wireless companies in the US say they have to install about 300,000 new antennas—roughly equal to the total number of cell towers built over the past three decades—causing outrage and alarm as antennas are installed in close proximity to homes.

A 2018 study by the U.S. National Toxicology Program on rodents to clarify the potential health hazards of radio frequency radiation (RFR) shows that long-term exposure to RFR from 2G and 3G cell phones is associated with an elevated risk of cancer, and warned that the public should take pragmatic steps to reduce exposure.

Current “objective standards” written by SF Department of Public Works approve up to four cell phone towers on one utility pole as close as six feet from your window. These standards are the specifications attached to Ordinance 190-19 passed by the Board of Supervisors on consent calendar in July and signed by the Mayor in August 2019. They cannot possibly be aesthetically pleasing (four cell phone towers and up to five ancillary units on ONE pole!), they are not needed, and they are hazardous to San Franciscans. Further, this ordinance takes away all local control, putting it in the hands of the telecom industry. Cities across America are fighting a 2018 FCC order and finding ways to stay within the guidelines that are less harmful until they are changed.

This order violates the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) by excluding the construction of mobile stations

and small cell phone towers and other communications facilities.

There is currently an effort to have the SF Board of Supervisors rescind Ordinance 190-19, hire a 3rd party to research the safety of the cell towers and replace the ordinance with one that includes a public process that allows the government and the public to influence where cell phone tower facilities are sited to mitigate any harm they might cause.

—George S. Wooding, President Emeritus
Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods

730 Stanyan Seeks Developers

The City has taken another step toward actual construction of the affordable housing project at the McDonald's site—quelling the neighborhood controversy of the past year over the best interim use of the lot. Acting though the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development (MOHCD) a request for submittals was issued from “qualified teams to develop permanently affordable family rental housing to include units serving

formerly homeless households, and ground-floor commercial use serving the surrounding neighborhood at 730 Stanyan Street.” A meeting of interested parties was held on October 2 to inform developers of the minimum qualifications, requirements, and the selection process. An important move forward.



The promise of Prop A money is accelerating plans to develop the site's 38,000 square feet.

Help for Seriously Mentally Ill

Supervisor Vallie Brown has asked the San Francisco Department of Public Health to place a mental health clinician in two District 5 police stations: Northern and Park.

The clinician will work with the captains and their officers to address the problems of people with mental illness on the streets. Said Supervisor Brown, “Police officers are doing a great job out there but they're not mental health professionals.” District 5 will be the pilot program in the city for this approach. Supervisor Brown credited Park Station Captain Una Bailey of Park Station for the idea.



Brown added, “Right now, both police stations have an assigned person from the DA's and City Attorney's Office but in these difficult times with so many on the streets with mental illness, a mental health professional should be there too...working with the officers on the best plan for addressing people suffering. We can't continue to have our officers push them from one block/neighborhood to the next. I strongly feel that's not the humane approach. I've organized this position with the Department of Public Health. This person should be in place by the end of November.”



Thank You For Your Support



It certainly isn't expected, but when a member sends in an extra contribution, we appreciate it greatly. Only ten Cole Valley merchants contributed to the daily cleaning of Cole Street's business district this year, which costs CVIA \$993 each month. We make up the deficit with member contributions, a discount from CleanScapes and proceeds from the "Santa on Cole" photo shoot. So we would like to take this opportunity to thank the following members for their generosity during the period November 2018 through October 2019. Please notify us if your name has inadvertently been omitted.

OMG! (\$2,500): Tracy and Patrick Jennings

Beacons (\$1,000): William Hancock Family Fund, Kerith & Tony Pucci, Michael Siliski, Les Silverman

Benefactors (\$250 - \$500): Lena Emmerly & Charles Cane-pa, Karen & David Crommie, Marianne Hesse, Linda C. Hothem, Abby & David M. Rumsey

Donors (\$100 - \$249): Anon, Cecile & Jeff Bodington, Chris Bunga, Gina Centoni, Linda Coda, Linda Erkelens, Tracy Grubbs & Richard Taylor, Robert G. Jones & John T. Smith, Virginia Joosen, Jane & Michael Miller, Janan New, Sandra Norberg & Richard Drake, Joanne & Bill Prieur, Michael Rafferty, Elaine Robinson

Contributors (\$50 - \$99): Anon, Kay Auciello, Katherine Bird & William Rothrum, Megan & Bruce Bourne, Joan K. Boyd, Mary Ann de Souza, Joelle & Ralph Edler, Margaret & Russell Garvin, Shannon & Chris Hock, Mary & John Hooper, Ice Cream Bar - Juliet Pries, Margareta Ekblad & Vojtech Licko, Michelle & Wallis Lim, Barbara Mow, Jan Platt & Jeff Ross, Ellen Rashbaum, Robin Ridgeway, MeMe Riordan, Claudia Scharff & Timothy Dunn, Jonathan Scoles, Brenda Stone, William A. Villarreal, Mary Ann Wolcott

Supporters (\$25 - \$49): Robert Anooshian, Molly Barry, Judith Bishop & Robert Liner, Jeanne Blamey & Rob Fram, Philip Brodey, Christina Danford, Karin de Brer, Kevin Dede, Frances Dependahl, Adele Dorison, Melissa & Glen Gee, Carole Glosenger, Marissa Gomes, Amy Gonser, Robert Gordon & Bill Haskell, Carol & Richard Harris, Karen Hourigan, Sarah & Neema Jali, Irene Jang & Matthew DuVall, Jessica Justino, Lynn Kormondy, Laura Lai, Jeff Lakusta, William Litton, Peter Mansfield, Thomas Nicoll, Celia Price, John Priest, Sandra Radtka, Helen & Allan Ridley, Kendra & Billy Robins, Brian Sedar, Diane & Bob Silver, Cynthia Smuzynska, Conchita Toshok, Jillian & Blake Tyrrell, Karina Vallee, Deborah Van Atta

Boosters (\$24 and below): Sharon Birenbaum, Shelagh Brodersen, Anne Buchanan, Lucia Caltagirone, Elizabeth Corden & Ken Shannon, Jessica Cry, Beverley Epstein, Andre Ferrigno, Allison Grass, Isabel Greenfield & Dan Selvig, Andrea Higgins, Catherine & Brian Kane, Elsa Rosenberg & David Zuckerman, Marie Samson, Lee Shalev, Kira Sparks

A CLEAN COLE STREET



Our Neighborhood Heroes 2019 Merchant Participants

Cole Cleaners, Cole Hardware, Crepes on Cole, Finnegans Wake, Jerome's Antiques, Luke's Local, Pacific American Group, * Padrecito, Postal Chase, Wooden Coffeehouse

*Owners of 930 Cole Street (former Cole Garage)

Pre-Thanksgiving Volunteer Opportunity at Alvord Lake

Saturday, November 23 is the fourth Saturday of the month and volunteers are needed to help the gardeners at Alvord Lakelet in Golden Gate Park. Connect with this magnificent park and help give back to the community. We begin at 9 a.m. and finish by noon.

Meet at Haight and Stanyan Street. Look for the Rec and Park vehicle to determine our location.



Join your neighbors in the upkeep of this very special oasis of calm. Many hands make light work, so please participate in this monthly effort.

Typical gardening tasks include weeding, planting, mulching and clean-up. The air will be fresh. It is a great way to start the weekend.

Please wear appropriate clothing for working outdoors and prepare for varied weather. The event will occur rain or shine. Bring work gloves if available—but some will be supplied

—Susan Strolis

After 18 years, horses are back in Golden Gate Park with lessons and rides 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wed. - Sun. Go to "Chaparral Ranch" for details.

SF Library: To Forgive, Divine


Effective September 16, 2019, the SF Public Library eliminated overdue fines for all Library patrons. This move ensures that our public library is living up to its commitment to provide free and equal access to information, knowledge, independent learning and the joys of reading for our diverse community.



Park Branch (1833 Page St.) is one hundred ten years old this year.

In addition, all outstanding overdue fines have been cleared from patron records. No exceptions, no questions. You are fabulously fine free. Any items checked out that are eligible for renewal will be automatically renewed for you. For more information on the auto renewal process, visit sfpl.org/autorenew.

The Library still encourages patrons to return books in a responsible and timely fashion so others may enjoy the shared resources. For more information about how the Library is supporting this new initiative, visit sfpl.org/finefree.



Leslie Michael Silverman
(January 18, 1944 - August 11, 2019)

Long time CVIA member and generous benefactor Les Silverman passed away peacefully at the age of 75 after suffering a major stroke. Les grew up in Chicago, attending public schools before entering the University of Wisconsin as an undergraduate, and attending Washington University in St. Louis for a Masters in graphic design. He was blessed with a keen sense of design and after opening an office for the Center for Advanced Research in Design in San Francisco he established his own graphic design firm. He was instrumental in the shaping and success of the San Francisco Design Center complex with Henry Adams. Alongside his husband, Irvin Govan, he invested in San Francisco real estate, owning several large buildings both in the Haight and Cole Valley. Throughout his rich and rewarding life he embraced every challenge, every success, and every opportunity with the same soft and comforting resolve and improved the lives of all who crossed his path. His memorial took place late last month at the Conservatory of Flowers.

UCSF Tries to Balance Space Restrictions with Growth Need

UCSF has finally released its Comprehensive Parnassus Heights Plan—a result of their year long “re-envisioning” project, until now referred to as the Long Range Development Plan (LRDP). CVIA has been consistently attending



UCSF: Powerhouse bursting at the seams.

the university’s community meetings with an interest in possible impact on residents of Cole Valley and the Inner Sunset, both of which have a history of incursion. Buildings on the Parnassus Heights site constitute

about 3.29 million gross square feet of building space, excluding parking garages. UCSF also leases an additional 56,000 gsf in the privately owned nine-story Medical Building 2 at 350 Parnassus Avenue.

Below is the quote from the handout spelling out the future of the space ceiling. However, “The requirements of the new hospital and research facilities necessary to keep and at-

Space Ceiling

- Established in 1976 by the UC Board of Regents, the so-called space ceiling caps UCSF’s development of the Parnassus campus to within boundary lines and limits building square footage to 3.55 million gross square feet.
- Regents Resolution was amended in 2014 to exclude Aldea housing (other housing was already excluded).
- CPHP has identified a need to increase the space ceiling by 1.5 million gsf, or about 40 percent, to fulfill the CPHP vision, including the new hospital. All campus boundaries would remain in place.

Photo: Chuck Canepa

tract top talent, provide world class care, and to continue the tradition of creating knowledge, requires additional space.” Some members of the committee spoke at length about (honoring) the space ceiling, others are aware of the necessity to expand, most will agree it is a *fait accomplis*.

The plan is for Langley Porter to relocate to the Dogpatch neighborhood (western Mission Bay), while a new hospital will be built on its current site with construction scheduled for 2023-2028 and to open by 2030. The existing Moffett hospital currently has 425 beds. When I asked for the bed count in the new hospital, the response was that it has not been determined but is expected to be higher than the present one. I also asked about the projected staff/student count, as this is often a better indicator of local impact, but was told that they won’t know until later in the process.

The long-term vision on housing indicates that the Aldea San Miguel student housing complex (one mile above the campus on Mt. Sutro), will go from 172 units to 504, adding 426 units on the campus’ west side (4th-5th Avenue). Housing is no longer included in the previously referenced space ceiling. There is a stated commitment not to expand the current campus boundaries.

The Irving Street “arrival experience” will be improved both to define the campus image and assist visitors in finding their way to various campus destinations.

—Chuck Canepa

Mayor Signs Bill in Cole Valley to Boost Small Businesses

Maybe it was the fact that there are so many empty storefronts on Haight Street, or the sight of the former Cole Valley Fitness standing dark and empty bearing a “For Lease” sign, but I like to think it was the saga of Juliet Pries’ two-year bureaucratic battle to simply sell ice cream on Cole Street that inspired Supervisor Brown to spearhead this legislation.

The Small Business Streamlining Legislation was signed right here in Cole Valley on September 11 at Wooden Coffeehouse. It is an important part of the Mayor’s Citywide Storefront Vacancy Strategy based on findings in a 2018 report from the Office of Economic and Workforce Development called “State of the Retail Sector: Challenges and Opportunities for San Francisco’s Neighborhood Commercial Districts.”



Mayor London Breed signs the Small Business Streamlining Legislation at Wooden Coffeehouse.

The legislation is aimed at eliminating overlapping requirements by simplifying the permitting process for differing uses, such as food service and live music, which a prior ban had forbidden. The downside is that it might work too well and we would have an influx of noisy clubs. But, let’s stay positive. A unified Cole Valley will still have the power to mitigate bad players.

“I am a huge believer in the importance of small businesses to our neighborhoods, and this legislation honors



Wooden Coffeehouse owner Steve Wickwire thanks supporters as (left to right) Supervisor Vallie Brown, Mayor London Breed and SF Chamber of Commerce President Rodney Fong look on.

that,” said Supervisor Brown. “It simplifies our permitting and zoning rules to make it easier for small businesses here to get open and stay open. I’m also proud of the changes we’ve made to better recognize and respect the uniqueness

of neighborhood commercial corridors.”

The new president of the SF Chamber of Commerce Rodney Fong also made it to the signing, saying, “One of the most difficult parts of starting a small business in San Francisco is getting through the City permitting process, [We] commend Mayor London Breed and Supervisor Vallie Brown for being small business champions and bringing forward this critical legislation.”

But, most grateful was Steve Wickwire, owner of Wooden Coffeehouse, who said, “This means Wooden will be able to apply for a beer/wine permit, extend our hours and expand our stand-up comedy shows to provide Cole Valley with exciting regular entertainment. I am thrilled for the opportunity to keep my shop open later into the evening for everyone to enjoy and breathe some new life into the hood. I want to thank every single one of you for your support and the positive impact this makes on the community. When a community speaks up together, with the support of a wonderful Supervisor and advocate like Vallie Brown, great changes can be made. We couldn’t have done it without you.”

—Karen Crommie

SF Rec and Park Manager Phil Ginsburg to Serve State

Governor Gavin Newsom recently appointed Phil Ginsburg to the California State Park and Recreation Commission. Ginsburg will continue serving as SF Rec and Park manager, a position he has held since 2009.

The California State Park and Recreation Commission is responsible for approving plans and establishing policies of state parks; guiding the director of state parks in the administration, protection, and development of California’s park system; and recommending a comprehensive recreation policy for the state.

“I am honored by the Governor’s nomination. I pledge to use my decade of experience running San Francisco’s world class urban park system to support our amazing state parks with a focus on stewardship, equity and access,” Ginsburg said.



Under Ginsburg’s leadership, SF Rec and Park is now among the nation’s top five park systems.

SAVE THE AGGRAVATION

Shop for Holiday Gifts
in Cole Valley and the
Haight. (If you can’t find it
here, they don’t need it.)



The Scoop on Scoot

Last month I had the opportunity to meet with two representatives from Scoot, the motorized scooter firm. The good news is that Bob Walsh and Martin Fatooh are both San Francisco natives and understand how the neighborhoods function.

Scoot will have a fleet of 1000 stand-up scooters dispersed around the city. Currently the fleet registers 1,500 rides per day. Their survey indicates that forty percent of riders would have driven or used a ride share service. Sixty percent rode the scooters to work. Average distance traveled was one mile.

The MTA has extracted a fee of \$75 per scooter that is to be used for bike racks to house them when not in use.

This should help to provide parking spots for the scooters when riders have reached their destination. Most of these will be in the so-called “street furniture” area of sidewalks and will not take away street parking.

The rules for use of the standup scooters are that users must be 18 years of age and have a driver’s license. They are not to be driven on sidewalks but are legal on city streets with 25 mile or lower speed limits. They are also legal in bike lanes and on bike paths. Currently they are not allowed in Golden Gate Park. The scooters are picked up nightly for maintenance and battery charging. Average cost of a ride is between \$3 and \$4.

The concern for Cole Valley is the possible disruption that scooters could cause. What Scoot promises is that they

Photo: Scoot



Scoot has been joined by competitors Jump, Lime and Spin. Each have 12-month permits to deploy up to 1,000 scooters.

will be responsive to customers and the small businesses that are such a signature of Cole Valley. They feel that scooters will reduce, or perhaps eliminate, the need for a car. Or, at the very least, lessen the use of a car where a scooter can do the job.

To find out more about Scoot, contact Martin Fatooh at mfatooh@bird.com (415-271-8797) or Bob Walsh at bob@scoot.com

—Lena Emmery

Do you have a story to share?



Or know someone interesting who lives in Cole Valley or Haight Ashbury whom you would be willing to interview? Maybe it’s YOU. Does your house have a history? Why did you move here? Has it changed? Remember the Tassajara Bakery, the Other Café, the SF 49ers playing at Kezar or do you go farther back? Please let us know at CVIASF@aol.com.

CVIA Presents Grant to Sutro Stewards for New Trailhead

CVIA President Lena Emmery presented a check for \$1,000 to Amy Morris, director of the Sutro Stewards at the Cole Valley Fair on September 29. The Stewards work to conserve habitat through ecological restoration and native plant propagation in the UCSF Mount Sutro Open Space Reserve.

The contribution has been issued for a matching grant and will be targeted for work at the Clarendon (and Christopher Drive) entry to the Mount Sutro Trail System. This



Photo: David Crommie

Pictured Left to right: CVIA Vice-president Cathy Haller, President Lena Emmery and Sutro Stewards Director Amy Morris.

trailhead provides a well-marked entrance to the forest from the UCSF side (there is already one from the Stanyan side) that would avoid the campus and connect to new trails across Clarendon Avenue being built by Rec and Park near Sutro Tower.

You can join a volunteer group any Wednesday and 1st and 3rd Saturdays. No experience is necessary, tools and gloves are provided. But whether you hike or volunteer, Sutro Forest is one of the great advantages of living in Cole Valley. Go to sutrostewards.org for a trail map and details

Cole Valley Couple Missing on Flight From “Lost Coast”

Shrader Street residents are mourning the apparent death of two neighbors. On October 24, Justin Winfrey



Kayla Rodriguez and Justin Winfrey.

boarded his single-engine Piper Arrow with his 27-year-old tenant Kayla Rodriguez, a delivery nurse at CPMC Mission Bernal Campus. They flew north to have dinner at Gyppo Ale Mill at Shelter Cove. They departed at approximately 8:30 p.m headed for the Willits airport but were not seen afterward. A vigil and prayer service was held by Rev. Amos Brown on November 3.

CVIA Board Minutes

The following is a summary of what took place at the CVIA board meetings the last three months. Those wishing to bring a neighborhood issue before the Board are welcome to do so. Meetings take place on the first Monday of every month at 7:00 p.m. in the home of a member. There is no meeting in December. Call 415-431-1414 or email cviasf@aol.com 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), SFMTA Citizens Advisory Council (CAC), the Community Police Advisory Board (CPAB), UCSF Long Range Planning Citizens Advisory Group (CAG), Waller Center Advisory Committee and the Coalition for SF Neighborhoods (CSFN).

September

Location: Home of Karen and David Crommie – Sept. 9, 2019 - 7 p.m. Guest: CVIA member David Oates

■ Treasurer Joan Downey reported a bank balance of \$51,619.25 out of which \$16,358.45 is being presently held in the Clean Cole Street fund and \$24,767.20 is being held in the account (as fiscal sponsor) for the Stanyan Parklet. She reported a total of 482 members (29 renewing and 9 new).

■ The board revisited its charitable commitments, approving \$1,000 to the Sutro Stewards, but advised that the \$5,000 committed to the Grattan Playground be divided into payments spread over two fiscal years.

■ A new checking account has been opened at Redwood Credit Union. Remaining funds now in Wells Fargo will be transferred within the next two weeks. CVIA received an insurance rebate of \$123 and payment from Cole Hardware from members crediting CVIA with their Rewards Program benefits.

■ SFMTA: Joan Downey said that the completion of the N Judah streetscape project will hold a ribbon cutting on September 18 at the Ninth and Judah stop and that the Cole and Carl stop is completed excepting for the windscreen and refuse container.

■ Lift of Small Business Restrictions: A historic change in Cole Valley zoning regulations in will be signed into law by Mayor London Breed on September 11 at Wooden Coffeehouse at Cole and Carl St. at 11 a.m. (see article on pg. 6).

■ Media: Joan also discussed plans to update the CVIA web page and online correspondence format. CVIA member David Oates agreed to help. Carole Glosenger to contribute to content.

■ UCSF: Chuck Canepa reported on the expansion plans of the new hospital & research facilities (see article on pg. 5).

■ McDonald's: Steve Madrid reported on a meeting with Supervisor Vallie Brown's aide Juan Carlos Cancino regarding the Chronicle article (8-24-19) on the interim use of 730 Stanyan parking lot. Discussed possible reissue of the RFP to respond to effects of proposed housing bond which might expedite affordable housing project slated for the site. The original time commitment was three to five years, whereas with new funding, that time period might be as short as two years.

■ Summer Social: Discussed possible need for an alternate location for next year's Summer Social if Kezar Bar and Restaurant is not willing to close during their planned brunch service. Suggestions for improvement were to have guest speakers arrive before the business meeting, and also review with them beforehand their topic and length of time for question period.

■ Needs of Seniors: Critical need for expanded senior fitness classes now waitlisted at St. John of God's Church (1290 5th Ave.) presents yet another argument for a Senior Center on the ground floor of the affordable housing structure planned for 730 Stanyan. This must be included in further community discussions.

■ SF Beautiful: Agreed CVIA should enter contest for community beautification with its Clean Cole Project. Shannon Cooper Hock to write proposal and entry form. Deadline is October 11.

■ Cole Valley Fair: Agreed to purchase 144 coffee mugs (@8.31 each) with the Cole and Carl design (by Carol Glosenger) to sell at the Cole Valley Fair on September 29. Also agreed to sell the 50 remaining t-shirts at \$15.

Adjourned: 9:30

October

Location: Home of Carole Glosenger – October 7, 2019 - 7 p.m. Guest: CVIA member David Oates

■ Treasurer Joan Downey reported a bank balance of \$53,203.14 out of which \$15,282.14 is being presently held in the Clean Cole Street fund and \$24,767.20 is being held in the account (as fiscal sponsor) for the Stanyan Parklet. She reported a total of 516 household memberships, 44 of whom are new, indicating a total of approximately 700 individual CVIA members.

■ Steven Madrid and David Oates provided an analysis of the CVIA website, identifying ways to make it more consolidated and accessible and describing their intention of creating a customized email format using MailChimp. Discussed changing from PayPal to Square for online payments. Discussed highlighting articles from the last newsletter on the website. Steven detected current presence of malware on the website. Full update at the November meeting.

■ CVIA president Lena Emmerly, reporting on the Community Police Advisory Board, said that Park Police would like those who have installed video surveillance systems to please let them know. Police are finding footage from these private cameras increasingly helpful in solving crimes. She also noted that Captain Bailey has been in the job for two years and, according to a staffing formula, may be ripe for reassignment.

■ Motion approved to write a letter to Chief Bill Scott asking to keep Captain Bailey at Park Station for another year. She is deeply cognizant of neighborhood problems and has consistently responded thoughtfully and fairly. We would hate to lose her.

■ Chuck Canepa reported on the continuation of meetings of the UCSF citizens' advisory group as they struggle to increase their square footage and still honor earlier space caps. The plan for a "grand entrance" at Irving and Arguello creates transportation challenges (see article on pg. 5).

■ Cole Valley Fair: Identified possible improvement in CVIA's booth—having a new banner made that is narrower so that it doesn't block the sightlines and possibly setting up a white board or suggestion box—something providing fairgoers a way to submit complaints or ideas for improving the neighborhood.

■ Santa on Cole: Agreed to print up cards (4x7 inches) explaining the goals and benefits of joining CVIA, to be made available at Santa on Cole. As before, Joan Downey will register families before they enter the "Santa set." Agreed to reach out to members to assist with delivery of postcards advertising the December 1 event. Joan to provide sectioned maps to prevent overlapping of coverage. If it is not raining, we have the option to sell "Cole & Carl" mugs in front of Postal Chase during the photo shoot. (To be decided at November meeting.)

■ Joan contacted the California Academy of Science regarding

the proposed GG Park traffic plan. At the same time, Karen Crommie was contacted by the DeYoung Museum for the same reason. Neither came to the Board meeting.

■ Report on efforts to underground utility wires by Lena Emmerly. The goal of undergrounding three miles a year has not been met and continues to be an uphill battle.

■ Cathy Haller reported on the presentation by Lena Emmerly of a \$1,000 matching grant from CVIA to Amy Morris, director of the Sutro Stewards to support their improvement of hiking trails in Sutro Forest.

■ Discussed plans for quarterly general meetings in 2020. Will look for possible venues: Park Police Station, Wooden Coffee. Date of first meeting, speakers and program to be decided in November.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

November

Location: Home of Lena Emmerly and Chuck Canepa – November 4, 2019 - 7 p.m. Guests: Ruth Otey, Breana Wheeler, Serena Unger, Samantha Delucchi.

■ Treasurer Joan Downey reported a bank balance of \$53,929.07 out of which \$14,228.04 is being presently held in the Clean Cole Street fund and \$24,767.20 is being held in the account (as fiscal sponsor) for the Stanyan Parklet. We have 520 members, 48 new and received 21 contributions to Clean Cole.

■ David Oates reported on his and fellow board member Steven Madrid's efforts to update CVIA's website. They've migrated the website to a new provider, Squarespace, for which the board authorized payment of \$192 to cover the first year of the service. David will send a link to the board to view a draft of the website. He also created a Google-for-Nonprofits account for CVIA, which will allow the organization to have public-facing emails such as board@cviasf.org, and individual board members to have emails like david.oates@cviasf.org. These will not be functioning until the website is published. In addition, David set up a Mailchimp account, which the organization will use to email members when the new website is live. Steven is working on updating the copy on the website.

■ Motion approved to change organization description from Serving the Greater Haight Ashbury to "Serving Cole Valley and the Greater Haight Ashbury."

■ Regional planning consultant Serena Unger reported on the movement to make San Francisco an official Child Friendly City. Motivated by attending an international conference in Belgium, Unger discovered that the US was the only UN member nation that has not ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child drafted and adopted by the UN in 1989. She is collaborating with Board of Supervisors President Norman Yee to have San Francisco start the process of qualifying for a UNICEF child-friendly city. On November 19, Yee will introduce a resolution to the Board asking them to support the child-friendly city initiative as well as support the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

■ Academy of Sciences Government Affairs Analyst Samantha Delucchi reported on projected efforts to close Golden Gate Park to automobile traffic. She is assembling a group of interested parties to form a steering committee to determine a solution that would both preserve the Park as a "sylvan retreat from urban pressures" and provide access to

a wide spectrum of visitors. Agreed that CVIA, as a Park neighbor, would send a representative to the next meeting.

■ Discussed reported defects in the Cole and Carl mugs sold at the Cole Valley Fair. It was decided data should be gathered regarding dishwasher durability and, if conclusive, they should be returned to producer for refund. Carole Glosenger and David Oates will try to return and get a refund for the remaining ones and if not successful, to report at January meeting. In the meantime, they will be given away to families participating in Santa on Cole with the admonition that they may not be dishwasher safe.

■ Agreed to hold a general membership meeting early in the new year. Suggested agenda: 730 Stanyan ground floor businesses/senior center in completed residential building at that location, projected D-5 navigation center, how to make SF more child friendly, interim use of 730 Stanyan site, GG Park auto restriction, along with possible updates by D-5 supervisor and Park District Police captain.

■ Motion approved to participate the SF Parks Alliance program for the 150th anniversary of Golden Gate Park.

■ Serena Unger, speaking as a member of the SF Pedestrian Safety Advisory Committee, asked the board for suggestions and was told: eliminate right turns on red lights, lower speed limits within the city, promote a campaign to "wear white at night," implement a designated pedestrian crossing on Ninth Avenue leading to the SF Botanical Garden.

■ Shannon Cooper related the tragic death of Shrader Street neighbors Justin Winfrey and Kayla Rodriguez who died in a private plane crash on October 24. (See article on pg. 7.)

CVIA Executive Board: Chuck Canepa, Shannon Cooper Hock, David Crommie, Karen Crommie, Joan Downey, Lena Emmerly, Carole Glosenger, Cathy Haller, Marianne Hesse, Chris Hock, Steven Madrid, David Oates, Edward Walls.

Postscripts

The Haight's first massage studio in recent history has successfully broken through the Planning Department's famous small-business barriers and is now open. Whew. **Iyary Traditional Thai Massage**, at 1711 Haight (between Cole and Shrader), offers a style of body work involving stretching



and deep body massage and is usually performed on the floor. The client wears comfortable clothes that allow for easy movement. No oils are used. It is known in Thailand as "Nuat Phaen Boran," literally, the ancient-manner massage. They charge \$80 for an hour, while "heat herbal compress massage," foot reflexology and

aroma massages are \$90. Founders **Anita and Chanin** have a special promotion of **15 percent off on weekdays** (Monday - Thursday). This will run to the end of the year.

The empty storefront at the corner of Frederick and Stanyan, formerly **Bangkok 900**, has been leased. This prime corner has been calling out for a new restaurant and evidently the message was heard way down on the Peninsula. A San Carlos creole restaurant called **CreoLa** has decided they'll try their luck in the Haight/Cole Valley. Looking at their current menu, they'll be offering the usual seafood gumbo, crawfish hush puppies, cornmeal crusted catfish, buttermilk brined chicken, beignets...I could go on but it's making me hungry.



* * *

UCSF partnered with the **Friends of the Urban Forest (FUF)** to plant 22 trees along Carl Street and Hillway Avenue around the UCSF Parnassus campus in late September. Our thanks to volunteers from UCSF and FUF who worked all day. A few weeks later, it was noted on **Cole Valley-Not So Secret** that some of the fledglings were wilting and charitably credited it to the heat wave. Others reminded us that newly planted trees need to be watered two or three times a week, 20-30 gallons, total during the first two years after planting, followed by half as much for the 3rd year.

* * *

An ad appeared last Spring on the **United Methodist Church** website stating, "The Board of Camping and Retreat Ministries of the California-Nevada Annual Conference is searching for a new site manager for the **Waller Center** in San Francisco. The site manager's position becomes open on May 7, 2019.



Any clergy or lay who's interested in serving in an urban retreat center setting and in a collaborative ministry please send your letter of intent." In a response to my query last week, **Rev. Dr. Fel Cao** wrote, "Unfortunately, our Board

of Camping has not hired yet a new Site Manager for Waller Center. Once we have done so, we will inform you." I wonder why this position hasn't been snapped up? Waller Center, because of its location and square footage, has enormous potential.

* * *

Joan Downey reports that a shared bike rack has been permitted for Frederick and Arguello. She happened to run people protesting the location. The group included Park View Commons residents, Inner Sunset, HANC, and **Greg Gaar**. They were meeting with one of Vallie Brown's aide's to get it moved to the stub end of Arguello, west side, just outside the gate. It would be a lot safer there. The current permitted site is the area Greg wanted closed. Drivers make a right

turn from Arguello onto Frederic there and sometimes go way too fast. Joan submitted a complaint through the **MTA CAC** that the site should be moved and that **CVIA**, the largest organization in the area, was never notified.

* * *

The success of this year's **Cole Valley Fair** was the result of so many hardworking volunteers that I hesitate to start a litany that will inevitably omit some key players, but let me start by thanking **Erica Kajdasz (Midline and Lavation)** who, once again, agreed to take on the endless work of fair organizer; **Jessica Justino**, who spent hours in preparation and mounting her popular Cole Valley history wall, this time featuring Halloween, and ably assisted by **Leah Harper**; **Chis Hock**, who organized the talented performers, and **Chuck Canepa**, whose car show provoked so much interest. Behind them were dozens of other volunteers without whom the fair could never happen.

* * *

CVIA member **Randy Lavinghouse** told us that every fourth Thursday from 6-9 p.m. **Café Reverie** offers wine and beer flights (always fun), as well as performers who rotate monthly. You can listen to the featured **Peter Wolff Quartet**, **Moonshine Jelly** and many other groups while snacking on selections from their special bar menu that pair well with your wine or beer flight. **Kezar Bar and Restaurant** also has occasional music, while **Wooden Coffeehouse** has comedy every fourth Wednesday at 7:30.

* * *

At the Cole Valley Fair, board members weren't just sitting there at the CVIA booth doing nothing, they were selling



CVIA mugs, taking membership renewals, selling off the last of the Cole-Carl T-shirts and (gulp) receiving complaints. Thanks to those who brought up (1) the lack of a trash can at the Cole and Carl light rail stop (2) the burned-out lights in the Muni Park, and (3) the over-loud volume of the new Sieman

N-Judah car announcements at transit stops (especially at night). (4) too many bike and scooter docks. We dutifully followed up on all these things and are grateful for the information.

* * *

Thanks to all members who attended this year's summer Social. It was a grand event, bringing together members from all over the greater Haight Ashbury. But special thanks to **Leah Garchik** who, with typical fearlessness offered her view on the proposed Navigation Center. **Supervisor**



Vallie Brown gave a comprehensive update on D5, while then-candidate **Dean Preston**, a guest of **Christin Evans**,

Letters

Dear CVIA,

I want to thank you for offering the (discounted) tickets to the symphony. My husband and I attended last night. The performance was terrific. We are so lucky to have such an accomplished symphony and of course, a stellar conductor.

Diane Silver

Dear CVIA,

There are many stories behind a person's decision to share their home: A retired teacher has a spare bedroom in her single-family home, and could use help with household chores. An artist needs supplemental income to meet mortgage payments, and would enjoy company over morning coffee. If you know someone who wants to share their space or someone who is looking for a new home, let them know about Home Match.

To make compatible matches, Home Match SF connects people based on lifestyle preferences. Our staff screens applicants through interviews, background checks, and home visits. Staff also helps design a Living Together Agreement and offers ongoing support. As a joint program of Covia and Sequoia Living, two Bay Area nonprofits, Home Match SF is a free service, with funding by the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development.

For more information, please call 415-351-1000 or email: info@homematchsf.org, or visit or website at homematchsf.org

Carmen Chu
SF Assessor

Help

- Emergency911
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- Blocked Driveways.....415-553-1200
- Abandoned Vehicles415-781-5865
- Health Department415-255-3610
- Litter Patrol (sofas, mattresses, etc.)311
- Graffiti and Illegal Sign Removal311
- NextBus311
- Street Lighting415-554-0730

Mayor London Breed.....415-554-6141
City Hall - Room 200
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
S.F., CA 94102

Chief of Police William "Bill" Scott415-553-1551
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* Until January 8, 2020

CVIA Officers

- President.....Lena Emmery
- Vice PresidentCathy Haller
- TreasurerJoan Downey
- Recording SecretaryKaren Crommie
- MembershipLena Emmery
- Special ProjectsJoan Downey, Steven Madrid
David Oats, Chris Hock, Shannon Cooper Hock

CVIANEWS is published quarterly as a forum for residents of Cole Valley and the greater Haight Ashbury neighborhood. The views expressed reflect those of the writers. Contributions for the Spring edition should be sent before February 1, 2020 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.

EditorKaren Crommie
Production.....David Crommie
Editorial AssistanceJoan Downey

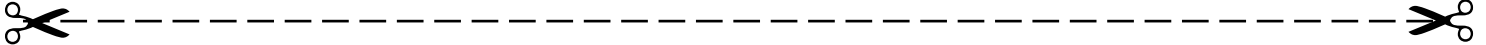
If you would prefer to receive this newsletter by email, please let us know at CVIASF@aol.com

BECOME A CVIA MEMBER

Membership in the Cole Valley Improvement Association is open to anyone interested in the greater Haight Ashbury. CVIA's mission is to promote a sense of responsibility and mutual respect throughout the district; preserve the character of its architecture; support the police in law enforcement efforts; encourage neighborhood-serving business; and be

constructively involved in San Francisco's governmental process. Annual dues are \$25.00. Membership provides contact with other responsible neighbors, a quarterly newsletter and participation in an active forum for effecting change. If you would like to become a member, please send in your dues with the form below.

Please clip and mail the coupon below to CVIA, P.O. Box 170611, San Francisco, CA 94117



Yes! I'd like to become a CVIA member!

Here's my check for \$25.00 made payable to: COLE VALLEY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION Renewal

NAME _____ E-MAIL _____

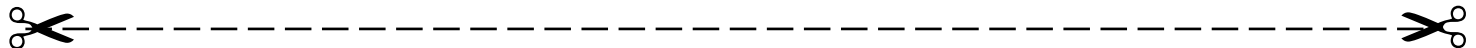
ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____

What I like about the neighborhood: _____

What I dislike about the neighborhood: _____

Optional contribution to Cole sidewalk cleaning \$_____ Do NOT acknowledge my contribution in the newsletter

Dues 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

