

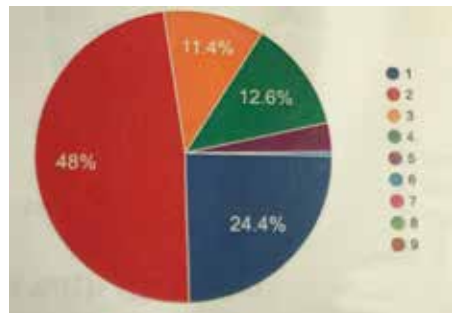
CVIA NEWS

COLE VALLEY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Volume XLI SERVING ALL RESIDENTS OF COLE VALLEY AND HAIGHT ASHBURY WINTER 2022

Neighborhood Survey: The Klosterman Report

A recent neighborhood survey showed an overwhelming concern for finding a solution to homelessness, followed by the importance of parks (maintenance and improvement), and protection of natural resources. Public safety was a close third. Least important was preserving residential housing stock, the equal distribution of social services throughout the city, and opportunities to participate in neighborhood events. The survey shows the largest differential occurring between age groups and length of residency.



Forty-eight percent of respondents live in a two person household. (All data in full color at CVIASF.org—in the blog tab.)

Some 253 people took the opinion poll created by Joe Klosterman and distributed via the CVIA website, member email, Cole Valley a not-so-secret-neighborhood (Facebook.com) between September 12 and October 12, and also by handouts (with QR code) at CVIA's booth at the Cole Valley Fair. The complete analysis can be viewed in full color on our website CVIASF.org. Some "takeaways" might surprise you, others, not.

Among CVIA's activities, the most valued was our support of local merchants, the Clean Cole project and, only then, the CVIA newsletter. (I didn't take it personally since only 45 percent of respondents were CVIA members). The closure of JFK Drive, now a moot point, was strongly favored by residents under 65 (congrats, folks). Most people who had "little or no interest" in the development of 730 Stanyan were also those who wanted JFK closed while those who were concerned about its scale tended to be older and have lived here longer. And yet, when respondents were asked to rank their concerns open-ended, without categories, 730 Stanyan came out on top, followed by street cleanliness, graffiti, crime and expansion of UCSF. Of least interest was JFK Drive.

As you go through this fascinating poll, keep in mind that this was open to all residents of Cole Valley and Haight Ashbury, not simply CVIA members. We were very fortunate to have a person of Joe Klosterman's experience and expertise to take this pulse of the broader Cole Valley-Haight Ashbury neighborhood. He has already offered to do it again next fall so that we can observe any changes.

—Karen Crommie

Padrecito Says Goodbye, in the Nicest Possible Way

I wanted to share that the closing of Padrecito isn't a story of a landlord or anything of that nature as the new owner of the building has been wonderful. It's a story of the economics not working for Padrecito in this new restaurant climate. As opposed to letting our quality and integrity for service and products slip, we want to be sure we finish how we started, with pride for our food, drinks, service and our team and that means closing now with those standards in place.



Padrecito with its imaginative menu enlivened the corner of Cole and Carl and will be greatly missed.

At this point there isn't a plan for the space as I want to be sure to concentrate on our team and these last few days in this wonderful community and neighborhood.

I want to say thank you from the whole Padrecito family. We have been a part of so many of your moments and have watched and been a part of your family gatherings and your and our families growing before our eyes.

Cole Valley is wonderful and we are so honored to have been a part of it fabric for these past 10 years.

With love and admiration, —Nate Valentine

Ed. note: Back at you, Nate. Your constant support of Clean Cole and responsiveness to all our requests over the years is deeply appreciated and will never be forgotten.

INSIDE

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Board Minutes.....8 | Memoriam: Deborah Robbins..9 |
| Captain Hart on Policing.....6 | Neighborhood Heroes10 |
| Call for News3 | Postscripts9 |
| Cole Valley Perfumer5 | Police Meeting3 |
| Dining Cold.....5 | Simple Opens2 |
| Haight Street Lights7 | Sutro Stewards Need Help6 |
| Help.....11 | Supporters11 |
| Holiday Shopping7 | Trees v Walkers.....4 |
| Lighted Park Sculptures.....2 | Waller Skate Park Upgrade.....5 |
| Mellow & Barbers.....3 | Windscreens at Rail Stop.....3 |

Lighted Sculptures to Return

The display of colorful illuminated tree-like sculptures will once again light up Peacock Meadow in Golden Gate Park this winter. Beginning December 1, the small area approximately across from the Conservatory of Flowers, will be the site of the heart-quickenning installation, complete with new upgrades. This otherworldly ecosystem of glowing trees, bushes, and other natural elements was created by Charles Gadeken from colorful pixel-like LED lights. The



More than 2000 LED bulbs clustered into flowering bushes at varying heights will fill Peacock Meadow (opposite the Conservatory of Flowers).

trees range from 8 to 20 feet tall, accompanied by dozens of glowing flower clusters and bushes to create a beautiful meadow landscape.

There are also visual effects such as ripples in a pond, raindrops, and wind blowing tall grass and flowers. The installation includes 150 lighting patterns with hundreds of variations, and an accompanying audio system brings another level of immersion to the otherworldly meadow. But this year is all about increased interactivity, including a “fallen



tree” seating area, smaller pieces by other artists scattered throughout and QR codes that allow visitors to program their own color patterns and sequencing. Also new will be twice a week performances such as the tap-dancing Christmas trees on December 9 from 5 to 8 pm and other engaging art activations. Go to SF Parks Alliance website for details.

Ed. note—Bringing a thermos of hot toddies somehow braces one against the cold night air and adds to the magic.

ANNUAL HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING
Thursday, December 1 from 5 to 10 pm
McLaren Lodge, Golden Gate Park

There's a Tavern in the Town

Since Kezar Bar and Restaurant reopened in April, as Cole Valley Tavern, it's been packed. At least when I've been there. The menu has everything to renounce your diet from deviled eggs to French onion grilled cheese, hot chicken salad, mac and cheese (be still my heart) and cocktails that start with the old standards and culminate in “Ladymade” with not-so-ladylike ingredients of spirits made by women. Thanks to Jim Angelus, who joined Steve Schick nearly two years ago, for finding that elusive secret sauce (figurative) that makes people want to come back. New addition is a side take-out door dispensing soft serve ice cream from Straus Family Creamery. And it's a hell of a lot better than the Dairy Queen of our youth.

—Karen Crommie



Photo: Jason Chinn, SF Parks Alliance

Simple Opens in Bulk

After passing the empty storefront at Carl and Stanyan for 6 years, it was a pleasure to see a unique zero-waste store open in November. Simple is a neighborhood eco-market that offers a full range of zero-waste items, including a large selection of refillable products for the home and body, with a focus on local goods and local makers.

Abbe Clemons, the proprietor, is a Cole Valley mom with a background in environmental planning. She's knowledgeable about her products and has interesting stories about many of them. She's passionate about her mission to serve the community and, ultimately, the planet by eliminating waste in the form of single-use plastics;



Abbe Clemons is no fan of single use plastics.

consciously choosing items that are safe for the environment, our bodies, and our homes. She's super-friendly and eager to meet the neighbors so stop by and say hello.

You can use your own containers for the refillable items or use the containers there. You can also bring in your extra containers that will be cleaned for others to use. There are lots of interesting zero-waste products—dishcloths; scrub-pockets that use soap pieces; razors where the blades can be returned and are made into picnic utensils; and many more. What's next? Olive oil? Wine? Workshops, classes, and community gatherings are planned for the near future. Check out Simple on instagram @simpleshop.sf and the web at simple-sf.com.

—Joan Downey

Windscreens at N-Judah Stop

The pale green panels separating the benches at Cole and Carl are still graffitied after repeated attempts to have them cleaned. After both MTA and DPW denied responsibility,



CVIA Treasurer Joan Downey asked the CleanScapes (Recology) team, whom we pay for daily cleaning of the commercial area of Cole Street, to try to remove the defacing

marks. Unfortunately, they made it worse—removing the texture of the glass and clouding it. Manager Mike Grizzle wrote on October 25, “I had another worker out there recently to make some progress. He said there was more graffiti but was able to clean up some of the fogginess on the windscreens.

“The only issue right now is the manpower that’s needed. We are using a solution but it needs to be applied with a rag and pressure. For example when Leo was out there, he worked on a corner of one panel and it took him over an hour. I’m trying to find some time to work on it but haven’t had the capacity.”

The unanswered question is, why was a material that can’t be cleaned of graffiti used in the first place?

The newly configured bus stop was not Recology’s idea but rather part of the Department of Public Works “Inner Sunset Streetscape Improvement Project.” But DPW did not respond to our complaints. Just this week CVIA president Carole Glosenger reported that, after two months, MTA finally took responsibility. We are watching and waiting.

—Karen Crommie

POLICE COMMUNITY FORUM

Captain Jack Hart holds community forums the Fourth Wednesday of every month (except December) from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. He gives briefings on upcoming permitted events, reviews neighborhood criminal activity, and addresses the safety concerns of residents. It’s an excellent way to stay in touch with what’s going on in the neighborhood. The meetings are held at Park Station’s Community Room (1899 Waller).



November 23, January 25, February 22.
Mark Your Calendar

Welcome Mellow & Barbers

You may have noticed a new business at 103 Carl Street that has recently joined the list of Cole Valley merchants. Mellow & Barbers opened their doors on October 1, 2022 and has so far received a warm welcome from the neighborhood.

I spoke with co-owner Jonah Vocal, who recently teamed up with owners of The Mellow on Haight Street—a plant store that focuses on indoor locally sourced houseplants and “plantcessories” to start this new venture. He said they wanted to create a barbershop that was all about



Need a haircut? Call Mellow & Barbers at 415-891-0307.

quality and great customer service. They wanted to create an experience, “a place where you can get a haircut or a shave and enjoy the atmosphere.”

Specializing in barber haircuts, short scissor cuts and shaves, they also have a retail section where they invite you to shop or browse—even if you’re not getting a haircut. They offer a wide array of items such as candles, soaps, incense, scented oils and even house plants—which isn’t surprising.

Jonah, who has been cutting hair for 11 years, is from the Bay Area, and currently lives in the Inner Sunset with his wife and one-year-old daughter. He invites you to drop by, say hi, enjoy the mellow tunes and browse their retail goods and plants.

He also mentioned that over the coming months they will be adding more barbers and products. Which, by the way, makes this another great stop on your local gift buying tour this holiday season. For more information go to mellowandbarbers.com or [instagram.com/mellowandbarbers](https://www.instagram.com/mellowandbarbers).

—Shannon Cooper

Call for News

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



Trees versus Pedestrians

The number of broken pavement squares on Cole Valley sidewalks is deeply distressing to older walkers, not to mention exuberant youth—only their bones heal quicker. The overwhelming majority of these are caused by tree roots struggling to expand beneath the surface. And the problem is only going to get worse—the city’s “Urban Vision” has a



goal of increasing street trees by 50 percent. We love our trees so what’s the solution?

San Francisco approved Proposition E in November 2016 with 79

percent support, amending the City Charter to transfer responsibility for the care of the City’s 124,000-plus trees and surrounding sidewalks from property owners to the Department of Public Works. The transformative ballot measure took effect July 1, 2017.

Voters approved a \$19 million annual set-aside in the City’s General Fund, adjusted annually based on city revenues, to fund StreetTreeSF.

But as for paying for sidewalks broken by tree growth, the City will only take responsibility if the damage happened after July 1, 2017. And with a greatly reduced tax revenue due to massive vacancies in downtown office buildings, potential General Fund coffers are shrinking daily.

The frustration is that most solutions had to be enacted before the tree was planted: proper species selection, tree wells, root barriers, and better built sidewalks, such as a gravel bed under the pavement are some of the considerations.

So, no problem. You’ve got a tree planted after 2017, your sidewalk is buckling, you have proof of planting date, you just call DPW, right? Wrong. The department receives approximately 23,000 requests per month. The waiting list is so long you may have moved on to The Sequoias before your name comes up.

A Google search will find plenty of commercial firms that can help, so long as you can meet their fee. Don’t just start sawing off roots, you need a tree pro for that. Begin by going to Sidewalk Repair and Tree Root Removal on SFgate.com. You’ll get a grounding (sorry) in the issues involved. YouTube also has demonstrations of DIY solutions—go to Sidewalk Repair from Tree Root Damage.



But, before you decide what to do, first make contact with DPW’s Department of Street-Use and Mapping (415-554-5810 or 415-554-6161) or go to sfpublicworks.com and follow prompts to Sidewalk Inspection and Repair Program. This is what will happen:

1. You will receive an informational packet describ-

ing how to identify sidewalk defects and make code compliant repairs.

2. A sidewalk inspector will survey sidewalks based on pedestrian usage, proximity to MUNI routes, hospitals, schools, etc.: Guidelines for Inspection - Public Works Order 178,884.

3. Property owner will receive a notice to repair (NTR),

4. Owner can immediately make the repairs, or will be given the option to take part in a competitively-bid sidewalk contract administered through the Department of Public Works.

5. Property owners who qualify under economic hardship may apply for a deferred payment plan up to \$5,000.

This is one of the many responsibilities of home ownership that we tend to defer. But it is also part of being a responsible member of the best community in San Francisco.

Mad Dog Finally Howls

Since our last newsletter, Irish bar Michael Collins (earlier Martain Mack’s and a few others in between), shuttered last year, has been refurbished and reopened as The Mad Dog in the Fog (1568 Haight). You might remember its nearly 30-year location in the lower Haight. This didn’t exactly come as a surprise, since we knew about owner Cyril Hackett’s plans and reported it here in our Spring, edition.

Hackett is one cool dude. When the Mayor closed all bars and restaurants during COVID, he announced on Facebook, “The Mad Dog In The Fog is taking a nap. We will



Cyril Hackett transplanted his watering hole.

return louder and more wicked.” Within three days he closed down the bar and took the opportunity for a little respite, biding his time until he could reopen in the Haight Ashbury In August of this year.

This really is a sports bar par excellence with multiple TVs and an avid clientele who never have to ask “whose playing?” or what the score is. Well, unless it’s me. It’s cash only which is a little tricky in this plastic world. But that doesn’t seem to cramp its style, in fact it’s a quirk that customers have warmed to.

—Karen Crommie

CVIANEWS is published quarterly as a forum for residents of Cole Valley and Haight Ashbury. The views expressed reflect those of the writers. Contributions for the Spring edition should be sent before February 1, 2023 to CVIASF@aol.com. We encourage submissions from anyone interested in our neighborhood. Send questions or comments to the above address or call 415-431-1414.

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Waller Skate Park Reopens

Skateboarders and neighbors celebrated recent improvements to the Waller Street Skate Park on October 25, a project spearheaded by local skaters who helped shape its inclusive design that honors its street skateboarding roots.

The skateboarding area on the eastern edge of Golden Gate Park has been beloved since 2011, despite its cracked surface and markings leftover from days as a parking lot. The \$218,000 upgrade unveiled last month isn't just a makeover but a transformation of the area from informal gathering spot to officially sanctioned skate park. It's the



Photo: SF Rec and Park

Former Skateboarding Taskforce Chair Ted Loewenberg advocated for the skateboarders when many neighbors were opposed.

tempted to stop skaters from grinding the edges and corners were removed.

A special thanks to the skate community that made this project possible, including Low Key San Francisco, DLX Skateshop, The Skatepark Project, San Francisco Skate Club, Mission Skateboards, FTC, Thrasher Magazine, and more.

Why Do We Have to Dine Cold?

It's looking like the worst days of the pandemic are behind us. Foodies are ready to move away from eating their favorite dishes out of a plastic to-go container. Restaurants continue to get their feet back under them as the majority of San Francisco residents have been vaccinated and mask mandates are dropped. In short, the pre-pandemic dining experience is back in San Francisco ... or is it?

If you, like me, cherish the pre 2020 days of dining in San Francisco, you couldn't wait to return to your favorite restaurant—the smells from the kitchen wafting through an



COVID fears prompt open doors and windows.

old, warmly familiar dining room buzzing with the pulse of other dinners. Dining out always was as much about the experience as the food. Unfortunately, returning back to San Francisco restaurants today often seems more like an experience akin to a fast food take-out joint than an actual dining experience.

Maybe you've noticed this too? You settle at a restaurant table, anticipating the meal, but realize you're freezing your ass off because all the doors and win-

dows are wide open and tables are still in disarray. Some still due to the COVID spacing requirements, others because of takeout orders lined up for pick up, others just discombobulated between half-in and half-out of COVID



Orders awaiting pick-up lend a fast food ambiance.

dining restrictions. You notice you are no longer eating next to other fellow experience-seekers, but giant jars of hand sanitizer and extra to-go containers.

Yep, you're "dining cold" my friend. In that light, I have one ask for our neighborhood restaurants: let's make Cole Valley cozy. When evening and Karl descend over our 'hood, close your doors, shut the windows, lower the lights, turn up the heat, and remove all the take-out stuff from your dining room. Let's get back to dining experiences that offer warm Gemütlichkeit. Folks that need to be sensitive to the impact of COVID—it's still very real—can continue to enjoy outdoor seating.

—Chris Hock

Cole Valley Perfumer Inspires

Among the many bright lights living in our neighborhood, and probably the most unusual, is a professional "nose." Ineke Rühland is a classically-trained perfumer creating original fragrances in her independent studio in Cole Valley. After working in the Netherlands, England and France, she found herself passionately drawn to the creative role of the professional nose and studied perfumery



Ineke Rühland is a professional "nose."

at Institut Supérieur International du Parfum, de la Cosmétique et de l'Aromatique Alimentaire in Versailles. Ever since Jean-Jacques Guerlain founded ISIP-CA in 1970, the school has trained professionals who have become renowned for their precision, and creativity

and, as a result, further expanded the influence of French scent as a worldwide benchmark. I first encountered her fragrance years ago at Gump's, never thinking that its creator lived right here among us.

Ineke is married to Bill O'Such, the tech genius and frequent contributor of stunning photographs on Facebook at [colevalley-a-not-so-secret-neighborhood](https://www.facebook.com/colevalley-a-not-so-secret-neighborhood). The couple maintain their connections to Paris and enjoy speaking French with Cole Valley locals. You can sample Ineke's fragrances through her sample collection available at www.ineke.com.

—Karen Crommie

Sutro Stewards Gets Boost from Craig, But Only if We Act

It's happening. Craig Newmark has donated \$25,000 in a matching grant to restore Woodland Canyon Creek on our own Mount Sutro.

As summer came to a close, Sutro Stewards took Craig Newmark, the founder of Craigslist, on a walk of Woodland Canyon. We stopped to appreciate native plants like red elderberry and California polypody fern, we talked about climate change and cyber security and pondered sure signs



Even though Craig Newmark has moved on to the national stage, he hasn't forgotten Cole Valley.

of water in the Canyon. While there are outflow drains and our trail crews have built channels to direct the flow, no water was seen on our August walk. Woodland Canyon Creek is a seasonal creek that begins on the summit of Mount Sutro in two tributaries and flows through valleys and gullies, until it converges deep in the canyon.

Water flows in the winter but is hidden under massive amounts of invasive Himalayan blackberry, cape ivy, and English ivy crawling along the rocky creek bed and up the trunks of dead and dying eucalyptus trees. This is changing. On June 18th, we had our first volunteer day to clear the creek bed of invasive overgrowth and three months later we had our first commitment to funding for the project. Craig Newmark will match dollar for dollar, any donation that comes in, up to \$25,000. This will help us grow plants for the canyon, clear out invasive species, organize neighbors and advocate for inter-agency action to restore the creek while we collaborate with our partners, UCSF and SF Rec and Park for long-term stewardship and near term impact. Finally, we will plant native, biodiversity enhancing, river-loving plants with the winter rains. Check out our campaign video and follow up with a donation today, at sutrostewards.org. Or send your contribution to Parks Alliance, Attn: Park Partners Program/Sutro Stewards, 1074 Folsom St., San Francisco, CA 94103.

—Idiko Polony, Director
Sutro Stewards

Congratulations to **Mendel's Art Supply** for being voted a Haight Ashbury legacy business in a contest fostered by San Francisco Heritage. We love the "far out fabrics" and all things crafts that has continued to support neighborhood creativity since the 60s. Founded by the Her-cowitz family, daughter Bette took over the store in 1978 and continued to run it until her untimely death in 2013. But that wasn't the end of Mendel's, as sister Naomi continued to carry on in grand style.

Heart to Heart with Captain Hart

Park Station's Captain Jack Hart recently received an email from a community member who was concerned about the behavior of officers who seemed to ignore a blatant traffic violation committed by dirt bikes. While there is nothing complicated about effecting a traffic stop, the complexities involved in that simple act left the officers paralyzed (and to large extent prohibited) from acting and the concerned onlooker aghast.

Below are excerpts from Captain Hart's response:

"When I first came into the Police Department, we had a clear mission: make arrests so that the arrestees are not tomorrow's victim or today's suspect. While on its face very noble, it led to a "catch them at all costs" mindset which led to San Francisco officer and civilian fatalities in high speed pursuits. As time has evolved and sanctity of life has become the top priority, policy, law, and best practices evolved into "weigh the benefits of apprehension versus an unreasonable risk to the public." This "balancing test" dictates that officers may not initiate—and that's a key term here—or continue a pursuit for infractions, misdemeanors, or non-violent felonies that didn't meet that balancing test.

"Frankly, I'm not a fan of this policy as it is written by attorneys—I am one, so I can say that—who recognize the legal maxim: "when there is no duty to act, there is no civil liability." Remarkably, there is no legal duty for a police officer to act. So, instead of dealing with nuanced situations individually based on the totality of the circumstances—and then by law and policy extending protections to officers for taking risks—we have general policies and laws that limit discretion, common sense, and even Aristotle's Practical Wisdom. *

"Policing has been at the crossroads and a reckoning of its identity—and the expectations placed on it by communities—since Ferguson in 2014. The past eight years have left us questioning ourselves and this profession. The "great resignation" has hit our department hard and left us with some policies and laws that have handcuffed us, for lack of a better term. As we struggle to regain our identity and learn what "govern with the consent of the people" means in 2022, we will sometimes miss the mark in satisfying all of our constituents while we battle competing interests of law, policy, culture, and society writ large.

"I will check into this incident and determine if it was documented or whether any additional investigative leads were gathered (often times these motorcycles don't have license plates), but we work hard to arrest and cite violators at a later time when we can and when the evidence supports it. At the end of the day, I am in the human motivation and accountability business. As captain, I will speak to my staff about this incident to determine if we could have done better in the moment and in the follow up of this incident."

The Captain's letter goes on to assure the neighbor that he will further investigate the complaint. But it is important for all of us to understand the restraint under which police officers perform their duties and the number of well-meaning laws that have been enacted to protect the civil rights of the perpetrator.

Ed. note: Aristotle's Practical Wisdom (phronesis) is the intellectual virtue of perceiving and understanding in effective ways and acting benevolently and beneficently.

Everyone Wants Colored Lights Along Haight Street, Right?

It was mid-August when I first noticed a fellow attaching bands to the new pedestrian light poles along Haight Street between Clayton and Ashbury and then attaching strings of globes. It was the beginning of a new art installation along the Haight Ashbury merchant corridor. The illuminated sculpture is called “Afterglow” and it is the creation of Joshua Hubert. He has been commissioned by the Haight Ashbury Merchant Association in partnership with the SF Chamber of Commerce. As a resident on Haight Street for 37 years, I was surprised that there had not been more community outreach regarding this project. After the installation was already in progress, I was able to find out the following.

“Afterglow” is described as “the phenomena of atmospheric light after the sun goes down or the serenity state after coming down from taking a psychedelic, and metaphorically reflecting on the events and energy of the past while envisioning the creation of a better future.”

Custom programmable LED globe lighting fixtures are being strung overhead between the street poles in a continuous synced display of colored light patterns that flow and



Photo: Susan Strolis

Lighting designer Joshua Hubert has programmed the lights to subtly change tone.

pulse along the 0.45 mile span of Haight between Stanyan Street and Central Avenue.

Each block will require a power outlet supplied from a local merchant that will use a 60w-100w IP68 waterproof 24 volt power supply to power the LEDs. Each power supply will have an Astronomic Timer that will adjust automatically to turn on/off with the changing sunset throughout the year. Each of the 16 zones will each get their own LED controller with a radio frequency receiver.

A Master LED controller with radio frequency transmitter will be placed in zone 5 in the middle of the installation that will be used to change patterns and sync the controllers in all zones. The controllers, timers, power supplies, and aircraft cables will be tethered to the poles using steel banding. The installation is accessible by ladder and won't need public sidewalk closure. The light sculpture will be illuminated from dusk until 2 am.

Since this project is planned to be hanging around for a while (2027), it is hoped that the budget includes the cost for maintenance and removal. (The rainbow fairy lights in-

stalled in previous years by the Haight Ashbury Merchants Association still remain wrapped around the trees although they are no longer functional. If aesthetics are a concern then those lights should be removed.)

Is the budget and financial information for this public record? Who decided that it was a 5 year project? Who will decide on its success? Whom does one contact if maintenance issues do arise?
—Susan Strolis

Keep Neighborhood Thriving

As the holiday shopping season has begun, I want to remind everyone how important it is to shop and dine locally. Part of what makes San Francisco special is the individual neighborhoods that make up our city. But unless we keep the merchants in business we will lose that charm.

Unfortunately, we have seen several closures recently—most notably Pharmaca. To quote Camden Avery in a Hoodline article about the earlier closing of MadKat cosmetics store, “The reason for the closure was simple: People are shopping on Amazon...they just aren't coming in the door.”

So let's take the opportunity this season to help keep our community thriving and our merchants in business by shopping and dining here.

Some of my favorite gift ideas are: take a friend out or give them a gift certificate for breakfast, lunch, dinner, cocktails or ice cream to one of our amazing restaurants, cafes or coffee shops. Make your own gift baskets with delightful treats from Say Cheese, Val de Cole or Luke's Local. Cole Valley Pets has dozens of treats and toys for cats and dogs.

Explore the aisle and shelves of Cole Hardware for endless gifts. Check out Simple (see story on page 2) for



Nothing puts you in the holiday mood so much as the scent of Cole Hardware's forest of Christmas trees.

eco friendly and bulk items like soaps and lotions. Give a gym membership or a yoga class. Give flowers from one of the amazing flower stands or florists—Dasluz, Francis and Frances or Adel's.

So before you hit the buy button on that online store, check out the merchants in Cole Valley and Haight Ashbury, including the Inner Sunset. Let's keep our neighborhoods alive and thriving.
—Shannon Cooper

Park Branch Library Open Hours

(1833 Page Street)

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|------|------|------|------|-----|------|
| 1-5 | 12-6 | 10-9 | 12-8 | 10-6 | 1-6 | 10-6 |

CVIA Board Minutes

Every meeting begins with a reading of the minutes of the last meeting and reports from delegates to the Kezar Stadium Advisory Committee (KSAC), Community Police Advisory Board (CPAB), Waller Center Advisory Committee.

Board Meeting – September 8, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. Home of Carole Glosenger

■ Treasurer Joan Downey submitted a report that CVIA currently has a bank balance of \$17,407.05, with \$6,799.57 held in the Clean Cole Street fund, and \$4,667.20 in an account (as fiscal sponsor) for the Stanyan Parklet (American Cyclery).

■ Lena Emmery discussed a simple bicycle safety measure from the Netherlands that she intends to present to Police Advisory Board, involving a technique for opening a car door from the driver's seat with your right hand so that bicycle riders in the adjoining traffic lane are visible.

■ Agreed to send a letter to all supervisors reporting the lack of response from Rec and Park to numerous letters condemning the continuing use of diesel fuel to run the SkyStar, irrespective of carbon transmissions, when alternatives are available.

■ Joan Downey reported that, after spending millions of taxpayer dollars on streetscaping intersections in Cole Valley, there has been a complete lack of response by city agencies to reports of graffiti at the N-Judah stop at Cole and Carl. SFMuni, DPW, and Clear Channel have all said, "Not my job."

■ 730 Stanyan developers who are holding a meeting next week for community feedback on public art planned for its affordable housing project is disingenuous when the real need is for a meeting on the abrupt addition of two stories, from six to eight floors and expanding capacity to 160 units.

■ Carole Glosenger to arrange for an in-person meeting with the Mayor to discuss the issue above.

■ Discussed the recent Summer Social, given for the first time at Finnegans Wake with catering from Say Cheese. Generally it was judged a success, with over 50 people attending and most remaining until the 4:00 o'clock end. Speakers were Supervisor Mandelman, DA Brooke Jenkins and CVIA member Joe Klosterman. Next time: less food, keep sound system on until end, have CVIA President announce closing time (rather than venue management) and have the president cut off questions after a set amount of time with, "one more question."

■ Discussed the resumption of Santa on Cole, the Christmas photo op for families, kids and dogs. Primary among the concerns were exposure to both children and Santa to COVID. Chuck Canepa, who traditionally plays Santa, was willing to carry on again this year so we are going ahead with plans to stage the event on Sunday, November 30 or December 4, depending on the generosity of Maryo Mogannam, owner of Postal Chase, and the availability of the photographer, Sasha Yeveley, replacing Loic Nicolas, who came up with the idea years ago but has retired.

■ Because members have reported difficulty renewing membership through the CVIA website, Carole agreed to ask Britany Edwards for assistance in troubleshooting the existing Squarespace program.

■ Discussed the upcoming Cole Street Fair (September 25) and the specific tasks each board member would perform in running the booth. Joan volunteered to have two posters (11x17) made for display showing the boundaries of CVIA, making it clear to fairgoers that our concerns cover the greater Haight Ashbury, not just Cole Valley. David Crommie to design/produce a file on Photoshop for submission to printer. Joan will also post it on the CVIA website. Discussed details of displays in booth including mugs, T-shirts, newsletters and responsibility of bringing numerous supplies. Joan will also produce cards imprinted with QR access to give out at booth, encouraging fairgoers to participate in the neighborhood survey produced by Joe Klosterman.

■ Joe said he was ready to launch the above survey, which polls resident priorities on current issues. He will leave it up until October 5. Joan to distribute access to an expanded membership list via Mailchimp and on the CVIA website. Note: Joe will miss the next Board meeting.

Adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Board Meeting—October 3, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. Home of Karen & David Crommie

Guest: CVIA member Christopher Morales

■ Treasurer Joan Downey submitted a report that CVIA currently has a bank balance of \$19,324.32, with \$5,203.99 held in the Clean Cole Street fund, and \$4,667.20 in an account (as fiscal sponsor) for the Stanyan Parklet (American Cyclery).

■ Lena Emmery reported on Captain Jack Hart's efforts to cite motorists running through stop signs in the neighborhood, something ignored for years and now receiving flack.

■ Discussed the defaced panels at the Cole and Carl N Judah stop. (See article on page 3.)

■ Discussed probable tenants for the neighborhood's darkened storefronts. Mane Attractions has become a barber shop "Mellow & Barbers," Pharmaca, to close soon, is rumored to become a dog grooming service, and Siam Lotus on Haight Street, has already reopened as a very promising Asian restaurant called Papa's.

■ In response to our latest letter to Mayor London Breed and her Office of Housing and Community Development, stating our objections to adding two extra stories to 730 Stanyan, CVIA president Carole Glosenger received a reply from Kyra Geithman@MOHCD on August 23 saying that the mayor is familiar with the building design and there will be no changes. They are using the SB35 provision offering a "height bonus" to 100% affordable buildings. "We don't want all the housing projects to be south of market," she said. Carole had requested a virtual meeting regarding the additional two floors but it seemed that everyone from the head of the MOHCD to the Mayor herself was immovable.

■ An evaluation of the CVIA booth at the Cole Valley Fair showed (unsurprisingly) that having things to sell or give away brought more activity to the booth. Discussed ordering another batch of better quality CVIA mugs and a limited selection of T-shirts, using the old "Cole and Carl" design but in different colors. Shannon to provide current favorite brand of high quality Tee. We also felt we should buy a

Fair sponsorship next year (with larger credit) and raise the height of the tent. Several members felt CVIA should assist Fair producers with poster/T-shirt design, advance notifications of car towing on the Fair streets, participation of the popular “Twee-Twee” creator of balloon animal and Frog Tree Treks, presenting live petting animals.

■ Discussed distribution of the Santa on Cole postcards and decided Board members would deliver them by hand during the week of November 13. Joan to recommend routes.

Adjourned 9:15

Board Meeting—November 7, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. Home of Shannon Cooper and Chris Hock

■ Treasurer Joan Downey reported that CVIA currently has a bank balance of \$18,282.79, with \$5,688.99 held in the Clean Cole Street fund, and \$4,667.20 in an account (as fiscal sponsor) for the Stanyan Parklet (American Cyclery).

■ Joe Klosterman walked us through the resident survey he just completed. Most of the meeting was a discussion of its findings. Board members thanked him for taking the pulse of the wider community. (See page 1 for highlights and see the full survey at cviasf.org.)

■ Joan Downey and Carole Glosenger brought the Board up to date on attempts to have graffiti removed from the N-Judah stop (Cole/Carl) wind screens; the City’s failure to replace the missing tree; and the dire condition of the Cole Street newsracks. Frustration with lack of response brought forth new ideas—to be continued at next meeting.

■ Discussed content of the Winter issue of the newsletter and schedule for pick-up, addressing, mailing, etc.

■ Agreed to send members a reminder of the UCSF community meeting on November 9 and a meeting updating the 730 Stanyan affordable housing project to be held the Park Branch Library on November 16 at 6 pm.

Adjourned at 9:30

—Karen Crommie

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

Deborah L. Robbins

Deborah Robbins, a longtime member of CVIA, passed away in June of this year. With ultimate restraint and a good deal of style, her obituary said only this:

“Deborah has returned to the infinite pattern of things. She died in full control of her life, acknowledging immeasurable gratitude for the love she received from all and the love she enjoyed offering to all.”

Ready, Set . . . No Go

Regretfully, the CVIA Board has had to cancel the Santa on Cole event, scheduled for December 4. We debated long and hard on the risks/rewards of holding the Santa photo session.

With the expected winter surge of COVID, seasonal flu and the respiratory virus that targets very young children, we felt that the opportunity for a super spreader event outweighed the benefit.

We are grateful that Sasha Yeveley was willing to be our photographer and then was so gracious when we had



Santa was willing, but the Board said no!

to cancel—he has promised to return next year. If you need photos of your event you can contact him at info@Sashaphotography.com.

In addition, our thanks goes to Postal Chase owner Maryo Moggannam for his ongoing support of Santa on Cole by

allowing us the use of his store to host Santa and his guests.

Meanwhile, we wish happy holidays to all. We will miss seeing all the kids (young, old and canine) dressed in their holiday best and look forward to a healthy 2023.

—Lena Emery

Postscripts



The parklet in front of Gus’s market is being rebuilt—this time with allowances for rainfall to flow through the sidewalk’s gutter. Although the store’s expansion into the adjoining storefront (the former Haight Ash-

bury Music) is far from complete, the outdoor seating will be an important addition to Haight’s social landscape as people eat from Gus’s soon-to-be wide-ranging take-out menu.

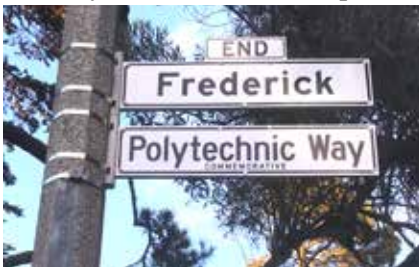
* * *

Two different CVIA members told us about the passing of **Peter Mansfield**, who, by all accounts, was a terrific guy. We learned that Peter passed in the Spring and a celebration of life was held on June 4th. **Mary Ann de Souza** wrote, “I have known Peter for years, but know little about his personal life. I know he was born in Brussels and graduated from Stanford University, has a sister, brother in law and two nieces. He loved to entertain and travel.” Neighbor **Patrick Jennings** also shared some beautiful memories of a man who was apparently larger than life. Mary Ann added that Peter was an active member of “Lindy in the Park,” the group that gathers in Golden Gate Park every Sunday to swing dance. He hadn’t been there recently due to his failing health. ↪

CVIA members living near Haight Street have noticed that many of the shops shuttered by COVID have turned on the lights again. Over the years, we have relied on standbys such as **Booksmith**, **Mendel's** and the **Sock Shop** as rich sources of holiday gifts. But there are three newer shops that also deserve a visit. One is simply called, "**Haight Ashbury**." It's located on that iconic corner in the building once owned by **Norm Larson** but now **SF Heritage**. It's a stylish gift shop with Haight-related themes in the best possible taste. Owner **Robert Emmonds** also owns the attractive "**San Francisco Mercantile**" on the corner of Haight and Cole, easily identified by its bountiful window boxes. The shop offers a wide range of items and apparel related to the Golden State. Another is "**My Favorite**," (1682 Haight) with an eclectic array of delightfully irreverent items including cards and stuffed animals.

* * *

Thanks to **Estella Becerra** for letting us know that in July of this year the Board of Supervisors approved adding the



commemorative street name "Polytechnic Way" to the 600 block of Frederick Street in recognition of San Francisco's first public high school and its contribution to the education of thousands of

San Franciscans from 1894 to 1972. See the signs on the corners of Frederick, at Arguello and Willard.

* * *

Judith Bishop sent in a gift membership for a friend and thought that it might be a good idea for others, suggesting, "Can't think of a holiday gift for your neighbor? How about a CVIA gift membership? Or gift in their name?"

* * *

There are some things so moving they defy words. One such was the **Dia de los Muertos** display in the window of **Cole Valley Pets**. Who could look at the photos of beloved former pets without falling into warm remembrance. Thanks to **Rikke Cox** and her team for their sensitivity and skill in creating this artful assembly and reminding us that people aren't the only ones who die.



So, what's up with **Club Deluxe**? We heard owner **Sarah Wilde** and building owner Veritas Realty came to an agreement so that the well-known bar featuring daily live music could reopen. Wilde announced she and her crew were taking a month off to recuperate from what was a protracted and sometimes vicious battle. But that month came and went and nothing has been heard from the dark venue at 1511 Haight (near corner of Ashbury). Wilde took over management of the club in 2016, after the untimely death of **Jay Patterson**, the club's longtime owner and founder. She had been an employee and his "right hand" before he died.

* * *



Photo: Barry Roth

Barry Roth gives us another reason to love the neighborhood. He reminded us of the generous musicians who perform most Friday afternoons on Cole Street in front of the former **Madkat**.

* * *

Thanks to CVIA member, **Amy Blakeley**, we got the sad news that San Francisco artist **Paul Madonna** was severely injured in a hit-and-run accident on November 6. Madonna had a regular column in the San Francisco chronicle called "**All Over Coffee**," and designed a Cole Valley Fair poster, one of the best. He was driving home from his studio, as he did daily, through McLaren Park, when he was struck head-on by a motorist driving in the wrong lane at approximately 65 mph. His family has established a GoFundMe account. Go to gofundme.com/f/paulmadonna-recovery.

—Karen Crommie

CORRECTION

Thanks to the sharp eyes of Garity Burke, "San Fransicko: Why Progressives Ruin Cities," was attributed to the wrong person in the last issue. The true author is, of course, recent candidate for California governor, Michael Shellenberger.

**A CLEAN
COLE
STREET**



**Our Neighborhood Heroes
2022 Merchant Participants**

**930 Cole Associates, Cole Cleaners,
Cole Hardware, Cole Valley Pets,
Crepes on Cole, Finnegans Wake,
Ino Vino, Padrecito, Postal Chase,
Wooden Coffeehouse**



Thank You For Your Support



Unfortunately only a few of our merchants contribute to the daily cleaning of Cole Street's business district, which costs CVIA \$1,033 each month. We make up the deficit with member contributions, and a discount from CleanScapes. So we would like to take this opportunity to thank the following members for their generosity during the period December 2021 to November 2022. Please notify us if your name has inadvertently been omitted.

OMG: Tracy & Patrick Jennings (\$2500)

Beacons: Abby & David M. Rumsey (\$1000)

Benefactors: (\$250-\$500): Anonymous, Lena Emmerly & Charles Canepa, Karen & David Crommie, Robert Goodman, Jane & Michael Miller, Jennifer Braun & Raymond Ryan, Michael Siliski, Michael J. Sullivan

Donors: (\$100 - \$249): Chris Bunga, Chantal Byrne, Linda Coda, Elaine Robinson & Andrew Citizen, Ellen Curry, Elinor Diamond, Joan Downey, Linda Erkelens, Tresa & Jim Eyres, Russell & Margaret Garvin, Carol & Richard Harris, Marianne Hesse, Shannon & Chris Hock, Jim Laufenberg, Randy & Rich Lavinghouse, Janan New, Judith Bishop & Robert Liner, Karen Mar, Jacqueline Kelly & Dylan Morse, Joanne & Bill Prieur, Jan Platt & Jeff Ross, Michael Rafferty, Maryann Rainey, Elizabeth Corden & Ken Shannon, Sara Hirsch & Jay Stevens, Brenda Stone, Robert G. Jones & John T. Smith, Sloane Sturzenegger, Tracy Grubbs & Richard Taylor, Kathe Traynor, Jillian & Blake Tyrrell, Victoria Zaroff

Contributors (\$50-99): Susanna Lorant & Mark Anthenien, Sharon Birenbaum, Philip Brodey, Cindy Roberts & Mike Burbank, Gloria Galindo & Mari Coates, Debbie Beck & Len Conway, Kevin Dede, Kathryn Demas, Frances Dependahl, Claudia Scharff & Timothy Dunn, Ruben Giraldo, Mary & John Hooper, Lyn & Harold Isbell, Sarah & Neema Jalali, Catherine & Brian Kane, Laura Lai, Michelle & Wallis Lim, Barbara & John Manning, Jamie & Michael Moore, Ineke Ruhland & Bill O'Such, Francine M. Prophet, Ellen Rashbaum & John Wallace, MeMe Riordan, Kendra & William Robins, Susan & Steven Rosen, Valerie Walker, Zazie

Supporters (\$25 - \$49): Anonymous, Barbara Alexander, Azadeh Moghtaderi & David Amiss, Rob Bakewell, Molly Barry, Gloria Lau & Robert G. Burkhead, Chris & Howard Case, Meredith White & Steve Cheng, Megan Cornelius, Sheila Cordon, Sarah Crockett, Karin de Brer, Beverley Epstein, Melissa & Glen Gee, Elizabeth Lee Giles, Carole Glosenger, Mike & John Greenwood, Douglas Hall, Robert Gordon & Bill Haskell, Thomas Hubbard & Sam Jackson, Lynn Kormondy, Marcia Sollek Lenard, Steven Madrid, Paul Michael, Gay & Jack Reineck, Helen & Allan Ridley, Diane & Bob Silver, Bruce Steir, Nicole Valco, Edward C. Walls, Cindy Morton & Peter Weiss, Ken Wilcox, Elsa Rosenberg & David Zuckerman

Boosters: (\$24 and below): Anne Buchanan, Maryann Hrichak, Margo Kieser, Catherine Klonizchii, John Priest, Karen & Tom Smith

Help

- Emergency (crimes in progress)911**
- Disturbance (non-emergency).....415-553-0123**
- Blocked Driveways.....415-553-1200**
- Abandoned Vehicles415-781-5865**
- Aging and Disability Services415-355-6700**
- Health Department415-255-3610**
- Litter (sofas, mattresses, etc.)311**
- Graffiti and Illegal Sign Removal.....311**
- NextBus311**
- Street Lighting.....415-554-0730**

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

Chief of Police William "Bill" Scott415-553-1551
 SFPD
 1245 Third Street
 S.F., CA 94158

District Attorney Brooke Jenkins628-652-4000
 350 Rhode Island Street North Building, Suite 400N.
 S.F., CA 94103

Captain Jack Hart.....415-242-3000
 Park District Police Station
 1899 Waller St.
 S.F., CA 94117
 Jack.Hart@sfgov.org

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| 3. Aaron Peskin Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org | 415-554-7450 |
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| 5. Dean Preston Dean.Preston@sfgov.org | 415-554-7630 |
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| 8. Rafael Mandelman MandelmanStaff@sfgov.org | 415-554-6968 |
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| 10. Shamann Walton, President Shamann.Walton@sfgov.org | 415-554-7670 |
| 11. Ahsha Safai Ahsha.Safai@sfgov.org | 415-554-6975 |

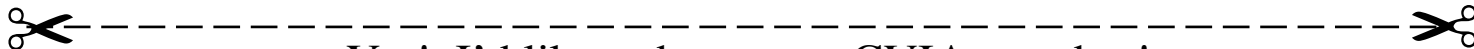
*Term ends 1-4-23 to be replaced by Joel Engardio

BECOME A CVIA MEMBER

Cole Valley Improvement Association (CVIA) is a nonprofit, member-funded, volunteer organization working to continuously enhance and improve Cole Valley and the greater Haight Ashbury.

Our mission is to promote a safe, respectful community, help enhance the lives of all residents, support our merchants, and present an active voice to address civic, social and safety issues in our neighborhood.

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



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

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

NAME _____ E-MAIL _____

ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____

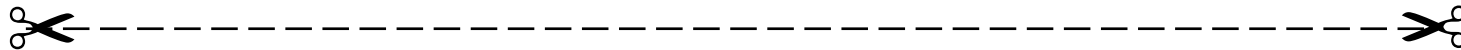
What I like about the neighborhood: _____

What I dislike about the neighborhood: _____

Optional contribution to Cole sidewalk cleaning \$ _____ or the community work of CVIA \$ _____

Do NOT acknowledge my optional contribution in the newsletter

Dues and contributions 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**