

CVIA NEWS

COLE VALLEY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Volume XLV SERVING ALL RESIDENTS OF COLE VALLEY AND HAIGHT ASHBURY SPRING 2024

Cole Valley Welcomes Blue Barn

If you haven't had a chance to try Blue Barn, the newest restaurant to open in the neighborhood, I'm going to start by saying that it's worth a visit.



Place your order at Blue Barn's Counter

Like most of you, I was very sad to see Padrecito close. I missed the vibe and energy they brought to the corner. I missed the cozy bar and the festive atmosphere.

When Blue Barn moved in I wasn't sure that I wanted to give it a try. This was such a radical change for the space. But I decided that I needed to give it a go and honestly I was not disappointed. At all.

Earlier in the day I told a friend that has had many great lunches at Blue Barn's Polk location that I was going to try the new Cole Valley outlet. She immediately said, "I love Blue Barn. Everything on the menu is great but my go to is the Clubber or the Fattoush salad and always a side of fries. It's DELicious." This is one of my foodie friends who has literally eaten in at least half the great restaurants in the city. I trust her.

At Blue Barn, you place your order at the counter but as soon as we walked through the front door we were immediately welcomed by the friendly staff. Loved that. The entire menu looked great, but of course we had to try the Clubber - roasted turkey, bacon, pepper jack, tomato, red onion, little gems and bacon-jalapeno aioli on ciabatta. Yes, delicious.



We also had the Fattoush salad and a side of fries (shown above) also wonderful. The portions were generous, even with two of us splitting the salad, sandwich and fries, we still took home leftovers.

It's also nice to know that many of the items on the menu are both local and organic. Everything was extremely fresh. We were also very happy to see that the wine was \$10.00 a glass and \$30.00 a bottle. For this day and age, that's a great value. We also appreciated a great section of beers on tap.

After finishing lunch I had a nice chat with Juan, one of the managers. If you were a regular at Padrecito you might recognize him, as he was there from day one. This was a big change, but he said that so far the neighborhood has been very welcoming. I asked him if they would ever consider staying open past 8 pm. He said not now, "...but you never know." It depends on how busy they are in the evening. I hope that eventually they will extend the hours; I'd like to see even more energy in the evenings on that corner.

Stop by, say hi to Juan, and try one of the DELicious sandwiches or salads. Let's help all of our neighborhood businesses thrive and welcome our new neighbors. www.bluebarnourmet.com

—Shannon Cooper

Move to Raise Building Height on Carl and Haight Streets

The Rezoning Plan was finally presented to the Planning Commission on Thursday, February 1, 2024 to an overflow crowd. The Planning Commission began with a slide presentation establishing the fact that the State of California has mandated that San Francisco build 82,000 new living units by 2031, Staff presented maps representing where height and density changes would be made. Two main iterations of the plan were presented showing the development process.

Much of the rezoning is on the west and north side and increases density along major transit corridors.

This includes Haight, Geary, Irving, Lombard, Ocean Avenue and more. Since the N Judah is a high-use light rail line, Carl Street, west of Cole, is to be rezoned on both sides to 65 (6 story) or 85



Presentation of upzoning brought overflow crowds to City Hall.

feet (8 story). This will continue the length of most of Irving and Judah, following the N Judah tracks. Haight Street will be rezoned to 65 feet. Although this policy had been in the works for several years, it seemed to catch people by surprise and they were eager to share their reaction.

During Public Comment each person was given two minutes to render an opinion. As might be predicted, the average



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age of those in favor was far less than that of those opposed. Almost all of the first 1.5 hours were from those opposed. Many seemed to come from Russian Hill, Cow Hollow and Lombard Street areas. They were members of neighborhood organizations like CVIA. Some of the planned rezoning in the north of the city will allow for 14 and 24 story buildings. They almost uniformly stated the plan was terrible and that there was poor community outreach on the part of the Planning Commission. Whereas the people in favor, many members of YIMBY,* almost uniformly thanked the San Francisco Planning Department for the plan. Some said perhaps it needed to go further. They also thanked the



Map by Will Jarrett

Shaded areas are marked for increased height and density.

Department for its excellent community outreach. Many from YIMBY seem to live in SOMA and other neighborhoods that will not be affected. Below I will try to categorize and summarize the arguments made:

THOSE OPPOSED

- The rezoning will change the character of the neighborhoods—what make San Francisco unique will be lost.
- The neighborhoods are dense enough already. San Francisco is the second densest major city after New York.
- There are many vacant or underutilized buildings in San Francisco. Fill those first.
- The commercial rezoning and subsequent new building will displace merchants and put them out of business. New merchants will likely be chains.
- Developers will say they are building affordable housing, get the permits and then pay an opt-out fee. They will then build the tall building and charge a premium for the residences on high floors with great views.
- New tall buildings will destroy/degrade the views of those who currently have them
- There are better tracts of land to build the state-mandated new units. Several people mentioned Park Merced where plans for increased density have stalled.
- There is a large area near Dog Patch, well-served by the Muni T Line, Cal Train and numerous bus lines.
- City infrastructure cannot support the level of density proposed.

THOSE IN FAVOR

- We need more housing, especially affordable housing.
- If we do not come up with a plan, SF will lose control of the planning process. The state will take it away. The state

will allow developers to build with fewer/no restrictions.

- My friend or relative cannot afford to live here.
- We need housing for working people who make the city function – teachers, police, firefighters, plumbers, electricians, etc.
- The increased density will enhance city living.

—Paul Michael

*YIMBY: Yes In My Back Yard

Search: [SFPlanning.org/expanding-housing-choice](https://sfplanning.org/expanding-housing-choice). Then click on Draft Zoning Proposal.

Neighbors gather at Town Hall in Wake of Commission Meeting

Three days after the Commission meeting described above, a cross-section of city politicians and neighborhood activists packed a North Beach auditorium for a Town Hall meeting organized by the Telegraph Hill neighborhood group. Moderated by Supervisor Aaron Peskin, the four presenters made their case against the up-zoning proposed by the Planning Department in response to the state mandate of 82,000 units by 2031. They questioned not only the need, but the way the number was arrived at. “They wouldn’t even reveal the numbers used” to determine the specific housing requirement for San Francisco, said Lori Brooke, founder of Neighborhoods United SF.



Supervisor Aaron Peskin led the panel.

The recurrent fear of the participants was that San Francisco, like other cities that might fail to meet their construction requirement, will lose jurisdiction over their own future planning decisions. “Sacramento is undermining democracy,” said the flier they disseminated to all neighborhood groups.

There is no question that the city’s housing production has lagged during the last few years. The pandemic and rising costs have caused a slow recovery in the housing sector. In spite of that, 2023 saw four affordable (subsidized) buildings totaling 1,874 units under construction. The Planning Department website says that there are 73,000 units currently in the pipeline (16,000 affordable) and with the city’s population decreasing, this is unnecessary.

But instead of maximizing the available space, such as empty downtown buildings, large city lots with self storage lockers, Muni “barns,” automobile parking lots, drastically raising the height of old neighborhoods seems draconian, short sighted, and a boon to the developer community.

—Karen Crommie

Call for News

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





Thank You For Your Support



It certainly isn't expected, but when a member sends in an extra contribution, we appreciate it greatly. The daily cleaning of the Cole Street business district is now being contested due to the doubling of the monthly fee. (See page 5, "What Do You Think?") So we would like to take this opportunity to thank the following members for their generosity from January 2023 through January 2024. Please notify us if your name has been inadvertently omitted.

Beacons (\$500 - \$999) *Anonymous, Jonathan Claybaugh*

Benefactors (\$250 - \$499) *Cindy Roberts & Mike Burbank, Lena Emmerly & Charles Canepa, Karen & David Crommie, Jennifer Braun & Raymond Ryan*

Donors (\$100 - \$249) *Anonymous. Susanna Lorant & Mark Anthenien, Chris Bunga, Debbie Beck & Len Conway, Ellen Curry, Mary Ann de Souza, Joan Downey, Linda Erkelens, Tresa & Jim Eyres, Gloria Galindo & Mari Coates, Margaret & Russell Garvin, Melissa & Glen Gee, Marianne Hesse, Shannon & Chris Hock, Drew Howells-Tabacco, Ice Cream Bar, Robert G. Jones & John T. Smith, Catherine & Brian Kane, Steven Kerekes, Randy & Rich Lavinghouse, Barbara & John Manning, Janan New, Robert Page, Michael Rafferty, Sara Hirsch & Jay Stevens, Sloane Sturzenegger, Tracy Grubbs & Richard Taylor, Kathe Traynor, Jillian & Blake Tyrrell, Victoria Zaroff*

Contributors (\$50 - \$99) *Anonymous, Alma Management /Sigrid Schafmann, Azadeh Moghtaderi & David Amis, William Barnaby, Molly Barry, Sharon Birenbaum, Philip Brodey, Meredith White & Steve Cheng, Sheila Cordon, Frances Dependahl, Carole Glosenger, Robert Gordon & Bill Haskell, Douglas Hall, Carol & Richard Harris, Mary & John Hooper, Lyn & Harold Isbell, Sarah & Neema Jalali, Dianne & Steve Leonoudakis, Margareta Ekblad & Vojtech Licko, Judith Bishop & Robert Liner, Kendra & William Robins, Susan & Steven Rosen, Jan Platt & Jeff Ross, Katherine Bird & William Rothrum, Ellen Rashbaum & John Wallace, Cack & Doug Wilhelm*

Supporters (\$25 - \$49) *Anonymous, Gloria Lau & Robert G. Burkhead, Chantal Byrne, Margaret Hill & Cadell Child, Karin de Brer, Claudia Scharff & Timothy Dunn, Beverley Epstein, Deanna & Ron Jones, Susan Karp, Laura Lai, Steven Madrid, Paul Michael, Jamie & Michael Moore, Adele Dorison & David Neuman, Alex & Kenneth Nicholson, Maria Mulcahy & Gearoid O'Brien, Laura Onopchenko, Francine M. Prophet, Helen & Allan Ridley, Diane & Bob Silver, Bruce Steir, Brenda Stone, Fabienne Thuillier, Estelle & Edward Tomoda, Edward C. Walls, Ken Wilcox, Ann Williamson, Susannah Wise*

Boosters (\$24 and below) *Rob Bakewell, Lynn Eubanks, Maryann Hrichak, Denise Lever, Lauren Peters Lague, John Priest*

A CLEAN COLE STREET



Our Neighborhood Heroes 2023 Merchant Participants

930 Cole Associates, Cole Cleaners,
Cole Hardware, Crepes on Cole, Fin-
negans Wake, Ino Vino, Luke's
Local, MARJANG Architectur,
Postal Chase, Wooden Coffeehouse

Joanne Prieur

November 3, 1938 - November 5, 2023

Born in Boston, Joanne moved to the Santa Cruz mountains and later to Palo Alto. She attended San Jose State and took her first teaching job in Tulare, CA. She married Bill Prieur of Santa Paula, CA in 1957 and, after a few years, they moved to the Haight Ashbury in the "Summer of Love" (1967) buying and restoring their Victorian dream house over many years.

Joanne devoted the working part of her life to public education as did her husband Bill.

She held many and various positions including teaching in a vocational training program at John O'Connell High School in the Mission, working as a program consultant for the Special Education Rehabilitation Services, writing federal Title One grants for student achievement while both training and supervising paraprofessionals in reading, and evaluating San Francisco Unified District schools using the California Program Quality Review.

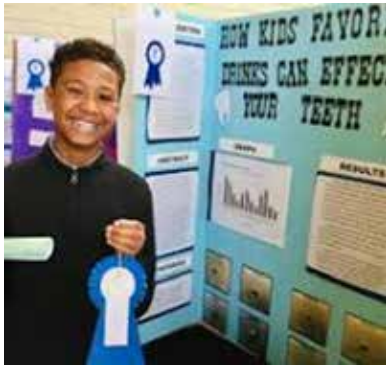
However, Joanne's real passion was outside of her work pursuing and creating beauty, seeking adventure and spending time with family and friends. The stories of her camping journeys across western Europe in the sixties and seventies seeking antiques (especially clocks for repair and restoration); and one particularly unique 1965 London cab which they shipped to the port of San Francisco, dining on cheap wine, bread and cheese and wandering through museums and parks with her husband Bill by her side are legendary. She will be richly remembered and deeply mourned by all of her beloved family and friends.

(Excerpted from San Francisco Chronicle, 11/8/23.)

Randall Museum Displays Science Fair Projects

The Randall Museum is proud to host the Annual SF Middle School Science Fair. For more than 40 years San Francisco student scientists have been wowing Museum visitors with their inventive projects exploring an outrageous array of scientific inquiries. The entries in the 2024 Science Fair will be on display at the Randall Museum February 27 through March 2, 2024.

150 science projects will be on display. Entrants represent the best of over 900 projects completed at the schools this year. Awards are given to honor 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners in each grade and category; Physical, Biological, Behavioral and Environmental Sciences. Top placing students will be eligible to move on to the SF Bay Area Golden Gate STEM Fair and then possibly the California Science and Engineering Fair.



Encouraging children to embrace science is the perennial goal.

The goal of the Fair is to emphasize the joy and accessibility of science and participation over competition; therefore, winners are not awarded cash prizes, but instead are offered a day trip to a Bay Area location of educational and entertainment interest.

The awards ceremony for the student scientists, their families, and educators, will take place on Saturday, March 2 from 9:45 to 11:45 am. The exhibition of the projects will be open to the public the week leading up to the awards ceremony. Museum Hours: Tuesdays - Saturdays, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. 199 Museum Way, San Francisco. Admission is FREE Info: www.randallmuseum.org

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). Or join the meeting via Zoom. To register go to: <https://bit.ly/ParkCommMtgAugust2021>



February 28, March 27, April 24
Mark Your Calendar

Historic Alvard Lake

Named for William Alvard, Park Commissioner in the 1870s, and Mayor of San Francisco December 4, 1871 - December 1, 1873, the small artificial lake he bankrolled was originally called "The Lakelet." He had insisted on that name but when Alvard made a trip out of the city and after



Photo: Courtesy of foundsf.org

the governor appointed Frank Pixley to the board, the new Park Commissioners renamed the lake after him. During his absence, John Rosenfeld and Pixley held a ceremony in his honor and named the lake "Alvard Lake." Alvard was furious at this betrayal of his wishes, and when the board would not rescind its action, he resigned.

. . . And You Can Be A Part of it

Every fourth Saturday of the month volunteers are needed to help the gardeners at Alvard Lakelet in Golden Gate Park. Connect with this magnificent park and help give back to the community. We begin at 9 am and finish by noon.

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

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.

Volunteer slots are limited-so please sign the waiver in the link that will take you to the SF Rec and Park Calendar. Scroll until you find the "Alvard Lake Task Force" listing.

(We are in District 1-Horticulture Maintenance.)

<https://sfrpd.secure.force.com/SFRPDCalendar>



Photo: Susan Strolis

Working together for just two hours produces surprising results.

Heads Up: Seven decisions for March 5 Election



Photo: ABC News 7

More than half of those who vote at city hall register on election day.

Measure A - Affordable Housing Bond

Authored by SF Board of Supervisors President Aaron Peskin, a \$300 million bond would fund housing construction for moderate and low-income individuals. This comes four years after a \$600 million bond, the largest in the city's history.

Measure B – Police Staffing

This would set up a minimum staffing level and divert money (or increase property tax) to pay for it. The department is currently lacking approximately 400 officers.

Measure C – Real Estate transfer tax exemption

Backed by the Mayor, this would give buildings converted from commercial to residential a transfer tax exemption the first time they are transferred to new owners. Transfer taxes currently range from 0.5 percent to 0.6 percent.

Measure D - Changes to local ethics laws

Proposed by the SF Ethics commission, this would expand the list of gifts that city employees are prohibited from accepting and amend the definition of bribery to prohibit city officials from accepting anything of value for themselves or a third party.

Measure E – Police Policies and procedures

Another backed by the Mayor, this would change SFPD procedures to reduce record keeping and reporting with the goal of officers spending not more than 30 percent of their time on administrative tasks, including use-of-force reports, which would be required only if someone was injured. It also would allow use of public surveillance cameras, drones, and facial recognition technology to fight crime.

Measure F – Drug screening for city welfare recipients

Voters must decide if the city should require welfare recipients who have substance use disorders to go into drug treatment programs in order to continue receiving cash through the County Adult Assistance Program.

Measure G – Algebra for eighth graders

Authored by Supervisor Joel Engardio, whose District 8 parents want a better math curriculum for students at all grade levels and specifically to offer Algebra to students in eighth grade. This measure would be advisory only. Decision by the School Board is pending.

Let's Calm Traffic on Frederick

On behalf of the Cole Valley community, I am sharing a petition for traffic calming along Frederick Street from Stanyan to Cole.

Frederick Street between Stanyan Street and Cole Street is an important corridor for pedestrians, transit riders, and cyclists. As the major arterial Lincoln Way turns into Frederick Street, motorists continue speeding and driving unsafely. The unsignalized, unmarked intersection at Frederick and Shrader Street most acutely reveals the impact of unsafe street design and reckless driving. Motorists repeatedly blow past stop signs, resulting in countless near misses with pedestrians—and in some cases actually hitting our neighbors.

Given the high levels of pedestrian, bicyclist, and driver activity on Frederick Street, we propose the following traffic calming treatments at the Frederick/Shrader intersection to increase overall visibility and create a safer corridor for all users of the street:

- Installation of flashing beacons
- Painting high-visibility crosswalk markings such as continental crosswalks
- Relocation of the southwest stop closer to the pedestrian crossing
- Daylighting to eliminate parked cars adjacent to the pedestrian crossing

The proposed traffic calming solutions at the Frederick and Shrader intersection are low-cost, and easy to implement within the context of the SFMTA's constrained budget and resources. This is a quick-build project that can immediately make the conditions safer.

We look forward to working with the SFMTA on implementing solutions that will ensure pedestrian safety and protect members of our community.

—Joanna Kennedy

Ed. note—CVIA wrote a letter of support for this request.

What Do You Think?

CleanScapes has raised its rates. It is the division of Recology from which we've been getting the 7 day a week sidewalk cleaning of the commercial corridor of Cole Valley. For several years they've been giving us a discount that they are no longer able to do. For that reason we were given the option: pay \$2,524 a month for the same service—over double the \$1,033 we are now paying, or reduce the frequency from daily to three times a week for the monthly fee of \$1216, still more than we were paying in past years. The CVIA Board decided to take the latter offer.

During the pandemic years, we didn't ask the merchants to contribute to the service. The members rose to the occasion and made up the difference. But even now that they are again being asked, only ten business owners contribute the dollar-a-day we ask from them. Let's see how it goes. If you notice a sizable increase in debris on Cole Street, please let us know. If you know of a bonded cleaning service that might come in at a lower fee, we want to know that, too.



—Carole Glosenger

Woods Beer & Wine Company Hosts Cole Valley Open House

A couple of CVIA board members were fortunate enough to attend the event given by Woods Beer & Wine at its future location in Cole Valley on December 6. Jim Woods, Founder and CEO, explained that the site is still under construction, but that didn't dampen enthusiasm from folks invited to the special event.

It was a bit strange to walk into the former Reverie Cafe space and see stark white walls and an empty room instead of



the familiar dark orange walls. The Woods team was pouring a couple of different beers and wine from their own selections while Jim talked about the space and how they're going to approach it, as well as talking about the com-

pany and its unique business plan in which members of the community are invited to invest.

Jim assured everyone that the Cole Valley location would have its own vibe and be a design unique from the other locations. He mentioned basically keeping the same layout as Reverie had from a bar and food prep point of view. While the new bar was not yet in place, tables were set up in roughly the same location as the counters and displays from Reverie.

This Woods location will have food from Lovely's—well known in the East Bay for their burgers. We were hoping for some Detroit style pizza from Joyride Pizza as served in their lower Haight venue (Wood's Lowside). Then we realized that it's really not that far for us to make the short trek to Woods Lowside which we're already accustomed to doing.) Plus, the burgers do sound delicious.

Jonathan Reddick, Lovely's owner, was available to field questions. We hit him up on how authentically Detroit (while we're on the theme of Detroit's best food exports) the Lovely's Coney Island hot dog was going to be. We reminded him how



The open house offered refreshments and investment opportunities.

the topping on a classic Detroit Coney is not chili per se, and certainly does not have beans anywhere near it, but more like a hollandaise sauce. Perhaps seeing my off the charts scrutiny level, he explained that it may not be exactly like a Detroit coney dog, but will be a solid chili hotdog. We'll give it a shot.

Jim Woods mentioned to the assembled crowd of neighborhood folks that while there wasn't a specific opening date set in stone, he is hoping to have the place open in the next few months.

—Chris Hock

Booksmith Co-owner to Lead Oakland Publishing House

Congratulations to Praveen Madan, co-owner of The Booksmith, Alembic, and Palo Alto's historic bookstore, Keplers. He has recently taken on still another job by becoming CEO of a "mission-driven" publishing company in Oakland called Berrett-Koehler Publishers (BK). Madan and his wife Christin Evans have worked hard to find innovative ways to support independent book-sellers in a business that is increasing switching to digital.

Writing for the company, Dave Loomis writes, "Madan envisions a new publishing model for BK that continues to deepen its roots as an author-friendly, mission-based book publisher and expands innovation and collaboration with partners. After a successful career as a strategy and transformation consultant for leading companies, Madan moved to the book industry and has become a leader in developing a new model for next-generation community bookstores.



Praveen Madan: A man who loves books.

As CEO of Kepler's Books since 2012, he has led a successful turnaround and reinvention of this legendary cultural institution. Madan's innovative strategies, such as embracing the nonprofit model, implementing community financing and governance, developing new revenue streams, and raising wages to build a strong team, are being replicated by many bookstores around the US. He says his learnings from the BK community have been critical to his success in the book industry."

—Karen Crommie

When Dog Walking Goes Pro

Like everything in San Francisco, professional dog walking has rules. In addition to getting a business license and insurance, the limit is eight dogs at one time per person. Leashes must be less than eight feet in length for each dog, drinking water must be readily available and each dog must have evidence of a current rabies vax. If a dog bites, or is bitten without a license the dog may be impounded at the animal shelter and/or the SF Health Department may order the dog quarantined for up to six months and, of course dog walkers must clean up after any dogs they are walking and properly dispose of the "waste."



Through the Panhandle and on to JFK Drive is a favorite route for dog walkers.

The Deal Is Final: UCSF to Buy St. Mary's and St. Francis

UCSF is not only buying St. Mary's, on Stanyan, but also St. Francis Hospital located in the Lower Nob Hill area. For \$100 million UCSF is purchasing the two historic San Francisco hospitals thereby transferring them to the State. St. Mary's is the city's oldest Catholic Hospital and as such did not perform abortions nor dispense birth control products. All that will end when the deal closes next month.

This will mean adding thousands of hospital workers to UCSF's payroll and adding two emergency rooms and 500



St. Mary's Hospital on Stanyan is the oldest Catholic hospital in the city.

beds to UCSF's existing capacity. The Chronicle's Catherine Ho wrote: "It also expands UCSF's sprawling real estate footprint in the city by nearly 1 million square feet.

"In 2019, UCSF called off its pursuit of an affiliation with Dignity Health in the Bay Area over concerns, at the time, that deepening ties with the Catholic system would compromise health care options for women and LGBTQ patients.

"But the hospitals' worsening financial realities have created an opportunity for UCSF that was too good to pass up, said UCSF Health President and CEO Suresh Gunasekaran. St. Mary's and St. Francis have a combined occupancy rate



As UCSF absorbs two legacy hospitals, neighborhood impact is speculation.

of 25%, he said, and each lose millions of dollars every year.

"UCSF owns more than 8.9 million square feet of space in the city — across hundreds of buildings that make up its Parnassus Heights, Mount Zion and Mission Bay campuses, as well as in off-campus buildings."

(Excerpted from an article by Catherine Ho and Laura Waxman, sfchronicle 2-5-24)

Another Challenger to Dean Preston in November

Following Alan Jones, Bilal Mahmood is the latest challenger to Supervisor Dean Preston for the District 5 seat. Bilal told the SF Standard's Josh Koehn that Preston is "too focused on pointing fingers and making excuses for why things don't



work, rather than finding solutions and results. You have a supervisor that's saying the way we bring economic opportunity and solve the public safety crisis by ending capitalism."

In addition to running for Supervisor in November, Bilal is also on two different slates running for the Democratic County Central Committee (DCCC).

Shop at T J's ? You may have asked

The Lucky Penny coffee shop, next to the Trader Joe's at 2670 Geary Boulevard has been empty for eight years. Closing on Christmas Eve 2015, plans emerged in 2018 to demolish



the diner and erect a building with 101 luxury apartments, dubbed the Laurel, by developer Presidio Bay Ventures.

SF Standard's Garrett Leahy interviewed ex-cop Dominic Yin, who runs the family trust that owns the land and building. He blames the delay on city red tape and swelling labor and building costs brought about by inflation.

Meanwhile, the diner sits empty, covered in graffiti and murals. The space in front is used for parking by Trader Joe's customers.

Excerpted from the SF Standard 1-15-24.

CVIA Board Minutes

The following is a summary of what took place at the CVIA Board meetings the last two months. Those wishing to bring a neighborhood issue before the Board are welcome to do so. Meetings take place on the first Monday of every month at 7:00 pm at the home of a member. There is no meeting in December. Email board@cviastf.org to learn the location.

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

Meeting at the Home of Carole Glosenger on January 8, 2024 at 7:00 pm. Guest: Daniel Thomason (CVIA member).

■ Treasurer Joan Downey submitted a report for the last three months: CVIA currently has a bank balance of \$13,854.39, with \$1,627.46 held in the Clean Cole Street fund, and \$4,667.20 in an account (as fiscal sponsor) for the Stanyan Parklet (American Cyclery). Joan said that CleanScapes doubled their rate from \$1,022 monthly to \$2,524. Board voted to reduce the service from daily to three times a week to assume the monthly fee of \$1216, still more than we were paying in past years. CVIA member Daniel Thomason volunteered to research sidewalk-cleaning services as a possible alternative to CleanScapes. Applying for a city grant is also planned.

■ Joan also reported that Santa on Cole (SOC) receivables will be delayed because of a problem with the PayPal retail terminal device to take credit cards for the sitting fees (article on this as a prevailing condition in SF Chron 1-9-24). Because of this, the final tally of SOC profits will be delayed but are estimated at \$800. Decision on photo to appear on next year's poster was postponed until all board members could access the selects.

■ In a discussion of "lessons learned" for next year's SOC event, besides checking the payment device and QR code, it was suggested that we 1) assign specific jobs for those assisting during the sitting process, e.g. sidewalk greeter, sign-in, taking money, assisting child (or whomever) to Santa, 2) make sure Sacha knows the "drop, run and click" technique for photographing babies, 3) keep reservation system in place, 4) eliminate the choice of download resolutions 4) play holiday music during sittings, 5) possibly include a dog, if not on poster, in social media outreach, consider having several different versions, 5) assign members to distribute postcards on their block two weeks before date, 6) distribute posters directly to the owner of the shop, not an employee, and have tape to put it up for them.

■ Lena Emmery reported that the Kezar Advisory Board continues to slowly replace sections of old stadium seats which are becoming a danger to attendees at sporting events. A full schedule of high school basketball games will fill the Kezar Pavilion throughout January.

■ In a separate topic, Lena asked the board to think of ways we could welcome the future residents of 730 Stanyan into the neighborhood. One of many suggestions was assistance in acquiring furnishings and establishing bank accounts.

■ Marianne Hesse reported that the H. A. Food Program, which operates a food pantry on Saturday mornings 11:30 am to 1:15 pm out of the Waller Center (1525 Waller St.), is considering opening a second day each week. Plans are not definite at this point.

■ Edward Walls reminded us that the Cole Valley Fire Station 12 took second place in the contest for Best Decorated Firehouse in the City.

■ All expressed sadness over the deaths of longtime neighborhood residents, Joanne Prieur and Martha Hoffman and agreed they should receive memorial references in the newsletter.

Adjourned at 9:15

Meeting at the home of Marianne Hesse on February 3, 2024 at 7 pm. Guests: CVIA Members Daniel Thomason, Abbie Strabala, and TogetherSF's Josh Raznick.

■ The meeting began with Josh Raznick, reviewing the political positions of TogetherSF Action as printed in "The Get It Together, SF Voter Guide." This was followed by a spirited discussion, prompting Joan Downey to offer to send Board members the recommendations of the SF League of Women Voters.

■ Treasurer Joan Downey submitted a report for the last three months: CVIA currently has a bank balance of \$18,678.18, with \$605.67 held in the Clean Cole Street fund, and \$4,667.20 in an account (as fiscal sponsor) for the Stanyan Parklet (American Cyclery). Motion passed to transfer \$3,000.00 from savings account to the Clean Cole fund.

■ Concern was expressed over the delay of the parklet and it was suggested that someone assist the owner of American Cyclery in applying for a grant to hasten the long-delayed project.

■ CVIA member Daniel Thomason submitted the results of his research on alternatives to CleanScapes for our sidewalk-cleaning service. A discussion followed regarding the pros and cons of alternatives Task Rabbit and Dome Cleaning. The cost differential was minimum. Daniel volunteered to approach CleanScapes directly to suggest they reconsider the pricing. He will also contact D-8 Supervisor Rafael Mandelman and the newly formed Cole Valley Merchants Association to learn if either can assist. Applying for a future city grant is also planned. Daniel also agreed to edit this year's solicitation letter to the merchants.

■ Joan asked (at the request of admin. assistant Susan Pedrick) for clarification of our response to people who have checked the "interested" box on the CVIA website and who, as a result, have received a complimentary newsletter. It was decided that, even if they do not join immediately, they should continue receiving the newsletter online.

■ Regarding the photo that will be used in next year's Santa on Cole publicity, Joan said that Board members predominantly chose the picture showing a child visiting Santa with a dog. Since two additional photos may be used on social media publicity, she will seek releases from the parents involved in advance.

■ It was decided that when submitting the work order for printing the newsletter, the editor should request it be delivered to the Parnassus office of UCSF Media Center rather than its counterpart at Mission Bay.

■ Discussion of the steps necessary to having strings of lights mounted along Cole Street that would both enliven the neighborhood and illuminate the too-dark sections of the sidewalks at night. An application for an Avenue Greenlight Grant is planned when the 2024 applications are issued.

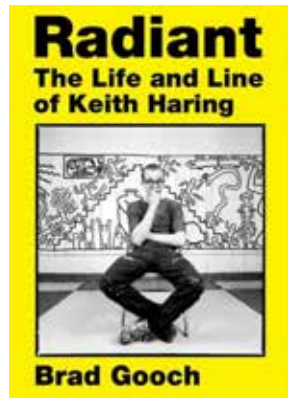
■ President Carole Glosenger announced an upcoming meeting of Beulah Street residents with Supervisor Mandelman regarding current encampments. She will report on this at the March meeting which will be held at the home of Lena Emmery and Chuck Canepa.

■ Joan announced the critical illness of former CVIA president Douglas Hall, now living in Santa Barbara. We were all saddened and shared past memories of a man each of us remember fondly and to whom we wish a speedy recovery.

Adjourned at 9 pm.

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

Gooch on Keith Haring at Booksmith Monday, March 18 - 7:00 pm



On Monday, March 18, Booksmith is hosting the acclaimed biographer of Flannery O'Connor and Frank O'Hara, Brad Gooch, for his new book *Radiant: The Life and Line of Keith Haring*, built on authorized access to the extensive archives of the iconic American artist and interviews with those who knew him best. Note that this will probably be sold out so to ensure a seat, go to Booksmith.com and click March 18 on the event calendar. Those purchasing the book will have their seat reserved.

Is This the Year You'll Do It?

The Bay to Breakers 12K race is scheduled for Sunday, May 19 and it's not too early to begin training. Starting from Main and Howard, the course threads up the Hayes Street Hill, through the



This year's Bay to Breakers is on May 19 and sponsored by Zappos.

Panhandle and follows JFK Drive out to Ocean Beach. Since 1912, it's a race made for all of us, so dress up, bring your friends and be cheered every step of the way. It's your turn to join the party. Register for \$65 on line: "Bay to Breakers 2024."

Wanna Buy a Building?



The former dialysis center at Haight and Shradar is on a 15,000 square foot lot with two commercial units. All you need is \$7 million and change.

NO Parking at 730 Stanyan Project

The 730 Stanyan subsidized housing project is likely to have some negative effects on parking in our neighborhood. Many people there may not have cars but some are likely to have them. The developers were very shortsighted to think that if they did not provide parking, no tenants would have a car.

Former CVIA Board member Steven Madrid told us that, in 1997 the whole property at 730 Stanyan fell within the J-permit parking area. With 160 households, that could be a lot more cars with permits in our immediate neighborhood. It looks like the new affordable building will get the benefit of this designation even though it went from a fast-food restaurant to a 160-unit building. Each household can get up to 4 permits. Additional permits would make street parking even more of a challenge than it is today.

—Carole Glosenger

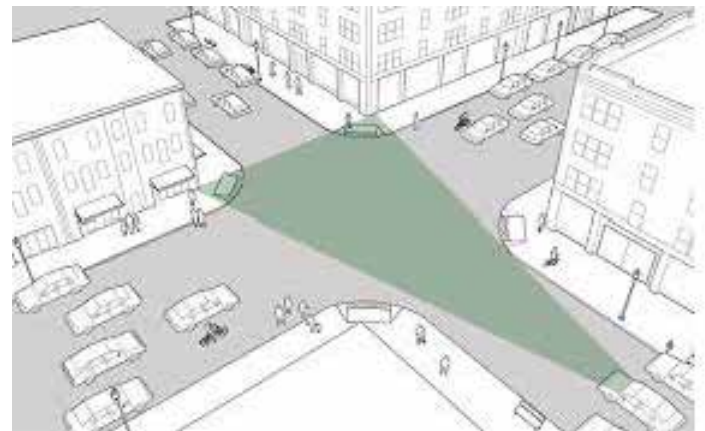
Postscripts

A deluded soul entered the back kitchen of Gus's on January 13 in an attempt to steal a knife with apparent intent to rob the store. The matter was settled quickly due to immediate



reaction of employees. But kitchen staff was shaken and vigilance was increased.

It's now illegal to park within 20 feet of a crosswalk. Called "day lighting," it makes it easier for motorists to see pedestrians walking across the street and for pedestrians to see



cars. It will remove approximately 13,775 parking spaces. SFMTA won't issue tickets until next year, but you will receive a warning.

We received a sad letter from Sandra Luz Bautista of Dasluz flower shop at 858 Cole Street. She is closing her charming studio and transitioning to an online floral service. It was always a delight to order flowers from Sandra, and we can keep on doing it at Dasluzsf.com.

Carole Glosenger wrote us, "I lived on Beulah street when the old Kezar Stadium and the PolyTech high school were still there. I was told that the previous owners of my home



parked fan's cars in their garage and on their driveway during games. People had a standing order for a place. It was a business. The owners removed one of the supporting columns in the garage and added a bracing. That way they could get 3 cars in the garage, one in the driveway and one across the driveway. They parked 5 cars. It was a different time.

On Tuesday, January 16 eleven people were rescued after a huge tree fell at Golden Gate Park in San Francisco on Crossover Drive, the road that connects 19th Avenue and



Park Presidio. The fallen limbs crushed several cars and blocked the northbound lanes. Two people suffered non-life-threatening injuries.

Writing in the HANC newsletter, Jim Rhoads paid warm tribute to longtime Waller Street resident Martha Hoffman, who passed away on Sunday, November 26 at the age of 89. Many knew Martha as a gardener and volunteer at the now-closed Recycling Center but few knew she had been a social worker and part of the Sausalito scene of artists and intellectuals in her younger days. She accomplished many things in her life but in later years she helped start the TNR (Trap Neuter Release) program

with the San Francisco SPCA for feral cats in the city. Now this program has many volunteers that work to greatly limit the number of feral cats.

—Karen Crommie



Yellow Surprise: CVIA to MTA

Dear Acting Streets Division Director Graff,

A few days ago five parking meters on Cole Street were converted to yellow loading zone meters. Neither Cole Valley Improvement Association (CVIA) nor Cole Valley Merchants Association (CVMA) was notified of the plan to do this. If we had been, we

would have told you that it was a bad idea both for the residents and merchants.

Our commercial area is 1+ blocks long. When you remove this much parking for residents, businesses will be affected. Sure, for many of the businesses, neighbors can walk. But for those who want to pick up a ladder from Cole Hardware; a case of wine from Val de Cole; a case of cat food from Cole Valley Pets, or drop off a heavy package to Postal Chase, a car and nearby parking spot is important. If it's not available, those customers will go somewhere more convenient - and our merchants and neighborhood will suffer the consequences.

We understand that buses are impacted by double-parked vehicles, but are

not convinced that the added yellow meters will change that. (See attached photo that shows a Sysco truck double parked across from empty yellow metered parking spaces.)

Please restore the meters to general use or, at least, make the yellow zones expire earlier. And please contact both CVIA and CVMA with plans to make future changes in our neighborhood. We would be happy to work with you on a solution that would be beneficial to all.

Sincerely,
Carole Glosenger, President



Photo: Jessica Justino

Disappointed With Haight, Coyote Returns to BV Park



Yellow Surprise: MTA to CVIA

Dear Carole,

Thank you for reaching out and sharing your concerns. I had the opportunity to speak with Dan Serot (Cole Valley merchants) last week to clarify a few items, so I wanted to share the latest information I have.

Commercial corridors have commercial yellow loading zones so their businesses can receive deliveries. The businesses on this (West) side of the block were previously served by a commercial loading zone that has existed in front of Peet’s Coffee. The parklet taking over this space was temporarily allowed in the height of the pandemic but parklets need to successfully have these relocated if they apply to stay in the post-pandemic program. As a result of both Peet’s Coffee and Zazie applying to keep their parklets, as well as complaints we were receiving from Transit operators about buses being routinely stuck due to double parked cars, we identified the alternative yellow zone location.

The relocated 3 yellow zone spaces went to the February 2023 Color Curb hearing and the required public notification signs were posted on the block in advance of that meeting. Since there were no comments against, it was recommended for adoption and later implemented this year. The adopted color curb legislation reflects the same operational hours as it was previously in the other location, with a 3 space Yellow Zone Monday-Saturday 8 am-6 pm and general meter parking at all other times.

In speaking with Dan, our next steps are to better understand the specific delivery needs for the businesses and restaurants on this (West) side of the street. He offered to reach out to his neighbors directly to understand when and how frequent deliveries happen, and we also offered for our team to conduct observations. We are in the process of gathering this additional data to determine if anything needs to be changed.

Monica Munowitch, AICP
 SFMTA Shared Spaces Program Manager
 Streets Division

CVIA Officers

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

**Visit our website at
 CVIASF.org**

CVIANEWS is published quarterly as a forum for residents of Cole Valley and the Haight Ashbury neighborhood. The views expressed reflect those of the writers. Contributions for the Summer edition should be sent before May 1, 2024 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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- Emergency (crimes in progress)911
- Homeless Outreach Team628-652-8000
- Disturbance (415) 553-0123
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- Abandoned Vehicles (415) 781-5865
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- Graffiti and Illegal Sign Removal.....311
- NextBus311
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- Mayor London Breed..... (415) 554-6141
- City Hall - Room 200
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| 11. Ahsha Safai Ahsha.Safai@sfgov.org | 415-554-6975 |

BECOME A CVIA MEMBER

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

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

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



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

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

NAME _____ E-MAIL _____

ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____

What I like about the neighborhood: _____

What I dislike about the neighborhood: _____

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

Do NOT acknowledge my optional contribution in the newsletter

Dues and contributions to Clean Cole Street may be taken as charitable deductions. Contact your accountant regarding the tax law.

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