

CVIA NEWS

COLE VALLEY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Volume XXVIII SERVING ALL RESIDENTS OF THE GREATER HAIGHT ASHBURY WINTER 2015

Voila! La Boulange Reopens

An about-face has occurred on Cole and Parnassus. Our last issue bemoaned the closure of our beloved La Boulange de Cole but due to a series of unforeseen events it is back in business and going strong.

The circuitous course provides an insight as to how business works today. First Starbucks bought the La Boulange chain of 23 “authentic” French cafés built by Pascal Rigo, who already owned Bay Bread so controlled the quality ingredients of his bakery products. Then the chain was bought by Starbucks who insisted that the Boulange cafés would stay the same: the only difference being the presence of Boulange product in Starbucks’ coffee shops. Using tacky pink and white striped advertising, French staples began appearing in their restaurants.

At the same time customers noticed a decrease in quality of the Boulange product. Then Starbucks decided they didn’t want the chain and closed all of the cafés. Bam! Like that. Irrespective



Photo: 30 Day Adventures

Pascal Rigo has reopened six of his old cafés under a slightly different name, “La Boulangerie de San Francisco.”

of the disastrous PR it engendered for the Starbucks’ brand in San Francisco., Rigo said he didn’t mind, after all he was ahead a tidy sum. And yet, starting with his Pine Street bakery, he had created much more than a commercial chain. His cafés shouted France! and we customers grew accustomed to coffee in bowls, open face sandwiches, tartes, quiches and all things buttery and light. Rigo was quoted as saying, “I had no idea people loved it so much.”

As soon as Rigo severed his connection with Starbucks, a west coast food delivery company called Munchery, run by Tran and Conrad Chu, hired him as Chief Customer Experience Officer. They also hired his colleague Nicolas Bernadine from the Boulange/Starbucks days. Rigo will hire and contract with other former colleagues to help form an entirely new entity of mass

—Continued on Page 2, column 2

Days of Outrage

When the murder of a Marin County hiker was traced to three young transients who had been living in the Haight which, in turn, linked to an earlier slaying in Golden Gate Park, neighbors became



Photo: Associated Press

Sean Angold, 24 Lisa Alligood, 18 Morrison Lampley, 23

aware that the scruffy street people with their backpacks and dogs who crowd the corners of Haight Street are not simply inconsiderate and annoying, among them can dwell those with lethal capabilities. On November 10, the regular monthly community meeting at Park Station was, for the second time, packed with an overflow crowd, forcing many to stand outside in the parking lot straining to hear. Unlike the prior meeting, one after another, indigent people, mostly young, vented their frustration—backed by advocates such as Jennifer Friedenbach, executive director of the Coalition on Homelessness—over what they considered to be “unfair” pressure by Park Station’s recent enforcement Task Force. The unflappable Captain Sanford listened patiently and, after clarifying the duty of the police as “simply to uphold the law, not to change law,” reminded speakers of their recourse—to report any police misconduct with the Office of Citizen Complaints.

Assistant District Attorney Marc Massarewah softened the prospect by assuring that most cases would get special handling at the Quality of Life Court. Supervisor London Breed backed the neighbors for whom park visits had become, in some cases, untenable.

Captain Sanford projected photographs of an array of drugs and weapons collected from street people and park dwellers. In



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cluding knives, a pair of brass knuckles and a short-barreled BB gun designed to resemble a handgun. Assuming these issues would persist another month, Sanford announced that the next community meeting (December 7) will be held at the larger Park Branch Library community room.

The following posted letters to the Mayor and SFPD are examples of the comments expressed at the two police meetings:

Letter from Michelle Leighton:

In the past (month) alone we have experienced the murder of a 23 year-old woman and the shooting of a man. The murder of Audrey Carey (and Steve Carter) is particularly concerning since



Photo: David Crommie

Another angry crowd spilled out of the Park Police Station community room on November 10 repeating the acrimony of the prior meeting held just after the October murders.

the killers had been living in Buena Vista Park in an encampment that had been reported to the city and the police by more than one resident of the neighborhood.

Letter from René Picazo:

As a parent of boys (ages 4 and 6 years old), we often use the parks and walk along Haight Street. It's bad enough that we need to step over vagrants lying on the ground or walk around human or dog feces, but now we need to be especially worried about these individuals who are using drugs and who have criminal backgrounds threatening our safety/survival.

I'm all for preserving the hippie nature of the place, but criminals tweaking on meth and defecating on the sidewalks doesn't preserve the sixties vibe in my opinion.

SF Chronicle Editorial Best Summarizes Situation:

The long-standing problem in San Francisco's Haight Ashbury neighborhood is back in the spotlight, following a series of brutal murders allegedly committed by three drifters.

The three accused killers — Sean Michael Angold, 24, Morrison Haze Lampley, 23, and Lila Scott Alligood, 18 — had alarmed local business owners, residents, and other street people during the time they spent in the Haight, prior to their alleged robbery and killing spree. Residents are rightly furious about a situation that's been allowed to fester in the Haight for years.

In 2010, San Francisco voters passed a controversial ordinance to ban sitting or lying on sidewalks. The big push for the "sit/lie" law came from the Haight, and that's where there's been the most police enforcement. But it's rare to see offenders prosecuted, and it clearly hasn't done much to curb aggressive behavior.

Since sit/lie isn't working, it's time for city leaders to either strengthen it—or come up with something more serious. (10/20/15)

La Boulange—Continued from Page 1

as well as reopening six of the former bakery cafés under the new name of La Boulangerie de San Francisco, which themselves are due for some changes, "a more rustic feeling," says Rigo.

But, his real challenge is his work for Munchery: to see if new technology can produce high quality food on a massive scale. Can it be done? If it can, the Chu brothers think Rigo is the one who can do it.

In the meantime, we are less interested in Rigo's corporate career goals and more interested in the fact that Cole Valley has its French café back. We wait to find out the meaning of "rustic feeling."

—Karen Crommie

Ed. Note: The other cafés to be reopened are those on Pine, Fillmore, Union, Hayes Valley and Noe Valley.

CVIA Tours the Waller Center

Cole Valley and Haight residents toured the premises of the Waller Center on October 21 as guests of resident manager Ken Schoon and the Reverend Patricia Parfett, Director of Congregation-

al Care, United Methodist Church (California-Nevada Conference.) They saw a welcoming facility for informal group meetings and "urban camping," reappropriated from the original



Photo: David Crommie

church and ancillary structures once housing the Haight Ashbury Food Kitchen and the Hamilton Family Center. Most of the group stayed for delicious pizza provided by Bambinos (generously discounted for CVIA).

Rev. Patricia Parfett leads a group through the two buildings at 1525 Waller. From right to left: CVIA President Chuck Canepa, Supervisor London Breed and Parfett.

A CLEAN
COLE
STREET

Our Neighborhood Heroes 2015 Merchant Participants

Alpha Market, Bambinos, BurgerMeister, Cole Cleaners, Cole Hardware, Cole Valley Antiques, Lavande, Mane Attraction, Pacific American Group,* Padrecito, Postal Chase, Tantrum

*Owners of 930 Cole Street

New Group Fitness Studio “Lavation” Opens on Stanyan

Fitness training looks very different than it did 15 years ago. Small boutique studios are trending and people are enjoying the freedom of building a solid personal habit around several types of workouts. Cole Valley residents are especially lucky because they can get exactly what they need and use it in the way that suits them best.

To point, the owners of the small Midline gym on Frederick, owned by Jason and Erica Kajdasz (dedicated organizer of the Cole Valley Fair) and Mien Luong, have recently opened the doors of Lavation, an indoor cycling and circuit training facility at 784 Stanyan Street. They believe that cycling and circuit training, being largely cardiovascular workouts, are excellent compliments to the wonderful variety of services offered by other neighborhood places



With two active gyms, management of the Cole Valley Fair and many in-kind charitable donations, Midline has established itself as a predominant force in Cole Valley.

such as Yoga Tree, Soulful Pilates, Funky Door Yoga, Cole Valley Fitness and, of course, Midline’s original venue at 515 Frederick. For more info visit www.lavationstudio.com. Remember, group exercise is one way to connect with others in the community around something positive and healthful.

Keep Holiday Shopping Local

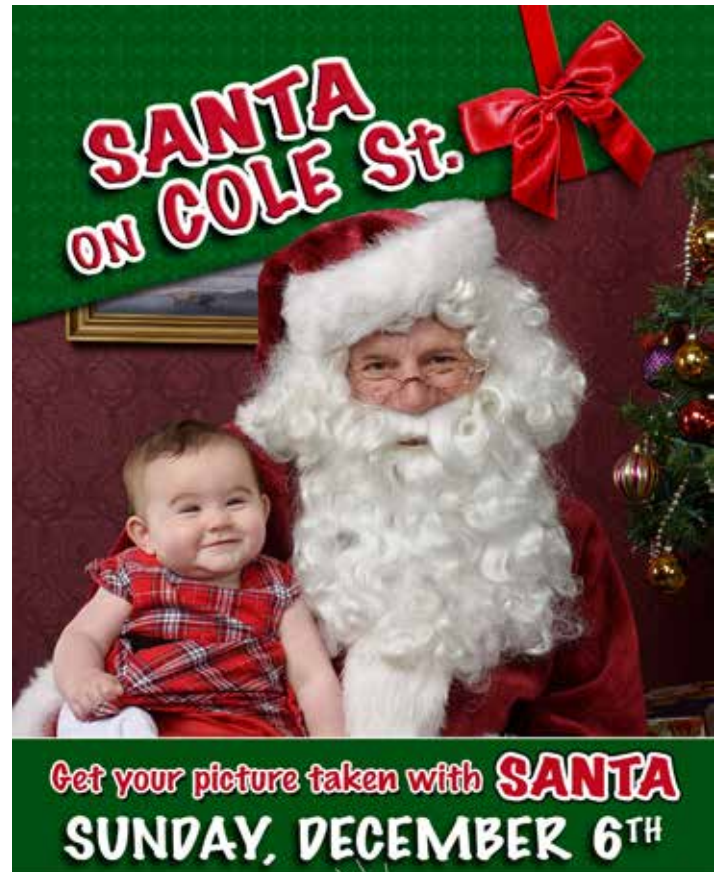
When you shop at our neighborhood businesses, you’re supporting the economy of the place you live. It’s a simple fact: for every \$100 spent, locally owned independent businesses generate \$68 in local economic activity. National chains generate only \$43. And out-of-state online sellers who don’t collect sales tax are virtually a total drain on the local economy. So when you spend your hard-earned money here, it stays here, supporting neighborhood businesses and enhancing the quality of life in Cole Valley and the greater Haight Ashbury.



Photo with Santa Helps Fund Clean Cole Street Program

Santa is back on Cole Street for the seventh year. Have your picture taken with Santa without the hassle of driving to the mall or waiting in long lines. AND the proceeds help fund Clean Cole Street, the project that pays for the sidewalk cleaning of our commercial area every day. Each year we’ve raised an average of over \$1,000 toward this important project.

Loic Nicolas, a professional photographer with consistent 5-star reviews on yelp and a CVIA member, came up with this fund-raising



idea and donates a day of his time for the good of his neighborhood. His photos are wonderful and he is a delight to watch while he works. We’re so fortunate to have Loic as a neighbor and supporter.

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

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

Please come by with your kids, grandkids, pets, or yourself on Sunday, December 6 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The cost of the sitting is \$20 and prints start at \$1, depending on resolution. Digital files are \$15 to \$35. Photos are available within 24 hours. See loicphoto.com/santa for more information. And spread the word!

—Joan Downey

Ed. Note: Although Santa loves children, he’s also fond of dogs and cats (and sometimes even grown-ups) who are willing to sit on his lap for a photo.



Thank You For Your Support



It certainly isn't expected, but when a member sends in an extra contribution, we appreciate it greatly. Only thirteen Cole Valley merchants contributed to the daily cleaning of Cole Street's business district this year, which costs CVIA \$936 each month. We make up the deficit with member contributions, a discount from CleanScapes, proceeds from the "Santa on Cole" photo shoot and the Annual Fall Raffle. So we would like to take this opportunity to thank the following members for their generosity during the period November 1, 2014 to October 31, 2015. Please notify us if your name has inadvertently been omitted.

Benefactors: (\$250 - \$500): Karen & David Crommie, Loic Nicolas, Gay & Jack Reineck. Abby & David Rumsey, Irv Govan & Les Silverman

Donors (\$100 - \$249): Cecile & Jeff Bodington, Linda Coda & Robert Brigante, Lena Emmery & Charles Canepa, Diane & Christopher Davies, Kathryn Demas, Carrie Denning, Joan Downey & Ilie Gaceu, Linda Erkelens, Tresa & Jim Eyres, Marianne Hesse, Randy & Rich Lavinghouse, Eileen Lemus, Bahereh & John Manning, Leigh Ann Parente, Catherine Covey & Thomas Ports, Kerith & Tony Pucci, Rosemary Southwood, Michael J. Sullivan, Beth & Rick Thurber

Contributors (\$50 - \$99): Anonymous, Byron G. Bray, Jr., Claudia Scharff & Timothy Dunn, Rita & Richard Felciano, Deb & Todd Frederick, Margaret & Russell Garvin, Carole Glosenger, Shannon & Chris Hock, Mary & John Hooper, Robin & Richard Hornung, Lyn & Harold Isbell, Michelle & Wallis Lim, Joanne & Bill Prieur, Susan & Steven Rosen, Eileen & Kevin Thau, Mary Ann Wolcott

Supporters (\$25 - \$49): Robert Anooshian, Molly Barry, Gail & Howard Berman, Judith Bishop, Megan & Bruce Bourne, Joan K. Boyd, Cathryn Brash, Donna Cooper, Sarah & Alexander Crockett, Karin de Brer, Sandra Norberg & Richard Drake, Jean Hayward, Gerardo Joffe, Lynn Kormondy, Margareta Ekblad & Vojtech Licko, Dennis Martino, Jane & Michael Miller, Olympia & Douglas Montgomery, Barbara Mow, Deborah Robbins & Henry Navas, Robert Page, MeMe Riordan, Brenda Stone, Tracy Grubbs & Richard Taylor, Deborah Van Atta, Ilya Kaltman & Jack Vogensen, Isabel Wade, Edward C. Walls, Victoria Zaroff

Boosters (\$24 and below): Anonymous, Kay Auciello, Sharon Birenbaum, Tina & Oliver Brock, Ellen Curry, Mary Ann de Sousa, Beverley Epstein, Stu Etzler, Gloria Galindo, Minette & Isac Gutfreund, Robert Gordon & Bill Haskell, Maryann Hrichak, David Keller, Carolyn & Brendan McKenna, Ellen & Richard Price, Celia Price, Diane & Bob Silver, Jillian & Blake Tyrrell

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Members Turn Out for Social

A crowd of 40 people gathered at the Kezar Bar and Restaurant on August 15 for CVIA's Annual Meeting and Summer Social at which Chuck Canepa was elected president. An award of appreciation was presented to Chronicle columnist C.W. Nevius for his record



(Left to right) C.W. Nevius, Karen Crommie, Sue Rosen, Ethel Konopka, Carole Glosenger and Doerte Murray.

of consistently courageous reporting on city issues. His humorous recounting of his career in journalism was followed by a series of hard questions from the audience which he responded to with insight and good humor.

Holiday Event You Can Walk To

Every holiday season we celebrate the lighting of the massive 134 year old Monterey Cypress that stands in front of McLaren Lodge. No, it's not your classic cone-shaped fir such as those at commercial sites across the city, nor are its lights placed artfully within the branches, but, hey, it has special significance for us who live close to Golden Gate Park and love its history.



Neighbors will gather at McLaren Lodge on December 3 to experience the annual lighting of Uncle John's 134 year-old tree.

This year, the lighting will take place on Thursday, December 3, just after dusk (sunset is at 4:29 p.m.). McLaren Lodge is located at 501 Stanyan Street at Fell, just inside the park. Festivities will include a train ride, live entertainment, and a special visit from Santa.

The towering conifer is lovingly called "Uncle John's Tree" in honor of the park's most influential superintendent, John McLaren, who was an enthusiastic tree planter, responsible for the complete transformation of the landscape of Golden Gate Park from desolate dunes to an urban greenscape. This particular tree dates to approximately 1880, during the reign of McLaren's predecessor, William Hammond Hall, who planted some 200,000 trees during his tenure.

The elegant Romanesque building across the lawn from the tree, now housing Recreation and Park Department offices, was built in 1896 as McLaren's home. His portrait looks over the boardroom, visible through the windows at the north of the building.

On his deathbed, McLaren's requested that the tree be lit with Christmas lights. His wish was granted and it is now the official Christmas tree of San Francisco. (atlasobscura.com)

Haight Grocer Given His Due

A full length photo of the Haight's favorite grocer, Gus Vardakastanis, graced the cover of the Food + Home section of the Sunday Chronicle (11/1/15) as part of a time-honored rags to riches story that long term Haight residents have had the privilege of watching over the last 20 years. Staff writer Tara Duggan brilliantly lays out he details of a family saga that, one likes to think, could only happen in America.

Gus came from Greece, following his father, and worked in a grocery store. After four years, at age 20, he returned to the Island of Zakynthos for a visit, met the beautiful young Georgia (then 15 years old) whom he brought back with him. She became his wife



In spite of relinquishing management, Gus Vardakastanis can still be seen at the Haight Street store, now renamed "Gus's" by his sons.

and the mother of their two sons, Bobby and Dmitri. In 1981 Gus, along with his father and uncle, bought the Haight Street Market. Time passed, the business moved from one side of Haight Street to the other, the sons joined the business and eventually became managers, thus relieving Gus of some of the day to day grind.



Sons Dmitri and Bobby (left to right) display their Varda Label wines.

Prompted by the budding aspirations of the boys, Gus bought the building next door (formerly Massawa's) expanded and upgraded stock, installed a deli, meat and fish market, gourmet cheese section, daily house-made sushi and coffee stand, constructed a "parklet" at the curb, and never looked back. This, in spite of the opening of a Whole Foods Market on Stanyan and the weekly visits of a farmers market at Waller Plaza.

With Bobby managing the Haight store and the older Dmitri running their second store on Noriega, Gus still goes to the wholesale produce market four times a week at 2:30 a.m. They are opening Gus's Community Market at Harrison and 17th Street this month. It

will have a full service café, beers on tap and a whole-animal butcher shop. Oh, yes, and somewhere along the line, the family bought a vineyard in Carneros and bottles Merlot, Syrah and Sauvignon Blanc under the Varda label. How's that for a success story? And it couldn't happen to a better family.

—Karen Crommie

Grattan Playground Officially Opens for Weekend Recreation

When Supervisor Mark Farrell's Shared Schoolyard Project got the go-ahead from Grattan Elementary School (165 Grattan at Alma) there was kick-off celebration held on Saturday, November 7 marking the "official" start of the playground being open on week-



Photo: Lena Emmerly

Grattan School Principal Matthew Reedy with Supervisors Mark Farrell and London Breed officially open the playground for weekend use.

ends. One asks, why didn't this sensible program start years ago? Especially in neighborhoods where parks and playgrounds are not as available as they are in Cole Valley and the Haight. Although 28 public schools are already enrolled and interest continuing to grow, Farrell knows that, without the support of community members, the success of this program is limited.

In addition to Supervisor Farrell, our own District 5 Supervisor London Breed was there to mark the occasion, which included free lunch, activities provided by Midline and others, and raffle prizes (thanks to Tantrum and the Academy of Sciences). Farrell gets full marks for his foresight in opening options for weekend recreation to children all over the city.

William Dallas Pierce, MD

November 16, 1940 - October 9, 2015

Brilliant mental health professional and forensic expert at Westside Community Mental Health Center and Southeast Mental Health Center, Dr. Pierce was a Graduate of the University of Pittsburgh and proud member of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity. But in Cole Valley, he was simply known as "Doc," especially to his friends at the Kezar Bar and Restaurant, where a small shrine has been erected, and will be remembered fondly with toasts to his life and warm recollection of his stories and sense of humor.

Community Protests Gas Leaks

The fifth in a series of gas leaks during the last six months on the same block of Haight Street drew angry neighbors and merchants to a press conference on October 26. The City Administrator, who is ultimately in charge, blamed PG&E, who in turn blamed Ghillotti Brothers, who pointed to their sub-contractor Synergy Project Management, who said the city's underground mapping was faulty.

Photo: Amy Stephenson/Hoodline



Haight Ashbury Merchants Association spokesperson Christin Evans describes the impact of the gas pipe ruptures.

After the sewer project had two leaks in the spring, Shoe Biz owner Mehran Esmaili wrote to city officials, "Neither the SF DPW nor our District Supervisor responded to our collective requests and now we receive notification of another excavation by the same contractor along the same alignment where a gas line was punctured twice and a newly replaced main water line caused a sinkhole."

Unheeded, work resumed and three more gas leaks occurred. As a result, Ghilotti has terminated the contract with Synergy temporarily. Work had already been scheduled to stop from Thanksgiving to January 1st in order to minimize the impact on Haight merchants during the holidays. After that, who knows?.

Recent Uptrend in Vehicle Break-ins and Home Burglaries.

Park Station has noticed a significant increase in reports of cars being broken into around the district. In addition to the cars being burglarized, the thieves are also stealing the garage door remotes which are often left in the victim vehicles. The thieves then proceed to gain access to the victim's residence, where they also commit a burglary of the home. Park Station would like to remind community members to please refrain from keeping the remotes in vehicles.


—Captain John Sanford

POLICE COMMUNITY FORUM

Captain John Sanford holds community forums the second Tuesday of every month (except next month*) from 6 to 7:00 p.m. He gives briefings on upcoming permitted events, reviews neighborhood criminal activity, and addresses the safety concerns of residents. It's a good way to stay in touch with what's going on. The meetings are held in Park Station's Community Room (1899 Waller).

December 7*, January 12, February 9
Mark Your Calendars

**Note: The December meeting will be held on a Monday at the Park Branch Library, 1833 Page St.*



Old Haunt, Still Going Strong

Stephen Jackson of Hoodline.com recently did an interview (10-7-15) with Zam Zam bartender Kundan Baidwan who recounted some of the lore of the 74 year-old bar at 1633 Haight, formerly called Persian Aub Zam Zam. It reminded me of the days when Bruno, the portly, sixty-something son of the original owner Sam Moosheis, held forth behind the bar with an gimlet eye to those who were "acceptable" and not.

Photo: Hoodline.com



Popular bartender Kundan Baidwan is well versed in the quirky history of Zam Zam.

Many Haight residents fell into the second group and, once told to leave, quickly got the message that you did not stand up next to the bar; rarely could sit at one of the small tables; shouldn't name your brand unless prepared for a snide remark; and wouldn't get a cocktail napkin if you were a man (a weird custom Bob Clarke, the new owner, still observes). But most important, I found out after many nights, was that Bruno wanted to



Photo: Zam Zam

The back-bar has an enlarged fantasy hunting scene in the Mughal style.

be the focus of attention. If people left him out of the bar conversation, his feathers were ruffled and you could watch the resentment build. Finally came the voice "this section is now closed" and you

—Karen Crommie

Ed. Note: We've talked about Hoodline.com as a wonderful source of neighborhood news and encouraged CVIA members to subscribe. The website has some great writers and manages to be on top of all the latest happenings. For an interactive "billboard" website, we also recommend Nextdoor.com. Both are free.



SHARON ART STUDIO
WINTER SALE
SUNDAY DECEMBER 6
11 AM - 5 PM

The 13th Annual Cole Valley Fair

Thanks to organizer Erica Kajdasz (co-owner of Midline), the Cole Valley Fair on Sunday, September 27 was a huge success. It

Photo: Joan Downey



Good weather brought hundreds of neighbors out to this annual event. was a perfect day in Cole Valley and there was plenty to enjoy from the live music, classic car show, scrumptious food and beautiful arts and crafts from local artists.

New and returning vendors enjoyed interacting with the large

Photo: Joan Downey



Midline co-owner Erica Kajdasz skillfully organized the fair again this year.

crowd and turning a profit to boot. Foodie favorites like El Porteno and Bombzies BBQ, were joined by newcomers Hella Halal and Sabor San Miguel. The “sushi burrito” from Linda’s Catering was a huge hit and it seemed as though every other person was walking around with a popsicle from The Pop Nation.

Chris Hock, CVIA board member and producer of all the Fair’s music performances reported that, “Musicians such as Future Us, Mission

Photo: Joan Downey



A band from Grattan Elementary School was a crowd pleaser.

Hill, and A Talent for Mischief came back this year and were joined by a couple of bands composed entirely of students from Grattan

Elementary School. It was a special treat to have favorites Sticky Situation and Roaring Hearts drawing large crowds at the Parnassus/Cole stage.” You have to hand it to these fine musicians who play at the fair for the sheer joy of it. If they can sell a few CDs, all the better.

CVIA president Chuck Canepa’s display of old cars, most



Photo: Lena Emmery

The Amphicar was the most unusual entry in Chuck Canepa’s car show.

owned by Cole Valley neighbors, was graced by a rare Amphicar, a vehicle that is also a boat—one of only 4,000 made in Germany between 1961-1965. Unusual, too, was the model streetscape provided by Terry Hurley and his friends at the Diablo Short Line RR.



Photo: Lena Emmery

At 4:00 p.m. a crowd began to form around the CVIA booth for the raffle drawing, a benefit for the daily cleaning of Cole Street.

The tiny depiction of San Francisco transit will go live next year if a source of nearby electricity can be found.

Children drew the winning tickets for 32 prizes donated by generous Cole Valley and Haight Street merchants. Although raffle



Photo: Joan Downey

Jay Streets watches as a child picks a winning ticket from a bowl held by CVIA Vice-president Amy Blakeley.

tickets were for sale all day to everyone at the fair, more than half of the winners were members of CVIA, many of whom had been “persuaded” to buy tickets at the Summer Social. The raffle raised almost \$1500 for the Clean Cole Street project. Thank you to all who bought tickets and those who volunteered to help the event live up to its reputation as the best family street fair in the city.

Park Branch Library Open Hours

(1833 Page Street)

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

CVIA Board Minutes

The following is a summary of what took place at the CVIA board meetings the last three months. Those wishing to bring a neighborhood issue before the Board are welcome to do so. Meetings take place on the first Monday of every month at 7:00 p.m. in the home of a member. There is no meeting in December. Call 415-431-1414 to learn the location.

Every meeting begins with a reading of the minutes of the last meeting and reports from delegates to the Kezar Stadium Advisory Committee, SFMTA Citizens Advisory Council, the Community Police Advisory Board (C-PAB), the UCSF Community Advisory Group (CAG) and the Coalition for S.F. Neighborhoods.

September

Location: Home of David and Karen Crommie—September 14, 2015

Guests: Supervisor Mark Farrell, Margaux Kelly and Hyn Shin of the Shared Schoolyard Project; Candace Sue, SFMTA Director of Communications/Marketing; and CVIA member Cathy Haller

- Treasurer's report postponed until Joan Downey returns.
- In her review of the Community Police Advisory Committee, Lena Emmery reported that she recently joined Park Station's Captain John Sanford for a neighborhood bike ride demonstrating good riding practices. This, in response to the flack coming from the SF Bicycle Coalition regarding enforcement of traffic rules for cyclists.
- Supervisor Farrell spoke about the need to boost the budget for the city's parks, agreeing with CVIA Board members that maintenance of current recreational facilities are of prime importance. He said that 90% of all calls to Rec and Park are emergency calls (broken swings, etc.) because routine maintenance does not take place, and also agreed that more garbage cans were badly needed throughout the system. (FYI: All funds raised in fees by Rec and Park are now kept within the department for allocation as needed.) Farrell then introduced his Shared Schoolyard Project team, Margaux Kelly and Hyn Shin. The goal of the project is to keep school playgrounds open on weekends. They have so far succeeded in enrolling nearly half the public schools in SF. Farrell hopes to get the remaining 50 schools to participate in the program and, to that end, would like CVIA's endorsement. We said we would discuss it and get back to him.
- Discussed the need to publicize the Waller Center Neighborhood Tour scheduled for October 21, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Agreed to notify members by email, post a notice on Facebook and have fliers available at the CVIA fair booth. Karen Crommie to make up fliers to distribute on doorsteps of surrounding residents. Decided not to require an RSVP but rather to have 10 large pizzas and drinks there for after the tour. Chuck Canepa to tell Waller Center manager (Ken Schoon) that we need to stay one hour later than the termination of the tour at 7:30 to accommodate this.
- Lena Emmery reported that Maryo Mogannam has signed a cost-sharing agreement for sales of the "Cole and Carl" T-shirts. Designer Carole Glosenger will now order the shirts in an assortment of sizes based on prior demand.
- SFMTA Communications/Marketing Director Candace Sue, present at the request of department head Ed Reiskin, described her recent tour of the Muni park pathway (between Carl and Clayton)

with Terrance Fehey, MTA Deputy Director of Maintenance and Way along with an operations executive from DPW. They confirmed the validity of our complaint at the lack of lighting at night. Ms. Sue laid out three options based on the tour and a later field study examining the width of path and availability of power. 1) Bollards with lumens situated in different places along the path, 2) one large street light—problematic because of the size of footing necessary to hold pole and also possible spill light into nearby houses, 3) closing the park at night. DPW estimates the first option would cost between \$300,000 to \$400,000. Ms. Sue stressed that, if approved, the work could be done as part of the Sunset Tunnel renovation project, but added that, because of the cost, heavy lobbying would have to be done to effect such a large allocation for a very limited group of nighttime users of the path. (Note: since the most expensive bollard light is \$500 (20 = \$10,000), one assumes the remaining cost would be underground wiring and installation.)

■ The rest of the meeting was dedicated to details regarding management of the CVIA booth at the Cole Valley Fair on September 27. Adjourned 9:15 p.m.

Note: The October Board Meeting was cancelled due to the number of members traveling.

November

Location: Home Marianne Hesse – November 2, 2015

Guests: CVIA members Cathy Haller and Edward Walls

- Treasurer Joan Downey reported \$12,097.46 in savings, \$5,824.67 in checking for a total of \$17,922.13 out of which \$5,843.18 is being held in the Clean Cole Street fund.
- In her review of the Community Police Advisory Committee (C-PAB), Lena Emmery related the need for a larger venue for the next Police Community meeting (Nov. 10) in light of the overflow crowd at the October meeting. Captain Sanford is anticipating that the community will still be responding to the discovery that three itinerant youths suspected of killing two people had been part of the Haight's meth scene living in Buena Vista Park.
- Chuck Canepa commented that the SF Police is understaffed by one-third their optimum compliment of 1,900 officers.
- Lena also reported that at the next meeting of the Kezar Stadium Advisory Committee she will bring up the filth along Frederick Street adjoining the property and determine who is responsible for maintenance of this area.
- CSFN delegate Karen Crommie reviewed the organization's concern over the city's intention to adopt the State's Density Bonus Program allowing developers additional height and bulk if affordable housing is included in the plan. Although not applying to RH-1 or RH-2, it is feared, based on precedent, that those exemptions will fade away as developers apply pressure to increase density in SF's residential neighborhoods. Crommie said that there will be a vote on the protocol for the "google busses" using Muni stops at the next meeting. As soon as the resolution is sent to the CSFN delegates, she will email CVIA board members so that they can respond with their opinion and she can determine a consensus vote.
- Amy Blakeley reported that CVIA's website (CVIASF.com) had been hacked by someone inserting commercial messages into the "News" section. CVIA member and web guru Mark Ballew graciously intervened, cleaning out the unwanted junk. Once again, we are all indebted to Mark. Amy also said that CVIA's Facebook page received the most clicks on the closing of La Boulange (which, fortunately, has now reopened as La Boulangerie.)
- She also said that 30 people had signed the petition at the CVIA's booth (at the Cole Valley Fair) asking for light on the pathway from the Muni stop at Cole and Carl leading to Clayton Street.

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

■ There was a protracted analysis of the fund-raising raffle introduced at the Summer Social and extended throughout the day of the Cole Valley Fair. Although it was a notable success, thanks to the generous Cole Valley and Haight merchants, could it have been better staged? Some thought there should be the opportunity to buy tickets for a specific prize, as in a silent auction. Others felt there should be more sales on the street before the Fair. Others suggested a neighborhood-wide garage sale; a fund-raising dinner with auction items on display with tickets available for each item. This is to be discussed at the February board meeting.

■ Discussed new member Jeff Lakusta's suggestion that we organize a group of young Cole Valley professionals to participate in volunteer projects—an idea put forth earlier by board member Amy Blakeley. Agreed that we should follow up on it.

■ Cathy Haller advocated tapping the enormous goodwill of Grattan School for possible partnerships in fund-raising.

■ Chris Hock asked that the passing of Dr. Pierce appear in the next edition of the CVIA News.

■ Discussed publicity for the Santa on Cole fundraising photo op (December 6) at Postal Chase: postcards, posters, decorating tree, etc. Volunteer shifts to be determined by email.

Adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Cole Valley Calligrapher Alan Blackman Exhibit Drew Crowd

The stunning exhibit of calligraphy-embellished first day postal issues Blackman had sent to himself and his beloved son, now deceased, go back to 1968. The Main Library's exhibit of 36 years of



unique work is unfortunately over but the memory remains in the deliciously bizarre and elegant work of this reclusive postal worker who lived among us at 1125 Shrader Street for many years. See the



envelopes in color online at alanblackman.com. Click on "letters to myself" and then on the "pages" (1-5).

Cole Valley Patriarch Dies at 99

Neighborhood legend Dave Karp passed away on October 25. Born in San Francisco on June 4, 1916 of Polish immigrants who, although "fluent in Polish, Yiddish and English, couldn't read or write in any language."

Dave "graduated from Mission High School, sold candy at baseball games at Seals Stadium, and did everything from delivering telegrams to working in the shipyards in World War II."

When he finally got his own business in 1961 he was 45 years old. The store at 956 Cole Street was "small, but the rent was



Cole Hardware founder Dave Karp was honored by CVIA at their 2012 Summer Social.

low—only \$85 a month—and (Dave) did everything himself, from stocking the store, to waiting on customers, to handyman repair jobs for customers at night. The business expanded slowly into a mini-chain, each store stocking 30,000 items." Under the leadership of his son Rick, who is president of Cole Hardware, "there are now four stores in San Francisco and one, opened earlier this year, in the Rockridge District of Oakland." (Excerpted from the Chronicle obituary by San Francisco historian Carl Nolte 10/29/15)

Cole Garage Space Update



The interior of 930 Cole Street as it looks now.

American Pacific Group CEO Linda Hothem sent us the above picture saying that they "continue to make strides preparing the space for lease."

In spite of rumors that the interior at 930 Cole will be divided into small shops, she simply said that, "The building has passed environmental inspections, sprinklers have been installed, the roof and walls were sandblasted and waterproofed and seismic work is currently in process. We are just in the beginning stages of fully marketing the space and will report back as we get closer to finding the perfect new tenant(s)."

Postscripts

As you might recall, the site of the former Boys and Girls Club at 1950 Page was sold to the **Fei Tian Academy** a year ago. Soon after, the owners filed plans to extend the second floor horizontally by 9,000



square feet and build an additional story on the building of approximately 13,000 square feet. Accredited as a middle-high school (6-12 grades), curriculum fo-

cuses on classical Chinese dance. For more information contact planner **Mary Woods** at mary.woods@sfgov.org.

A big thank you to the residents of **Belvedere Street**, who go way over the top in providing a splendid and appropriately scary Halloween for neighborhood children.

"There were more than 3,000 children this year," said well-known resident **Michael Miller**. The innovative decorations, the interactive experiences, not



Photo: Joan Downey

to mention the quality of the "treats" are a tribute to the generosity of this group of neighbors.

Alas, the farmers' market on Waller at Stanyan won't be coming back next Spring. After much thought and deliberation, **Pacific Coast Farmers' Market Association** decided to close it down two months early. Simply not enough patronage to bring the vendors out on that windy lot, used mainly as a skateboard park. On the bright side, there are still two nearby Sunday morning farmers' markets operating year round, one in the Inner Sunset in the parking lot south of Irving between 8th and 9th Avenue, and another on Grove and Divisadero.

Turkey days cometh. There will be professional knife sharpening at **Cole Hardware** on November 14, 28 and December 12. You can drop off your knives or scissors beforehand or go in and have your tools sharpened while you shop.

The generosity of Cole Valley residents never ceases to amaze me. Enough people contributed to the **Tank Hill** stairs restoration fund for a total of \$4,590, which was sent to Rec and Park as part of the "community partnership" in the project. Thanks to Belgrade resident **Ilya Kaltman** who appealed to Cole Valley neighbors who want to keep Tank Hill accessible for all. CVIA was happy to provide fiscal sponsorship for this community benefit.

In a touching note to CVIA, longtime member Valley **Rita Veide-man** (age 86) wrote, "I walk down to Cole Street with my daughter for a cup of coffee occasionally and enjoy it but am alarmed at the changes coming up, particularly with the 'garage.' As a child I was always fascinated by the big open door into the mysterious dark but busy place. The garage is a great structure. Too many changes in the city lately have depleted its charm and beauty."

It didn't seem right that CVIA's popular "Cole and Carl" T-shirt wasn't in circulation anymore, so when the enterprising **Maryo Mogannam** suggested that we print up a batch and let him make them available at **Postal Chase**, designer **Carole Glosenger** was delighted and CVIA may see a little profit from the sales. Always a good thing.



Kate Hopke, executive director of **San Francisco Village** filled the Park Library Community room on October 25 for an introduction to the organization supporting older San Franciscans who want to "age in place."



Hopke involved the audience in what was a discussion of aspirations and solutions for those who would rather, if possible, bypass "retirement communities." SFV coordinates classes and volunteer services for members. There are currently 19 members living in the 94117 zip code. For more information go to sfvillage.org.

The **Randall Museum**, the interactive nature learning center—a staple for Cole Valley parents—is undergoing massive remodeling, or as they put it, "revitalization" lasting over a year. In the interim, they've moved the live animal exhibit and some of the public programs (Saturday Science, Afternoon Art, Toddler Tuesdays) to the **Mission Art Center**, located at 745 Treat Avenue. Monthly Birding Walks with Audubon experts continue at Corona Heights on selected Fridays. Go to randallmuseum.com for a complete rundown on their many activities or call (415) 695-5014. —Karen Crommie

Thanks to Raffle Prize Donors

Our profound thanks to the generous businesses that contributed goods and services to our annual fundraising raffle for Clean Cole Street. Your support keeps our neighborhood strong.

Booksmith, Circus Center, Cole Valley Antiques, Finnigans Wake, Haight Street Market, Magnolia Brew Pub, Midline, Peet's Coffee & Tea, Tantrum, Urban Mercantile, Whole Foods Market.

AcroSports, Amoeba Music, Cole Hardware, Ice Cream Bar, Ineke, Ino Vino, Kezar Pizzetta, Padrecito, Pharmaca, Reverie, Say Cheese, Zazie.

Letters

Dear CVIA,

I'm a long-standing CVIA member, on Cole Street between Haight and Page. I've been around for a long time, so I am realistic about conditions in the area. However, there has been a noticeable uptick in drug use in the past period—lots of needles, cannisters, etc., on my stairs, which I never saw before—plus more obviously high (meth?) individuals walking crazily on the streets, and not just at night: sometimes in broad daylight. I am also hearing of a rash of break-ins and attempted break-ins.

Has CVIA taken this up? Could it? I understand how parts of the politically powerful are in bed with those who profit from this problem. Still, I think it's important that voices be raised to demand that the City address this productively.

Russell A. Berman

Ed. Note: This letter was received prior to the murders, suggesting that spiking meth use was obvious to longtime residents.

CVIA Officers

- President..... Chuck Canepa
- Vice PresidentAmy Blakeley
- TreasurerJoan Downey
- Recording SecretaryKaren Crommie
- MembershipLena Emmery
- Community RelationsAmy Blakeley

Call for News

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



Cviasf@aol.com

Please contact us by email if you have an issue to raise, a newsletter article, address change, or an update to your membership information. Send us *your* email address if you want to be notified of upcoming meetings and events of importance to our neighborhood.

CVIANEWS is published quarterly as a forum for residents of the greater Haight Ashbury neighborhood. The views expressed reflect those of the writers. Contributions for the Spring edition should be sent before February 1, 2016 to CVIASF@aol.com. We encourage submissions from anyone interested in our neighborhood. Send questions or comments to the above address or call 431-1414.

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- Blocked Driveway & Parking on Sidewalk...415-553-1200
- Abandoned Vehicles415-781-5865
- Health Department415-255-3610
- Litter Patrol (sofas, mattresses, etc.).....311
- Graffiti and Illegal Sign Removal311
- NextBus311
- Street Lighting..... 415-554-0730

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BECOME A CVIA MEMBER

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

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

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



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

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

NAME _____ E-MAIL _____

ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____

What I like about the neighborhood: _____

What I dislike about the neighborhood: _____

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

The Cole Valley Improvement Association is a 501 (c) (3) tax exempt organization EIN: 20-1652073. 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**

