

CVIA NEWS

COLE VALLEY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Volume XXIII

SERVING ALL RESIDENTS OF THE GREATER HAIGHT ASHBURY

FALL 2010

Murder in Golden Gate Park

Adam Noyes, a 25 year-old transient from Vermont, was the victim of a fatal stabbing in Golden Gate Park over the Fourth of July weekend. He suffered a single stab wound after a confrontation with Richard Ray, 65 years old, who has been arrested on suspicion of murder. Ray said that Noyes went at him with a knife and that he stabbed him in self-defense. The police are searching for any possible witnesses to corroborate the story.

When a crime is committed in the park and the victim has no local address, a number of assumptions are made and it is easy to shrug off. But as the number of indigent people who nightly seek the cover of the park increases, so does the possibility that we, who live along side it and regularly use it, could also become a victim.

Betty Settles In on Cole Street

I was sitting at the counter at Reverie having coffee when a CVIA member on his way to work came up behind me with an urgent look on his face. "What are we going to do about that guy who has taken up a permanent residence panhandling in front of the Laundromat?" I told him that he should know better than to think we could disturb a person sitting on the street doing no harm to anyone. "Well," he said, "I took him a cup of coffee yesterday morning but I sure wish he'd find someplace else to go." Then he rushed off to catch the N-Judah.

The guy on the street is not unknown to the cops nor to the neighbors living around the Carl St. Muni park. (See Letters, page 11.) After a recent complaint, cops had to pull him off the train tracks



"Brown Bag Betty" turns on the charm at Cole and Carl.

where he had passed out with his pants down. He regularly uses the park as his toilet, sleeps in the doorways and, in fact, has been given permission to do so by well-meaning merchants, none of whom to my knowledge actually live in Cole Valley. His name is David Browman but he is better known as Brown Bag Betty.

Continued on page 2, column 2.

Cole Fair Bigger and Better

Sunday, September 26 — 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Cole Valley Fair will once again provide an opportunity for neighbors to gather in a festive atmosphere to celebrate our neighborhood with good music, tempting food and unique things to buy.

The fair boundaries, which traditionally run from Frederick to Grattan and on Parnassus from Belvedere to Shrader, will expand one block farther north so that merchants on the 800 block will be



Dog owners practice for months (well, at least minutes) to compete in "Pet Tricks," one of the fair's crowd pleasers.

included. Crepes on Cole, a fair sponsor, will have a booth for the first time. Since vehicular traffic will not be restricted on Carl Street, two extra parking control officers will be hired to direct traffic at the intersection of Cole and Carl. We'll see how it works this year – if it doesn't, we'll revert to the old boundaries next year.

The Cole Valley Fair is renown among San Francisco street fairs for its appeal to families. Twee Twee, the balloon artist is the hands-down favorite with the kindergarten set. In past years one could find a circle of tykes sitting transfixed in their chairs long after the fair was technically over awaiting their turn to experience the creation of a balloon animal especially for them. Also popular with the little ones is Buki the face-painting clown who will be returning. The big inflatable "jumpy house" is where kids 6 to 12 line up over and over again for the privilege of falling every which way in a safe environment.

The recurring display of historic Cole Valley photos assembled by Jessica Justino elicits the most comment from residents. Each year she prepares a special feature — this time an update of "The



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Hidden Gardens of Cole Valley.” Her ad hoc gallery is the south wall of Alpha Market where the line can be three deep as fascinated fairgoers get a new and old perspective on the neighborhood.

The roundup of musical groups promises to be the best we’ve had to date. **Aoede** —“performing inspired, compelling stories of love, loss and longing spill out and take you, shake you, and wake you, emotionally evocative, intelligent, vocal-driven pop rock... pushes the envelope, pulls you in, pulls at your heart;” **Bitter Mystics** —“smooth and sultry vocals backed by masterful acoustic rhythm and lead guitars, violin, energizing original songs described as boundary stretching Americana”; **Hobbyhorse** —“a folk fusion of musical and mythical influences from around the world with stunning originals and a soft spot for traditional songs of the British Isles”; **Peter Kasin & Richard Adrianowicz** —“traditional and contemporary songs of the sea.” **The She’s** —“a youthful and energetic all girl SF band. They have been friends for a long time and that translates through their one passion: rock”; **Bob Scott** —“odd sounds and cowboy blues”; and **Taiko Sisters** —“an all-women drum group that teaches women the joy of drumming, then shares this joy with their community.”

There will be an interesting mix of vendors — about 60 percent are returning from last year and a quarter of those are talented Cole Valley residents. They’ve consistently given us high praise for a well-run fair. This is due mainly to our volunteers.

Please consider spending two hours of your time to help make this fair go smoothly again this year. **Volunteer at colevalleyfair@gmail.com.**

—Joan Downey, with additional material from Shannon Cooper Hoch

Old Cars Return to Fair . . . With a Vengeance

2010 marks the fifth year of exhibiting vintage cars as part of the Cole Valley Fair and the entry list looks more fun than ever. This year vehicles range from Alfa Romeo to a Grumman electric Postal Van,



with lots of interesting cars in between. Enjoy seeing the little air-cooled Citroen 2CVs, a few MGs, Morrisses, Austins and maybe a Jag to represent the British Empire. Porsche will have a few entries including a first production year ’77 Turbo, that wonderfully masculine

design with factory flared fenders and wide wheels to get the extra power to the ground. Heavy metal will be represented by Mercedes this year, and the American Iron will be out with a El Camino Street Rod and a clean Mopar ’67 Dart. For that classic pre-war feel, there will be Anthony’s ’36 Buick Special. We might see a race car or two sign on again, but since they are actively campaigned, don’t be surprised by a dent here or there.

The Bicycle Display was added last year thanks to American Cyclery; it was quite special and drew much interest. This year promises to be even better. Look for the vintage 1897 Track Bicycle: it really shows how little cycles have changed in 110 years.

There is still time and space, so if you have a interesting vehicle, fill in a form on the CVIA website and join the fun. Don’t think your entry has to be pristine—we love to see cars that are driven and enjoyed, that represent driving pleasure, without freeways, commuters, traffic jams, and radar guns.

Brown Bag Betty, continued from page 1, column 1.

Betty was born in Des Moines, Idaho and says he was an English teacher in the 70s who got fired for taking LSD. For years he was a drifter who got occasional work setting up Grateful Dead concerts, a job he describes as “engineering.”

Because he can be affable, especially when under the influence, he has found a kind of acceptance on the Cole-Carl corner as young people stop, chat, and often, like my friend, give him food or money. Other than that, he gets spending money from regular blue bin raids, then redeeming the bottles and cans at the HANC Recycling Center. But if he can get change from Cole Valley residents, he doesn’t have to schlep the recyclables, so he prefers that.

Although he initially hated his moniker (“I’m straight, after all”), he has grown to embrace it. It happened when a pal handed him a beer in a paper bag and said, out of the blue, “Here, Betty.” Why he addressed him as Betty on that fateful day can only be explained by the fact that Bette Davis had passed away a few hours before. As the beer passed from hand to hand each person delighted in repeating “Betty” in fits of laughter. He was Betty from then on. (“Brown Bag” is merely a descriptive prefix.) The rest is history.

—Karen Crommie

Transit Link Goes Way Back

The N-Judah, so called because it runs along Judah Street for much of its length, is named after railroad engineer Theodore Judah. It links downtown San Francisco to the Cole Valley and Sunset neighborhoods. It is the busiest line in the Muni Metro system. It



was one of San Francisco’s old streetcar lines, beginning operation in 1928, and was converted to modern light rail operation with the creation of the Muni Metro system in the late 1970s. While many streetcar lines were converted to bus lines after World War II, the N-Judah remained a streetcar line due to its use of the Sunset Tunnel. With a daily passenger load of over 45,000 riders, the inbound stop at Carl and Cole is second only to the stop at UCSF for the largest number of passengers boarding.

—Joan Downey

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The Story of The Other Cafe

In 1977, two college students living in the Haight Ashbury purchased a small coffee house and poetry space on Cole and Carl called The Other Café. Bob Ayres and Steve Zamek, who had already partnered in Haight Street's Ice Cream Madness, acquired the business with a loan from Ayres' parents. In a short time, The Other Café, a former pharmacy located in the corner storefront of a three-story Victorian (now Crepes on Cole) was offering entertainment seven nights a week with an eclectic line-up of jazz, blues, bluegrass, poetry, folk, open mics and, on Wednesday nights, the fledgling return of an old San Francisco tradition: stand-up comedy.

Bob Ayres, a Jewish white boy with the afro of Angela Davis and a comedic entrepreneurial bent, was a practical joker with a deep soul-connection to the comedy nights; he was most thrilled when four aspiring stand-up comics were supplemented by the surprise drop-in of Robin Williams, who had just begun making a name for himself on "Mork and Mindy." Over time, Ayres' desire for the club to specialize in stand-up was economically favored by San Francisco's burgeoning audience for comedy. In 1980, Zamek went to study computer programming at Cal Poly and sold 45 percent of the business to club accountant Richard Snow; Zamek and Ayres gifted the remaining 5 percent to club manager Chip Romer. The Other Café proudly added a second bathroom and began offering stand-up comedy seven nights a week.



Robin Williams is one of many nationally known comics who did stand-up at The Other.

The physical space and location of the club informed the stage performances. In the politically-correct Haight Ashbury, dick jokes and take-my-wife-please jokes fell on deaf ears; The Other quickly earned a reputation among comics for smart, aware audiences who booed blue humor, connected with political references and who could ably follow a conceptual comic's intricate imaginings far out onto any limb. The progressive audiences also readily supported The Other's choice to become California's first non-smoking nightclub. The club's expansive plate-glass windows, uncurtained during shows, revealed a parade of Haight Ashbury eccentrics who inspired comic improvisation. The effect was edgy and electric and heightened by natural improvisers such as Williams or Jay Leno or Kevin Meaney, who, armed with an extra-long mic cord, chased passersby down the sidewalk trying to interview them. Paula Poundstone once successfully goaded a passing motorcyclist to drive his bike right into the club while Jane Dornacker more than once stepped off the stage and ran out the door to hop on an N-Judah bus, leaving club managers and a perplexed audience wondering what would happen next.

Tuesday nights were reserved for off-the-beaten-path material, where established comics were challenged to perform 5-10 minutes of new material; their fellow comics and the club owners sat in the back with an air horn, gleefully quelling any infraction. Nights like this were when routines like Dana Carvey's "church lady" were born and developed. Monthly sequences of The Other Café's dating game featured real-life contestants looking for love hosted by the wacky Jeremy Kramer, assisted by comely Jane Dornacker or spunky Linda Hill. Kevin Meaney starred in his own prescient "Cooking with Kevin" show, demonstrating little-known culinary tips for patrons—such as how a household iron can readily transform wonder bread into tortillas or the value of not using a lid in making popcorn: "It inhibits

the corn," advised Kevin. Cooking with Kevin celebrity roasts were an occasional Tuesday event, a dais of peers mercilessly skewering a fellow comic on stage because it was his birthday—or for no good reason whatsoever.

The Haight Ashbury location (*Ed. Note: There was no "Cole Valley" in those days*) was ideal for offbeat performers like "stand-up philosopher" Timothy Leary, his 60s comrade Abbie Hoffman and perennial presidential candidate Pat Paulsen. Tuesday improv nights starring Geoff Bolt, Linda Hill and Diane Amos attracted other improvisers including Robin Williams and players from San Francisco's National Theater of the Deranged. The incipient rage for one-man shows was fanned when Tuesday nights made way for the likes of Josh Kornbluth and Geoff Hoyle.



Dishwasher Paula Poundstone moved effortlessly between sink and stage.

In 1986, the partners purchased Bradley's, a struggling gay bar and restaurant on the other side of Cole Street (now Kezar Bar and Restaurant) and, after a quick remodel, opened it as The Other Other. In 1989, the landlord of the famed Cole and Carl corner refused to renew the club's lease, instead choosing to open a short-lived Chinese restaurant of his own at the location.

(The above was excerpted from a piece by Chip Romer, copyrighted by Robert Ayres. Go to <http://theothercafe.com> to read the complete article and purchase advance tickets to The Other Café Reunion on September 25th.)

The Other Cafe Stages a Reunion

The famous Cole Valley comedy club, long gone except for the empty marquee high on the side of its former site (Crepes on Cole) is having a 30th reunion on Saturday, September 25th at the Palace of Fine Arts. It will feature more than 25 comedians and benefit KQED public media. For tickets, go to <http://theothercafe.com/>. Thirty years ago, they began offering comedy seven nights a week and launched the 1980s comedy scene.

Thank You For Your Support

It certainly isn't expected, but when a member sends in an extra contribution, we appreciate it greatly. Only 11 Cole Valley merchants contribute to the daily cleaning of the Cole Street business district, which costs us \$1,000 each month. We make up the deficit with member contributions, a sizeable discount from CleanScapes and proceeds from the Cole Valley Fair. So we would like to take this opportunity to thank the following members for their generosity:

David Rumsey, Les Silverman and Irv Govan, John Manning, William Rothum, Dennis Martino, Michael Sullivan, Rosemary Southwood, Kay Bertram, Virginia Joosen, Michelle and Wallis Lim, Randy and Rich Lavinghouse, Robert Jones and John T. Smith.

Pit Bull Attack: Tip of Iceberg

“Dog Bites Man’ is not news,” as the editor said to the young reporter. “Bring me a story where ‘Man Bites Dog.’ Now, that’s news.”

I was reminded of this old chestnut last month when reading an Examiner article about two pit bulls attacking a group of three people in Golden Gate Park. It may not have been news but it was symptomatic of the danger lurking within the transient communities living in the park.

Just ask the gardeners. One told me recently that within the encampments (cleaned out only with the assistance of a special homeless coordinator) they routinely find stolen merchandise, evidence of campfires, human waste, discarded needles and things too gross to mention here. The sheer size of our park, often described as



The pit bull attack brings attention to the underground collection of illegal enterprises existing beneath the radar in Golden Gate Park.

the jewel of the city, combined with its intentioned wildness makes it a haven for clandestine misuse. Then, every so often, something breaks through into the glare of public scrutiny.

It wasn’t just a pit bull attack. Police say there was a male and female, probably a breeding pair, living with their owner near Lloyd Lake. (Non-neutered male pit bulls are illegal in the city.) At 6:30 in the morning, two women and a man were approached by the dogs. Bela Martin, 71, was bitten to the bone and taken to SF General Hospital. The man, who was also attacked, was taken to UCSF while the other woman had her clothing torn but did not need hospitalization.

The city has both leash and license laws. Of the estimated 120,000 dogs in the city, only about 20,000 are licensed. If the city got serious about licensing, not only would there be more money for animal control, but strays could be quickly identified. But the much greater issue is the behavior that is tolerated in Golden Gate Park, which is the campground and social nexus for the same people who sit panhandling on the streets of the Haight.

—Karen Crommie

Street Food Coming to Haight

Starting in August on Thursdays from 4:00 p.m. to dusk and Sundays from 11:00 a.m. to dusk as many as 15 food carts and trucks will pull up to Waller Street at Stanyan and serve up some of the city’s best bites. Korean tacos, Indian curry, lumpia, Chinese buns and crème brulée are just some of the offerings that you’ll find at Off the Grid, San Francisco’s roaming mobile food extravaganza. Along with the amazing selection of food, local musicians will be providing music to add to the ambiance.



When “Off the Grid” premiered its food carts at Fort Mason, Chris Hoch gave it a thumbs up. It’s coming to Stanyan St. in August.

Go to cviasf.org/upcoming-events/ for start date.

Off the Grid was founded by Matt Cohen, owner of The San Francisco Cart Project, and launched in June of this year at Fort Mason. Starting sometime in August it will expand to additional locations throughout the city. Check Facebook to see a full list of all of the food vendors or go to their website at www.offthegridsf.com.

The San Francisco Cart Project was created as a free community resource to assist bay area mobile catering entrepreneurs in establishing, growing and improving their businesses through increased knowledge of social media, food and beverage best practices, and Bay Area mobile catering permit standards.

In June of 2010, the San Francisco Cart Project was incorporated into Off the Grid Services, LLC, as an outreach and informational entity seeking to incubate novel technology systems for locating, managing, promoting and increasing the productivity of independent mobile caterers. In this role the San Francisco Cart Project has sought to take the lead in defining areas of opportunity for mobile vending in under-utilized spaces, as well as establishing legal vending locations for vendor grouping in order to build larger markets for their products.

—Shannon Cooper Hoch

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Street Closure on Fair Day

Cole closed between Frederick & Grattan

Parnassus closed between Belvedere & Shrader

Five blocks will be closed to cars on Sunday, September 26, for the 8th Annual Cole Valley Fair. If you live in this area, you will not be able to park or access your vehicle from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. If you need to use a car parked in a garage or an off-street parking area, you’ll want to move it to an area outside of the closed blocks before the closure.

Grattan School has graciously donated their parking lot, which will be open the night before the fair and on the day of the fair, for your convenience.

We apologize in advance for the inconvenience this may cause you and we will offer you a discount on the fair t-shirts and posters. Contact us at colevalleyfair@gmail.com or 317-2074 with your questions or concerns. Thank you for your support.

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The Booksmith Creates New Literary Experiences

Because Amazon Can't Help You Make Friends

The Booksmith (1644 Haight) has initiated a fascinating new concept that is generating buzz in local literary circles. In fact, the New York Times' cultural correspondent featured it as one of four things to do in the San Francisco Bay Area. It's called the Booksmith Bookswap and another one is scheduled for Friday, August 17, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

The way it works: Owners Praveen Madan and Christin Evans shut the doors early and turn the bookstore into a private party space. Guests are asked to bring a book they are willing part with in a swap.

with a new book, and an optional contact card about the person from whom the book came in case they want to get together later to discuss the book.

On August 13, the special guest will be Caroline Paul, author of "East, Wind, Rain," and a SF Writers' Grotto resident. Since this is the "Back to School (Special Edition) Bookswap," bring a book that moved you at some point in your education and somehow deepened your love for books. Tickets are \$25, include drinks and food along with a coupon for 20 percent off on purchases made that evening or the following weeks. Booksmith Bookswaps sell out quickly. To purchase your tickets, visit Brown Paper Tickets or call 800-838-3006. (Ages 21+, please.)

The above information was excerpted from Praveen Madan and Christin Evan's blog on the Huffington Post. The Booksmith Bookswap is co-produced by Sky Hornig. For more about Booksmith, go to www.booksmith.com or follow Praveen Madan on Twitter: www.twitter.com/lpmadan.

BACK TO SCHOOL SPECIAL



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FRIDAY AUGUST 13 6:30PM

CAROLINE PAUL & JUSTINE SHARROCK

BOOKSMITH BOOKSWAP

PURCHASE TICKETS IN ADVANCE

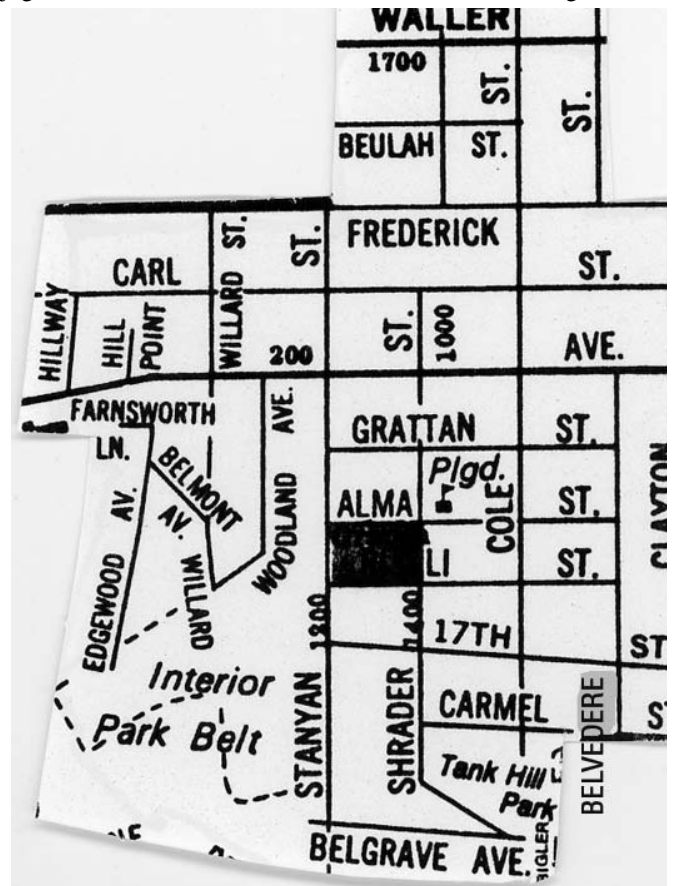
These events SELL OUT! Better get yours now! **\$25**

1644 Haight Street
415-863-8688
or buy tickets online:
www.brownpapertickets.com/events/114434

Cole Valley Appellation

It is official. Cole Valley has arrived. In the recent revision of the San Francisco Association of Realtors mapping of districts a new one has emerged: Cole Valley/Parnassus Heights.

The approximate borders of the new area, known as 5e, are: (eastern edge) Clayton Street from Carmel to Frederick, then a jog to Belvedere as far as Waller, from there west along Waller to



Guests are greeted by a Booksmith host and offered a welcome drink. The center table brims with goodies—feta stuffed peppers, cheese and crackers, chicken skewers and more. Another staff member mans the bar, stocked with a selection of wines, beer, and other drinks. Guests are introduced, fill their plates and their glasses, show one another their books. They then break into small groups of 5-6 and sit around tables spread throughout the store—each table is supplied with food, drinks, and a Booksmith or local author host. The groups chat for 20-30 minutes at which point they are rotated to a new table with new people. After two rotations, they reconvene as a group for the swap, which is a "group exercise" that normally has people laughing and cheering their fellow book pickers, with plenty of spontaneous advice about who should pick which book. Everyone goes home

Stanyan, south along Stanyan to Frederick, west to Hillway and south up to Edgewood with a turn to include Belgrave and back to Carmel. How will this affect you? Likely not at all, although it will make internet searches for homes in Cole Valley a bit easier. And it finally puts us on the Map.

— Lena Emmerly

Supervisors Undercut Sit-Lie

This neighborhood is currently in the midst of an ideological battle over a ballot measure that would remove legal barriers now



Protesters sit in front of City Hall during the Supervisors' hearing.

preventing the police from prosecuting infractions committed routinely by people sitting on the street. Called the Civil Sidewalks law (formerly sit-lie), the Mayor was forced to put it on the ballot after the supervisors defeated his legislation last month by a vote of 8-3.



A sense of entitlement results in total blockage of sidewalks.

District 5 Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi has long maintained that it is unnecessary, that there are enough laws on the books to cover any problem, and that it gives too much discretion to the police. Others (law enforcement) argue that there is no possibility of the



The front of McDonalds is a favorite site for group sprawls.

DA prosecuting a citation without a victim to make a complaint and few are willing to do that. The police are also stymied by the knowledge that the Coalition on Homelessness routinely bundles

so-called quality of life citations and gets them dismissed on the grounds of "homelessness."

This Civil Sidewalks measure has recently gotten bogged down in an unpleasant tit for tat between Mirkarimi and Mayor Gavin Newsom. Mirkarimi, who has long attempted to raise the number of footbeat patrols deployed throughout the city, is putting his own measure on the ballot forcing this priority over the head of Police



The sheer numbers plopped on Haight make passersby wary.

Chief George Gascón, who naturally wants to have the right to use his staff as he thinks best. So Mirkarimi, in concert with Board President David Chiu, has added a "poison pill." If the footbeat measure passes with more votes than Civil Sidewalks, the latter will be voided. Yes, you read correctly. Even if the sit-lie ballot measure passes, it will disappear.



The message is out — camp in the Haight with impunity.

Why would Mirkarimi, a reasonable man, make such a mean-spirited move? Payback. When Mayor Newsom inserted his own poison pill to the supervisors' measure to increase the hotel tax—not his finest moment—Mirkarimi and Chiu saw an opportunity to take revenge. If you can sneak this spoiler into a popular bill promising more footbeat patrols, well, that's a "two-for": getting back at the Mayor and gaining the upper hand over our new Chief of Police. Kind of makes you hate politics, doesn't it?

—Karen Crommie

Disaster: Bay to Breakers 2010

On Sunday, May 16, the North of Panhandle area, along with Hayes Valley, Alamo Square, Cole Valley and parts of the Inner Richmond, were once again the scene of Bay to Breakers (B2B), the foot race that many residents agree has degenerated, over the past five years, from family-friendly fun to major public nuisance.

Ben Allison, President of the Alamo Square Neighborhood Association, reported on the experiences of some of his neighbors. "Many got punched, spit on or shoved for trying to keep people from urinating or vomiting on their stairways, driveways and front doors," he said. "Everyone we've talked to is disgusted and feels that the neighborhood is getting terrorized for one day."

Conservative estimates had race attendance at 60,000. Others claim it was closer to 100,000. In any case, only 30,000 people actually registered for the race, which means that over half of those who showed up had no official connection to the race.

"My wife and I have been residents for 22 years," commented Howard Chabner, a retired attorney and NoPa resident. "This year's race was by far the worst we've ever seen."



"Go ahead and take my picture. I don't give a damn. I'm from LA."

Associations representing NoPa, Alamo Square, Cole Valley and other neighborhoods received reports recounting the same incidents over and over again: residents being confronted by an endless flow of drunk partygoers all looking for a place to go to the bathroom—which included both residential and public areas all along the route.

Residents consistently reported that groups of people tried gaining access to their homes through open doors, gates and stairways. "Our neighbors were standing outside of their houses keeping people away with a hose," remembers Howard. "I use a wheelchair so I couldn't properly reach the hose, but even when I told people not to enter, they kept trespassing. I counted over 100 people who entered our property."

Additionally, many experienced aggressive behavior from B2B revelers who shouted expletives, threw bottles and cans, shoved and punched their way through the crowd, and instigated fights after being asked to move along.



Two men generously share a driveway on Ashbury Street.

Corporate sponsorship and changing conditions

Recognized by the Guinness World Book of records as the planet's largest foot race, Bay to Breakers is owned and organized by the Anschutz Entertainment Group (AEG). From 1966 to 2003 it was sponsored by the San Francisco Examiner, then by Albertson's supermarket chain, and most recently by the global financial services company ING Group, which became the primary sponsor in 2005.

At that point, according to some observers, the event lost its "connection" to the city and ceased to be an expression of civic

pride and good-natured celebration. "Originally it was a race from point A to point B. People who participated would start and finish the race. Now, thanks to the publicity by ING and the race organizers, it has turned into a day of just showing up," notes a longtime observer and former runner.

Spokespeople for several neighborhood associations question why the city continues to issue a permit to B2B without specific



Man takes a wide stance to attack sidewalk greening.

agreements as to adequate police security and cleanup, as well as a substantial increase in the number of porta potties along the route—particularly in and around the Panhandle and Alamo Square, where the mayhem is amplified. The race sponsor, they insist, must make a tangible commitment to increase security, provide adequate rest room facilities, and guarantee an active, visible presence of law enforcement.

Shortly after this year's race, and embarrassed by the negative publicity, ING decided to withdraw its sponsorship; currently event managers are looking for a new source of support.

Can it be fixed?

With the 2011 race being the 100th anniversary of the event and sponsorship up for grabs, NOPNA is joining with Citizens for the Preservation of Bay2Breakers (www.savebay2breakers.org) and other local neighborhood organizations to explore ways of solving problems without resorting to prohibitions. Potential recommendations include the following:

- Increase the number of police, with officers posted at key, visible locations and neighborhood intersections through which the crowds move: Fell, Divisadero and Hayes Streets; Alamo Square; and along the Panhandle.
- Increase the number of porta potties to accommodate at least 60,000 people and implement multiperson urinals, which are more efficient and cost effective.
- Engage city agencies and the SFPD to notify residents and visitors that there will be "zero tolerance" for public consumption of alcohol, disorderly conduct and aggressive behavior.
- Improve the barricades to keep participants on course.
- Increase revenue with a tiered registration for nonrunners.
- Host an event in the park that attracts participants out of the neighborhoods earlier in the day.
- Rigorously enforce the beginning and end times of the race.
- Clean up throughout the day and include foot patrols with portable garbage and recycling bins.



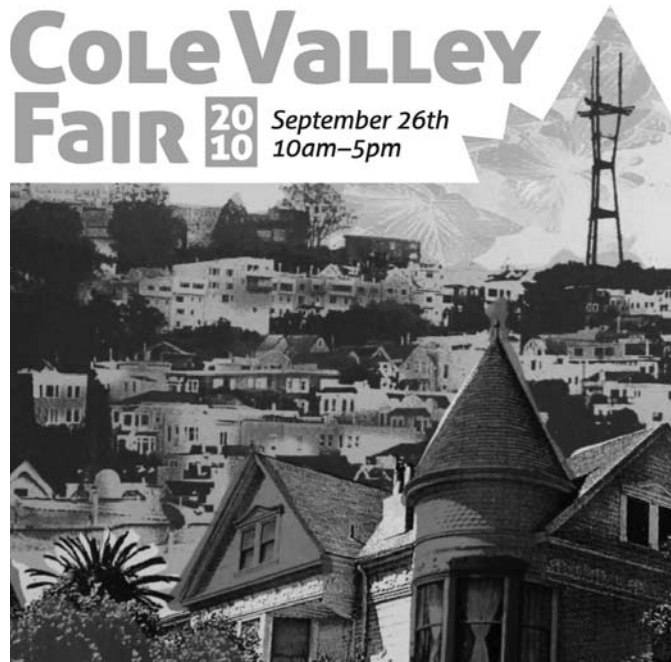
"Don't take my picture, dude."

Without such controls in place, many now agree, the negative aspects of Bay to Breakers will only become worse—and an unpleasant situation could turn into a dangerous one.

Reprinted courtesy of North Panhandle News, July-August 2010. Photos courtesy of Wayne Lanier.

If We Deliver, Will You Display?

Let us know if you would be willing to put a Fair poster in your window. We do not post any fliers on poles and count on our neighbors and merchants to publicize the Fair. Email colevalleyfair@gmail.com and we'll deliver one to you.



City Hall Strategizes to Rein-in Next Year's Bay to Breakers

In the first of what promises to be a series of meetings regarding the 100th Bay to Breakers race (B2B) in 2011, representatives from five neighborhood groups, including CVIA, met in City Hall on July 12 to plan a strategy for controlling the negative impact of the annual footrace.

The meeting was requested by Jarie Bollander, president of the North of Panhandle Residents Association (NOPNA). He was joined by Angela Fang from AEG (the race promoter), Mike Farrah of the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services (MONS), Save the B2B, and two merchant groups, all of which came to discuss the 2010 event that wreaked havoc on residential and business property from Alamo Square to Cole Valley.

In an opening statement, Fang stated that they are extremely concerned with "public safety" and pointed to their recent announcement of an alcohol ban at next year's event as a sign that they are serious about reigning in the party atmosphere.

Panhandle resident Howard Chabner presented a well-researched paper detailing the amount of actual police presence in this year's event. Chabner's conclusion was that the budget for police participation was inadequate and asked Fang if AEG was willing to quadruple the amount spent on police services.

Bollander acknowledged that it will take proactive participation of neighborhood volunteers to monitor and assist the race organizers and that training and outreach needs to begin soon.

Most present recognized that the B2B is now two events: The formal footrace and "the party." The race is fine, the party is not. Most of the meeting was devoted to suggesting ways to control the offensive party atmosphere. The group plans to meet again in six weeks. Stay tuned.

—David Crommie

Community Leaders Meet With Captain Barrett

Each month Capt. Teresa Barrett meets with representatives of the resident and merchant groups that are served by Park Station. The meeting in June was largely taken up by the Bay to Breakers and the many problems experienced by the community. Alcohol seems to have been the basic cause of most of the problems. It is certain



that more policing and controls will need to be in place for next year's 100th anniversary.

At the July meeting Capt. Barrett reported that crime statistics were lower than last year. It also looks as though Park Station will not suffer as large a loss of staff as has been anticipated. A complete staff of 105 means that a minimum of 34 officers are on duty at all times. Barrett also announced the recent assignment of Lt. Mark Solomon to Park Station. An expert in dealing with homeless issues, he will be a great asset to the station as the daily sweeps of the parks in our area are performed.

At the July meeting Karen Crommie gave an overview of the city's Community Court system. She has been on the panel of the Western Addition court, which serves our area, for five years. The Community Courts work with misdemeanor cases that are assigned by the District Attorney.

—Lena Emmerly

Bouquets to Cole Valley Fair Sponsors



Wells Fargo
CleanScapes
La Boulange de Cole
Sunset Scavenger

Bambino's
Cole Hardware
Crepes on Cole
Mane Attraction

Alpha Market
Art Cleaners
Belvedere House
Burgermeister
cnewmark.com

Cole Cleaners
Cole Valley Fitness
Kezar Bar & Restaurant
Postal Chase
Finnegan's Wake
Pharmaca
Vierra and Friends

For updates on additional sponsors, musicians,
and vendors, go to cviasf.org/cole-valley-fair/

CVIA Board Minutes

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

June

Location: Home of Lena Emmery & Chuck Canepa - June 3, 2010

- Reviewed minutes of the May meeting, discussed current Haight issues, heard reports from committee heads and from representatives to the Coalition for S.F. Neighborhoods, Kezar Stadium Advisory, MTA Citizens' Advisory Committee, UCSF Citizens' Advisory Committee, and the Alford Lake gardening work party. Welcomed member Laraine Stein and Public Defender Jeff Adachi accompanied by publicist Darcy Brown.

- Treasurer Joan Downey reported balance in CVIA's fund categories: \$15,191 in savings, \$12,468 in checking, \$7,736 in Cole Street Cleaning; \$19,524 in Cole Valley Fair, and \$393 in daily account. Received extra donations from members Kay Bertram and Rosemary Southwood with much appreciation. Since our fiscal year ends February 31, taxes must be filed by June 15. Francine Profit has been approved as new accountant.

- Public Defender Jeff Adachi reported on efforts to gather signatures for a measure to control the city's growing burden of retirement/health benefits (The Sustainable City Employees Benefits Reform Act).

Cole Valley Fair:

- Agreed that the July meeting would start at 5:30 p.m. at the Crommies' house to give time for evaluation (jury) the vendors/artists applying for booths at the Cole Valley Fair (Sept. 26) Dinner to be provided.

- New Fair food vendor pricing is: \$500, but \$400: for food carts that are self-contained and do not require SFFD permits.

- Chuck Canepa reported receiving early applications from vintage car owners for participation in the Fair's annual car show on Parnassus Street.

- Boulange de Cole donated \$1,000 to fair, becoming a major neighborhood supporter.

- Approved Hilary Williams' design for the Fair Poster provided it is printed on tan stock, lending a "retro" look. It was decided to add the words "Cole Valley, 2010" in cursive under the line drawing Williams submitted for the front of the T-shirt.

- Further discussed Cole Valley Fair T-shirt design, styles, colors and vendors. Amy Blakeley, Shannon Cooper Hoch, Carole Glosenger and Lena Emmery will confer and make recommendations to board. Joan Downey to provide breakdown of past relative demand for sizes.

- Shannon Cooper Hoch reported on the "Night Food Market," a idea proposed by Matt Cohen of the SF Cart Project. He plans to bring food carts to the Waller/Stanyan open space for two nights a week (Saturday and Thursday). There will be a hearing at the Rec and Park Commission on June 17.

- Karen Crommie made a report on the May meeting of Coalition for SF Neighborhoods. Two matters had bearing on Cole Valley/Haight: 1) Supervisor Mirkarimi has introduced a measure to give Board of Supes three picks for Rec and Park Commission. The Mayor would pick three others and a final one would be a joint choice between the Mayor and the President of the BOS. 2) After hearing both sides of the proposed Sit-Lie Law, CSFN members

unanimously approved the proposition submitted by HAIA in support. 3) Entertainment producer Live Nation was able (somehow) to transfer the Neighborhood Commercial District rules for Polk Street and apply them to Nob Hill. They got their permit to expand use of Masonic Auditorium.

- Marianne Hesse reported on the effort of FOTH (Friends of the Haight) to gather signatures protesting the construction of a skateboard park at the Waller/Stanyan open space. Over 300 signatures have been gathered. The Haight Ashbury Neighborhood Council (HANC) has formally opposed a skateboard park at that site, as has CVIA.

- Agreed that although they applaud the plan, because of time constraints, CVIA will not be a conduit for UCSF's merchant discounts but will rather provide a list of all Cole Valley merchants to them.

- Joan Downey proposed CVIA print signs declaring "No Fliers, Ads or Menus," which members could display on their front door or gates. It was decided that board members (D. Hall, J. Downey, M. Hesse, L. Emmery) post prototype laminated signs, to be made by David Crommie, to test their effectiveness.

- Plans for a general membership meeting were postponed until Rec and Park makes a decision on the Night Food Market and Whole Foods construction plans have made more progress.

- Joan Downey reported on a recent health challenge of longtime member and supporter Bill Hancock. It was agreed that a get well card be sent to him.

- Member Laraine Stein reported on the outrageous behavior and destruction to Fell Street property by people seriously drunk on the day of the Bay to Breakers. Adjournment at 10:00 p.m.

July

Location: Home of Karen & David Crommie - July 5, 2010

At a special pre-meeting from 5:30 to 7:30, the board evaluated applicants for booths in Cole Valley Fair. After jury was over, dinner was brought in. Outside of usual criteria of locally made, quality and uniqueness, etc., special scrutiny was given to a booth promoting "Moms in Motion" because of their inappropriate (proprietary) use of the Kezar track.

- Reviewed minutes of the June meeting, discussed current Haight issues, heard reports from committee heads and from Board representatives to the Coalition for S.F. Neighborhoods, Kezar Stadium Advisory, MTA Citizens Advisory Committee, UCSF Citizens Advisory Committee, and the Alford Lake gardening work party.

- The remainder of the meeting focused on the upcoming Cole Valley Fair (September 26) as organizer Joan Downey presented the options of having fully-contained catering trucks offering specialized foods vs. small booths in which cooking is done in the open and which require a \$900 permit from the SFFD. Food cart owners base their participation on the number of people attending the fair, which is estimated at 5,000. To date, in addition to the Cole Valley restaurants that have food booths, we are considering applications from three self-contained food trucks, four carts (not requiring open flame) and one (requiring a permit). Decision to apply for a SFFD open-flame permit was continued to next meeting.

- Downey announced that artist Hilary Williams would substitute a tan field for what is currently white in the proposed poster design. Decided to use UCSF printers. They will trim posters to eliminate white borders.

- Carole Glosenger presented options for a Fair t-shirt and expressed her preference to stay with American Apparel and use the line drawing for the front (in lieu of poster design). Agreed that color combination would consist of red writing on T-shirts of charcoal, khaki (tan), and olive green. Adjournment at 10:20 p.m.

CVIA Summer Social

For Members Only *

Saturday, September 4, 2010

Ashbury Market
205 Frederick St.

2:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Noshing and fine wines selected by
owner **Resat Turget**

Contribution: \$10 per person

Limited capacity, reserve now.

Send a check to:

CVIA, P.O. Box 170611, SF 94117
or leave a message at 431-1414
to tell us you're coming.

**Your guests are welcome, of course.*

The **Red Vic Movie House** is going to be running "Exit Though the Gift Shop" from August 5 through 9. The reason for the relatively long run is, first, it is a fascinating investigation of street art; second,



one sees the actual transformation of the film's cinematographer-producer into its main subject; and, third, the actual work of its artists. The infamous British street artist **Banksy**, featured in the film, has recently favored the Haight with his signature rat, which one can peruse on the way home from the movie. It's on the east side of the Red Vic Hotel building at 1665 Haight St. Look up.



Grattan Elementary School is now a "Hard Hat Area" during major construction of accessible passageways and facilities. The classic building, designed around an atrium, was constructed before ADA requirements

were in place and the SFUSD is making up for lost time. To the neighbors' regret, there are two 36 foot long office trailers currently looming on Grattan Street taking up a whole lot of parking.

One of the most unattractive buildings on Cole Street is undergoing remodeling and neighbors are saying, "Thank God." The building at **716 Cole** is one of four similar Edwardian single-family homes that were stuccoed over during the 20s and 30s when people who had the money, chose to "modernize" their homes. Cornices and mouldings were out, as only fashion can dictate. The result was, to present day sensibilities, an unmitigated disaster. (I speak from experience as my own Grandmother performed the same travesty on her Ashbury flats.) Oddly, owners of a similar group of homes directly across the street opted for Johns-Mansville siding, another popular "upgrade." As a result, the Edwardians still left with their original ornamentation look even more splendid by contrast.

—Karen Crommie



Postscripts

For lovers of the truly weird, there are two shops on Haight Street well worth a visit. One is called **Loved to Death** (1681 Haight), the other, **Mystery Mister** (1606 Haight). A few minutes spent in either is guaranteed to change your frame of mind. The genteel creepiness casts a spell that's hard to shake when you escape back into the street. Stuffed animals (the real kind) mingle with funerary jewelry and sentimental oddments from another time. Sure there are the obligatory second hand clothes (hey, it's Haight Street) but there's something about the whole experience that just makes you feel lucky to be alive.



Just after publication of the last newsletter we got a letter from **Bobby Vardakastanis** of the **Haight Street Market** saying, "The Planning Commission voted 7-0 in favor of expansion into the adjoining store front (Massawa). The commissioners loved the project as much as the community does. It was because of all the help that we got from our customers and neighbors. I would like to thank you all for your letters of support and a special thanks to those people that made it to the meeting (May 21). We had to wait for a while, but good things come to those that wait."

Letters

Dear CVIA:

In addition to the problems generated from people camping and partying in the Muni Park (Carl between Cole and Clayton), in the past month I have noted campers in the following locations:

The doorway of Lavande (113 Carl), the residences of 107-111 Carl and 110-112 Carl, EOS Wine Bar, Mane Attraction (101-103 Carl), Mad Kat and Tully's.

Tully's does not display a "No Trespassing sign." I thought they did before. I sent an email to their corporate office. I notice that Alpha Market also has a hand-written sign discouraging sleeping in their doorway, so they, too, have likely had some overnight camping problems.

My suggestion is that the Merchant Association hire a security guard from midnight to 6 a.m. (Ed. Note: unfortunately, there is no merchants' association.)

People see Brown Bag Betty getting away with it at Mad Kat and Tully's and will try their own luck. There are likely more people in doorways in Cole Valley than on Haight Street on some nights. The police roust everyone on Haight Street, but Betty gets a free pass. I don't understand that.

James Judge

Help

- Emergency 911
- Disturbance553-0123
- Blocked Driveways & Parking on Sidewalks553-1200
- Abandoned Vehicles781-5865
- Health Department255-3610
- Litter Patrol (sofas, mattresses, etc.)..... 311
- Graffiti and Illegal Sign Removal..... 311
- NextBus 311
- Street Lighting..... 554-0730
- Mayor Gavin Newsom554-6141**
City Hall - Room 200
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
S.F., CA 94102
- Chief of Police George Gascón.....553-1551**
Hall of Justice - 850 Bryant St.
S.F., CA 94103
- District Attorney Kamala Harris.....553-1741**
Hall of Justice - 850 Bryant St.
S.F., CA 94103
- Captain Teresa Barrett242-3000**
Park District Police Station
1899 Waller St.
S.F., CA 94117
Teresa.Barrett@sfgov.org

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10. Sophie Maxwell Sophie.Maxwell@sfgov.org	554-7670	554-7674
11. John Avalos John.Avalos@sfgov.org	554-6975	554-6979

Nominations for 2010-11 Officers

- President.....Lena Emmery
- Vice-president.....Marianne Hesse
- Treasurer.....Joan Downey
- Recording Secretary..... Karen Crommie
- Special Projects.....Joan Downey
- Community Relations Amy Blakeley

Voting will take place at CVIA's Summer Social (Annual Meeting) on September 4 at Ashbury Market from 2 to 5 p.m. Additional nominations may be made from the floor. Only members in good standing are eligible to vote. To hold office a member must have served at least six months on the Board of Directors. One position is currently open.

CVIANEWS is published quarterly as a forum for residents of the greater Haight Ashbury neighborhood. The views expressed reflect those of the writers. Contributions for the Winter edition should be sent before November 1, 2010 to 628 Ashbury St., San Francisco, CA 94117 or kcrommie@aol.com. We encourage submissions from anyone interested in our neighborhood. Send questions or comments to the above address or call 431-1414.

EditorKaren Crommie
ProductionDavid Crommie
Editorial AssistanceJoan Downey

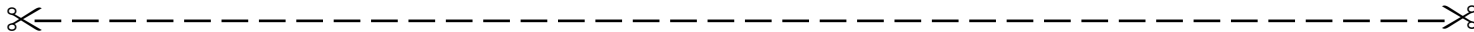
VOLUNTEER TO WORK TWO HOURS AT THE FAIR ON SEPT. 26. colevalleyfair@gmail.com

BECOME A CVIA MEMBER

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

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

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



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

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

NAME _____ E-MAIL _____

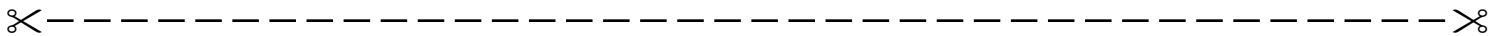
ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____ FAX _____

What I like about the neighborhood: _____

What I dislike about the neighborhood: _____

Optional contribution to Cole sidewalk cleaning \$_____ Okay to acknowledge by name in newsletter

Dues paid to CVIA are not deductible as charitable contributions, however, amounts greater than the membership dues may be taken as a charitable deduction. Contact your accountant regarding the tax law.



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