CVIANEWS

COLE VALLEY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Volume XXXII

SERVING ALL RESIDENTS OF THE GREATER HAIGHT ASHBURY

FALL 2018

Mayor Breed Gives Nod to Vallie Brown for D-5 Supe

Vallie Brown's road to success was long and rough. First as tireless administrative assistant to Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi, then to London Breed, Vallie has attended hundreds of meetings, kept squabbling constituents from colliding, and industriously followed up on everything from potholes to police coverage. With a combination of quiet



Mayor London Breed introduces new District 5 Supervisor Vallie Brown before the swearing in ceremony on July 16 at Hayes Valley Playground.

persuasion and steadfast integrity she has been an effective voice for fairness over many years. Yet, she still spends several mornings a week walking the hills near her Cole Valley home with tongs and plastic sack, picking up street litter. Yes, she's the real deal.

Vallie, who is 61 years old, grew up in difficult circumstances in Utah. Part Native American, she never knew her father, and by age

14, her mother and grandmother had died, leaving her, she has said, to be raised by the community around her.

She began her activism in the Lower Haight organizing neighborhood cleanups and then wrote a grant for workshops



training neighbors and merchants to be partners in community policing, creating a model for the Lower Haight. Supervisor Mirkarimi was so impressed with her that he put her on his staff.

She was cut loose when Christina Olague served one term as D-5 supervisor, but then returned to City Hall when Breed took office. After several years on her staff, Breed asked her to take over as

Continued on Page 2, Column 1

Interim Use of McDonald's Trending Toward Services

The situation has changed since our last issue's report on the future of the former site of McDonald's at Haight and Stanyan. First, the composition of the residents of the approximately 100 units has been redefined. What was originally simply "affordable housing for low-income families" has now taken on the look of a supportive housing facility. Yes, families will be part of the mix, but now there will be homeless people, transitional age youth, and seniors.

As far as the interim use goes, CVIA had advocated for a series of pop-up food shops operating out of shipping containers or trucks patterned after the SFProxy project operating successfully on Octavia Boulevard and, which, by the way, is an area also designated for future affordable housing. In the meantime, the small shops are keeping the area peopled and vibrant. CVIA's main concern about the McDonald's site is that the area not revert back to a neighborhood trouble spot during the 3-5 years preparatory to construction.

Since then we have learned from Joan McNamara of the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development (MOHCD) that any



The community is at odds over the interim use of the 38000 sq. ft. lot.

interim use of the site must be consistent with the criteria for the HUD grant financing the residential building. Specifically, it must 1) serve low income households 2) not negatively impact the area 3) benefit community as a whole 4) not negatively impact surrounding businesses and 5) employ

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or serve people of low to moderate income.

McNamara said interim use could include homeless services, which have been vociferously promoted by nonprofit providers, who have deluged MOHCD with emails, postcards and adjunct meetings. Six or so neighborhood providers have joined forces in an ad hoc organization they call the Coalition for a Complete Community. They even have an active blog on the SF Citizen website.

But in spite of this forceful advocacy, when the Request for Proposal (RFP) is issued by the City, only certain time-tested entities can be considered. They must have a track record of securing funds (site occupants must be financially self-sustaining) and prove experience running similar projects. McNamara gave examples such as Mercy Housing, Mission Housing, and Bridge Housing. In other words, the City is not going to go out on a limb financially for just any proposition.

. —Karen Crommie

Vallie Brown, continued from page 1, column 1.

a project manager at the Office of Economic and Workforce Development identifying sites for affordable housing. One of those spots was the McDonald's at Haight and Stanyan.

Vallie's long journey is now taking a more demanding turn as she begins to represent us at City Hall. As an appointee, she will face election in either June or November next year (depending on need for a special election). That is not long to mount a robust campaign against presumptive opposition candidate Dean Preston.

-Karen Crommie

Celebrate Our Neighborhood at the Cole Valley Fair

The Cole Valley Fair will be back again for its 16th year on Sunday, September 30. The Cole Valley Fair continues to be a charming and well-attended event sponsored by local merchants and organizations with an outstanding record of community support. The fair features local art,



No doubt about it: The Cole Valley Fair on September 30 will be the most family-friendly in the city.

jewelry and handmade crafts, great food, live music, a display of historical Cole Valley photographs, a full block of vintage automobiles owned by neighborhood

residents, events for children including a jumpy house, face painting, balloon animals, SFFD fire truck and obstacle course and more!

We're seeking musicians from all genres and styles for one-hour performance slots. The Cole Valley Fair is a small and intimate street fair where the right sound will attract a lot of attention. And, yes, Cars on Cole will be back again this year. Never been to the event? We look for interesting, neighborhood vehicles. It need not be a "show queen" or vintage or rare. The range of vehicles in past years has been Citroen 2CVs; British, German, French, Japanese, and Italian sports and touring cars, heavy 30s–60s American Iron, Model A, modern hot rods, bicycles and motorcycles.

—Erica Kajdasz Fair Organizer for Midline Studio and Lavation Colevalleyfair.com

Summer Social Draws Crowd

CVIA's Summer Social was the place to be in San Francisco on Saturday afternoon, August 18th. For a few short hours we were graced with the presence of the SF Chronicle's ace reporter Heather Knight, new D-5 Supervisor Vallie Brown and (gasp) Her Honor, Mayor London Breed. All were in fine form, and if they didn't eat or drink, we, the members, more than made up for it.

Heather told us about her life, which so far has been an upward trajectory from her Stanford graduation, to internships and early employment at the right places. Her skill in analysis and writing was



Heather Knight accepts commendation from board member David Crommie.

recognized early on and fully established by the time she took over C.W. Nevius' beat on the Chronicle. Balancing her life as a mother of two with the demands of two pithy columns a week, she is unafraid to take a stand on touchy subjects such as the City's budget priorities and homelessness. CVIA board

member David Crommie presented her with a commendation saying, "She continues calling it as she sees it, which is usually exactly right. Curiosity, accuracy and courage are her trademarks while candor and humor are her style. She provides San Franciscans with an objective view of their follies and gives encouragement to those who are trying to make the city better."

Supervisor Vallie Brown spoke at length about the district, revealing her longtime understanding of what the City has done to mitigate problems in the past, what is being done right now and what is on the drawing board. Regarding 730 Stanyan, the former McDonald's site, she

revealed that there is an "interim" interim, explaining that the 3-5 year wait for construction of affordable housing (commonly called "the interim") would be preceded by a five month period in which the empty lot will be used for merchant parking and temporary storage for the massive equipment necessary for the rehabilitation of the Haight commercial corridor—due to



New D-5 Supervisor Vallie Brown responded to questions.

begin next month. This use is scheduled to end after the holiday season. After that, the site's fate is still up in the air.

Brown impressed the members with her willingness to try new approaches to solving chronic problems and, if they didn't work, to end them abruptly. "We cannot continue to support programs that do not have demonstrable effectiveness." She also said she would continue looking for a navigation center venue, believing that there should be one in each of the city's eleven districts, but assured us that it would not be at Haight and Stanyan, "I've heard that message loud and clear," she added.

The election of new officers was handled gracefully and efficiently by president Cathy Haller. (New officers are listed on page 11.) Incoming president Lena Emmery presented Cathy with a commendation saying, "Her intelligent and dignified leadership has left the organization with a deeper sense of unity and purpose."

Photo:Teresa Hammerl/hoodline.com

The mayor, still radiant with victory, thanked her many Cole Valley supporters and expressed her enthusiasm for Vallie Brown's competency in responding to District 5 challenges. She then spoke passionately about State Senator Scott Wiener's proposal to expand conservatorships to individuals who suffer from chronic homelessness accompanied by severe mental illness. Lena then presented her with

a bouquet and thanked her for her past commitment to this district and wished her success in fulfilling her citywide mandate. The mayor stayed on another half hour chatting to the members and posing for pictures with delighted neighbors who happened to be walking on Cole Street.



Mayor London Breed responded informally to questions after her remarks. (In foreground are Lena Emmery and Cathy Haller, background, Jessica Justino.)

The party broke up

at four. Some stayed on as Chuck Canepa dismantled the CVIA banner and Kezar owner Steve Schick wiped down the bar, preparing for the Saturday night crowd. CVIA's 2018 Summer Social was over and everyone agreed it was the best ever.

— Karen Crommie

InoVino, A Love Story

We all love InoVino for its good wine, good food, and vibrant atmosphere. We want it to be there always just as it is. Early last spring, InoVino owner, Claudio Villani, sold the restaurant. Claudio said he was not exactly looking for a new location but an opportunity presented itself. He was visiting with the owner of Mason Pacific and while discussing life and business his friend was complaining about how much work the restaurant had become. They recently had a fire and it sounded like his



New owner is carrying on the tradition.

friend was looking to make a change. Claudio said he was interested in buying the restaurant and the deal was made. He was thinking about the high rent in Cole Valley and wanted a larger space. Claudio's new restaurant is AltoVino at 1358 Mason St. His establishment is larger, has a bar, and an expanded menu. Claudio hopes his Cole Valley patrons will visit him there.

The new owners, Francesco Filicette, and his girlfriend Kari Vanocher, are friends of Claudio and are keeping the reputation of InoVino intact. They have the same good wine, the same menu with a few additions and the lively atmosphere we love. Francesco had worked for Claudio at InoVino for a few years. While he was in another position, he met Kari and invited her to go to InoVino —a first date. So, it's a love story as well. They have been together for a few years. When Francisco heard that Claudio was selling the restaurant he agreed to take it on. He talked it over with Kari and InoVino opened under their management on April 24, 2018. I was there for happy hour last night. The wine was great as usual and the small plates we had—lamb meatballs, Brussles sprouts with guanciale and hazelnuts, and chicken liver pate on toasts —were scrumptious. I'm looking forward to trying more of their new items.

The best part of InoVino is the personable new owner who, like

Claudio, works the room and talks about the wines in a wonderful Italian accent. It makes you feel like you just dropped into Italy. Bravo to this Cole Valley Gem.

-Carole Glosenger

Upper Terrace lots: Neighbors Worry as Project Begins

There is growing neighborhood concern over the potential destablization of a hill on Upper Terrace where construction is in progress.



View of the three adjacent double wide, through-lots from 17th Street.

Dubbed the Mt. Olympus Project by the design team at Dawson & Clinton, the project proposes to build 10 residential units on a weathering, overgrown and underutilized hillside located between Upper Terrace and the NW intersection of 17th St. and Roosevelt Way.

There has been pushback since the start of the project almost three years ago. Many believe that the proposed buildings at 271 Upper Terrace are out of scale with existing homes. Teresa Hammerl of Hoodline.com reported that foundations for the new homes will be set 50 feet below the surface, requiring the removal of about 13,640 cubic yards of soil.

Project sponsors Dawson & Clinton notified residents that the mitigation measures described in the report would minimize the construction's impact on the neighborhood.

"The Planning Department has been very thorough in their work and we appreciate all of their diligence," they wrote.

A timeline published on the developer's website suggests that construction could start this month, with the project completed by May 2021. But according to the Planning Department, developers must obtain a Conditional Use Authorization from the Planning Commission before work can begin.

Interactive Science Project For Stanyan Street Edge

Rec and Park will be partnering with the Exploratorium on a two-year temporary project located at the eastern entrance of Golden Gate Park along Stanyan. This is the latest undertaking of the latter's "Studio for Public Spaces" program. The interactive science museum is increasingly involving itself in such collaborations with city agencies and community groups to develop public spaces that achieve multiple goals: supporting inquiry, improving public health and safety, and making the city more livable.

The anticipated temporary exhibit will be part of Rec and Park's proposed changes to the Stanyan Street entrance to Golden Gate Park between Kezar Drive and Waller Street in an effort to beautify the area. Called the Stanyan Street Edge Project, contracts on the \$5.5 million initiative will be bid out this fall so work can be completed by early-mid 2019. Planning and construction costs are covered by the 2012 Clean and Safe Neighborhood Parks Bond, which raised \$195 million for repair and renewal projects.



Our Neighborhood Heroes 2018 Merchant Participants

Bambinos, Cole Cleaners, Cole Hardware, Crepes on Cole, Finnegans Wake, Jerome's Antiques, Pacific American Group, * Padrecito, Postal Chase.

*Owners of 930 Cole Street (former Cole Garage)

Upscale "Nomad Tool Store" Opens on Haight Street

This month a boutique stationery store called Topdrawer opened at the former location of Black Scale (1409 Haight). The chain also has stores in Tokyo, Boston, Chicago and Los Angeles, but comes under the 11 domestic sites that would stigmatize it as "formula retail."

You may have seen products parent company, Kolo, at Flax's and other high-end stores. But merchandise is not limited to its own brand. Topdrawer's website describes "products curated from around the world,



Topdrawer is an oasis of useful, well designed implement on Haight Street.

tools you'll only need to buy once, that will help you do your best work wherever you are. Our tools revolve around four core activities in a creative mobile life: working, photographing, eating, and traveling." That about covers anything you do. In any case it is a beautiful store and neighborhood-serving as so few Haight Street shops are. But it is not ours alone. There are two other location in the city: Cow Hollow and the Mission.

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



Thank You For Your Support



It certainly isn't expected, but when a member sends in an extra contribution, we appreciate it greatly. Only nine Cole Valley merchants contributed to the daily cleaning of Cole Street's business district last year, which costs CVIA \$936 each month. We make up the deficit with member contributions, a discount from CleanScapes and proceeds from the "Santa on Cole" photo shoot. So we would like to take this opportunity to thank the following members for their generosity during the period August 2017 through July 2018. Please notify us if your name has inadvertently been omitted.

OMG: (\$2000): Tracy & Patrick Jennings

Beacons: (\$1000): Les Silverman

Benefactors: (\$250 - \$500): Lena Emmery & Charles Canepa, Karen & David Crommie, Abby & David M. Rumsey, Say Cheese - Roger Soudah

Donors (\$100 - \$249): Cecile and Jeff Bodington, Gina Centoni, Eugene Chen, Linda Coda, Diane and Christopher Davies, Kathryn Demas, Sandra Norberg & Richard Drake, Linda Erkelens, Marianne Hesse, Shannon and Chris Hock, Linda C. Hothem, Harold and Lyn Isbell, Randy & Rich Lavinghouse, Robert G. Jones and John T. Smith, Jane & Michael Miller, Deborah Robbins and Henry Navas, Janan New, Thomas Ports & Catherine Covey, Bill and Joanne Prieur, Michael Rafferty, Sigrid Schafmann, Michael J. Sullivan, Alexis Woods

Contributors (\$50 - \$99): Anonymous, Kathleen Bertram, Megan and Bruce Bourne, Joan K. Boyd, Joelle & Ralph Edler, Richard and Rita Felciano, Russell and Margaret Garvin, John and Mary Hooper, Ice Cream Bar -- Juliet Pries, Jim Laufenberg, Margareta Ekblad & Vojtech Licko, Wallis and Michelle Lim, John & Bahereh Manning, Carolyn McKenna, Bill O'Such and Ineke Ruhland, John Priest, Ellen Rashbaum, Robin Ridgeway, Elaine Robinson, Susan and Steven Rosen, Beth and Rick Thurber, Jillian and Blake Tyrrell, William A. Villarroel, Ken Wilcox, Victoria Zaroff

Supporters (\$25 - \$49): Barbara Alexander, Gail & Howard Berman, Sharon Birenbaum, Jeanne Blamey & Rob Fram, Katherine L. Brody, Penny Duan & Steve Chaffin, Donna Cooper, Ellen Curry, Karin de Brer, Kelsie Dore, Todd and Deb Frederick, Gloria Galindo & Mari Coates, Glen and Melissa Gee, Kevin Dede, Jean Hayward, John Ignacio, Sarah & Neema Jalali, Bryn Jedlic, Catherine & Brian Kane, Lynn Kormondy, Judith Bishop & Rober Liner, Dennis Martino, Michael McCarthy, Barbara Mow, Robert Mullin, Thomas Nicoll, Teresa Olle, Robert Page, Jan Platt & Jeff Ross, Celia Price, Helen and Allan Ridley, MeMe Riordan, William Rothrum & Katherine Bird, Michael Siliski, Shelly Sutherland, Benjamin Thompson, Conchita Toshok, Deborah Van Atta, Isabel Wade, Edward C. Walls, Boyd Watkins, Mary Ann Wolcott

Boosters (\$24 and below): Anonymous, Anna Almberg, Molly Barry, Travis Becker, Chris Bunga, David Burke, Mary Ann de Souza, Heather Drake, Beverley Epstein, Allison Grass, Minette & Isac Gutfreund, Sareena Hirani, Maryann Hrichak, Jessica Lassere, Marie and Bruce Samson, Isabel Greenfield & Dan Selvig, Diane & Bob Silver

The NEW Carl Street Library

A few years ago I was doing some spring cleaning and had a number of old books I wanted to get rid of. I set them on a book shelf in front of my house. Before the end of the day all the books were gone. By the end of that same day the book shelf was restocked with different books. The Carl Street Free Library was born.

The Library has taken on a life of its own. The books come and go, sometimes filling up and emptying out more than once in a given day. The shelf has changed a few times, originally I had trouble keeping them from going with the books but a bicycle lock fixed that problem. From time to time people using the Library will ask me if it's mine. "No, it's not mine, I just built it." I rarely add books myself, they just come on their own. A local homeless man, Curtis, is the unofficial Librarian, he does a great job keeping the shelves in order.

The new Library is built out of a repurposed phone booth. As part of a sidewalk greening program I got a permit from the city to remove a good portion of the sidewalk in front of my house and replace it with "greenscraping." The Library has been relocated into my greenscape



Photo: Joan Downey

Old phone booth finds new use thanks to bibliophile Jay Streets (Norton appears unimpressed).

ements and had toyed with the idea of an old phone booth but phone booths are hard to find today. Mine came from ebay in Sacramento, a brand new phone booth still in the factory package. I got it from a guy who use to have a thousand phone booths and now is down to just ten. I built some shelves, changed the signage and added a solar powered light. The Library is completely off the grid and nestled into my garden so as not to impede the

garden. I was looking

for a way to protect

the books from the el-

public right of way. If you have some old books you need to clear out, or are looking for some new reading material, come visit the new Carl Street Library on the 300 block. -Jay Streets

Bay Windows Code Changes

Over the last several years, Planning Dept. staff has received a significant number of innovative and appropriate proposed architectural designs that are not allowed under the current Code Section 136(c). Planning is proposing to amend the Planning Code to permit some obstructions/overhangs in Section 136, and to allow some bay windows that do not currently meet the standards to apply for a Zoning Administrator waiver.

The proposed ordinance is scheduled to be heard at the Historic Planning Commission on Wednesday, September 19, and at the Planning Commission for adoption on Thursday, October 4. A community meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 5 at 1650 Mission, 3:00 p.m. For more information on this effort, please visit http://sf-planning.org/planning-code-section136.

Who Will Get to Open the Haight's Only Rec Pot Shop?

Five experienced neighborhood entrepreneurs calling themselves Haight Partners stood for an hour before an audience of approximately 25 neighbors and merchants at The Bindery on July 24 pitching a retail cannabis store in the Haight. Nobody was there because they objected to a pot shop, but rather how it was going to be run. The five were there to prove their neighborhood creds and to convince those present that they would be more responsible to the community than their main rival, a group from (gasp) Washington State called "Have a Heart."

A rule preventing pot sales less than 600 feet from any school, means that the only Haight street location eligible is between Cole and



Local merchants called "Haight Partners" would sell cannabis at the Stanza site.

Clayton. (The city's Green Zone map also shows that Stanyan Street between Beulah and Waller is eligible for pot-related businesses.)

Have a Heart, the Washington group, has already opened a dispensary on Irving Street called ShareOnes, another in Oakland, along with the five original locations in the Pacific Northwest. Recently it has made a bid to purchase the double storefront now

occupied by Rasputin Music at 1670-74 Haight, the interior of which is 4,000 sq. feet.

This spurred the local group of business people to join forces. They have an advantage in that Mike Musieh, owner of Stanza coffee house (1673 Haight) and the adjoining Dragon Eats (1671) can evict the two

current tenants, open up the wall, and establish the Haight Partners cannabis dispensary in the resulting double space. Also, they will likely have strong neighborhood support, important to the city's Office of Cannabis.

Others involved in Haight Partners are Alex Aquino, well known for Black Scale streetwear and for producing the Haight hip hop music event a few years



Rival Seattle group vies with locals to open a cannabis store at the Rasputin site.

ago. Most notably, he financed the entire Golden Gate Park clean-up after the 4/20 mob descended on Hippy Hill. Others in the group are Marcel Banks, a Bayview restaurant owner, who is the equity partner, Alicia Darrow, who is partner and operator at the Green Door (443 Howard St.) voted San Francisco's best old-school dispensary last year.

According to Hoodline's Camden Avery, a third outfit has applied for establishment of a retail cannabis store at the current location of Silver Sprocket (1685), an underground zines shop. According to public records, Richard Shawn would be owner, with Quentin Platt, (currently COO of Ohio's well-established Equinox Botanicals) serving as manager.

-Karen Crom-

Visit our website at CVIASF.org

Tartine Coming to Inner Sunset

You've probably seen the lines in front of Tartine at Guerrero and 18th. You may even have visited their 5,000 sq. ft. offshoot, Tartine Manufactory on Alabama. Well, no longer will we have to travel so far for their signature breads and innovative soups, salads and sandwiches because sfeater.com reports that Tartine is planning to move into the site of the former Standard Roofing at 9th Avenue and Lincoln.

In 2002, Elisabeth Prueitt and Chad Robertson came into San Francisco for dinner from Point Reyes, where they had a tiny bakery at their home. They had spent the past six years in front of a hand built wood fired oven; Chad making bread and Liz pastry. They were a power baking



Tartine founders Elisabeth Prueitt and Chad Robertson in 2002.

duo at the Berkeley Farmers' Market. The story goes that while dining at Pizza Delfina in the Mission, Liz saw an old corner bakery in the dark. There was a baker sitting outside and they started talking. He was ready to retire, but determined to keep the shop a bakery. It was meant to be. A few months later, Tartine opened its doors, and the line outside formed.

They saw that they were making magic and took a huge leap by opening a sprawling restaurant on 18th and Alabama in the Heath ceramics factory—winning

a place on Bon Appetit's list of Best New Restaurants of the Year in 2017. This year they opened a bakery in Seoul and are about to open an enormous Manufactory-style venue in L.A.

In coming to 9th Avenue, Tartine will compete with Arizmendi, the venerable coop bakery just down the street so the two will have to fight it out. In any case, Tartine is an upscale, well-run business that will bring more foodies to the Inner Sunset.

NEW SCHEDULE FOR POLICE COMMUNITY FORUM

Captain Una Bailey holds community forums the second Tuesday of every month (except December) from 7 to 8:00 p.m. She gives briefings on upcoming permitted events, reviews neighborhood criminal activity, and addresses the safety concerns of residents. It's an excellent way to stay in touch with what's going on in the neighborhood. The meetings are held at Park Station's Community Room (1899 Waller).



September 11, October 9, November 13 Mark Your Calendar

UCSF Wants Feedback

The University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) is re-envisioning its historic Parnassus Heights campus, home to its professional schools, a hospital and outpatient complex, and a robust and world-renowned research community. Since 1898, the Parnassus Heights campus has been the foundation for UCFS's advancements in discovery, teaching and patient care. As UCSF turns its attention to Parnassus Heights, the aim is to re-imagine a campus that will continue to support the university's mission for decades to come.

As one of our neighbors, UCSF is seeking your help in identifying potential improvements that would also further neighborhood goals for the physical environment that surrounds the Parnassus Heights campus.

This review of Parnassus Heights has been sparked by two events: 1) the need to plan for a new hospital on the campus and 2) the need to



the need for a new hospital has prompted UCSF to review overall plans.

reconfigure and modernize the academic and research programs. This re-envisioning provides an opportunity to look more comprehensively at the entire campus to evaluate whether improvements can be made to building design and functionality, public spaces and pedestrian connectivity, as well as vehicular traffic flow for patients, employees and nearby residents and businesses.

The survey should take approximately 10 to 15 minutes to complete. Your comments and ideas will inform UCSF's planning and design process for Parnassus Heights over the next 18 months. If you are also a UCSF patient or employee, you may be asked to participate in another survey. Your generosity of time and effort to participate in multiple surveys would be greatly appreciated. https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ NNC8VPV

-Christine Gasparac UCSF Community Relations

Robust Response to Ticket Offer

CVIA was pleased to offer its members tickets to the All San Francisco Concert for the second year. This is a special Davies Symphony Hall performance for San Francisco social service and neighborhood organizations. This concert is an integral part of the San Francisco Symphony's opening week activities, and embodies the Symphony's commitment to bringing classical music to the region's diverse communities.

CVIA bought 32 tickets for \$12 and offered them to our members via email. Within 7 hours they were snatched up. If you didn't receive the email about this offer, we don't have your current email address. If you want to receive emails from us – we don't send out many and we never share our list – send your email address to cviasf@aol.com.

Green Benefit District is Still Controversial

As some neighbors of Buena Vista Park consider setting up a Green Benefit District that would help beautify the area, neighborhood opposition to the plan is also coalescing.

As previously reported, a Green Benefit District is a neighbor-run nonprofit funded by a tax assessment paid by residents of a specific area that allows capital improvements without waiting for funding to come from Rec and Park's budget. The proposed Buena Vista Park Green Benefit District (BVGBD) would impose annual fees of approximately \$150-300 a year for 10 years on each property owner for park improvements.

The area currently included in the measure is bounded by Page, Divisadero/Castro, 17th, and Clayton streets. The Department of Public Works is currently assessing neighborhood support and soliciting feedback. Their survey will be available until September 15, at www. gbvgbd.org/survey.

There is robust opposition to this plan, however, led by long time residents John Hooper and Stephen Bartoletti, both of whom cite its high cost (approximately \$200,000) for initial set up and outsized administrative fees (one-third). They feel that Rec and Park's current plans for improvement, along with volunteer teams and increased police presence can handle both landscape maintenance and security.

The idea of Benefit Districts came from the Community Benefit Districts (CBD), adopted by neighborhoods experiencing chronic problems thought unmanageable by city services. Currently there are CBDs in Union Square, the Castro, Yerba Buena, Tenderloin and Central Market.

But so far there is only one Green Benefit District in San Francisco, located in Dogpatch/Northwest Potrero Hill. It was approved by 76% of property owners in 2015. By law, GBD services cannot duplicate or replace those of the City, and Rec and Park must prepare a detailed accounting of its services as a baseline.

Advocated by longtime parks activist Isabel Wade, the BVGBD is seen by some as a last resort to saving this venerable slice of nature in the center of the city. The need is great as the trees are aging (some dying) and the pervasive ivy is increasingly prolific.

Unfortunately, the BVGBD is dividing neighbors who all want the to see Buena Vista Park maintained, but differ on how to insure it. $-Karen\ Crommie$

Randall Museum is a Unique Family Resource

The renovated Randall Museum reopened six months ago at its Corona Heights location and many of the popular public programs



The Randall Museum is located at 199 Museum Way, off of Roosevelt Way and includes the new Cafe Josephine.

[especially for children and their families] are back. The museum was the fulfillment of a dream by Josephine Randall who believed that learning could be fun. Programs and events in August and September include Afternoon Art, Meet the Animals, Family Weaving, and Birding the Hill. For access to our complete schedule go to randallmuseum.org.

-Genevieve Antaky Randall Museum

Famous Neighbor Reaches Milestone

Cole Valley artist Mark Ulriksen's New Yorker cover piece last month showing a dog lounging on a flotation ring in a swimming pool, was his 60th for that magazine.

He is also enjoying an exhibition of 19 works at Modernism Gallery (724 Ellis Street) until September 8. A recent article by Charles Desmarais in the SF Chronicle (8-1-18) describes the exhibit as, "(a)

playing-field dazzling, full of fresh color and frank insight—the visual equivalent of japing sideline commentary."

Ulriksen attended Cal State Chico and the University of Massachusetts. His first major position was as art director of San Francisco Magazine (formerly San Francisco Focus magazine) from 1986 until 1993, when his first New Yorker cover was accepted. He had the opportunity of working with the late baseball writer Roger Angell to illustrate the New Yorker's annual baseball season wrap.

At the current exhibit, three notable paintings are take-offs on folk-art Afri-

can barbershop signs. One, called "Coiffures Géantes," depicts Giants stars Tim Lincecum, Buster Posey, Madison Bumgarner and Hunter

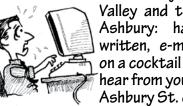


Pence modeling haircuts with faux French names like "Man-Child" and "Hairy Dog."

—Karen Crommie

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, typewritten, e-mailed or scrawled on a cocktail napkin. We want to hear from you! CVIA News: 628 Ashbury St. or cviasf@aol.com

Would you like a copy of this newsletter sent to a neighbor? Send an email to cviasf@aol.com or Leave a message at 431-1414 with their name and address and consider it done.

CVIA Board Minutes

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

Every meeting begins with a reading of the minutes of the last meeting and reports from delegates to the Kezar Stadium Advisory Committee (KSAC), SFMTA Citizens Advisory Council (CAC), the Community Police Advisory Board (CPAB), UCSF Long Range Planning Citizens Advisory Group (CAG), the Coalition for SF Neighborhoods (CSFN) and the Waller Center.

June

Location: Home of Carole Glosenger – June 4, 2018 - 7 p.m.

Guest: Vietnam Nguyen, Asst. District Attorney and Park District Neighborhood Prosecutor

- Treasurer Joan Downey reported a bank balance of \$53,405.11 out of which \$12,494.39 is being presently held in the Clean Cole Street fund and \$24,767.20 is being held in the account (as fiscal sponsor) for the Stanyan Parklet.
- Lena Emmery reported on upcoming soccer games at Kezar Stadium. The team, San Francisco FC, is presently playing at USF. They have received a permit to serve alcohol. Two police officers will be present at every game.
- Assistant DA Vietnam Nguyen gave a briefing on his role as Neighborhood Prosecutor with both Park and Mission Stations. The DA's office currently has two attorneys specifically citing low-level crimes by transient people with the intent of bundling them to establish that an individual presents a "chronic and persistent" problem, thereby strengthening a case for a judicial "stay away" order and/or adult probation. Lt. Robert Kobold is in charge of tracking chronic offenders in Park District and directing them to a new program aimed at mentally ill transient people. This is placement in the new "SF Healing Center" at St. Mary's Hospital offering 54 lock-down psychiatric beds. Nguyen asked the board to make members of CVIA aware that any help they can give the SFPD in identifying chronic offenders and notifying the DA's Office of their impact on the neighborhood will expedite assistance to these individuals.
- Board voted unanimously to nominate the following members for 2018-19 CVIA officers: President, Lena Emmery; Vice President Cathy Haller; Treasurer, Joan Downey; Secretary, Karen Crommie; Media/Community Relations, Chris Hock.
- Steven Madrid reported on contacting Matt Cohen, creator of the "Off the Grid" phenomenon to determine potential interest in developing a temporary "pop up" mixed- use venue at 730 Stanyan. He showed considerable interest and is researching the possibility, engaging advice from Proxy-SF founder Douglas Burnham (who also heads the architecture and design firm envelope A+D). Part of his proposal may include space for a "street soccer" field.
- Discussed ways to increase awareness of the existence of CVIA. Steven suggested looking closely at CVIA's end goals for guidance. Chris suggested hosting casual evenings at Kezar Bar and Restaurant. Others indicated that compelling topics would draw in neighbors to a monthly meeting. Past attendance soared when there were subjects such as parking laws, presence of a chain store, rules on dog walking. Other topics suggested for a General Meeting were children's safety, bike and scooter rentals, stealing packages from front porches, homelessness mentally ill, enlisting ideas for neighborhood projects that would warrant a \$3,000 CVIA grant, such as organizing a neighborhood event. Chris

Hock offered to come up with ten top topics for Cole Valley.

- Chris announced that the process of lighting the problematic Alvord Lake area (Stanyan at the end of Haight) has begun.
- Discussed the upcoming Summer Social, confirmed for August 18 from 1 to 4. Suggested speakers were London Breed (winner or not), the Chronicle's Heather Knight, Leah Garchik and "Not So Secret" webmaster Steve Silverman.
- According to a whimsical tradition, all board members predicted the results of the June 5 election. Each prediction was recorded opposite his/her name. The person closest to the actual results gets no prize other than the honor of being the most political savvy until the next election. Chris Hock currently carries that distinction
- President Cathy Haller adjourned the meeting at 9:30

July

Location: Home of Lena Emmery and Chuck Canepa – July 9, 2018 - 7 p.m. Guest: Allyson Feeney (Exploratorium)

- Treasurer Joan Downey reported a bank balance of \$52,908.62 out of which \$12,985.31 is being presently held in the Clean Cole Street fund and \$24,767.20 is being held in the account (as fiscal sponsor) for the Stanyan Parklet. She said that we have 9 new members and 11 renewals. Because there had been a payout of over \$600 from the Stanyan Parklet account, there was charitable trust fee of \$25.00. The Mount Olympus Neighborhood Organization has discussed the possibility that CVIA serve as their fiscal sponsor for a project in which they are engaged. Joan will get details before agreeing. She also presented a budget for 2018-19, which was approved unanimously.
- Allyson Feeney from the Exploratorium described their "Studio for Public Spaces" program bringing the wonders of interactive science into different SF neighborhoods. They have formed many partnerships to engage people in novel ways. She wanted to get the Board's reaction to a construction they are planning as part of the Stanyan Street Edge Project. She reported that over 200 people had responded to a survey as part of their preliminary study of the area: how it is used, problems and benefits of the area, etc., necessary in designing the site-specific construction. Amy Blakeley to post it on CVIA's website and Facebook page. Feeney circulated examples of on-going projects around the city. For details, go to exploritorium.edu/public spaces.
- Amy Blakeley reported on her inability to contact member Mark Ballew, who hosts the CVIA web page with regard to removing a raft of spam. As she prepares to pass over the job of social media chair to Chris Hock, she has created a document of protocol to manage the website, with Joan Downey as backup. Joan has a contact who might be available (for hire) to manage this technical transition, both in changing host and transferring from WordPress to Square Space.
- Marianne Hesse reported on the so-called "Bird Woman," who dumps a variety of leftover food in the parking lot of Waller Center. Although she intends it for birds, it is attracting rodents. Marianne has contacted both the Park Station Police and Waller Center without much success. Reporting this illegal activity to the Dept. of Public Health is her next step.
- Lena Emmery reported that the Police Department's "National Night Out" will take place on August 7 and was encouraged us to donate Cole Valley t-shirts as raffle prizes.
- Chuck Canepa, reporting on UCSF's Citizen's Advisory Group's June 6 meeting, said that the university is choosing to recommit itself to the preservation and development of the Parnassus campus. They have been bequeathed a large apartment house at 2130 Post Street providing new source of revenue. Because it now belongs to the State, which is not subject to the SF Rent Ordinance, the current tenants are being evicted and the building renovated to provide 92 units for UCSF personnel.

- Shannon Cooper Hock reported on the Board's outreach to "Off the Grid" organizer Matt Cohen regarding the establishment of a "pop up" multi-use establishment at the site of 730 Stanyan. He is interested in utilizing the space for temporary food establishments out of cargo containers. He must be guaranteed the space for three years to recover his investment. Cohen is looking at the retrofitted containers owned by the Giants. Dave McLean of Magnolia is also interested in a possible beer garden for the site. He is awaiting the City's issuance of a Request for Proposal (RFP), before he makes any commitment. One important caveat is that whatever goes into the space in the pre-construction interim, must serve low-income residents of SF.
- Shannon will speak to Steve Schick (Kezar Bar and Restaurant) about food for Summer Social on August 18. She is authorized to raise the fee if necessary to make sure there are ample hors d'oeuvres.
- Decided that Carole Glosenger will contact Heather Knight re a commendation for her unparalleled reporting on the city's homeless population
- Agreed on design for this year's Summer Social invitation.
- Decided that Lena Emmery will write a letter to the Rec and Park Commission and Park General Manager Phil Ginsburg expressing our objection to an AIDS museum being built in Golden Gate Park, citing the Park's Master Plan's restriction on additional buildings and the redundancy due to the space and care already provided by the AIDS Memorial Glen. Joan Downey to collaborate.
- Decided that Joan would purchase 32 tickets for the All San Francisco Symphony performance on Saturday, September 8. These will be made available to CVIA members at \$12 per ticket, first come first served.
- Joan reported that Judy Godess is asking for suggestions for senior activities to be offered at St. John of God church at 5th and Irving. Board members will email Joan with their ideas.
- Lena suggested a matching fund donation to the Sutro Stewards of \$2,500 based on their service in providing Cole Valley/Haight families with accessible hiking trails. She will approach Stewards' executive director, Amy Kaeser, regarding upcoming needs to determine the appropriate amount of the grant.
- 9:30 Meeting adjourned by vice president Lena Emmery, in the absence of CVIA president, Cathy Haller

August

Location: Home of Karen and David Crommie – March 5, 2018 - 7 p.m.

- Treasurer Joan Downey reported a bank balance 53,405.77 of out of which is \$12,494.39 is being presently held in the Clean Cole Street fund and \$24,767.20 is being held in the account (as fiscal sponsor) for the Stanyan Parklet. She noted 42 renewals and a current total of 405 family memberships (600 individual members). In seven hours, CVIA members snapped up all the tickets she was allotted for the "All San Francisco" performance of the SF Symphony on Sept. 8 (at \$12 each).
- Outgoing media chair Amy Blakeley reported that she and Chris Hock had met to review the key points of maintaining the CVIA website and Facebook page.
- Chuck Canepa reported that he and Lena Emmery had met with UCSF's community relations manager Christine Gasparac about the university's plans for "revisioning" the Parnassus campus. Chuck emphasized his overriding concern that UCSF keep a world-class hospital here in the center of the city (as opposed to Mission Bay). See article on page 6.
- Marianne Hesse reported that Waller Center site coordinator Maggie Lohmeyer is stepping down after only one year. She had previously

served as a Global Mission fellow field coordinator for a micro-lending program in connection with the United Methodist Federal Credit Union for loans and memberships. Her replacement has not been announced. In spite of Waller Street neighbors' complaints about a quarrelsome woman who insists on feeding pigeons on church property, drawing hundreds of birds with accompanying mess, neither the church nor the police have responded to calls (although Captain Bailey has apologized for lack of action).

- General discussion of the program and tasks for the Summer Social on August 18.
- Discussed (again) the Buena Vista Green Benefit District. Reviewed recent letters from Steve Bartoletti and Doerte Murray. Reaffirmed our decision to remain neutral.
- Discussed plans for the CVIA booth at the Cole Valley Fair, committed to times slots of work.
- Discussed topic priorities for a future meeting with Supervisor Vallie Brown. Agreed that Lena would invite her to the October 1st board meeting.
- Steven Madrid reported on meeting with John Gavin, SF Dept. of Real Estate, regarding interim use of 730 Stanyan. Gavin emphasized the importance of any enterprise to demonstrate ability to provide full insurance and security. Shannon Cooper Hock joined Steve describing a meeting with Matt Cohen, of Off the Grid, who is interested in using the space for pop-up restaurants, bringing as many as 50 unskilled jobs to the neighborhood. Shannon stressed the importance of providing small-time entrepreneurs with a chance to build a business in the food and beverage business. Steve criticized MOHCD's lack of general community notification regarding interim use, the absence of a Saturday meeting, more available to working people with children and of MOHCD's acceptance of input from people living outside the Haight/ Cole Valley. He said the RFPs would be issued by the end of August. Cohen intends to submit a bid.
- Discussed criteria for posting notices on the CVIA website, Facebook page and Not So Secret. Decided we would eschew entertainment news but concentrate on items that are of unique interest to members: new businesses, safety issues, transit changes, community meetings, etc.
- Discussed the misuse Arguello Circle by waiting ambulances and Recology transferring trash..
- Agreed that the next meeting will be at the home of Lena Emmery and Chuck Canepa on September 10 (because of holiday on first Monday)
- President Cathy Haller adjourned the meeting at 9:30

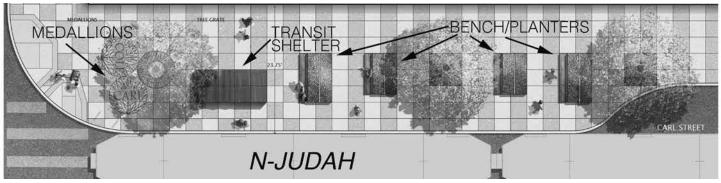
-Karen Crommie

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

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.

Long Promised Glamming Up of Cole Valley Begins At Last?



As a result of years of letters going back and forth between CVIA, the MTA and the Department of Public Works, construction has finally begun on "streetscaping" Cole Valley Muni stops. Then president Carol Glosenger, in 2014, wrote her first letter to MTA director Edward Reiskin, saying, "The bulbouts make boarding faster and safer – but they are an eyesore in our neighborhood! The N-Judah transit stops on Duboce have wonderful streetscape improvements – great planters and chairs. Both the Inner and Outer Sunset projects that are in the works have been offered extensive streetscapes. But Carl and Cole, which is the busiest above-ground stop on the busiest line, with Stanyan and Cole not far behind, got nothing."

A more recent query by CVIA Board member Joan Downey produced this note from DPW Project Manager Mike Rieger: "We just had a progress meeting this morning with our contractor, and at long last we will be beginning work at Carl and Cole, starting tomorrow (August 8). I apologize for the late notice on this—our contractor was holding for the last couple of months and they just told us they are ready to begin. They will be sawcutting the existing concrete at the NE corner in front of BurgerMeister this week, and will be staining the concrete squares next week. I'll provide additional updates as the work continues." But ten days later, I notice that all the concrete is still intact (sigh).

-Karen Crommie

Craigslist.com Turns 25

The man who changed how people find homes, employment and romance is celebrating his twenty-fifth year in San Francisco.

Originally from New Jersey, Craigslist founder Craig Newmark bounced around the East Coast as an IBM employee before moving to the Bay Area in the early 1990s. He first landed in Russian Hill, but less than a year later, he relocated to Cole Valley, where he still lives today.

I was first introduced to Craig many years ago by the then manager of Boulange de Cole, as "someone who also does a neighborhood newsletter." With perfect misunderstanding, two generations collided



Craig Newmark

as he asked me, "What's your URL?" After he explained what that was, he asked me, "What language are you using?" listing a string of incomprehensible acronyms. The only word I understood was "Java," because I'm all about coffee. (Later I found out that Craig was somewhat of an expert in that programming language.) After that unproductive exchange, we went back to our respective breakfasts and didn't meet again until years

What I didn't know at the time was that, in 1995, he had created his eponymous message board, which still looks and operates much the same as when it first launched. What has changed, however, is that Craig moved his patronage to Café Reverie, where he can still be found many mornings greeting friends and petting dogs.

Craig has prospered to the degree that he now has an impressive string of philanthropic organizations. Newmark recently told Hoodline's Alica Scerrato that he had no idea the site would reach so many people, describing its growth as "surreal." We are proud to have had him as a faithful CVIA member for many years.

-Karen Crommie

Free Exercise Class for Seniors

As one of her last acts as supervisor, London Breed earmarked \$23,000 from the District 5 set-aside for a free, one-year program for seniors in the Inner Sunset. Mayor Breed was responding to a funding request submitted by the Cole Valley Improvement Association, S.H.A.R.P. and Inner Sunset Park Neighbors.

The funding will pay for a five-hour per week coordinator,



St. John of God Catholic church, dedicated to meeting the needs of the community, is looking for a program

twice-weekly Always Active classes plus other activities requested by the participants. Always Active classes combine yoga, tai chi, weight training, aerobics, and balance practice, and are offered in

senior centers and communities throughout the city: www.alwaysactive. org. Classes will be offered at the community hall at St. John of God, at the corner of Fifth and Irving.

We are currently looking for a coordinator for the program. If you have strong neighborhood connections, and are committed to building community to support older adults and adults with disabilities, please contact cenetworks@sfcommunityliving.org for more information and a job description.

-Judy Goddess

Postscripts

The list of big, imminent changes for the Haight and Stanyan area is

growing steadily—from the redevelopment of McDonald's, to a redesign of Golden Gate Park's Stanyan Street frontage. But the most immediate impact will be the implementation of the Upper Haight Transit and Pedestrian Realm Project which includes pedestrian scale lighting, tree replacement, traffic signal installation/replacement, bus bulbs, repaving of Haight Street



from Stanyan to Central Avenue. Expect havoc for the next year.

* * *

It's a yea-boo story. The SFMTA recently voted to run the N-Judah every four minutes during peak weekday hours, instead of every seven minutes. On weekends, however, board members voted to reduce the line's two-car trains to a single car. The move is part of Muni's Service Equity Strategy, which basically looks at the overall system and tweeks service to promote more equity.

* * *

After over a year of bucking the traffic nightmare that was Masonic Avenue, we were heartbroken to see the lanes between Oak and Haight Street delineated by wild wavy lines. But DPW tells us, true or not, that these were put down temporarily by the paving contractor and that the City will replace them with permanent straight lines soon. (Don't ask.)



* * *

There are rumors going around that Taking It To The Street's executive director Christian Calinsky has been released from leadership of the organization he co-founded. We have been assured that the young men and women who have earned lodging because of their street cleaning work in the Haight Ashbury will not be effected.

-Karen Crommie

CVIA Officers		
President	Lena Emmery	
Vice President	Cathy Haller	
Treasurer	Joan Ďowney	
Recording Secretary	Karen Crommie	
Membership	Lena Emmery	
Community Relations	Chris Hock	
-		

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 October 15, 2018 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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Editorial Assistance	Joan Downey

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NextBus	311
Street Lighting	
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Chief of Police William "Bill" Scott SFPD 1245 Third Street S.F., CA 94158	415-553-1551
District Attorney George Gascón	
Captain Una Bailey	415-242-3000

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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 ______E-MAIL_____ NAME PHONE ADDRESS 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 \Box Dues and contributions to Clean Cole Street may be taken as charitable deductions. Contact your accountant regarding the tax law. **~**-----**Cole Valley Improvement Association**

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