

CVIA NEWS

COLE VALLEY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Volume XXIV

SERVING ALL RESIDENTS OF THE GREATER HAIGHT ASHBURY

SUMMER 2011

Be a Part of History on May 15

May 15th marks the 100th running of the Bay to Breakers. Come on out and help celebrate the uniqueness of San Francisco by being a Neighborhood Ambassador. Not only do you get a one



www.Zimbio.com

Even though alcohol consumption and floats have been banned from the 100th running of the Bay to Breakers footrace, enforcement and safety will require the help of residents living in neighborhoods along the route.

of a kind shirt, you will also be helping make the event safe and fun for everyone.

Neighborhood Ambassadors will assist participants and spectators in finding races services (such as port-o-johns), provide general information and welcome people to the neighborhood

There will be two Neighborhood Ambassador Teams: Team Alamo and Team Panhandle.

So, show some neighborhood pride and sign up for Team Panhandle. Each Ambassador shift is only 2 hours and you can choose any shift between 7:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Bay to Breakers staff as well as NOPNA (North of Panhandle Association) and ASNA (Alamo Square Neighborhood Association) will be coordinating the activities.

This is an historic event. Come be part of history and be a Neighborhood Ambassador. Go to <http://zazzlebaytobreakers.com/index.php?page=volunteer-for-neighborhood-ambassador>.

— Jarie Bolander, President NOPNA

Recycling Center Says “Not Yet”

The Recycling Center is still disputing the validity of the 90-day lease termination notice they were given by the Department of Rec and Park on December 3. When, after receiving three months free rent, they failed to comply with the eviction date of March 3, Rec and Park filed an unlawful detainer against them, which is the next legal step in an eviction. Their position is that the eviction had not fulfilled legal requirements.

A hearing on the Recycling Center’s objections had been scheduled for May 2 but Rec and Park asked the judge to set the hearing date sooner. The Recycling Center objected. The judge split the difference, resulting in a hearing on April 25 (after CVIA



SF Examiner

The city’s curbside recycling program forced the Recycling Center to become a station for the transfer of commercial collections.

News goes to press). Rec and Park expects the lease termination notice will then be declared fully valid. But if the opposite is ruled, and an entirely new notice is required to be served, it is still not certain that they will comply with the compromise date of June 30.

—Richard Magary

Stats Released for Sit/Lie

In the three weeks after San Francisco police began enforcing the controversial Civil Sidewalks ordinance, officers issued 86 warnings and 16 citations to people who were sitting or lying down on city sidewalks, police said.

Most of the tickets were handed out in the Park Police District, (Greater Haight Ashbury) where a grass-roots effort to pass the ordinance grew out of frustration with aggressive transients on the streets.

The measure, which passed with 54 percent of the vote in November, officially took effect in December. Enforcement was pushed back to the second week of March to give the department time to train officers and complete other preparations.

When officers encounter someone who appears to be violating the law by sitting or lying down on the sidewalk between 7 a.m. and 11 p.m., they first inform them of the law and ask them to get up.

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Repeat offenders incur an official warning and receive a card with information about services including shelters and medical clinics. If the offender persists, a citation is issued; the first ticket can lead to a penalty of \$50 to \$100, while subsequent convictions can be punished by fines of up to \$500 and as many as 30 days in jail.

The enforcement data, the most recent available from the police department, covers the period ending March 31.

The figures for the Park District as of March 23, show 10 warnings and no citations. The next week, an additional six warnings and 11 tickets were handed out.



Sidewalk sitters are first informed of the law followed by a warning.

“You would assume that those warnings turned into citations,” said Lt. Troy Dangerfield, a police spokesman. “People didn’t comply, so they got cited.”

The Richmond police district, which includes the Richmond neighborhood and most of Golden Gate Park, had 15 warnings. It’s unclear whether those admonitions took place in the neighborhood or the park. Dangerfield said the department is working to make more precise locations of enforcement activity available.

The Southern district, which covers the South of Market area, had 15 warnings and one citation. The Tenderloin had 12 warnings, and the Mission police district had 10 warnings and two citations.

No warnings or tickets were recorded for the largely residential Northern, Taraval, Ingleside and Bayview districts.

—Zoe Corneli

Haight Merchants Unite to Combat Sit/Lie Rhetoric

In a reaction to the widespread notoriety of its sidewalk-lounging street kids, Haight Ashbury retailers have joined to reinvigorate the defunct Haight Ashbury Merchants Association (HAMA). They hope to counteract what they feel to be an unjust characterization of the neighborhood by the Haight Ashbury Improvement Association (HAIA), a group that represents both residents and merchants, in the campaign to pass the Civil Sidewalks law (more commonly called “Sit/Lie,” after its Seattle precedent). “My business went down \$100,000 last year,” said Jimmy Siegel in a Bay Citizen article written by reporter Scott James and reprinted in the New York Times (3/31/11).

HAIA, along with the Buena Vista Neighborhood Association and CVIA worked hard to get the Sit/Lie legislation passed. Former Chief of Police George Gascón saw it work in other jurisdictions and called it a necessary “tool” to manage the increasingly hostile

street environment. In doing so, pictures of kids lying around on the sidewalks circulated widely in newspapers and online. Whether this actually cut into the Haight’s tourist trade is debatable but the perception was enough to rally the merchants.

Initiated by Dave McLean of Magnolia Brew Pub and Brian Molony, owner of Martin Macks, the main goals of HAMA, according to its website, are “to change negative attitudes that exist about the Haight Ashbury and to focus on ways to create more business.”



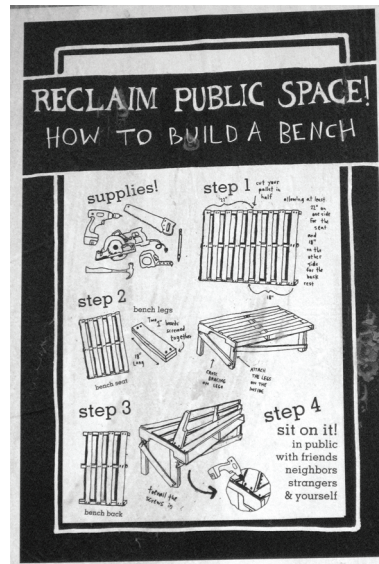
Haight Ashbury Merchants Association board of directors (left to right) Jay Westcott of Free Gold Watch, Christine Evans of The Booksmith, David Miller of Braindrops, Philip Bellber of Cha Cha Cha and Parada 22 (seated), Dave McLean of Magnolia and Alembic, Brian Molony of Martin Macks, James Preston of Positively Haight Street (seated). Not shown: Kent Uyehara of FTC / SFO and Bruce Samson of Kids Only.

They acknowledge that commercial rents on Haight Street are high compared to other areas of the city and so the need to attract more foot traffic is shared by all the merchants. We wish them good luck. Check out HAMA’s website at www.iluvhaight.com.

—Karen Crommie

As Enforcement of Sit/Lie Rolls Out, So Do Benches

Park District Station Captain Denis O’Leary, in a recent police report, wrote that his officers had seized, for violation of a DPW code, three hand-made benches that were chained to trees and traffic signs at Haight and Clayton and Haight and Ashbury.



Posters went up on Haight Street with instructions on bench construction.

The SF Bay Guardian rose to the bait in publicizing this obvious publicity stunt, which made a “statement” against the voter-approved prohibition against sitting or lying on the street, called the Civil Sidewalks law. The benches were crudely constructed of wood pallets and were placed in 10 different locations around the city.

According to the Guardian, the SF Coalition on Homelessness has coordinated the campaign against the law and has vowed to challenge it.

N-Judah On Track for 2012

Beginning next year, N-Judah riders will experience a smoother ride and safer boarding. In conjunction with the Municipal Transportation Agency's (MTA) Rail Replacement project on Carl Street, the sidewalks at three stops (in and out-bound at Cole, and outbound at Stanyan) will be widened to allow the nearly 6,000 daily passengers easier access to the N-Judah. At CVIA's request, two of the transit



Big changes are in the works for the N-Judah line.

bulbs were shortened from the original plan so that fewer parking spaces were lost. Both projects are planned to start in the spring of 2012 with work being planned for 15 weekends over about 12 months. The new rail will be embedded in concrete.

These new tracks on Carl Street between Arguello Boulevard and the Sunset Tunnel will be like those used at St. Francis Circle and should address the noise and vibration problems that Carl Street neighbors have complained about since the heavier Breda cars started running.

The construction is being coordinated with the Duboce & Church Rail Replacement project in an effort by the MTA to reduce project costs and eliminate redundant service shutdowns and bus substitutions. The budget for the project is over \$22 million – much of that is operational cost for the bus substitution.

The MTA plans a community outreach meeting soon to discuss the project and talk about bus substitution.

—Joan Downey

Dog Fight Over Crissy Field

Unless you've been on a long ocean voyage, to Antarctica perhaps, you know that there is a battle royal being waged over the Golden Gate National Recreation Area's Dog Management Plan. It took over 2,000 pages of this draft environmental impact report (DEIR) to justify recommendations to prohibit off-leash canines from 75% of the 21 sites on GGNRA property including the favorites of Crissy Field and Fort Funston.

Members of Mondo Cane have been blogging their hearts out arguing, quite correctly, that, if approved, the new rules would force dog owners to descend en masse on the city's neighborhood parks with their four-legged friends, at the peril of families out for recreation. Careful, now, don't blame it all on the infamous Snowy Plover, there are other aspects of natural fauna and habitat that are impacted by dogs being, well, dogs. And the Audubon Society is making a strong case for their constituency. In the meantime, District 8 Supervisor Scott Weiner (Castro, etc.) is saying "not so fast." So are we. Knowing



Off-leash laws are in question.

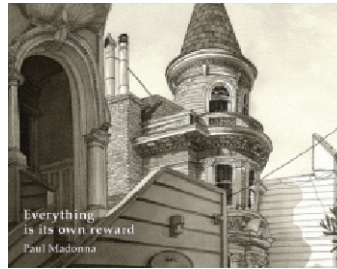
how many members are pooch lovers, the CVIA board voted to support a resolution presented by the Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods asking the GGNRA to study and weigh the impact on San Francisco's city parks and to oppose the plan until such studies have been made. If you want to read the DEIR go to www.nps.gov/goga/parkmgmt/dog-management.htm.

—Karen Crommie

Everything Is Its Own Reward

CVIA members might remember our delight at being able to persuade local artist Paul Madonna to design the poster and T-shirt for the Cole Valley Fair in 2009. At that time the Booksmith sold numerous copies of his beautiful book of sketches, "All Over Coffee." Now Madonna has published his second body of drawings and writings called, "Everything Is Its Own Reward."

This new collection, a testament to the artist and storyteller's careful observation of both the external and internal worlds, outdoes his first book, offering an even richer catalogue of pen-and-ink cityscapes, short stories, conversations and thoughts. Entertaining and moving, gorgeous to look at, Madonna's work remains unique and unclassifiable. This full-color, hardbound edition comes complete with a removable poster.



A behind-the-scenes talk by Paul Madonna (with visuals) will take place on May 6, 7:30 p.m. at the Booksmith.

Paul Madonna's drawing and prints are shown in museums, galleries, restaurants and cafes and his work has been reprinted in various book collections and publications, including his coverage of the U.S. 2009 Presidential Inauguration for several international newspapers. Paul is the comics editor on TheRumpus.net and also teaches drawing at the University of San Francisco. In 1994 he received a BFA from Carnegie Mellon University, and that same year was the first (ever) art intern at MAD Magazine, for which he proudly received no money.

Go to the Booksmith on Friday, May 6 at 7:30 to find out what goes on at the artist's work space...really.

You may reserve a seat in advance with the purchase of "Everything Is Its Own Reward" (\$27.95). Request a seat card at the register, by phone, or online. Booksmith / 1644 Haight St. / 863-8688 / www.booksmith.com

Plans for the Kezar Community Garden are Taking Root

Under the able leadership of Isabel Wade, Neighborhood Parks Council founder, the committee for the Golden Gate Park Community Garden is progressing with its plans for a community garden in the space currently occupied by the Kezar Recycling Center. Marvin Yee, who directs Rec and Park's citywide community garden program, has designed a comprehensive plan for the half-acre area, which includes approximately 40 garden plots. Yee has already received 70 applications for the spaces. There is great appeal in having a spot to garden in Golden Gate Park. Possession of the site is expected sometime in the summer.

Some of the innovations considered by the committee include having specific plots assigned to groups, thus involving more people, as well as a common area that can be shared. The site's existing Native Plant Nursery will be incorporated into the garden.

The committee is also looking into having a tool lending component and is currently studying those in operation in other areas. Finally, the committee is reaching out to the community for funds and volunteer labor to help with the construction of the garden. If you can lend a hand, contact Isabel Wade at urbanres@igc.org.

—Lena Emmery

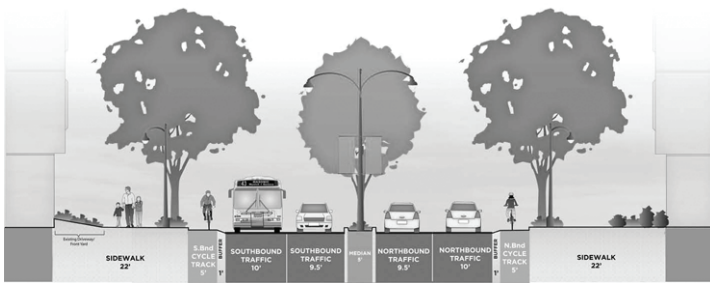
Two year study of “Fixing” Masonic Avenue has narrowed to two Options

As we are well aware, Masonic Avenue is an important north-south transportation corridor in the center of the city. The busy thoroughfare must serve the needs of all users: motorists, bicyclists, transit riders, pedestrians and those who live, work, and go to school along the street.

In its current configuration, the movement of automobile traffic is prioritized. Despite relatively wide sidewalks and mature street trees along some stretches, the corridor offers a streetscape that could be far more welcoming and aesthetically pleasing. The roadway is ripe for renewal and change.

However, before moving forward with any changes to the street’s configuration, detailed analysis of existing conditions was necessary. The Masonic Redesign Study looked into the wide variety of conditions on the street today that will affect its design tomorrow. Based on community feedback options have been narrowed down to two proposals: the “Gateway” and the “Boulevard.”

BOULEVARD PROPOSAL (TYPICAL MID-BLOCK SECTION)



The “Boulevard Proposal” features the following:

- Four lanes of traffic
- Raised cycle tracks
- No on-street parking
- Full-length center median
- Bus Bulb “Plazas” on both sides
- New roadway & pedestrian street lighting
- Additional sidewalk greening

Staff from the San Francisco Department of Public Works and the San Francisco Planning Department joined SF Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) to collaborate on all facets of the study and its community outreach process. In anticipation of this study, staff coordinated with Professor Elizabeth Macdonald at the University of California, Berkeley and her Spring 2010 Urban Design Studio, which focused on redesigning Masonic Avenue. The students’ thorough analysis and graphics greatly aided the city’s efforts throughout the process.

The San Francisco Day School generously allowed the project team to conduct three community workshops inside their gymnasium on June 15, August 10, and September 30, 2010. The first and second workshops were each attended by over 50 community members, and over 120 attended the third. At each workshop staff presented detailed analysis of current conditions on Masonic Avenue and helped the community develop and evaluate a variety of proposals for improvement. A summary of that process and the recommendations that have been developed can be found at: http://www.sfplanning.org/ftp/CDG/docs/masonic/Masonic_Avenue_Street_Redesign_Study.pdf

Next Steps

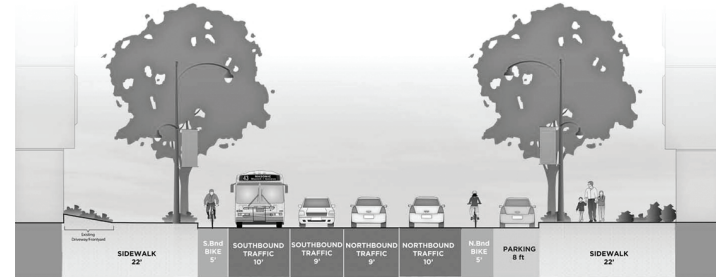
Step 1 - Conceptual Plan Refinement. Although the general structure of the proposed options such as number of lanes, extent of parking removal, medians, landscaping, street lighting, and bus bulbs have been designed, this step will refine the design and look at issues such as the bus stop locations, detailed traffic striping design (e.g. lane-line alignments), and the dimensions of the bus bulbs

Step 2 - Environmental Review. The Major Environmental Analysis Division (MEA) of the Planning Department will review the scope of the project with the proposed changes and make sure that this project receives the appropriate environmental review.

Step 3 - SFMTA Public Hearing. A public hearing will be scheduled by the SFMTA to review and approve the proposed changes. During this process, the public will have a chance to express their views on this project. The public hearing date and time will be announced by SFMTA two weeks in advance of the hearing.

Step 4 - SFMTA Board Approval. After the public hearing, the proposed changes will be reviewed by the SFMTA Board and legislation authorizing changes to the street will be approved if appropriate. The public once again will have a chance to express their opinion about this project at the SFMTA Board meeting.

GATEWAY PROPOSAL (TYPICAL MID-BLOCK SECTION)



The “Gateway Proposal” features the following:

- Four lanes of traffic
- Bike lanes
- Street parking on east side of street
- Medians at gateway intersections
- Bus bulb “Plazas” on east side of street
- New roadway and pedestrian street lighting
- Additional sidewalk greening

Step 5 - Funding Applications. Once the project is environmentally cleared and publicly approved and legislated, the City will start to apply for funding through the appropriate sources. A funding strategy will be developed to best utilize local, state and federal funding sources, and may include grants.

Step 6 - Detailed Design & Construction. Detailed design (construction and engineering drawings) and actual construction will commence once all other steps have been completed. Construction phasing will be highly dependent on the timing and amount of funding made available for the project.

Other Cole Valley Websites

After you have thoroughly explored CVIA’s website CVIASF.net, you might enjoy some of the other Cole Valley websites. Check out colevallyalley.com, and colevalleysf.com. They both have interesting content and good ideas.

Then there’s one of the very first websites started by Michael Sullivan at colevally.tripod.com and artist Niana Lu’s colevally.net, which has Niana’s blog and a good archive of past events.

If They Don't Have It . . . You Probably Don't Need It

The family Vardakastanis (Gus, Georgia, Bobby and Dmitri) opened the doors to their expanded Haight Street Market (1530 Haight) on March 9th and it's stunning. Not only does the expansion feature a deli counter with made-to-order sandwiches (my favorite is the "Kezar"), a fresh seafood counter and a fully stocked butcher shop run by "Sandy" (who will cut any meat to order), but coffee lovers will enjoy the HSM Café which features cups of individually made Blue Bottle drip coffee, espresso drinks and Raison d'Étre pastries.



Georgia Vardakastanis places her freshly made Pastichio in the deli case on opening day of the newly renovated Haight Street Market.

Practically every offering in the cramped quarters of the old store has been expanded. The deli case includes Georgia's Greek family recipes including Kolokithopita (Greek Zucchini pie), Pastichio (Greek style lasagna) as well as a variety of salads and grain dishes sold by the pound. And there's a hot food case with new and old favorites including macaroni and cheese and roasted turkey legs. A real treat is Mary's rotisserie chickens. There is even fresh sushi made on site.



Dmitri holds one of his specially selected wines priced at under ten dollars.

Gus told me he's most proud of the cheese selection. He pointed to a table laden with gigantic Parmesan rounds and said, "You see that? There's five thousand dollars worth of cheese on just this table."

The day before the opening Gus rushed downtown to pick up his beer and wine license, which had become mired in ABC bureaucracy, and the family spent the night stocking



Gus is the second of three generations to own and operate the Haight Street Market.

the large section for the opening. Dmitri is in charge of the wine selections that feature many bottles for under \$10. "I'm trying to get good value wine," Dmitri said, "It's pretty easy to find good wines that cost thirty dollars, but it's hard to find a bottle that costs five to ten dollars that is good. My focus is on getting good wines at everyday prices that people can afford. Not just on a Saturday or Sunday when friends are coming over but on a Tuesday or Wednesday when it's just the husband and wife."

I asked Bobby what he was most proud of and he said, "I'm



Bobby stands in front of one of the new produce displays.

proud of the whole place. It wasn't easy. It was a lot of work but this neighborhood deserves it and I'm so happy how it turned out." Lucky us.

—David Crommie

Shooting at New Lite Market

It is rare when a man one is used to seeing behind a counter in a neighborhood store, a person who is an integral part of the everyday scene, takes out a gun and shoots a customer. That man was Sam Kazzouh, a pleasant enough, if moody, shopkeeper at the New Lite Market (1416 Haight). On February 9 he critically wounded Michael Stafford, a 52 year old neighborhood regular with a history of mental problems, over an incident involving the latter's dog, a chihuahua called Gizmo.

I was waiting for a bus at the corner of Haight and Masonic in front of the check cashing store, when I heard two shots and saw Michael stagger out the entrance of the convenience store and drop to the sidewalk. Instantly two police officers ran toward the store with their guns drawn. Within three minutes four patrol cars pulled up and the street was cordoned off. I was still on the corner when Sam, from whom I had bought some batteries earlier in the morning, was lead in handcuffs to a black and white parked in the bus zone. Our eyes met. The situation was clear. There was nothing to say.

Kazzouh, 42 years old, was taken to Park Station and charged with three felonies. His brother, Fred Kazzouh, said he had been taking medication for his schizophrenia but was not violent. In the meantime, Michael Stafford remained in critical condition at San Francisco General Hospital, now paraplegic, and has filed a lawsuit.

A sad aftermath of the incident is that, while being cared for by a good Samaritan, Stafford's beloved chihuahua, which he frequently dressed in costumes, ran out into the street and was killed. Friends visiting Michael postponed telling him until his condition stabilized.

—Karen Crommie.

A Clean Cole Street: History

The Clean Cole Street project will continue for another year thanks to the generous gifts from our CVIA members. Only eight merchants contributed this year but nevertheless we will continue to contract with CleanScapes to clean all the contiguous areas where we have contributing merchants.

Many don't remember what the commercial corridor of Cole Street looked like before the program started – it was a mess. The program got started in 2006 when three things converged: 1) Chris Husband, CFO of CleanScapes moved into Cole Valley and told the CVIA board about his company's mission (see http://cleanscapes.com/about_cleanscapes.php); 2) a benevolent neighbor and CVIA member, who longed to see Cole Street clean, offered to provide seed money and; 3) CVIA got its not-for-profit 501(c)3 status. We used the seed money to hire CleanScapes to clean the sidewalks every day for a 3-month trial.

The trial was a success. Not only were the sidewalks clean right after the sweep, but they remained that way throughout the day. It ap-



Cole Street's business district is swept 7 days a week.

pears that people have greater respect for the sidewalks when they see they've been swept. Over 100 people signed a petition we had at the 2006 Cole Valley Fair urging merchants to keep this program going in 2007. Nineteen merchants signed on and contributed \$350 for the year. Our benefactor made up the remainder.

The number of contributing merchants dropped to 14 in 2008, 10 in 2009, 11 in 2010, and down to 8 this year. To keep the program going, CleanScapes has dropped their price; Loic Nicolas has generously donated all the money made at the annual holiday photo op, "Santa on Cole"; members have contributed to the project (we added a check box to the renewal form); and the benefactor makes up the difference each year.

Look at the list of this year's participants in the next column and thank them. Encourage other merchants to join in—it's never too late.

—Joan Downey



Thank You For Your Support



It certainly isn't expected, but when a member sends in an extra contribution, we appreciate it greatly. Only eight Cole Valley merchants contributed 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:

Les Silverman and Irv Govan, Britny Bottorff, David Rumsey, Tom Nicoll, Billy and Kendra Robins, Sheila Brooker, Linda Coda and Robert Brigante, Penny Duan and Steve Chaffin, Timothy Dunn and Claudia Scharff, Janan New, John Manning, William Rothrum, Dennis Martino, Michael Sullivan, Rosemary Southwood, Kay Bertram, Virginia Joosen, Michelle and Wallis Lim, Randy and Rich Lavinghouse, Robert Jones and John T. Smith, Gerardo Joffe and The Ice Cream Bar.

A CLEAN COLE STREET



2011 Participants

Alpha Market	Bambino's Ristorante
BurgerMeister	Cole Cleaners
Cole Hardware	Cole Valley Fitness
Crepes on Cole	Postal Chase

Crimes of Opportunity What Were They Thinking?

Captain Denis O'Leary of Park District Station reported robberies during the first week of April that occurred when residents were careless.

Crown Terrace. 8:35 p.m. Residential Burglary. A resident heard footsteps on a lower floor and investigated. He heard someone running from his home and found a flashlight that had been taken from inside the house and dropped outside. Officer Parker investigated and a fingerprint was taken from the light. **Entry was via an unlocked side door.** No other loss reported.


1000 block of Fell St. 8:50 p.m. Residential Burglary. A resident heard a commotion in his living room and found three burglars leaving his flat. He gave chase to the trio but lost sight of them in the neighborhood. He reported that his television had been moved during the burglary, that a guitar had been damaged, and that a laptop computer had been stolen. **Entry was gained via an unlocked front door.**

1700 block of McAllister St. 9:40 p.m. Residential Burglary. Occurred between 2:30 and 8:30 PM. **No forced entry found.** Medicine, computer peripherals, and jewelry taken.

1800 block of Haight St. 6 p.m. Theft occurred at 1:15 p.m. on April 5 and reported at Tenderloin Station. A woman said that **she hung her purse over the back of her chair in a restaurant** and later noticed it missing. She found that her credit cards had been used in fraudulent purchases on Market Street.

POLICE COMMUNITY FORUM

Captain Denis O'Leary holds community forums the second Tuesday of every month (except December) from 6 to 7:00 p.m. He reviews criminal activity and the safety concerns of residents. It's a good way to stay in touch with what's going on.



May 10, June 14, July 12 and August 9
Mark Your Calendars

Calling All Artists, Vendors, Musicians, and Owners of Unique Cars

CVIA is pleased to announce that the Cole Valley Fair will be back again for its ninth year on Sunday, September 25, 2011.

The Cole Valley Fair continues to be a charming and well-attended event sponsored by local merchants and organizations with outstanding records of community support. The fair features



Cole Valley Fair musicians volunteer their performances but are encouraged to offer their CDs for sale.

local art and fine crafts, food from neighborhood restaurants, live music, a display of historical Cole Valley photographs, a full block of vintage automobiles owned by neighborhood residents, events for children, and more!

If you're an artist with unique handcrafted work or a food vendor with tasty morsels, we hope you'll apply for a booth space. The deadline is July 1. Priority will be given to Cole Valley residents, returning vendors, and to promising new applicants. (Imported merchandise will not be considered). We will be accepting some



It's always a surprise to see what's languishing in people's garages.

applicants before the deadline date.

We're also seeking musicians from all genres and styles for one-hour performance slots. Please note that limited amplification will be allowed—see the application form for details. 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—whatever that may mean. It need not be a “show queen,” or vintage, or rare. The range of vehicles in past years has been from a gaggle



Unique merchandise and good buys bring people back year after year.

of Citroen 2CV's, British, German, French, Japanese and Italian sports and touring cars, heavy 30-60s American Iron, Model A to modern Hot Rod.

Application forms for vendors, musicians, and cars are available online at www.cviasf.org and on paper at Postal Chase, 912 Cole Street.

Send your questions or comments to colevalleyfair@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you at this year's Fair.

—Joan Downey, Fair Organizer



Longtime community activist and CVIA member Michael Nicolet passed away on March 18th, 2011 at the age of 65. Born in Connecticut, he lived most of his adult life as a resident of San Francisco. He was a US Marine Corps Vietnam veteran, a member of the Army National Guard, retired from SF Muni, and a past commandant of the Marine Corps League. Michael's dedication to public service defined his life. A funeral mass was celebrated in his honor at St. Agnes Church on March 26 and attended by his family and many comrades in arms.

**SUPPORT OUR
NEIGHBORHOOD BUSINESSES.
THEY ARE THE LIFEBLOOD OF
OUR COMMUNITY**

CVIA Board Minutes

The following is a summary of what took place at the CVIA board meeting in the last three 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 681-0681 to learn the location.

February

Location: Home of David and Karen Crommie — February 7, 2011

- Reviewed last meeting's resolutions, discussed current Cole Valley/Haight issues, and heard reports from committee heads and from delegates to the Kezar Stadium Advisory Committee, MTA Citizens Advisory Council, Alvord Lake Gardening Work Party, Graffiti Advisory Board and the Coalition for S.F. Neighborhoods.

- Treasurer Joan Downey reported \$17,207.77 in savings, \$3,674.97 in checking. Of that, \$4,528.63 is in the Clean Cole Street fund, \$737.89 in Santa on Cole Fund and \$14,575.37 in the Cole Valley Fair fund.

- Amy Blakeley introduced Sarah Leary and Adam Ginsburg who made a presentation about a new neighborhood information-sharing website called Nextdoor. They asked if we would beta test a pilot in a small section (200 homes) of Cole Valley. They will pursue it further with Lena Emmerly in the vicinity of Willard/Woodside/Belmont streets.

- Discussed upcoming hearing on proposed skateboard park on Waller at Stanyan scheduled for February 23 at City Hall. Board reiterated its opposition to current proposed site, for temporary and/or permanent use, and desire for an alternate site.

- Discussed the May 15 Bay to Breakers centennial where no alcohol or floats will be allowed. Number of those participating will be limited to 50,000 and all runners on the course must be registered (wearing numbers).

- Reporting on the January 18 CSFN meeting, Karen Crommie reported concern about the Planning Department's new restrictions on Discretionary Review, which is now called "Development Review." Also discussed was the proposed addition of 5,700 new units at Parkmerced in terms of transit, traffic and water impact.

- Received update on the work of the Mt. Sutro Stewards from founder Craig Dawson who asked for sponsorship of the opening of the Aldea Community Center. Also asked that we apply for a Community Opportunity Fund grant in the next cycle to complete the work on the interior green belt. He offered an opportunity for CVIA to sponsor a private tour of the historic trails as a fundraising event.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

March

Location: Home of Marianne Hesse — March 7, 2011

- Reviewed last meeting's resolutions, discussed current Cole Valley/Haight issues, and heard reports from committee heads and from delegates to the Kezar Stadium Advisory Committee, MTA Citizens Advisory Council, Alvord Lake Gardening Work Party, Graffiti Advisory Committee and the Coalition for S.F. Neighborhoods.

- Treasurer Joan Downey reported \$22,193 in savings, \$14,994 in checking. Of that, \$5,961 is in the Clean Cole Street fund and \$31,104.84 in the Cole Valley Fair fund.

- Marianne Hesse reported on the second meeting called by Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi between proponents of the skateboarding park at Waller and Stanyan and opposing neighbors. The supervisor did not show up and the handful of neighbors who appeared were ambushed by more than 25 boisterous skateboard advocates, who named-called and misrepresented the outreach and notification process.

- Marianne to work with Martha Hoffman on letter to both CVIA and HANC boards of directors asking for assistance in stopping a proposed six month trial period for the use of the space.

- Lena announced that the community gardening committee meets every 2nd Monday at McLaren Lodge under the direction of Isabel Wade.

- Report was given on new guidelines for the Bay to Breakers.

- Recycling Center relocation/ Community Garden was discussed with reference to the Feb. 22nd meeting with Mayor Ed Lee. The Board of Supervisors' city operations committee held two hearings and passed a resolution proposed by Supervisor Mirkarimi calling for a citywide policy on recycling (a good thing), but also a recommendation to rescind the lease termination issued by Rec and Park commission (a not-so-good thing). The move-out date has passed and the Recycling Center is in full operation. It was the consensus of the board that Supervisor Mirkarimi has ignored the five neighborhood groups closest to the recycling Center (and the 20 other citywide organizations who support them) who, for more than 10 years, has asked that it be relocated outside of Golden Gate Park.

- Discussed the 700 plus, double door refrigerator-size AT&T communications boxes which have, once again, received an exemption from an environmental impact report and are applying for permits neighborhood by neighborhood to avoid the detection of their cumulative effect on the city's sidewalks. David Crommie, SF Beautiful's delegate to the Graffiti Advisory Board, reported that SFB will lead the fight against them.

- Motion approved: CVIA will support SFB in their appeal of the categorical exemption granted by the Planning Department to AT&T for placement of over 700 boxes on SF sidewalks.

- Muni park: Captain O'Leary wants James Judge, resident near the Cole/Carl Muni park, to contact him directly regarding behavior of people using the park for inappropriate activities, creating loud noise and exhibiting drunkenness.

- Approved that Chuck Canepa will draft guidelines for CVIA's 2011 budget with amounts for charitable allocations in the coming year, including Park Branch Library, Grattan School, Kezar Community Garden, Clean Cole Street, the Coalition for SF Neighborhoods, and any additional recipients. Also to suggest prudent reserves for the Cole Valley Fair (T-shirts, posters, signs, tables, portable toilets, permits, Muni rerouting, etc.), printing costs of the CVIA News, Santa on Cole (posters, postcards, set & costume), possible November ballot arguments, miscellaneous admin costs and emergencies.

Meeting was adjourned at 10 p.m.

April

Location: Home of Lena Emmerly and Chuck Canepa — April 4, 2011

- Treasurer Joan Downey gave the following breakdown of funds: Savings: \$17,214.18, checking \$2,690.17. Of that, \$6,186.63 is in the Clean Cole Street fund, \$737.89 in the Santa on Cole fund, \$14,495 in the Cole Valley Fair fund. Our fiscal year ended in February and tax forms are in preparation.

- Marianne Hesse reported on her attendance at the HANC board of directors at which she and Martha Hoffman asked for advice in opposing the 6-month trial period for the skateboard park on Waller between Stanyan and Kezar Drive. Suggestions were to try again to meet with Supervisor Mirkarimi; reach out to the Mayor, Supervisors Chu and Elsbernd, and try for partnership with the Wednesday night Farmers' Market, which would be forced to share the same space.

■ Lena Emmery reported on the March Kezar Community Garden Committee, which meets monthly at McLaren Lodge. Plans were discussed, charts of plots presented and costs estimated. Group brainstormed problem of fundraising and in-kind contributions. A video crew was denied permission to tape the proceedings.

■ Lena Emmery also reported on a discussion at the March Park District Police Advisory Meeting which centered on the new guidelines for the upcoming Bay to Breakers footrace (May 15).

■ David Crommie urged that all board members attend the April 26 meeting of the Board of Supervisors at which they will hear the appeal of the Planning Department's categorical exemption from an environmental impact report given to AT&T, who plans to place 726 large utility boxes on neighborhoods sidewalks all over the city to facilitate their U-Verse system. David is to draft a letter to the Board and send it to Lena.

■ Joan Downey gave an update on preparations for the Cole Street Fair (September 25). Topics of discussion were: loss on T-shirts and posters, quality of T-shirts (David to do research), outreach for sponsorship, etc. She reported having received 20 vendor applications already and that the permit hearing will take place on April 28. She said that CVIA's anonymous benefactor was pleased that, because of member donations above annual dues, his contribution to the daily cleaning of Cole Street has lowered over the years, allowing him to invest in other civic projects. So far, only 8 out of 20 Cole Valley merchants are contributing to the Clean Cole fund.

■ Karen Crommie presented an upcoming resolution to be voted on before the Coalition for SF Neighborhoods April 12. In a vote of 6/1 the CVIA board agreed to urge the GGNRA to reconsider their Dog Management Plan which will ban off-leash dogs from 90% of the area now open to them. The impact of such a ruling on neighborhood parks would be considerable.

■ Approved adding a link to colevalleysf.com to the CVIA website (CVIASF.org). Webmaster Amy Blakeley agreed to do it.

■ Discussion of how to reward the Cole Valley merchants who contribute to the Clean Cole Street fund with their Cole Valley Fair participation fee was continued to next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.

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

Sally Scully

CVIA member Sally Scully passed away on April 15 at her Waller Street home surrounded by her family. She was professor of history at San Francisco State. Recently retired, she divided her time between San Francisco and Italy where she and husband Dr. David McNeil have a home. There she was working on a study of 17th century Venetian witchcraft. Following her long interest in the history of food, she co-founded the Culinary Historians of Northern California. Her erudition and style will be long remembered.

Neighborhood Courts Expand

District Attorney George Gascón recently described his plans for expanding and refocusing the Community Court system. He also said he was renaming it "Neighborhood Courts" to avoid confusion with the Community Justice Center, which is an alternative criminal court with the presence of a sworn judge.

Haight Ashbury offenders currently appear at the Western Addition court, which is held every second Tuesday of the month at the Ella Hill Hutch Community Center. Under Gascón's new plans, there will eventually be a court meeting weekly in every police jurisdiction in the city. Each court is made up of three to six community members, one of whom serves



District Attorney George Gascón (left) explained his vision for the Neighborhood Courts and invited volunteers to become community adjudicators. Beside him is SFPD Commander David Lazar.

as judge arbitrator, leading the hearing. Panelists go through training and a period of "shadowing" for three months before they actually serve.

Gascón's plan is to appoint a deputy DA to each district police station to meet with the offender within 24 hours of arrest and decide if he/she is a candidate for a Neighborhood Court. Once the opportunity is offered that person will, within a week, have his case heard by the court and receive its directive (sentence).

The courts must be expanded fourfold to be able to hold weekly meetings in the twelve existing courts. That means many more volunteers are needed.

Deputy DA Rebecca Prozan, familiar to Haight residents as a former liaison between the neighborhood and the mayor's office, is the first prosecutor to be assigned to this project. She will divide her time between Bayview and Mission District Stations. The expansion of the program will continue on the basis of her observations and success. DA Gascón believes that the greater use of neighborhood courts is one way his office will be able to get through the hundreds of minor crime cases piled up for processing in the DA's office. For an application form contact jackson.gee@sfgov.org or kcrommie@aol.com.

—Karen Crommie

Japan's Lesson to Our City

Thousands of words have been written on this topic so there are only the commonsense admonitions left: Have your building foundation strengthened, brace your garage door opening, have a survival kit with 72 hours worth of food and supplies (including a wrench to shut off gas, flashlight, work gloves, \$200 in small bills, duct tape and black construction-grade plastic bags). **Enroll in the Neighborhood Emergency Response Training (NERT):** it's free and could save your life and those of your family and neighbors. As it happens, the May series of six classes taking place in the Haight is now full. But the Western Addition series begins on May 19 and still has openings. To register online go to www.sf-fire.org/index.aspx?page=859 (or Google SF NERT) and click on Registration Form.

—Karen Crommie

Unless We Stop Them: 726 Huge Utility Boxes Coming to the City's Sidewalks

Soon you may find a huge utility box installed in front of your home and there will be nothing you can do about it. If AT&T prevails, hundreds of new utility boxes will occupy sidewalks throughout all neighborhoods of the city.

San Francisco Beautiful (SFB) and the Planning Association for the Richmond (PAR) are urging community groups to officially join



Permits for AT&T's 726 giant utility boxes are being processed neighborhood by neighborhood so that the cumulative effect will not be noticed.

the fight and endorse the appeal we have filed to require the city to conduct a responsible and transparent environmental analysis of alternatives prior to the installation of 726 utility boxes on our city sidewalks.

We are asking the Board of Supervisors to enforce existing regulations limiting the privatization of our public sidewalks. AT&T is attempting to sidestep the more costly alternatives required under Order 175, 566 signed by Mayor Ed Lee in 2005, when he was

director of the Department of Public Works.

Those regulations state that, if not placed underground, utility boxes are to be placed on private property. This private-sector solution requires genuine, thorough efforts to contact property owners who are willing to lease space for Internet and cable equipment. These existing regulations state that street-level fixtures are a last resort only if the other two approaches prove technologically or economically infeasible.

In writing the 2005 regulations (and after extensive collaboration with San Francisco Beautiful), Ed Lee determined "...surface-mounted facilities in the public right-of-way will impede travel on public streets, inconvenience property owners, create visual blight, or otherwise incommode the use of the public rights-of-way by the public."

AT&T's 726 proposed utility boxes are four-feet high, over four-feet wide, and over two feet deep. They would be flanked by vertical posts to prevent damage by vehicles. Already intrusive, they will be permanent graffiti magnets, obstacles to the visually impaired, and hazards to opening passenger car doors. As to property values, a utility box detracts from the "curb appeal" of one's house or commercial property.

We are asking the Board of Supervisors to reverse the Planning Department's decision that granted AT&T a blanket go-ahead to install 726 utility boxes without an Environmental Impact Report. The recent departmental finding—called a Categorical Exemption from the California Environmental Quality Act—officially denies that the massive installation would have a cumulative impact upon

the quality of the public right-of-way.

In 2008, AT&T made an application for a Categorical Exemption for a similar, citywide installation. Community groups voiced opposition at a contentious environmental impact hearing held before the full Board of Supervisors.

During the City's 2008 environmental impact hearing, then-Supervisor Jake McGoldrick revealed AT&T's dubious efforts to place utility boxes on private property. AT&T's letter soliciting property owners had made no mention of compensation. Before a vote was taken, the Dallas-based telecommunications giant withdrew its application.

Our community universally acknowledges the need for expanded Internet and cable capacity. However, it is where these utilities are to be housed that seriously concerns San Francisco Beautiful and other civic groups. The AT&T scheme, as it now stands, would encroach upon the public realm while solely benefiting private parties. Instead, SFB continues to advocate that private firms bear the full cost of their installations rather than impose the burden on our public sidewalks and streetscapes.

In recent meetings with AT&T, SFB and other civic groups heard excuses rather than a desire to make undergrounding and private-property solutions work. They claimed landlords wanting too much rent, lack of 24-hour access, lack of liability insurance, and the inconvenience of AT&T obtaining building permits or zoning variances—all solvable issues. AT&T profit margins may be more than ample to offset these factors since one utility box, if fully subscribed, might generate more than \$700,000 in annual revenue. Claims of "can't afford it" place the burden of proof upon carriers.

San Francisco property owners can be a part of the solution, collecting reasonable rents for housing these new utilities (as opposed to finding large metal boxes permanently mounted in front of their buildings). A utility box soon becomes a target for tagging

San Francisco Beautiful cautions against the precedent of ceding our sidewalks to AT&T. As other utilities follow suit, thousands of boxes would further blight our sidewalks—if the Categorical Exemption from environmental review is not reversed by the Board of Supervisors.

San Francisco need not compromise the unique character and livability of our neighborhoods in order to remain a leader in both technological innovation and utilization.

If you have any questions, comments, or want to help galvanize your neighborhood organization's support, contact jonathan@sfbeautiful.org or call your neighborhood leaders to demand attention on this critical issue.

*Milo Hanke, past president
San Francisco Beautiful*

And They're Getting Closer...

On Monday, April 18th the team from AT&T went to the Inner Sunset to perform "siting" exercises for the installation of their utility ("LightSpeed") boxes at three key intersections on Irving Street: 5th, 6th and 9th Ave.

Inner Sunset Park Neighbors vice-president Larry Rosenfeld invited residents living in the area to join him in finding out how AT&T is determining the locations for these boxes.

Whether you are in favor of AT&T's project, neutral, or opposed, your participation is encouraged. Contact Larry at larry@inner-sunset.org.

Postscripts

Reverie Café owner Roger Soudah made the front page of the SF Business Times recently complaining about the jump in the price of coffee beans. Speaking to reporter Sarah Duxbury, he said, “We’ve already sustained three smaller increases and never raised prices... but it has just hurt the bottom line so much that it (became) hard to ignore.” A cafe latte at Reverie has gone from \$1.90 to \$2.85. Ouch.

* * *



Some in our neighborhood have finer sensibilities than others. This port-a-potty encased in lattice work in front of 1520 Shrader sets a new standard for discretion.

Help

- Emergency** 911
- Disturbance**553-0123
- Blocked Driveways & Parking on Sidewalks**553-1200
- Abandoned Vehicles**781-5865
- Health Department**255-3610
- Litter Patrol (sofas, mattresses, etc.)** 311
- Graffiti and Illegal Sign Removal** 311
- NextBus** 311
- Street Lighting** 554-0730
- Mayor Edwin M. Lee**554-6141
City Hall - Room 200
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
S.F., CA 94102
- Interim Chief of Police Jeff Godown**.....553-1551
Hall of Justice - 850 Bryant St.
S.F., CA 94103
- District Attorney George Gascón**553-1741
Hall of Justice - 850 Bryant St.
S.F., CA 94103
- Captain Denis O’Leary**.....242-3000
Park District Police Station
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Denis.O’Leary@sfgov.org

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 Fall edition should be sent before August 1, 2011 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.

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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.

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 _____

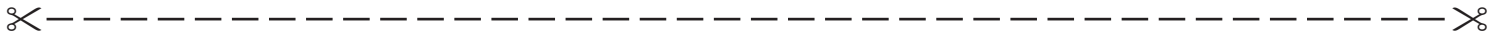
ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____ FAX _____

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