

CVIA NEWS

COLE VALLEY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Volume XXXIII

SERVING ALL RESIDENTS OF THE GREATER HAIGHT ASHBURY

SPRING 2019

Interim Use of McDonald's on Hold Probably Until April

In an update by Derek Remski, legislative aide to District 5 Supervisor Vallie Brown, CVIA learned that, after vetting by the Department of Real Estate and the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development (MOHCD), the Request for Proposal (RFP) for interim use of the former McDonald's restaurant and adjacent parking lot at 730 Stanyan was released to the public on Friday December 14, 2018. Typically, RFPs have a thirty-day submission period, but because the request was released in the middle of the holiday season, Supervisor Brown persuaded the governing city departments to extend the deadline for submissions to February 28, 2019.

The lot was open to holiday shoppers for parking during the month of December. Remski told Camden Avery of Hoodline.com that they planned for it to become paid parking lot to improve access to small neighborhood businesses during the construction on Haight Street (See the "Transit Improvement and Pedestrian Realm Project").

An interim use proposal is expected to be submitted by the Coalition for a Complete Community (CCC), a consortium of nonprofit social service providers organized by the Haight Ashbury Neighborhood Council (HANC). In their wide-reaching plans,



As part of the purchase agreement the existing McDonald's restaurant is scheduled for demolition leaving a vacant lot of 38,000 square feet.

they offer community and social services to many sectors of the neighborhood, "eight hours a day, five days a week," operating out of portable buildings. They also ask that the City specifically provide funding for services to transition-aged youth (TAY) and seniors at the site, for which, apparently, money is available.

Predominant in CCC's proposal is a multi-service center for homeless youth provided by the Homeless Youth Alliance, Huck

The Goats Return to Mount Sutro

For everyone who enjoys seeing goats performing maintenance work in the Mount Sutro Open Space Reserve, we're excited to share that the goats are coming earlier to Mount Sutro than previously expected. You can currently find the goats grazing near the South Ridge Trail. They help with fire hazard mitigation and will graze in



Goats prefer to eat many plants considered unpalatable to sheep and cattle and thus classified as weeds. This presents the opportunity for goats to be incorporated in grazing systems as a strategic weed control tool.

targeted areas near roads, buildings and neighbors' homes to help clear vegetation and maintain defensible space. Fencing will be in place around the areas where the goats are grazing. After finishing at the South Ridge Trail, the goats will move to areas near the Surge and Woods parking lots. Please note that off-leash dogs are not allowed on Mount Sutro, and this is especially important while we have the goats in the Reserve. Please remember to leash your dogs while visiting. Additional information about the Reserve can be found at mountsutro.ucsf.edu.

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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 March 2018 through February 15, 2019. Please notify us if your name has inadvertently been omitted.

Beacons: (\$1000): Kerith & Tony Pucci, Michael Silisky, Les Silverman

Benefactors: (\$250 - \$500): Lena Emmerly & Chuck Canepa, Karen & David Crommie, Diane & Christopher Davies, Kathryn Demas, Marianne Hesse, Abby & David M. Rumsey, Say Cheese - Roger Soudah

Donors (\$100 - \$249): Anonymous, Cecile and Jeff Bodington, Cindy Roberts and Mike Burbank, Gina Centoni, Hayley Moore and Eugene Chen, Gloria Galindo & Mari Coates, Linda Coda, Sandra Norberg & Richard Drake, Linda Erkelens, Tresa & Jim Eyres, Shannon & Chris Hock, Virginia Joosen, Randy & Rich Lavinghouse, Deborah Robbins & Henry Navas, Catherine Covey & Thomas Ports, Joanne & Bill Prieur, Michael Rafferty, Sigrid Schafmann, Michael J. Sullivan, Alexis Woods

Contributors (\$50 - \$99): Anonymous, Kathleen Bertram, Megan & Bruce Bourne, Joan K. Boyd, Chris Broderick, Chris Bunga, Ryan, Emily & Penelope Floyd, Margaret & Russell Garvin, Molly & John Hooper, Ice Cream Bar-Juliet Pries, Lyn & Harold Isbell, Jim Laufenberg, Margareta Ekblad & Vojtech Licko, John & Bahereh Manning, Carolyn McKenna, Ineke Ruhland & Bill O'Such, Ellen Rashbaum, Robin Ridgeway, Elaine Robinson, Susan and Steven Rosen, Beth and Rick Thurber, William A. Villarroel, Ken Wilcox, Victoria Zaroff

Supporters (\$25 - \$49): Katherine Alba, Barbara Alexander, Robert Anooshian, Molly Barry, Gail & Howard Berman, Jeanne Blamey & Rob Fram, Jennifer Braun, Katherine L. Brody, Donna Cooper, Sarah Crockett, Ellen Curry, Karin de Brer, Kevin Dede, Kate Ditzler, Kelsie Dore, Deb & Todd Frederick, Stuart Gasner, Marissa Gomes, Robert Gordon & Bill Haskell, Carol & Richard Harris, Jean Hayward, Thomas Hubbard, Karen Hourigan, John Ignacio, Bryn Jedlic, Lynn Kormondy, Richard Magary, Michael McCarthy, Barbara Mow, Robert Mullin, Teresa Olle, Robert Page, John Priest, Helen & Allan Ridley, MeMe Riordan, Katherine Bird & William Rothrum, Brian Seder, Jay Stevens, Shelly Sutherland, Conchita Toshok, Karina Vallee, Deborah Van Atta, Ilya Kaltman and Jack Vognsen, Edward C. Walls, Boyd Watkins

Boosters (\$24 and below): Anna Almberg, Travis Becker, Alivia Birdwell, David Burke, Lucia Caltagirone, Jessica Cry, Heather Drake, Beverley Epstein, Andre Ferrigno, Lavion Gibson, Allison Grass, Minette & Isac Gutfreund, Eleanor Johnson, Jonathan Lowell, Gabriel Peixoto, Elizabeth Corden & Ken Shannon

McDonald's Interim Use, continued from page 1, column 1.

leberry Youth Programs, Larkin Street Youth Services and Taking it To The Streets (shut down after CCC's proposal was written, but remaining uncorrected on the HANC website).

In speech and word, the MOHCD clearly stated their desire for an outside entity to sign a lease taking responsibility for this large, problematic property, including utilities, maintenance and security. But if public funds (grants) are used to employ nonprofits, it would harken back to the old days of the Haight when there were 37 different social services within a half square mile area.

In fairness, CCC's proposal includes performances and workshops, a community garden, and exercise classes, which would all be great, provided the atmosphere were clean, secure and welcoming. And that's their greatest challenge.

Unfortunately, plans for a mixed use proposal based on the successful Octavia Boulevard "PROXY" model, originally offered by Off The Grid (OTG), the weekly gathering of food truck vendors formerly at the Waller Street stub, have faded. OTG's Matt Cohen lost interest when the City would not guarantee a five year lease. (Although the proposal from CCC is for five years so, go figure.) Having already invested thousands of dollars in due diligence investigation, Cohen reluctantly admitted that the project was too speculative to continue. Evidently CCC decided the same thing, hence their appeal for city funds and the security of a five-year commitment.

To complicate matters, because financing for the purchase of the land came from HUD, there is a stipulation that whatever the interim operation, the space must serve people whose income is between \$59,000 and \$94,000. That includes those who are employed there. San Francisco's median household income is currently \$118,400.

The big question is whether there are there other proposals being considered. There was early interest from Street Soccer but they only wanted a portion of the lot.

MOHCD is in the process of picking a panel to review proposals. They expect the review process will extend through the entire month of March, with a proposal selected and announced in April. The selected entity will then begin lease term negotiations with the Real Estate Department (RED).

—Karen Crommie

A CLEAN
COLE
STREET



Our Neighborhood Heroes
2018 Merchant Participants

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

* Owners of 930 Cole Street (former Cole Garage)

Plans For Alvord Lake Are “Pathways and Pauses”

The Exploratorium’s Studio for Public Spaces (SPS) is working with San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department (RPD) to develop and build an “inquiry-based experience” at the east entrance to Golden Gate Park on Stanyan St. Its aim is “to reveal, enhance, and celebrate the park’s ever-changing natural and social landscapes.” Sounds intriguing.

Throughout June and July The Exploratorium polled neighborhood groups and nonprofits to learn more about the community that surrounds the area. They also conducted a public survey to determine how the region is currently used and perceived by those who frequent it the most.

The 350 responses received indicated that 82 percent of people use Alvord Lake as a passageway to get into the park, 40 percent come alone or with a partner, 30 percent come with friends



The Exploratorium’s goal is to deepen the visitor’s experience.

and children while 10 percent don’t use the space at all. Usage on weekdays is mainly between noon and 5:00 p.m. but increases markedly on weekend mornings and afternoons.

Many respondents mentioned the convenience and proximity of the small

lake to the Haight Ashbury and Cole Valley neighborhoods as well as its natural beauty and calm. There were also comments regarding the need to 1) clean it up 2) attract more people 3) install benches and 4) make it more welcoming for both residents and tourists.

Taking these things into consideration the SPS and RPD is proposing the introduction of what they call “Pathways and Pauses” as a means for visitors to explore and “perhaps help write the next chapter of Alvord Lake’s history.”

Pathways: “Experiences along the pathways will take place as visitors transit the space, enhancing social connections and creating a stronger sense of community and connection.”

Pauses: “Waypoint Platforms will encourage people to pause and explore engaging physical phenomenon that helped shape the historical, natural, and constructed landscapes that define Alvord Lake.”



A variety of whimsical interactive encounters will be placed along the paths. (Indicated here by the circles.)

The final design, “will be on hold until it is determined if there is a need to make changes to the ‘concept drawings.’”

The final engineering and fabrication process will go until June. Installation is expected to occur in July, depending on RPD’s construction schedule.

Bambino’s Ownership Change

After 14 years at the helm of Bambino’s Ristorante at 945 Cole Street, Spiro Makras has retired and headed to Calistoga. His tenure at the popular Italian restaurant included a major remodeling in 2016. Makras said, “It’s been such a pleasure being part of the Cole Valley community. The people, our customers, are wonderful, kind and engaging. I love it.” Makras was a long time contributor to CVIA’s “Clean Cole” project.



Spiro Makras

Makras sold the restaurant to Kosta

Eleftheriadis who can be found at Bambinos most evenings after working all day at the headquarters of the wholesale bakery Just Desserts. Eleftheriadis says he has known three past owners of Bambinos and plans no immediate changes. “Don’t mess with something that’s running well. I love Cole Valley and hope to meet everyone in time,” he said.



No changes are planned under new owner.

—David Crommie

Volunteer for Gardening

On every 4th Saturday of the month there is an opportunity to help the gardeners of Golden Gate Park in the Alvord Lake area (where Haight ends at Stanyan).

We begin at 9:00 a.m. and finish by noon. Given the recent rains, we will have a lot of weeds to pull. Many hands make light work so if you can even come for an hour, you will be welcome. Look for the Rec and Park vehicle to find our location by the lakelet. Dress in layers and sturdy shoes.



Thank you for your past support and interest in this ongoing 20-year plus project.

—Susan Strolis

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).



March 12 April 9, May 14
Mark Your Calendar

The City's Free Emergency Services in Golden Gate Park

The Park Emergency Aid Hospital on Stanyan near Kezar Stadium is all that is left of a once vaunted medical system. The structure, built in 1902 served in that role until 1978, managing to continue as an ambulance station until 1991. It is now home to Rec and Park's volunteer program. The building is a remnant of a no-charge system that once boasted the city's five such emergency aid stations and 14 ambulances, all backed by a major emergency department at San Francisco General Hospital.

A San Francisco Examiner piece in 1964 claimed the no-charge system was the "only one of its kind in the U.S." The paper estimated the cost at \$1 million a year.

As recently as 2009 San Francisco, "the city that knows how" was praised in the book "The Ambulance: a History." Author Ryan Bell dedicated three pages to "San Francisco's Influential Idea." Among other things, he said that in 1913 San Francisco had one of the first automobile ambulances in the nation and "never looked back."

Dr. F. William Blaisdell who had 24 years experience in the city's emergency system, wrote that the aid stations "managed minor emergen-



The Park Emergency Aid Hospital was one of its kind in America

cies promptly, efficiently and well." He figured that up to 80 percent of the station's cases involved minor surgical problems such as lacerations and abrasions along with "animal and insect bites, foreign bodies in the eye or upper respiratory problems."

Blaisdell praised the performance of the ambulance crew consisting of a driver and a steward, noting that both had completed 720 hours of special emergency training. The report added that the steward was either a licensed nurse, a former armed service medic, corpsman or "an experienced ambulance technician with an average tenure on the job of ten years."

As if seeing the future, the report said that "although the aid stations do not charge for services, it is estimated that somewhere between 70 and 90 percent of the patients utilizing them do have the capability of paying for the services or have third-party health insurance coverage." The report suggested that the fire department be used as first responders. The city had 44 fire stations and the firefighters could be trained in basic emergency techniques.

In 1979 city officials decided to start charging \$68 for ambulance service. A year earlier, both Park and Harbor first aid stations were phased out and Central started charging \$21 a visit. The fire department took over in 1997. Today the department informs visitors to its website that

"although emergency services are performed by the San Francisco Fire Department, billing operations and the collection of fees are performed by a private billing company." —James O. Clifford, Sr.

[Ed. note: The above information was excerpted from Clifford's fine article posted on www.outsidelands.org/park_emergency.php. He gave thanks to the staff of the History Room at San Francisco's main library, "who came up with a box filled with old documents and newspaper clips."]

William Hancock

November 4, 1956 - October 23, 2018

Bill lived most of his life in San Francisco, where he and his wife Jessica Justino raised their daughter Justine Hancock on Belvedere Street.

He was a brilliant attorney, widely recognized for his appellate skill. Bill spent 16 years as senior research attorney in the California Courts of Appeal for the First and Sixth Appellate Districts. He later founded the appellate firm Eisenberg & Hancock and the California Appellate Law Group, which he managed until 2016 and of which he remained a member until his death.

Bill gave generously to many institutions, but left his mark in Cole Valley by anonymously creating the Clean Cole Project, and funding it for the first two years until members and merchants eventually assumed the cost.

He will be remembered most fondly by all.

Is This the Year You'll Do It?

The Bay to Breakers 12K race is scheduled for Sunday, May 19. Starting from Main and Howard, the course threads up the Hayes

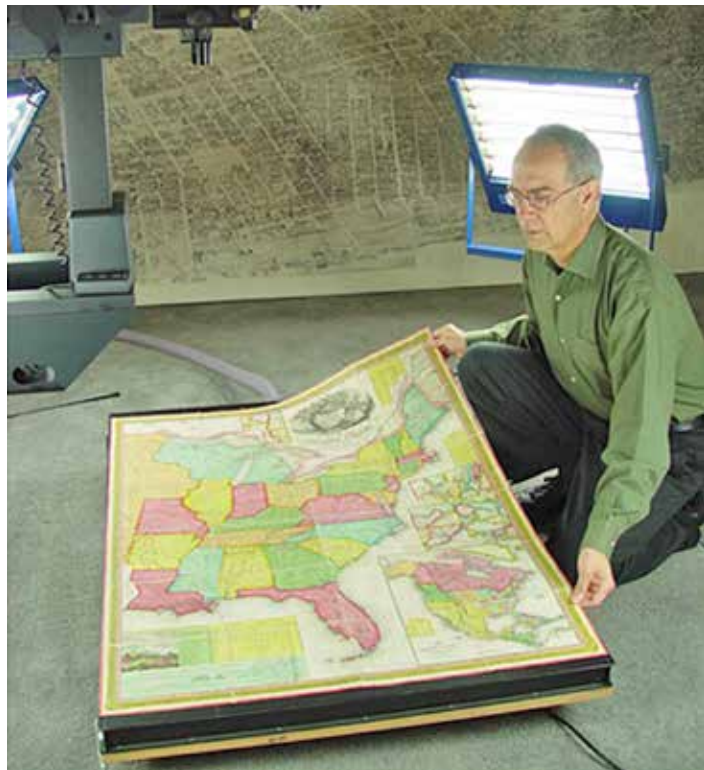


This year's Bay to Breakers is on May 19 and sponsored by Alaska Airlines.

Street Hill, through the Panhandle, following JFK Drive out to Ocean Beach. Register on line: "Bay to Breakers 2019." The Early bird registration is \$59.99. That's 25% off the final price of \$75.

Cole Valley's World Famous Map Collector, David Rumsey

The David Rumsey Map Collection was started over 30 years ago right here on Beulah Street and contains more than 150,000 maps. The collection focuses on rare 16th through 21st century maps of North and South America, as well as maps of the World, Asia, Africa, Europe, and Oceania. The collection includes atlases, wall maps, globes, school geographies, pocket maps, books of exploration, maritime charts, and a variety of cartographic materials



David Rumsey preparing a map for high-resolution scanning.

including pocket, wall, children's, and manuscript maps. Items range in date from about 1550 to the present.

Digitization of the collection began in 1996 and there are now over 88,000 items online, with new additions added regularly. The site is free and open to the public. Here viewers have access not only to high resolution images of maps that are extensively cataloged, but also to a variety of tools that allow to users to compare, analyze, and view items in new and experimental ways.

Maps are uniquely suited to high-resolution scanning because of the large amount of detailed information they contain. In their original form, maps and atlases can be large, delicate, and unwieldy. Digitization increases their accessibility, and when combined with online catalogs, they can be searched in a variety of ways. The site allows public access to rare maps that have been hidden or available only to a few.

With Luna Imaging's LUNA software, the maps are experienced in a revolutionary way. Multiple maps from different time periods can be viewed side-by-side. Viewers can also create their own collections of maps that hold particular interest by saving groups of images. Complete cataloging data accompany each image, enabling in-depth searches of the collection. *To see the collection and learn more about the LUNA imaging, go to davidrumsey.com.*

Materials created in America and that illustrate the evolution of the country's history, culture, and population distinguish the collection. Close inspection of the maps often reveals the growth and



Rumsey, shown here in his Beulah Street library, retired from real estate in 1995 and founded Cartography Associates, beginning a third career as a digital publisher, online library builder, and software entrepreneur.

decline of towns, mining excavations, the unfolding of the railroads, and the "discovery" of the American West by European explorers.

The collection also includes European imprints containing maps of the Americas that were influential to American cartographers, as well as maps of other parts of the world distinguished by great craftsmanship, significance, and beauty.

A more detailed description of the evolution of the physical collection into the online collection can be found in "State of the Art", an article that originally appeared in Mercator's World Magazine.

David Rumsey has donated his entire physical map collection to Stanford University where it is housed at the David Rumsey Map Center in the Stanford Library. The Rumsey Map Center is open to the public weekdays from 1-5 p.m. and weekday mornings by appointment. Stanford also archives all of Rumsey's digital map collection in the Stanford Digital Repository.

[Ed. note: The above was made available courtesy of David Rumsey Map Collection/Cartography Associates.]

Haight Merchants Create New Community Conduit

The city is working with the merchants to mitigate the economic impacts of the construction on Haight Street. One thing that the Haight Ashbury Merchants Association (HAMA) has wanted to do is to support a more consistent public forum for community dialogue, discussion and pride. There are a number of artistic and creative people living in the Haight Ashbury and to that end, we are working with the city to promote a hashtag, #HaightAshburyLife, that can be used on any social media platform (Instagram, Twitter and Facebook) as a tag and way for community members to share photos and information with one another. You'll see #HaightAshburyLife popping up in a variety of places including on the banners that the city puts up around their "Open For Business" construction mitigation program.

We will have a formal campaign launch in the Spring but wanted to give you a heads up that it's in the works so I can answer any questions you might have at this stage.

*Christin Evans
HAMA Founding Board Member
Co-owner Booksmith, The Bindery,
Alembic, Kepler's Books*

Xian Yun School of the Arts: Major Construction on Page Street Scheduled for Summer

Ever since the announcement that the school for Chinese arts at 1950 Page Street had filed for permits to undertake a major expansion, neighbors have expressed a variety of concerns. It may be because



Xian Yun believes that classical arts training helps students to enhance their abilities in learning academic subjects by becoming more focused and self-disciplined,

the educational mission of Xian Yun, located in the former Boys and Girls Club, is difficult to fully comprehend as we have no actual equivalent in the West. It is a private arts school accredited from middle school through high school teaching visual arts, dance, and music. It also has a summer program of dance classes for very young children.

The most basic question is why such a large expansion is needed. Their plans show a three-story, 40 foot-tall, 54,309 square-foot building. The project would consist of 49,262 square feet of educational uses, including dance studios, and 5,047 square feet of teacher housing, including seven off-street parking spaces. The current enrollment is fewer than 50 pupils.

Assuming Xian Yun's future enrollment increases to a projected 200 students, the more common complaint is traffic impact on Page Street by deliveries and parent pick-ups/drop-offs. There are objections to the removal of parking places, noise from rooftop HVAC exhaust, and, of course, the aggravation caused by a six-day-a-week construction period, estimated to last over a year. Darker questions have also been posed that, with 50 percent of students receiving financial aid, is Xian Yun completely ethical in its dealing with parents?

Last month, Xian Yun principal Dr. Sherry Zang responded to these concerns, graciously, but only in a very general way. Quoted in the January issue of the HANC newsletter, she said, "We hope to begin construction during the summertime...it will occur five to six days a week and is planned from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m...we welcome everyone in the neighborhood to come and visit Xian Yun, where you can see our beautiful facility and watch our students in dance rehearsals and art classes." You get the picture. Personally,

Dr. Zang admitted that, even with only fifty students, street front traffic is a problem and that their traffic monitors have recently used a more pro-active approach. In true diplomatic mode, she welcomed suggestions (info@xianyunca.com) for addressing the problem.

She anticipates no problem with HVAC noise as, unlike Whole Foods, whose air conditioning and refrigeration exhaust is heard by close neighbors, theirs will be "used only for ventilation," and "positioned centrally within the school to reduce noise for our neighbors."

As far as addressing the removal of street parking spaces, Dr. Zang said "We do need a white zone for student pick-up and drop-off during peak hours.

is difficult to fully comprehend as we have no actual equivalent in the West. It is a private arts school accredited from middle school through high school teaching visual arts, dance, and music. It also has a summer program of dance classes for very young children.



Photo: Xianyunca.com

Dr. Sherry Zang

Addressing more dark suspicions suggesting that such a large building, apparently not needed at present, might end up being used for something else, Zang responded, "We are a nonprofit school that is always working to better our students' education. We are not interested in other types of businesses. The dormitory space that is in our planned renovation is intended to help staff who have long commutes and will not be available to anyone who does not work at the school."

[Ed. note: We thank the Haight Ashbury Council, — Karen Crommie and James Sword in particular, for their investigation of this project and for affording Xian Yun a place to respond to questions regarding neighborhood impact.]

Scorned Pot Shop Cries Foul

Because city regulations prohibit cannabis dispensaries within 600 feet of elementary and secondary schools, and from each other, there is effectively only one block on Haight Street where a recreational pot shop can open.

Of the two local retail cannabis partnerships that gave presentations to the neighborhood, it was clear to me that Haight Partners, co-owned by Michael Musleh, owner of Haight Street's Pork Store was the most prepared and had the deepest roots in the neighborhood. However, it was the other group, the Cole Ashbury Group, LLC, that got the nod from the Office of Cannabis to take the next step toward confirmation. That group had one notable advantage: consultant Conor Johnston, the well-liked former aide to then-Supervisor London Breed.

The Examiner's Laura Waxmann revealed on February 13 that Musleh has submitted a letter to the Planning Commission saying "I am very capable of running a decent business on Haight Street and my due process has failed because the other party was given an unfair advantage over me because that person is connected to the City." Waxmann also reported that another applicant alleged that Johnston was involved in trial testing of the application before it was issued.

In her defense, Office of Cannabis Director Nicole Elliott said, "We made it clear that one [application] will move forward and the rest will be on hold and if the first fails, the rest will move forward," she said. "The only way to do that was by the [time] stamp." What? Instead of evaluating the proposals and picking the most qualified, they seem to have treated it like staking a mine claim, rewarding the application that came in first.

Waxmann also reported a public records request filed by Musleh in October revealed that



The site chosen for the Cole Ashbury, LLC's recreational cannabis shop is currently occupied by an excellent zines "pop-up" at 1685 Haight Street.

Johnston "had access to a prototype of Part 1 of the application prior to the official launch" and that the Office of Cannabis confirmed that the City's "Digital Services team did user-test a prototype of the application form with numerous individuals," but said that the user-testing process "did not provide an unfair advantage to any applicant." This story may get more complicated.

—Karen Crommie

Miniature San Francisco

The San Francisco scale model finished in 1940 has been mostly hidden away ever since—until now. The model includes every structure in every neighborhood, and to the neighborhoods it will go. The Main Library and all 27 branches, plus a temporary branch at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, will each get the portion that pertains to their area. The installation is ongoing,



Photo: Sam Whitting, The Chronicle

Historian Woody LaBounty will describe the development of the Haight Ashbury neighborhood using sections of the model on display at the **Park Branch Library on Saturday, March 23 at 3:00 p.m.**

with the first segments on view at the Marina, Presidio, Golden Gate Valley, North Beach, Park and Main through March 25. Since May, the model has been in a South of Market warehouse owned by the library, being cleaned by a horde of volunteers. The free exhibit in the libraries, called “Public Knowledge: Take Part,” was organized by SFMOMA.

On a scale of 1 inch equals 100 feet, the model city is 11 inches tall at its highest point (Mount Davidson) and composed of 6,000 removable little blocks, each one corresponding to a city block. The blocks are formed into 140 sections, each on a stand. Walking between them at the warehouse you can see the Laurel Hill Cemetery, not yet removed to Colma.

Special CVIA Tree Tour

Mike Sullivan, author of “Trees of San Francisco” will lead a tour through his own neighborhood of Cole Valley on Saturday, **April 6 between 10 and 11:30 a.m.** Join other CVIA members on a walk in which Mike will point out landmark trees—including a famous yellow-blooming New Zealand Christmas Tree and non-tree curiosities such as a renovated church where the Grateful Dead once practiced; and socialite Pat Montandon’s “Angel of Hope.” Meet at 10 a.m. in front of La Boulangerie (corner of Cole and Parnassus).



Michael Sullivan

The Tree Tour will happen rain or shine. We recommend you bring comfortable shoes that can get dirty, water to stay hydrated, sunblock and a camera. Be advised that some terrain may prevent the passage of wheeled mobility devices..

The tour is free and begins promptly. To ensure that you’re included, please RSVP to CVIASF@aol.com.

Montandon Wants Angel: Owner Seeks Landmarking

The Segalls bought a house several years ago on upper Shrad-er Street. The house was previously owned by Pat Montandon; former wife of Melvin Belli and Al Wilsey; former Chronicle columnist; KGO-TV host; philanthropist; author (“How to Be a Party Girl”); and mother of Sean Wilsey (“Oh the Glory of it All”); a tell-all blaming Dede Wilsey for stealing Montandon’s husband.

In his book, “Trees of San Francisco,” Cole Valley writer Michael Sullivan, describes what happened before the Segalls bought the house.

“Two towering Monterey cypress trees flanked the entrance to the house that Montandon called her “enchanted cottage. One of the trees fell over in a 1997 windstorm, damaging cars and houses across the street. Fearful that the other tree might also crash, Montandon had it cut down, preventively, [causing local outrage, by the way] but in an inspired decision, preserved the bottom 20 feet of the trunk and hired local sculptor Jack Mealy to carve it in the form of angel, which she called the Angel of Hope.”



Valuable piece of Cole Valley history or eyesore? Beauty, as always, is in the eye of the beholder.

Recently she has contacted the present owners asking that the carving be cut down and sent to her. The fact that the angel bares a strong resemblance to Montandon is certainly coincidental.

The Segalls, understandably, do not want to lose the now semi-famous angel, which they believe has possibly achieved landmark status. Lisa Segall writes, “Every day there are visitors to view the carving. It’s in a book about impressive trees (and featured in “Celebrities and their Angels” [by Montandon, by the way], it’s also a tourist stop for visitors to the Haight, and is such a popular and well-known spot that it’s even a Pokémon game stop.”

The Segalls have contacted preservation expert Rebecca Salgado at the SF Department of Planning to see if the City can help them keep it in Cole Valley. Although, certainly not a work of art, over the years I’ve found that people find value in what was not-so-good at inception—think of the Doggie Diner sign, Laughing Sal and the Sutro Tower. At its February meeting, the CVIA board voted to support the Segalls in this effort.

—Karen Crommie

Park Branch Library Open Hours

(1833 Page Street)

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

CVIA Board Minutes

The following is a summary of what took place at the CVIA board meetings the last two months. Those wishing to bring a neighborhood issue before the Board are welcome to do so. Meetings take place on the first Monday of every month at 7:00 p.m. in the home of a member. There is no meeting in December. Call 415-431-1414 or email cviadf@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), Waller Center Advisory Committee and the Coalition for SF Neighborhoods (CSFN).

January

Location: Home of Lena Emmery and Chuck Canepa – January 8, 2019 - 7 p.m.

■ Treasurer Joan Downey (in absentia) reported a bank balance of \$47,756.17 out of which 12,957.51 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. Of note were two large donations, one from Michael Siliski and another from Kerith Pucci. The total of revenue from Santa on Cole was \$3,237.97, a high, covering more than three months of the daily cleaning of the Cole Street commercial corridor. Our thanks to Loic Nicholas, who donates his photographic skill throughout the demanding day and Chuck Canepa who serves as Santa.

■ In reviewing “lessons learned” from the last Santa photo event, it was decided that receiving parents and children outside Postal Chase for initial enrollment reduced the crowding previously experienced at the payment desk. Person doing this should be easily identified by a Santa hat, etc. Problem to be resolved is what to do in case of rain.

■ Noted that the Cole Ashbury Group LLC (retail cannabis) would hold their second community meeting at 1865 Haight on January 29 at 6:30 – 8:30. Partners John Delaplaine, Quentin Platt and Shawn M. Richard with consultant Conner Johnson will again present their business plan. Among several qualified applicants, they have gotten the go-ahead from the SF Office of Cannabis. Steven Madrid noted that there is also a place on Stanyan Street, near Kezar Pavilion, that falls within a so-called “green zone” eligible for cannabis sales.

■ Discussed at length the locations offered by Ford GoBike for possible docks in Cole Valley, some eliminating parking spaces, others on Golden Gate Park land. Members were concerned that picking from their suggested spots would tacitly assist a monopoly in alternative transportation in Cole Valley. Although the board expressed admiration for its outreach to low-income riders, it was strongly felt that we want competitors of Ford to also have the opportunity to serve the neighborhood and that no parking spaces should be sacrificed until all other possibilities have been exhausted. Motion: Support Ford GoBike docks in Cole Valley, but not at the expense of both docked and undocked competitors. President Lena Emmery delegated the response (to Ford GoBike with copy to Supervisor Brown) to a sub-committee made up of Steven Madrid and Chuck Canepa.

■ Law Enforcement Appreciation Day is on January 9, at which time Lena Emmery, CVIA’s rep at the Community Police Advisory Board, will provide homemade cookies in the shape of a star. Thank you, Lena.

■ Discussed how to engage the CVIA members who have indicated their interest in participating more fully. Cathy Haller suggested ways these interested members could assist the organization: Advocacy (letters, email, attendance at issue meetings), submitting articles for the newsletter, volunteering for the CVIA’s booth at the Cole Valley Fair, assisting at Santa on Cole and/or delivering fliers for that fund-raiser,

helping get the CVIA News ready for mailing, etc.

■ Steven Madrid described the deteriorating condition of Rec and Park’s Grattan Playground and the efforts of a support group (Friends of Grattan Playground) to obtain a grant for long needed improvements. It was agreed that Steven would invite the group’s director, Kitty Teerling, to speak at the February meeting to explore the need and the most productive way in which CVIA could be of help.

■ Discussed the interim use of 730 Stanyan (former McDonald’s). Off the Grid (OTG) is still interested in developing a multi-use facility. Steven noted that the use must serve 51 percent low- to medium-income people and employ those from the same demographic group. He described the wide range of community services that could be incorporated into OTG’s business plan from monthly health fairs and youth employment to senior services. Board members expressed eagerness for a public meeting to hear OTG’s proposal.

■ The February meeting will be at the home of Marianne Hesse. The March meeting will be held at the home of Carole Glosenger.

Adjourned at 9:15

February

Location: Home of Marianne Hesse – February 4, 2019 - 7 p.m.
Guest: Michael Sullivan

■ Treasurer Joan Downey reported a bank balance of \$49,515.00 out of which \$14,064.37 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.

■ Karen Crommie reported on CSFN’s attempt to attract more members and boost attendance at monthly CSFN general assemblies. She will give input at their February 19 meeting.

■ Discussed the Ford GoBike survey, which was rich in responses but the results of which have not yet been released by the SF County Transportation Authority (SFCTA). CVIA has expressed its recommendation that approving Ford should not prevent other companies (both docked and undocked) from establishing in Cole Valley/Haight Ashbury and that we strongly object to the removal of parking spaces unless no alternative.

■ President Lena Emmery followed up on a letter to Rec and Park general manager Phil Ginsburg describing the deteriorating condition of the Grattan Children’s Playground. He apologized and said he would get back to her immediately. In the meantime CVIA is considering awarding a grant toward renewing the playground equipment and have invited a representative of the Friends of the Grattan Playground to attend its March meeting to describe the need.

■ Social media chair Chris Hock reported on the pros and cons of new servers he is investigating. He and Joan Downey are currently listed as “admins” on the site with Amy Blakeley and Shannon Hock “editors.” Challenge is to find something easy to manage permitting links to back issues of the CVIA News.

■ Chuck Canepa gave a progress report on UCSF’s “reimagining” of its Parnassus Campus—aimed at restoring it to the world class standards of its past. Temporarily surpassed by Mission Bay in technology, the venerable school is plagued by piecemeal growth, aging infrastructure, clogged traffic and lack of clear pedestrian access to specific buildings and services. One approach is to change orientation from a north-south axis rather than the present east-west orientation. The University is deeply committed to these upgrades to improve its mandate to the community and also to continue to attract top faculty.

■ Motion failed: CVIA to send a letter to the Office of Cannabis in support of the Cole Ashbury Group LLC for a store at 865 Haight

Street. In a vote of 6 to 4, dissenters felt that it was unnecessary for CVIA to endorse a basically unknown activity by a group with little experience either working in retail or together. However, importantly, CVIA would not oppose the project.

■ Motion approved: CVIA supports SB23 closing a loophole by clarifying auto burglary as entering a vehicle unlawfully with the intent to commit theft. California's current statute requires proof that the vehicle was locked in order to establish the crime. Lena Emmery will write a letter of support to Scott Weiner,

■ Confirmed policy that CVIA would announce events of interest to the neighborhood but not those that constitute "commercial advertising." For recurring events, announcement should only be made once.

■ Agreed that representative for Cruise should be invited to give a presentation at March meeting.

■ Agreed that Joan Downey's motion to request a parking space for an ambulance at Arguello and Frederick, although prudent, would blunt our earlier petitions that the area be free of parked vehicles (to which Rec and Park responded).

■ Motion approved: After some discussion of its dubious history, CVIA voted unanimously to support the efforts of current property owner Lisa Segall to establish the Shrader Street's "Angel of Hope" sculpture (carved out of a dead cypress tree) as a historical landmark. (Like the doggie diner sign and the Sutro Tower, it was agreed that new people find significance in structures once thought less than pleasing.)

■ The next meeting will be at the home of Carole Glosenger on

CVIA Executive Board: 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

Get Involved in CVIA, Your Neighborhood Organization!

When Alan Merbaum founded the Cole Valley Improvement Association (CVIA) in 1987, it was a S.A.F.E. Block watch group. Over the years CVIA answered the neighborhood's need for a moderate group interested less in divisive politics and more in the health and safety of the neighborhood. In 1988, for example, there was neighborhood outcry when then Mayor Agnos permitted individuals to sleep in cars on the streets bordering the Panhandle and Kezar Stadium. CVIA took a public and powerful stand on that, meeting with the Board of Supervisors, pushing for TV coverage of the issue and organizing a successful writing and telephone campaign to convince the mayor it was a bad idea.

CVIA membership started to grow and CVIA evolved into a structured organization that represented not only Cole Valley but also the Greater Haight Ashbury. Our mission became defined, "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."

Today we have over 600 members in 400 households. In addition to taking a stand on important neighborhood issues, CVIA's accomplishments include working with the merchants to keep the Cole Valley business district clean via the "Clean Cole Street" initiative, funded by merchants, membership dues and member donations; sponsoring the Cole Valley Fair; bringing the "Santa on

Cole" annual photo event to the neighborhood, and publishing a quarterly newsletter

CVIA has a 12 person all-volunteer Board of Directors. Seven of the board members have been involved in CVIA for over 30 years and have been through many iterations of various city issues. They have past experience to draw on, know the questions to ask and who to contact. I have been involved in CVIA for four years and I had no idea what I didn't know about the city and how it functions. I have learned so much from the generous instruction of those on the board, and I continue to learn from them. In addition, I find the work to be fun and rewarding. That being said, as our organization has grown so has the need for CVIA member involvement.

Ways to get involved with CVIA could include:

1. Advocacy assistance - writing letters/emails, attending various advocacy group meetings. Help our voice be heard regarding issues that are important to Cole Valley, such as the 730 Stanyan (formerly McDonald's) project.
2. Planning, organizing and/or coordinating CVIA events: additional membership meetings, CVIA Annual Summer Social, Santa on Cole, SF Symphony's "All San Francisco Concert," and writing articles for CVIA News.
3. Preparing CVIA newsletters for mailing - folding, labeling, stamping, etc.
4. Reaching out to neighbors and merchants to encourage participation in "Santa on Cole" - delivering posters and postcards
5. Volunteering to help at the annual Cole Valley Fair
6. Expanding CVIA activities to help CVIA branch out and offer neighborhood events such as a neighborhood tree tour, a bird watching experience (any Cole Valley "birders" out there?) a neighborhood architecture walk (in conjunction with San Francisco City Guides?), etc.

We encourage you to come to a board meeting and consider getting more active in CVIA. Barring holidays, monthly board meetings are held on the first Monday of the month (except December) at 7 p.m. The location changes each month, so if you are interested in attending, please email cviasf@aol.com for the next meeting's location.

Bring your skills to the CVIA table and help our organization continue to be effective and powerful. Please feel free to reach out to CVIA at the above address if you'd like to get involved.

—Cathy Haller
Vice President, CVIA

Postscripts

Forget your **Chariot** ride-share to work. **Dan Grossman**, CEO of Chariot, put it this way, "In today's mobility landscape, the wants and needs of customers and cities are changing rapidly. As those changes continue, it has become clear that the mobility services delivered by Chariot over the past five years will not be a sustainable solution going forward."

Native San Franciscans may remember, as I do, being taken to the Mothers' Room located beside **Fleishacker Pool** near the entrance to the Zoo. In those days it was understood that mothers with small children needed their own special place of respite apart from the rest of the visitors. **Richard Rothman** has worked for years to encourage the restoration of the building and its WPA murals. It was the only place



in the city where WPA artwork was entirely produced by women. The building has been closed since 2002 due to deterioration but Rothman



is raising public awareness through his photographs. They will be on display in the **Main Library's History Center**, 6th Floor until March 15

Thanks to ace reporter **Camden Avery (Hoodline.com)** we know that the Bed and Breakfast owned by longtime Haight character **Sami Sunchild**, who died in 2013, has, alas, also passed away. It was a slow death as it wound down from collective to art gallery to vintage furniture store. Current manager told Avery that Sunchild's Parlour is looking for another Haight venue.



Did you know that grown-ups come from all over the Bay Area to spend an evening at **Club Deluxe**, and it's right here on Haight near Ashbury? The reason is that there's live jazz every night and a very low (or no) cover charge. The bartenders are friendly and give you a good pour. Sadly, they don't serve food any more but the atmosphere is great as some regulars don vintage clothing. Go to the calendar at www.clubdeluxe.com to see who's playing tonight. 1511 Haight 415-552-1555



Save the Date! The **Sutro Stewards** are holding their Spring plant sale on March 9. California native plants are a great addition to any garden



or landscape and provide food and home for native insects such as bees and butterflies. Visit the Sutro Native Plant Nursery on **Saturday, March 9 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.** and take home the perfect plants for your space. There will be many species of locally native and drought tolerant plants available and the volunteers will help you select the best for your conditions.

In what has to be the slowest building project on record, **Matter of Trust Recology Center** at 728 Cole Street is finally showing signs of life. Several years ago they applied for a permit to teach ecology to youth then nothing happened. This month the former garage has a sign in its window. By the way, this will be the first non-residential use on that block of Cole. The sign in the window references "help for renters in improving sustainability" and invites "sustainable designers and eco-vendors" to schedule a visit. For more info go to www.team@matteroftrust.org.





Luke's Local has set up a unique flower stand stocked with plant elements to compose creative bouquets yourself. Only drawback is that sometimes people in the line at their window coffee shop sometimes offer friendly advice

on your flower combinations. Not for the easily intimidated.

The Cole Valley Book Club, a free-flowing, leaderless group, will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 7, at **Crepes on Cole** to discuss "Convenience Store Woman" by Sayaka Murata. The following meeting will be on Thursday, April 4, to discuss Michelle Obama's "Becoming."



—Karen Crommie

CVIA Officers

- President.....Lena Emmery
- Vice PresidentCathy Haller
- TreasurerJoan Downey
- Recording SecretaryKaren Crommie
- MembershipLena Emmery
- Social MediaChris Hock
- Special ProjectsJoan Downey, Shannon Cooper Hock

**Visit our website at
CVIASF.org**

Letters

Dear CVIA,

Just had time to read the CVIA News and noticed I am listed as “leading” the Cole Valley Book Club.

Yikes! No one “leads” the group. When the most recent founder (it had another incarnation earlier, I think) was away after a death in the family, I started posting the time, date and place for meetings on the Cole Valley Facebook page and on Next Door, but truly — we are happily leaderless!

Patricia Corrigan

[Ed. note—Read Corrigan’s work on Next Avenue, a PBS-sponsored site for people 50 and older, at nextavenue.org or her latest blog at latetothaight.blogspot.com]

Dear CVIA

I’ve seen the proposed plans for a 4-story addition to an existing 1-story building at the corner of Frederick and Stanyan. I’ve noticed that there are about 75 comments on Not-So-Secret about this development, mostly about the design, which indicates a lot of interest from the community. No one seems to mind that there are condos going there or the height, but mostly that the developer chose a design that doesn’t match the surrounding buildings. What is CVIA’s opinion?

Steven Madrid

Response: We received the notice several weeks ago and checked with the planner as to height. Due to the commercial nature of the parcel, it complies with current zoning laws. Typically CVIA stays out of these discussions unless variances are involved, which are in this case only because it has 100 percent lot coverage. As far as the aesthetics go, this is always a matter of taste. Neighbors are free to contact the SF Department of Planning to submit comment on the design.

Lena Emmery, CVIA president

Help

- Emergency911
- Disturbance415-553-0123
- Blocked Driveways.....415-553-1200
- Abandoned Vehicles415-781-5865
- Health Department415-255-3610
- Litter Patrol (sofas, mattresses, etc.).....311
- Graffiti and Illegal Sign Removal.....311
- NextBus311
- Street Lighting.....415-554-0730

Mayor London Breed.....415-554-6141
 City Hall - Room 200
 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
 S.F., CA 94102

Chief of Police William “Bill” Scott415-553-1551
 SFPD
 1245 Third Street
 S.F., CA 94158

District Attorney George Gascón415-553-1741
 Hall of Justice - 850 Bryant St.
 S.F., CA 94103

Captain Una Bailey415-242-3000
 Park District Police Station
 1899 Waller St.
 S.F., CA 94117
 Una.Bailey@sfgov.org

San Francisco Board of Supervisors
 City Hall - Room 244
 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
 San Francisco, CA 94102

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4. Gordon Mar Gordon.Mar@sfgov.org	415-554-7460
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6. Matt Haney Matt.Haney@sfgov.org	415-554-7970
7. Norman Yee, President Norman.Yee@sfgov.org	415-554-6516
8. Rafael Mandelman MandelmanStaff@sfgov.org	415-554-6968
9. Hillary.Ronen Hillary.Ronen@sfgov.org	415-554-5144
10. Shamann Walton Shamann.Walton@sfgov.org	415-554-7670
11. Ahsha Safai Ahsha.Safai@sfgov.org	415-554-6975

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 May 1, 2019 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.

EditorKaren Crommie
 Production.....David Crommie
 Editorial AssistanceJoan Downey

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.



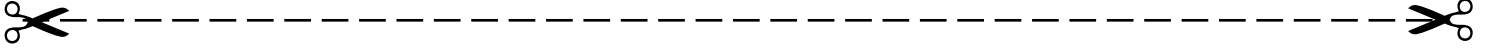
Would you like a copy of this newsletter sent to a neighbor? Send an email to cviasf@aol.com or Leave a message at 431-1414 with their name and address and consider it done.

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 _____

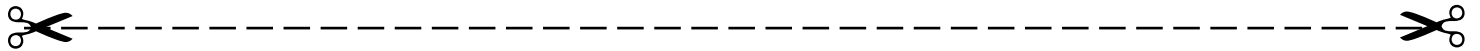
ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____

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

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



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

CVIA MEMBERS GET 50% OFF
 ON MEMBERSHIP AND FITNESS
 CLASSES AT

LAVATION STUDIO
 784 STANYAN STREET