

CVIA NEWS

COLE VALLEY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Volume XXXV

SERVING ALL RESIDENTS OF THE GREATER HAIGHT ASHBURY

SPRING 2021

Neighbors Screwed Again

Our neighborhood is embroiled in the potential impact of two enormous building projects: the expansion of UCSF and the 120-unit affordable housing building at Stanyan and Haight. (The build-out of the Xian Yun Academy of the Art seems to be on hold). Many of us have sat through countless hours of virtual meetings and, over the years (yes, years), of in-person meetings that preceded them. The sad thing is that it all may have been in vain.

The first draft of this newsletter featured eloquent letters from various neighborhood organizations objecting to different aspects of the two projects that will change the Haight and Cole Valley forever. These letters were addressed to the Mayor's Office (MOHCD), Supervisor Preston, Governor Newsom, developers (in the case of 730 Stanyan) and anyone else who might listen. In some cases there were polite responses but, mostly, there was silence. No plans were modified. So instead of all these heartfelt letters, I have decided on a summary of the complaints about both projects with gratitude to Robert Goodman, Rupert Clayton, Ted Loewenberg, Carole Glosenger, Dennis Antenore, and so many others.

Expansion of UCSF

The first issue is, of course, the expansion of the UCSF Parnassus Campus. Conscientious neighbors worked



The UCSF plan will cost \$3 billion and take ten years.

alongside the University in formulating their Long Range Development Plan. The Citizens Advisory Group (CAG) collaborated with the University as it strived to expand its facilities without breaking its 1979 agreement to remain within the its 3.55 million s.f. footprint. But in October of 2018, as if receiving a message from a higher power, the regents announced what they called a "re-envisioning" of the project. As members of the CAG blanched at the brazen defiance, they grew to realize that, prior agreement aside, the University is determined to expand exactly as it wants, even if it means leaning over private homes adjacent to Sutro Forest. After all, it's their land, damnit.

Apart from breeching the prior agreement on footprint containment, neighborhood complaints can be summarized

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CVIA Members Give a Boost to Cole Valley Restaurants

What would Cole Valley be like without our wonderful restaurants? Unfortunately these businesses have been struggling during the various recent shutdowns. Like you, the CVIA Board didn't want to see any of them close. What



Some Cole Valley restaurants offer the option of take-out, garden or parklet dining.

could we do to help? We took an idea from the Inner Sunset Park Neighbors by offering discount coupons to be used at local businesses. CVIA had just received a couple of very generous donations that were designat-

ed for wherever would be most useful to the neighborhood. We decided that helping out the restaurants would be the best use of this money.

We checked with the restaurant owners and they said they would appreciate any help we could give them. They told stories of their kind landlords who drastically lowered their rents and generous patrons who handed cash to the workers. But they still wanted and needed more business. So after endless details were worked out, every CVIA member was sent a \$10 discount postcard.



Our hope was that the coupons would encourage more people to use take-out and spend more than the value of the coupon. They did. Although the offer has expired, let's all make an effort to enjoy a meal from one of Cole Valley's restaurants at least once a week.
—Joan Downey

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Christin Evans Discusses Haight Storefront Vacancies

President of the Haight Ashbury Merchants Association Christin Evans gave the CVIA Board a report on the City's recent look at vacancies on Haight Street. The results were sobering: In 2016 there were an average of 6 vacancies along Haight Street, February 2020 saw 21. Today there are 31.



Christin Evans is the co-owner of Booksmith, The Bindery and The Alembic.

The longest vacancy is 1614 Haight street which became vacant in December 2015 when Haight Street Shoe Repair closed. There are four total vacancies in this building, none of which have been marketed for lease. Interesting to note that there were no apparent vacancies in the existing cafes or smoke shops. (Sparrow is closed because of remodeling.)

Reasons for closure were varied. Former owners cited rises in rent, rise in minimum wage, the burden of mandatory soft-story retrofit, the years-long disruptive street work (Haight Ashbury Public Realm Plan), the decrease in tourism, and retirement—and these were before the coronavirus restrictions on operation and restrictions on travel (tourism). Evans also discussed the variety of federal, state and city assistance available such as loans, grants, deferred regulations and fees, in addition to legal support for negotiating loans. She commended the “shared spaces” legislation, in which the private use of the public streets to build parklets, helped restaurants immensely until they, too, were closed briefly during the second surge.

Evans noted that when the City survey asked what businesses they would most welcome, Haight residents responded with: cafes, restaurants, bakery, pharmacy, shoe repair shop, laundromat, public restroom, more waste receptacles, bike stands and parking. She expressed interest in working with Rainbow Grocery to learn how to incentivize co-op businesses.

As to complaints about clusters of apparently unhoused street folk being a deterrent to shoppers, she noted that there have always been a certain amount of homeless people in the Haight but that the vitriolic posters blaming Dean Preston for the influx of tents exacerbated the issue.

Now that the Public Realm upgrade of Haight Street is nearly completed, Evans is optimistic that a recovery will occur in the coming year as long as building owners, assisted by HAMA, continue to be pro-active and creative in recruiting entrepreneurs to locate businesses on Haight Street. When asked about the possibility of formula retail-chain stores coming in, she said that they would not necessarily oppose it, provided it was a desired and not competitive business and granted Conditional Use Authority from the Planning Department.

—Karen Crommie

Screwed, continued from page 1, column 1.

as follows: Too little time for comments on its Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Mayor's Office; the MOU's omission of key features such as building height, footprint expansion, and environmental issues such as air pollution, noise, construction traffic; its lack of approval by the Board of Supervisors (See Dean Preston's explanation on page 7); the inadequacy of the transit fee; but mostly the irresponsibility of providing only half the number of housing units needed for its increase in workers. Community members are in the process of filing a law suit against the University with longtime housing activist Calvin Welch as plaintiff.

730 Stanyan (former McDonald's)

Supervisor Vallie Brown, weary of complaints centered around the McDonald's restaurant at Haight and Stanyan, recommended its sale to the City in 2015. The next year the deal had been struck at \$15.5 million for which HUD granted \$16 million. Originally planned as affordable family housing (subsidized) for those earning 30 to 100 percent of the area minimum income (AMI) and with 25 percent of units designated for “Transitional Age Youth” (TAY), it almost imperceptibly began to include families “transitioning from homelessness.” The ground floor was to be reserved for “retail” which sounded neighborhood friendly and got some thinking about a bakery, drugstore, florist, etc. But no. We found out that “retail” in housing-speak means anything not residential—and the plans were already confirmed to pack the entrance level with supportive services operated by non-profit groups.

Most of the criticism is aimed at the look of the building: Too tall, ignores neighborhood character, too massive on Stanyan, should be broken up into several buildings, ground floor should have shops, not only social services, too little sidewalk setback on Waller, too much congestion will



YA Studio's design for 730 Stanyan has many critics

occur with only one entrance, and Haight Street ground floor spaces look nothing like those on the rest of the street's storefronts. At a meeting called by CVIA on February 9 solely to deal with building design, Calvin Welch, neighborhood expert on affordable housing, said that he had early on petitioned the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development (MOHCD) to make concessions on some of these issues but was strongly rebuffed. He said there was little chance of any changes in design at this point. It was clearly a done deal.

There is one single issue, however, that has seemed to galvanize the neighborhood—the fact that there are no designated units for seniors in the building. Even though they were not in the original plans, a group of very vocal residents has stonewalled the meetings with compelling reasons for their inclusion—“The only room they have for us is a very small unit in Colma!” says a senior known only as Louise.

Director of MOHCD Eric Shaw has twice appeared at the developers' meetings to explain that senior housing comes under a different federal funding process and it's too late to start over now. This is not really an answer to their complaint. Inconvenience and delay is a weak argument when talking about the lives of our most vulnerable neighbors. (See Letters, page 11.)

If the developers (Chinatown Community Development Center and Tenderloins Neighborhood Development Corporation) somehow consent to restructure their funding, which would probably mean having two different buildings on the site, the project could be delayed up to a year making it a difficult choice for many. But not for me.

—Karen Crommie

'Heron Lady' Loves Her Role

"Is this a goose egg?" a young girl asked, carefully cradling a small white egg. "I found it right there." She pointed to a spot not 10 feet away from where Nancy DeStefanis was camped on her bench along the north side of Stow Lake in Golden Gate Park.

DeStefanis, who is known locally as the Heron Lady, considered the egg and the girl. "No. It's too small to be a goose egg. It's a duck egg," she said. Then the girl said: "Will it hatch?"

After some discussion about eggs needing steady warmth to hatch and the unlikelihood of fooling another duck to sit on the abandoned egg, DeStefanis offered: "Come back on Monday and I'll bring some nests and eggs and wings for you to look at. And be sure to bring your mother, too."

Spring is prime time for heron viewing. Almost any spring afternoon, the Heron Lady can be found sitting on her bench by Stow Lake. It offers a perfect view of the large branching tree that is home to six heron nests and 16 chicks. "This has been a good year for the herons. Not as good as last year, but still a good year. If all 16 chicks survive, that will be 242 chicks who learned to fly in Golden Gate Park."



Photo: Courtesy SFNE

Nancy DeStefanis, the "Heron Lady," is easy to spot with a blue heron atop her red car. She can often be found on the north side of Stow Lake in Golden Gate Park, ready to share her ornithological knowledge.

That is, who learned to fly since 1993, when DeStefanis, rounding the path to the boat house, saw "this large bird with a huge wingspan." She was lucky, the SF Bay Bird Observatory later told her. She had seen the first Great Blue Heron in Golden Gate Park.

DeStefanis was hooked. She closed her legal practice, took birding classes at the Audubon Canyon Ranch, and

seven years later founded San Francisco Nature Education.

"I'm a lot happier than I was in the law," she said.

SF Nature Education conducts school programs for underserved youth, field trips to parks to observe local and migratory birds, Saturday heron watches for adults, and an internship program that has trained more than 250 middle- and high-school students to assist DeStefanis and adult volunteers with the program.

"Some of our interns have gone on to study ornithology or a related field," DeStefanis said. "The important thing is they learn to observe, protect and love nature."

"We hold a bird call competition (each spring). The members of the best team – they work in groups of four – receive binoculars. I'm pretty good at getting things donated," she said.



Photo: Helene Sobol

It's "no holds barred" when Heron chicks are hungry.

Hérons arrive at Stow Lake as early as November. After building their nests – or, more often, adding twigs to a well-constructed older nest – the females lay three to five eggs each which both parents protect and incubate. By late April, the chicks have hatched, and the challenge of keeping them fed begins. By mid-June, the chicks have reached full size and are ready to learn to fly. After a period of vigorous wing flapping and "branch hopping," they are ready to try a short flight. Late June through July is a busy time, with the chicks taking longer flights and beginning to find their own food.

Though the pandemic did not affect the herons, it forced DeStefanis to cancel the school programs, Heron Watches and the internship program. She hopes to start them up again this fall, but meanwhile she keeps busy surveying the herons and answering questions from eager visitors.

But even without organized activities, the Heron Lady is always ready to engage children and adults in learning about the herons and other birds who make their homes in Golden Gate Park. She is easy to spot. Just look for a bright red car with a tall blue heron decoy peeking through the sunroof. She will be sitting on the nearby bench answering questions and greeting friends, old and young, and wearing a mask.

—Judy Goddess

(Reprinted from the *Sunset Beacon* [7/20] with appreciation.)
For updates and photos, go to <http://www.sfnature.org>.

Safe Sleeping In-kind Donations

In general, the 730 Stanyan tent site (Safe Sleeping Village) accepts clean casual clothes, sneakers, new/unused socks/underwear, and cloth masks. The Cole Valley Haight Allies (CVHA) also generally accept first aid kits, baby wipes, packs of water bottles, Gatorade, snack bars, dog food, backpacks, suitcases, sleeping bags and tents. Please do not show up at 730 Stanyan without clearing it with CVHA first. You can do that by reaching out to colevalleyhaightallies@gmail.com.

Bocce Ball, Anyone?

Now that we have a Bocce court in the neighborhood – let's play! And here's how:

Bocce is played between two players or two teams of up to four players on a team. The object of bocce is to get as many of your bocce (bigger, weighted balls) as close to the pallino (smaller target ball) as possible. If you are successful in getting your bocce closer to the pallino than your opponent, you are awarded points.

Divide players into two teams of up to four players each. Each team gets four balls, divided equally among the players. A coin



The bocce court is part of the newly reconfigured Stanyan Street park entrance.

toss determines who will play first. That player tosses the pallino. The pallino may be tossed any distance so long as the pallino passes the center line of the court and does not hit the back wall.

The player who originally tossed the pallino, whether successfully or not, throws the first bocce ball with the objective of placing it as close to the pallino as possible.

Once a bocce ball has been put in play, the player steps aside and his team does not roll again until the opposing team has either rolled one of its bocce balls closer to the pallino or has rolled all of its bocce balls.

The team whose bocce balls are closest to the pallino is called "inside" and the opposing team "outside." Whenever a team gets inside, it steps aside and lets the outside team roll. The outside team rolls until its bocce ball rests inside (but not equidistant) the opposing bocce ball. Play continues until both teams have rolled all of their bocce balls.

Only the "inside" team scores. One point is given for each ball of the inside team that is closer to the pallino than any ball of the opposing team. If at the end of any frame the closest ball of each team is equidistant from the pallino, the frame ends in a tie and no points are awarded to either team. The game will resume from the opposite end of the court with the team that had the honor of tossing the pallino.

As with any game, there are more rules. Check them out online by searching for the Bocce Standards Association.

—Joan Downey



Would you like a copy of this newsletter sent to a neighbor? Send an email to cviasf@aol.com or leave a message at 415-431-1414 with their name and address and consider it done.

Only four months left of Crab Season!



Thank You For Your Support



It certainly isn't expected, but when a member sends in an extra contribution, we appreciate it greatly. Because of the business climate this year, we have not asked Cole Valley merchants to contribute to the daily cleaning of Cole Street's business district, which costs CVIA \$1,033 each month. We make up the deficit with member contributions, and a discount from CleanScapes. So we would like to take this opportunity to thank the following members for their generosity during the period October 2020 through January 2021. Please notify us if your name has inadvertently been omitted.

OMG (\$2500): Tracy & Patrick Jennings

Beacons (\$500 - \$999): Linda Erkelens, Michael Siliski

Benefactors (\$250 - \$499): Karen & David Crommie, Linda C. Hothem, Jane & Michael Miller, Michael J. Sullivan

Donors (\$100 - \$249): Susanna Lorant & Mark Anthenien, Cecile & Jeff Bodington, Gina Centoni, Elaine Robinson & Andrew Citizen, Linda Coda, Debbie Beck & Len Conway, Katie Dahlinghaus, Diane and Christopher Davies, Mary Ann de Souza, Claudia Scharff & Timothy Dunn, Sandra Norberg & Richard Drake, Joan Downey, Margaret & Russell Garvin, Robert Goodman, Marianne Hesse, Mary & John Hooper, Randy & Rich Lavinghouse, Flavia Naves, Janan New, Catherine Covey & Thomas Ports, Sigrid Schafmann (Alma Mgmt.), Robert G. Jones & John T. Smith, Tracy Grubs & Richard Taylor, Kathe Traynor, Nicole Valco, Nathan Wolfe

Contributors (\$50 - \$99): Anonymous, Gina Bartlett, Travis Becker, Sharon Birenbaum, Chris Broderick, Philip Brodey, Chris Bunga, Lena Emmerly & Charles Canepa, Frances Dependahl, Irene Jang & Matthew DuVall, Robert Gordon & Bill Haskell, Shannon & Chris Hock, Lyn & Harold Isbell, Sarah & Neema Jalali, Jessica Justino, Lauren Peters Lague, Margareta Ekblad & Vojtech Licko, Michelle & Wallis Lim, Bahereh & John Manning, Craig Newmark, Ineke Ruhland & Bill O'Such, Jan Platt & Jeff Ross, Francine M. Prophet, Michael Rafferty, Ellen Rashbaum, Kendra & William Robins, Diane & Bob Silver, Brenda Stone, Fabienne Thuillier, Mary Ann Wolcott, Victoria Zaroff

Supporters (\$25 - \$49): Anonymous, Azadeh Moghtaderi & David Amiss, Molly Barry, Gail & Howard Berman, Kristina & Howard Case, Meredith White & Steve Cheng, Kay Cockerill, Warren Cockrel, Sheila Cordon, Joseph Creitz, Adele Dorison, Joelle & Ralph Edler, Melissa & Glen Gee, Carole Glosenger, Marissa Gomes, Mike & John Greenwood, Ethel Konopka, Lynn Kormondy, Laura Lai, Richard Magary, Michael Moore, Barbara Mow, Thomas Nicoll, Brian Presley, Celia Price, Sandra Radtka, Helen and Allan Ridley, MeMe Riordan, Shannon Riordan, Marie Samson, William Simpson, Susan Strolis, Deborah Van Atta, Ilya Kaltman & Jack Vognsen, Cindy Morton & Peter Weiss, Elsa Rosenberg & David Zuckerman,

Boosters (\$24 and below): Beverley Epstein, Minette & Isac Gutfreund, Maryann Hrichak, David Oates, John Priest, Erin Shigekawa, Jennifer LaVail & Russell Snyder, Cynthia Travis, Ken Wilcox

Invitation From Captain Pedrini

In 2009, the San Francisco Police Department (SFPD) established Community Police Advisory Boards (CPABs) to further our commitment to represent the diverse neighborhoods of San Francisco. Currently, all ten SFPD district stations have a CPAB, each of which is composed of community volunteers who live or work in a specific geographical police district.

A CPAB member's role is to advise the district station Captain about public safety, crime and quality of life issues that affect their community. CPAB members play a vital role in communication and problem-solving efforts undertaken by district stations. CPABs meet on a monthly basis with station Captains. Park Station currently has openings for new CPAB candidates and is encouraging residents and merchants interested in serving on the advisory board to apply to become a CPAB member. Please send an email to sfpdparkstation@sfgov.org.

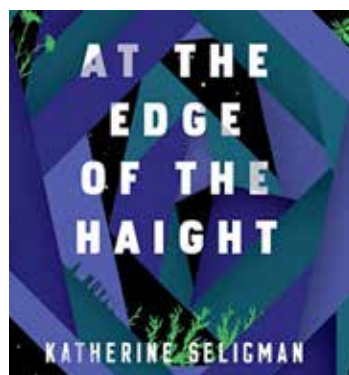


—Captain Chris Pedrini, Park Station

Ed. note—Besides the Advisory Boards, Captain Pedrini holds general community meetings every fourth Thursday of the month at 6 p.m. Register at sfpdparkstation@sfgov.org or call 415-242-3000 to get on the mailing list for notifications and links.

New Novel Set in Haight

A well-researched account of youth living in the Haight Ashbury titled “At the Edge of the Haight” has received the 2019 PEN/Bellwether prize along with a big send-off by the local press. For good reason. Katherine Seligman, who lives on Clayton Street, has taken first-hand knowledge and woven it into a gripping novel. Especially interesting to us who live in the greater Haight Ashbury and observe with varying degrees of interest the comings and goings of a wide variety of youth.



Centered around a murder in Golden Gate Park, the subject matter is not new to the author. As a journalist, she has written extensively about homelessness—and the mental health issues that typically accompany

it. Apart from the who-done-it plot, the book examines the realities of being homeless here in San Francisco. With the Safe Sleeping Site and recent influx of sidewalk tents, it's a timely topic for those living in the neighborhood. Published by Algonquin Books, signed copies are available at the Booksmith.

Cole Valley Fair: A Tough Call

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and after careful consideration about the uncertainty as we move forward, we believe the right thing to do for all of our vendors, volunteers, local businesses, musicians and attendees is to again skip this year's Cole Valley Fair.



Erica Kajdasz, along with the other owners of Midline and Lavation, has produced the Fair for the past seven years.

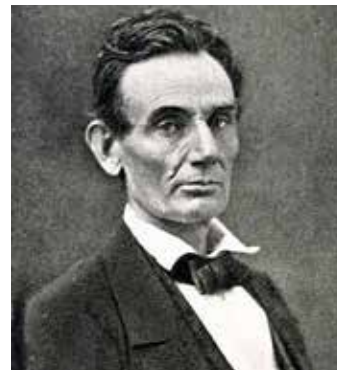
We want you to know we did not make this decision lightly or quickly. We believe it is in the best interest of everyone involved to wait until 2022 to hold such a large scale gathering.

We are so grateful to everyone who supports the Fair each and every year and we cannot wait to be back wandering down Cole Street, seeing all of the amazing artists' creations, eating delicious food, listening to the incredible musicians and checking out the unique cars of our neighbors. We hope everyone stays safe and healthy and here's to an outstanding Cole Valley Fair in 2022, we can't wait to see you! If you have further questions contact colevalleyfair.com.

—Erica Kajdasz

Want to Recall the School Board?

When school board members recently debated appropriate school names, it took seven hours to bring up what should be the only topic of every meeting: how to better teach students in a pandemic. Kids who haven't been in a classroom for a year are falling behind in academic and social development. Parents are stressed. Meanwhile, the private schools that serve a third of San Francisco's children are open.



Abraham Lincoln High School didn't make the cut. The Great Emancipator was not pure enough for the San Francisco School Board.

Some schools honoring conquistadors or slave owners absolutely warrant a name change. But the widely reported incompetence of the renaming process undermined the entire effort. Without any expert historian input, it was based on cursory Wikipedia searches and

riddled with errors.

This is a tipping point. How could parents expect the elected school board to handle the complexities of providing a good education to 57,000 students when the renaming committee didn't know whether Roosevelt Middle School referred to Teddy or FDR? Its answer was to cancel both presidents. But students need a school board willing to do more critical thinking than that.

—Joel Engardio

Ed note: This is a brief excerpt from a long article written on January 31, 2021 by award-winning journalist Joel P. Engardio. If you would like to read the entire article outlining the process for recall go to www.engardio.com/blog/recall.

Bay to Breakers? Outside Lands? Cole Fair?

Fuhgeddaboutit

Controversy Plagues Auto Ban on JFK Drive

The DeYoung's Position

The closure of JFK Drive East is set to expire 120 days after the shelter-in-place order is lifted in San Francisco—a date that is still unknown at this time. The Slow Streets Program, that aims to provide greater outdoor access to SF residents, is an important response to the current moment. That said, should the closure of JFK Drive East be prolonged



Golden Gate Park's JFK Drive before the auto ban.

post shelter-in-place, it would deny vulnerable populations access to the DeYoung museum, the California Academy of Sciences, and the entire north-east section of Golden Gate Park. The closure allows for access to certain groups while not considering the needs of others.

As the City's art institution, we serve constituents from all walks of life, including families with young children, those with disabilities, visitors from outside of San Francisco, our labor force, and those who cannot afford to pay the \$29 day rate at the Music Concourse Garage, operated by Music

Concourse Authority. Transportation options to Golden Gate Park are limited, even more so at this time when many Muni routes have been discontinued and many people still are advised to refrain from using Muni due to health concerns. The closure of JFK East removed street parking spaces including 20 dedicated exclusively to the disabled without a plan to relocate.



Does the prohibition of autos on JFK negatively impact attendance at the DeYoung Museum?

We are working with SFMTA and SF Recreation and Parks to develop a long-term solution for safe and efficient access to the Park. We believe that all visitors have a right to access Golden Gate Park regardless of whether they arrive on foot, by bike, or by car. The solution needs to take into account all members of our population, especially those who are unable to walk or bike here, who have been historically shut out of the planning process.

The Slow Streets closure of JFK East was designed in a vacuum without the consultation of the Park institutions and key community stakeholders. As we look to the future of our city's greatest Park, we ask for an open planning pro-

cess that is informed by objective data and that includes all stakeholders, to determine how people access the Park and its institutions, and how transportation to the park affects neighboring residents and businesses. *(Excerpted for length)*

—DeYoung Museum

ED. note—The stand-off between those who want JFK Drive to remain free of car traffic and the Museum folks who want it to be available for drop-offs and parking, could be easily solved by asking yourself why visitors don't use the underground garage? The answer, of course, is the cost. Four hours on a weekend sets you back \$25 dollars. Lower parking rates—free for disabled people—and the problem is solved. Wouldn't that make a beneficial gift for one of the city's culture mavens?

New CVIA Board Member

Tom Hubbard is a native Bostonian (born with a California soul) who has lived in San Francisco for the past



Tom Hubbard

27 years. Tom is a graduate of Colby College and has recently semi-retired from the financial services sector. Tom and his partner, Sam Jackson, have lived in Cole Valley since 2000. Tom has been contributing to the improvement of Cole Valley via focused communications with District 5 Supervisors, the Mayor's office and CA state legislators. Tom is excited to join the board of the Cole Valley Improvement Association and eager to assist CVIA in all endeavors.

Saturday Food Bank

Every Saturday there is a distribution of healthy food supplied by The San Francisco Food Bank from noon until 2:00 pm. at the



A typical Saturday at the Haight Ashbury Food Pantry at 1525 Waller Street where neighborhood families can receive food at a farmers' market-style distribution center.

Waller Center. The Haight Ashbury Food Program (HAFP) was founded in San Francisco in 1983 as a neighborhood response to hunger. The organization consists of one staff member, a board of directors, volunteers from the surrounding community, and private, foundation and corporate donors of monetary and in-kind support. They are

committed to sustaining a program based on "compassion, respect and empowerment." To learn more, donate or volunteer, contact <https://www.thefoodprogram.org>.

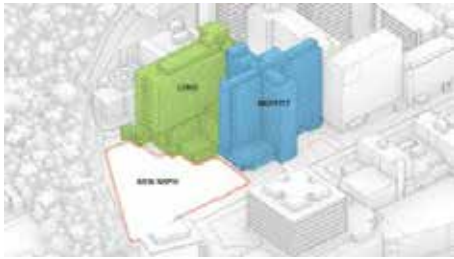
Join Neighbors to Garden

Saturday, February 27 is the fourth Saturday of the month and volunteers are needed to help park gardeners at the Alvord Lakelet in Golden Gate Park. Connect with this magnificent park and help give back to the community. We begin at 10 a.m. and finish by noon. Meet at Haight and Stanyan Street. Look for the Rec and Park vehicle to determine our location. The event will occur rain or shine.

—Susan Strolis

Supervisor Dean Preston Updates the CVIA Board

District 5 Supervisor Dean Preston responded to questions posed by CVIA Board members for over an hour at the February virtual meeting. He explained why the UCSF expansion plans did not go to the Board of Supervisors for approval but rather engaged with the Mayor's office in a non-binding agreement between the City, the University and the Planning Department. He said that he tried to get the Regents to pause the approval process until after the pandemic when they could have in-person public meetings but was ignored. "The original expansion plan presented in 2014 respected the long agreed-to footprint. Then, in 2019 the Regents changed course and decided to "go for broke" by introducing the much more ambitious plan and rammed it down the throat of the community. It's disrespectful." He also said a group of near-by neighbors are threatening a law suit against the Regents.



UCSF will increase its Parnassus space by 1.5 million square feet or about 40 percent.

Although UCSF will go ahead with their plans to increase the square footage by 1.5 million, reaching more than 5 million square feet total, they will still need to apply for numerous permits, including Conditional Use Authority—that will present points at which neighbors will have an opportunity to react. "Particularly if they go ahead with an elevated passageway over Parnassus Avenue," Preston said.



District 5 Supervisor Dean Preston

To Joan Downey's question about the Transit Impact Fee, the Supervisor responded that UCSF will pay the \$20 million fee but, unlike private businesses, they will pay no property taxes in subsequent years. Therefore the one-time fee should be much higher.

When asked about the Safe Sleeping Site at Haight and Stanyan, he said that it had finally been weatherized, adding that, "...since FEMA will now pay 100 percent of the cost of hotel rooms, I hope the current residents will be offered these rooms, which stats show 90 percent of them will accept." Regarding tents on the sidewalks he said that the Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) has been directed to offer alternatives, and credits them with the reduction of tents in the neighborhood (Waller and Clayton being recent examples).

Preston answered questions regarding his legislation to investigate the possibility of establishing a San Francisco City Bank wherein the money collected from taxes would be available for loans to residents. Other topics were: the

allocation of Prop I money (tax on property sales over \$10 million); his support of DA Boudin ("Give him a chance, it's his first year"); restoration of all Muni lines (but noted the BOS has no real jurisdiction over the SFMTA); rises in crime ("It's up all over the Bay Area: Covid presents more opportunity"); the recent Page Street homicide of Jack Palladino; and the availability of grants and loans to small businesses to alleviate the COVID impact (Berners on Haight received one).

—Karen Crommie

I Have a Few Words About Cole Valley

... it's where I spent the best time of my life.

Like a Matryoshka, the little, wooden, Russian "nesting" doll that opens up to reveal an even smaller one, and then another and another, within the Haight Ashbury is a tiny neighborhood, a little sub-section, known as Cole Valley.

It is the best part of the Haight. It's an oasis, four blocks down Cole Street from the relative insanity of Haight street. As Robin Williams once described it to me, Cole Valley was like a Fisher-Price village where a little streetcar came trundling out of a tunnel and into a tiny make believe neighborhood where everyone knew everyone else and shopkeepers called you by name. The Other Cafe, where I worked, made it what it was and what it is today.

I love Cole Valley. I still go there, today, and I have a flood of memories that sweep right over me. You see, when



Photo: Last Call at Mauds.com

Maud's was the famed lesbian bar that is now Finnegans Wake.

I'm in Cole Valley, it's still 1981 and I see the ghosts...I see businesses that are long gone and people that I once knew, people that are now dead...Kezar is still a gay bar called Bradley's Corner, and Maury, the beloved 6'4", 130- pound bartender who died during the AIDS epidemic that swept through, killing dozens that I knew, is holding court...Finnegans Wake is still the lesbian bar, Maud's, with thirty, or so, Harley Davidsons parked in front...and they're all gonna loudly start up at 1:45 a.m. when last call is announced...the house in between Burgermeister and the dog park on Carl is a Hare Krishna temple and commune, still...a jovial yet obese black man in overalls sits on the steps of his house on the corner of Cole and Frederick, day after day, all day long, with a big smile on his face just waving at every single car that passes by...that's Dave...and the Other Cafe, where

Photo: The SF Examiner

I worked, is up and running with Paula Poundstone on stage introducing Dana Carvey while Andy Kaufman stands in the back, just watching, and eating chocolate cake out of his hand with frosting smeared all over his mouth...Robin Williams walks in with the news that John Belushi had just died and even if Robin had been with him, the day before at the Chateau Marmont on the Sunset Strip, here he was back in San Francisco, at the Other Cafe looking for cocaine and everyone in the audience is hoping that he will go on stage... he won't disappoint them but the staff just wants to go home or start drinking at Bradley's.

For me, Cole Valley still exists, trapped in time like some fictional Brigadoon rising up out of the Scottish mist only once every one hundred years.

—James Dean Boldman

Ed. note: We thank Lucille Sutton for alerting us to Boldman's post on SF Remembered (Facebook.com). James Dean Boldman is the author of "American Feast," his memoir about life in the 60s, 70s and 80s. (Newman Springs Publishing, 2020.)

CVIA Board Minutes

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

Virtual Meeting on Zoom— January 4, 2021, 7:00 p.m.

■ Treasurer Joan Downey reported that CVIA currently has \$14,753.85 in the bank, with \$14,268.21 held in the Clean Cole Street fund and \$25,267.20 being held in an account (as fiscal sponsor) for the Stanyan Parklet.

■ Chris Hock noted that Breana Wheeler is now also a host on the CVIA Facebook account.

■ Chuck Canepa lead discussion on the expansion of the UCSF Parnassus campus, referring to CVIA's letter protesting its size, breaking of its 1976 contract with the neighborhood to keep its footprint, impact on adjacent private property, impact on public transit, traffic, etc.

■ Joan reported that Jeffery Tumlin (SFMTA), Phil Ginsburg (SFDRP), Thomas Campbell (Fine Arts Museums) and Scott Simon (California Academy of Sciences) plan to meet once a month to discuss the prickly topic of automobile access to JFK Drive in Golden Gate Park. One idea being considered is a midway division of the street: one side would be a pedestrian-bikeway and the other reserved for one-way auto traffic and parking.

■ Breana guided us through the Board's communication protocol, differentiating between the uses of Mailchimp, Facebook, Google Docs, Slack, and the CVIA website. All agreed to add a new Slack channel for Cole Corridor Merchants and an archive for old discussion threads.

■ Motion passed unanimously: To approve CVIA's revised mission statement. (See back page). David Crommie also noted the need for corrections on the CVIA website. Breana Wheeler to do it.

■ Lengthy discussion on the design of 730 Stanyan. Main criticism of the current elevation provided by the developers includes: the need to match the building setback of

Waller Street (not the front staircase), remove the overhang on the north side partially blocking view of entrance to GG Park, lack of any design reference to existing buildings, massive size, subtle change in developers' description of residents from those qualifying for "affordable housing" to those requiring "supportive housing."

■ Motion passed unanimously: CVIA President Carole Glosenger should reach out to other Greater Haight organizations, particularly HANC, to form a working group with the intent of forming a consensus on recommendations for the new building—before developers' plans go any farther.

■ Discussed revision of the CVIA bylaws and postponed final vote until the February 1st meeting. Board to review individually before.

■ Discussed plan to help Cole Valley restaurants during the coronavirus surge shutdown. Motion passed unanimously: To send \$10 discount coupons to CVIA members for use in ordering take-out from neighborhood restaurants. These cards would be collected weekly from each business in exchange for a reimbursement check equaling the total amount of the coupons. If, in addition, the participant sends a photo of themselves receiving the order outside the restaurant, we will post the photo on the CVIA website and send them an additional \$5.00.

■ Motion passed unanimously: To suggest to members that part of their New Year's Resolutions should be to order a take-out dinner from a Cole Valley restaurant once a week. Breana to send directly to members via Mailchimp. Motion passed unanimously:

■ Joan to write Park and Rec expressing appreciation for the stunning redesign of the east entrance to GG Park (Alvord Lake area).

■ Joan pointed out that we have 109 non-members who have signed up to receive notices from CVIA. It was decided that these people should receive a message encouraging membership to support the organization. Breana to draft the letter.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Virtual Meeting on Zoom— February 4, 2021, 7:00 p.m.

Guests: Supervisor Dean Preston and Christin Evans (Haight Ashbury Merchants Association)

■ Treasurer Joan Downey reported that CVIA currently has \$14,588.24 in the bank, with \$13,288.42 held in the Clean Cole Street fund and \$25,267.20 is being held in an account (as fiscal sponsor) for the Stanyan Parklet.

■ Lena Emmery reported that, at the last CPAB meeting, Captain Chris Pedrini announced a ten percent upswing in Park District theft in which Hondas and Toyotas were particularly targeted. SFSAFE donated 100 garage locks that immobilize the rails of an automatic garage door. Pedrini is looking for new community members for his advisory group. (See article on Page 5.)

■ Supervisor Dean Preston responded to questions posed by CVIA Board members on a wide range of issues. (See article on page 7.)

■ President of the Haight Ashbury Merchants Association Christin Evans gave the CVIA Board a report on the City's recent look at vacancies on Haight Street. (See article on page 2.)

■ Motion approved: To offer \$10 discount coupons to CVIA members to be used at Cole Valley restaurants, all of which are struggling to remain open for takeout orders. The point being to encourage take-out patronage during this hard time. After long discussion regarding numerous details, all agreed. (See more on Page 1.)

■ President Carole Glosenger lead a discussion on the design that has been presented of the affordable housing at 730 Stanyan. She voiced her concerns about the lack of responsiveness by developers to act on neighborhood concerns, in spite of four meetings to “inform” the community of their progress. She said that out of sheer frustration CVIA had joined with three other neighborhood organizations to attempt to stop steamrolling through the current design based on, among other things, bulk, lack of set-backs, etc. Presentation by Waller Street Association’s Ted Loewenberg was not allowed to be shown at the last meeting 730 Stanyan meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

CVIA Executive Board

Chuck Canepa, David Crommie, Karen Crommie, Joan Downey, Lena Emmery, Carole Glosenger, Marianne Hesse, Chris Hock, Shannon Cooper Hock, Tom Hubbard, Edward Walls, Breana Wheeler

N Judah Could Return in May

After over a year of non-operation, limited Muni Metro service is scheduled to begin sometime in May. The N Judah is Muni’s most used rail line so it will be the first to go back on line.

Despite months of preparation to fix a backlog of maintenance problems, two overhead wire splices broke within two days of the resumption of service. SFMTA Director



Jeffrey Tumlin blamed the supplier for the faulty wires that caused the closure.

Then the Twin Peaks Tunnel, completely renovated two years before, needed to be redone which closed down the entire underground service.

Although replacement bus service attempted to fill the gap, Cole Valley riders had to plan on having longer travel times.

Want to Get Involved? You'll Need to Know These Acronyms

- CAMP - Community Action Made 4 People (Christin Evans)
- CCC - Coalition for a Complete Community (Tes Welborn)
- CCH - Concerned Citizens of the Haight (Amoeba Music)
- CVA - Cole Valley Cares (Erika Lenkert and associates)
- CVHA - Cole Valley Haight Allies (Sadie Valeri)
- DEM - Department of Emergency Mgt. (Mary Ellen Carroll)
- EOC - Emergency Operations Center (part of the DEM)
- HSOC - Healthy Streets Operations Center (Jeff Kositsky)
- HYA - Homeless Youth Alliance (Mary Howe, Eliza Wheeler)
- LSHS - Larkin Street Health Services (Sherilyn Adams)
- SHH - Safe Healthy Haight (Michelle Leighton)

On February 16 Park Branch Library began its Curbside Pickup program. Reserve your book online and pick it up outside the library at 1833 Page Street. First place a hold on the book you want and wait for a message telling you when to pick it up. Search “SFPL To Go” to begin.

Park Branch Library Open Hours
(1833 Page Street)

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

Call for News

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



When “Smash and Grab” Turns Deadly, People Notice

We know the burglary rate in the Park Police District is up approximately 112 percent, but when a 76 year-old man living on Page Street, rushes out of his house to photograph a suspicious car on the closed-off street and has his camera grabbed out of his hands causing a fall and subsequent death, well, it crosses some kind of line. It matters not that the man was the notorious master detective Jack Palladino, the audacity of the crime on one of neighborhood’s “slow streets” is appalling.

Photo: Drew Altizer



Jack Palladino

Add to that the attack of a woman on Haight and Broderick who was choked against a car a month earlier by a deranged woman who stole her phone and demanded her password, and well, the scores of home and car burglaries start to look mild.

Palladino was famous for sleuthing with his camera rather than a gun and it was the sad irony that his refusal to relinquish his camera will undoubtedly identify his murderers. He is survived by his business partner and wife Sandra Sutherland, who has the neighborhood’s condolences. For biography, crime description and suspects go to SF Chronicle 2-1-21.

The House Where Jack Lived

The home from which Jack Palladino walked on that fateful day was originally owned by Isaac Magnin, father of Joseph and grandfather of Cyril and founder of the premiere Union Square women’s clothing store of the same name.

Isaac married Mary Ann Cohen on October 8, 1865, at the Great Synagogue of London. They had eight children: Samuel, Henrietta, Joseph, Emanuel John, Victor, Lucille, Flora, and Grover and they attended the Temple Emanu-El in San Francisco.

Isaac was a Freemason, having joined in London and gone up the ranks in California. He lived at 1478-1482 Page Street. His two daughters lived in the attached unit, where for a time they managed seamstresses who made corsets and lingerie there for sale at I Magnin on Union Square. The building was designed by architectural firm Newsom and Newsom, forebearers of Governor Gavin Newsom.

—Karen Crommie



1478-1482 Page Street is on the corner of Masonic.

Photo: Chris Carlsson

Postscripts



A longtime CVIA board member has used this time of sequestration to pen a beautiful children’s picture book called “Then We’ll Say Goodnight.” **Marianne Hesse** is a sensitive writer who knows and loves small children. This endearing work, published by Luminare Press, is available at Amazon.com.

Out of the approximately 14,000 trees in the **Mt. Sutro Reserve**, around 3,500 are standing dead and many more are dying. The vegetation management plan includes removal of dead and dying trees near trails, roads, structures and neighboring homes that pose a hazard. Young and vigorous trees will be re-planted to begin regenerating the tree canopy.

* * *

Joan Downey sent this quote from the **Market Street Railway Newsletter**: “The first phase of Muni’s new plan is putting all Muni vehicles in the track lane spacing the stops every two blocks. But how many Muni routes and vehicles will end up in that lane? Muni bosses won’t say it publicly, although **MTA Director Jeffrey Tumlin** himself is known to have told people that he expects the 6 Parnassus, the 21 Hayes and the 31 Balboa lines to ‘go away forever,’ because there won’t be enough post-pandemic money to run them. None of those routes has resumed during the continuing public health emergency although abandoning them permanently would take public hearing and Board approval.”

* * *

After the “defund the police” cry swept across the nation, our own **SFPD** agreed to take a budget cut in exchange for being able to direct their calls related to homelessness to the nascent **Compassionate Alternative Response Team (CART)** with a round-the-clock staff of social workers. The 74-page **CART** plan is estimated to cost approximately \$6.8 million annually and could save \$11 million each year. Once the Budget and Finance Committee releases around \$2 million currently on reserve for



the program — which is expected to take place this month— the **Department of Public Health** will put out a request for a proposal (RFP) and pick an operator in March. The program will probably not go into effect until May.

* * *

Correction: Our last issue had an error. Thanks to **Dan Serot**, we now know that **Finnegans Wake** is open seven days



a week with outdoor service in their beer garden and on the sidewalk in front of the bar. In addition to adult beverages, they serve El Porteno Empanadas (from the Ferry Building) and a bar menu from **Zazie**—including

a boozy brunch offered Friday-Sunday. Here is a link to Finnegans’ website with their hours: www.finneganssf.com/

Letters

Below is a letter, edited for space, sent to City officials and the developers of 730 Stanyan (2/5/21).

Along with many others in the neighborhood, I am concerned that seniors are being given short shrift in every conceivable way. While transitional youth, many of whom, have spent little time in our city, let alone in our neighborhood, have been allotted 25 percent of the available housing, many seniors, who have spent years in our neighborhood and have developed strong and abiding friendships here, will apparently be forced to fend for themselves in a lottery system which fails to acknowledge or identify their long history here. This is not what we were originally promised when this project was first introduced to us.

Also, while we have a number of organizations that already serve the transient youth population, our neighborhood, unlike most other neighborhoods in the city, has absolutely no services available for seniors. There is a great need in our neighborhood to have programs such as: Life-long Learning and Social Activities, Fitness and Well-being, Social Services, Low-Cost Lunches and Tax Assistance, etc.

The L-shaped space that you have allotted for a senior center seems to me to be inadequate in terms of being able to offer much of anything to both the seniors who might, as part of a larger family, be living at 730 Stanyan, as well as to our long neglected and underserved senior neighbors.

While I understand that the need to procure specific funding sources may have precluded you from including seniors for housing at 730 Stanyan, please make sure that you now do not continue to minimize the needs of the seniors in our neighborhood when creating an activity space for them on the ground floor.

Marianne Hesse

Help

- Emergency**911
- Disturbance** (415) 553-0123
- Blocked Driveways**..... (415) 553-1200
- Abandoned Vehicles** (415) 781-5865
- Health Department** (415) 255-3610
- Litter Patrol** (sofas, mattresses, etc.).....311
- Graffiti and Illegal Sign Removal**311
- NextBus**311
- 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" Scott** (415) 553-1551
SFPD
1245 Third Street
S.F., CA 94158
- District Attorney Chesa Boudin**..... (628) 652-4000
350 Rhode Island Street North Building, Suite 400N.
S.F., CA 94103
- Captain Christopher Pedrini** (415) 242-3000
Park District Police Station
1899 Waller St.
S.F., CA 94117
Christopher.Pedrini@sfgov.org

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

Telephone: (415) 554-5184 FAX: (415) 554-5163

District	Telephone
1. Connie Chan ChanStaff@sfgov.org	(415) 554-7410
2. Catherine Sefani Catherine.Stefani@sfgov.org	(415) 554-7752
3. Aaron Peskin Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org	(415) 554-7450
4. Gordon Mar Gordon.Mar@sfgov.org	(415) 554-7460
5. Dean Preston Dean.Preston@sfgov.org	(415) 554-7630
6. Matt Haney Matt.Haney@sfgov.org	(415) 554-7970
7. Myrna Melgar MelgarStaff@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, President 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 Summer edition should be sent before May 1, 2021 to CVIASF@aol.com. We encourage submissions from anyone interested in our neighborhood. Send questions or comments to the above address or call 415-431-1414.

EditorKaren Crommie
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CVIA Officers

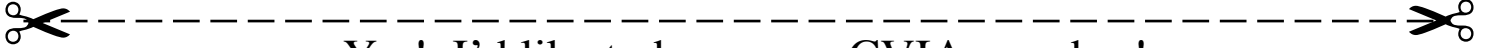
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MembershipLena Emmery
Special ProjectsJoan Downey
Chris Hock, Shannon Cooper Hock

BECOME A CVIA MEMBER

Cole Valley Improvement Association (CVIA) is a nonprofit, member-funded, volunteer organization working to continuously enhance and improve Cole Valley and the greater Haight Ashbury.

Our mission is to promote a safe, respectful community, help enhance the lives of all residents, support our merchants, and present an active voice to address civic, social and safety issues in our neighborhood.

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 _____

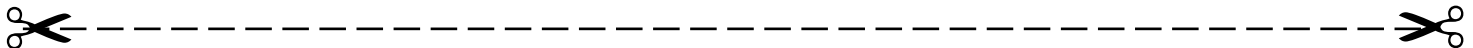
What I like about the neighborhood: _____

What I dislike about the neighborhood: _____

Optional contribution to Cole sidewalk cleaning \$ _____ or the community work of CVIA \$ _____

Do NOT acknowledge my contribution in the newsletter

Dues and contributions 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**