

CVIA NEWS

COLE VALLEY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Volume XXI

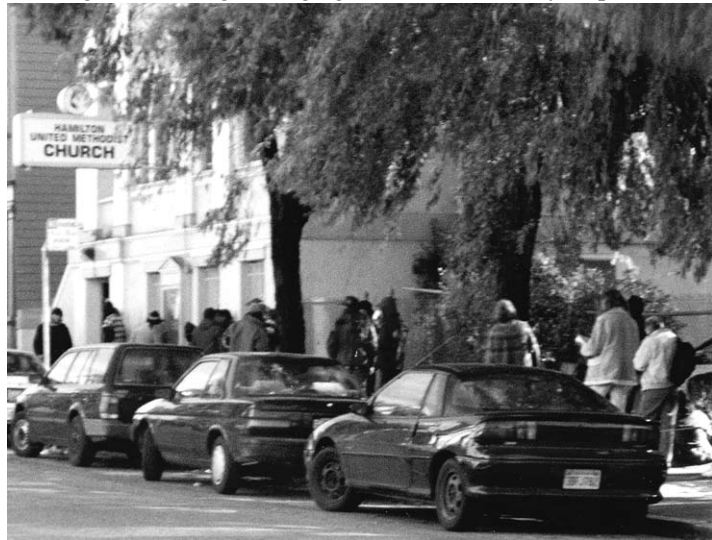
SERVING ALL RESIDENTS OF THE GREATER HAIGHT ASHBURY

SUMMER 2008

First the Sanctuary, Now the Soup Kitchen Closes Its Doors

It was with mixed feelings that I heard the news that the Haight Ashbury Food Program (Soup Kitchen) was closing down. The work they did on the ground floor of the Hamilton Methodist Church was, of course, laudable. But the fact that they summarily took over that residential block of Waller four days a week used to frustrate me. When the Food Program was in session, forget about any other function in the church or on the sidewalk or even on the block. The management refused to provide benches in the parking lot for the waiting clients, insisted on placing giant hand-painted signs in front of the building and storing stacks of cardboard and garbage cans in front of the church. They simply couldn't accept that they had to work within the boundaries of the church's ground floor and respect the surrounding neighbors. It wasn't that director Michael Schreiber wasn't approachable, it was that, because of inexperience or timidity, he was unable to change the traditions and culture of the program.

The reason given to the press for the closure was lack of funding. But there was a lot more to it. The United Methodist Church, as reported in the last newsletter, felt it had lost control over the building. With a Tongan congregation who felt overly empowered to



If the food program reopens, neighbors hope waiting clients will be provided benches within the confines of the parking lot.

hold weeks-long mourning rituals and avail themselves of overnight lodging without permission—added to the above mentioned ground floor takeover by the deeply entrenched Food Program, its only recourse was to close the church down, which they did. It became a non-church. In the meantime the church has been beautifully painted and the eyesore neon sign removed. We all have high hopes for the church's rebirth.

—Karen Crommie

Check out our new website: CVIASF.org

Sierra Club Overreaches to Lambast Whole Foods Project

With the growing impact of global warming, the threat of increased oil exploration on public lands and the persistence of dam-building all over the world destroying native habitat, the Sierra Club found time to compose and file a list of objections to the environmental impact report (EIR) on the mixed-use building planned for the



Many Cole Valley members of the Sierra Club were disappointed by the club's comments on the project at 690 Stanyan Street.

corner of Haight and Stanyan. The 62 housing units and ground-level Whole Foods market destined for the site was faulted by the Club for attracting too much traffic.

When CVIA contacted the Sierra Club to find out how this Haight Ashbury development fell under their sphere of interest, or influence, they refused any responsibility, saying it came from a "local chapter."

CVIA's position is echoed by the response below of member Michael J. Sullivan to the Sierra Club.

"I'm a San Francisco member of the Sierra Club, and I live in the Haight Ashbury neighborhood. I learned this week that the local chapter of the Sierra Club wrote a letter criticizing the proposed Whole Foods housing-over-retail project at Haight and Stanyan. I'm very upset about that.

For one, there is no better environmental land use than putting dense housing in the middle of San Francisco. Infill housing is just

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what we need. This project would put dense housing near well-served mass transit.

But more importantly, the Sierra Club should be focusing its efforts on true environmental problems, and not getting in the middle of local land use issues where the real debate is about gentrification vs. affordable housing.

I hope my local Sierra Club chapter will stay out of these fights in the future.”

Ed. note: See Page 5 for update of 690 Stanyan project

Saturday Road Closures in Golden Gate Park Begin

From now through September 27, Rec and Park is again closing a portion of John F. Kennedy Drive to automobile traffic from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Although certain roads are already closed on Sundays and holidays, the additional day is designed to further enhance pedestrian and bicycle safety and address accessibility issues in and around the park.

The Saturday closure is an abbreviated version of that on Sundays, restricting automobile access from the Hagiwara Tea Garden Drive (West) and continuing along JFK to Transverse Drive.

Tram service is operating from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. This is only for individuals who would otherwise find it difficult or impossible to get to their destination without this assistance.

42nd International Children's Games at Kezar Stadium July 10 to 15

This year's games will bring an estimated 2000 coaches and athletes (12-15 years of age) from 100 cities and fifty countries to compete in track and field, tennis, swimming, volleyball, soccer, table tennis, basketball and golf. Kezar Stadium will be one of five venues for these events. For more information, go to <http://www.sfcg2008.com>.

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 cocktail napkins. We want to hear from you! CVIA News: 624 Ashbury St. or cviasf@aol.com.

Ready or not, the Haight Street Fair is June 8

New Chief for Park Support Group

On May 5, Karen Kidwell joined San Francisco Parks Trust (formerly Friends of Recreation and Parks) as its new executive director. A San Francisco resident since 2000, Karen brings more than 15 years of business management experience in marketing and financial services, as well non-profit management experience. Most recently, she served as director of development at the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council, and, before that, at the Magic Theatre. She has also served on the board of directors of the Committee for Green Foothills and Earthshare of California.

Karen received an M.B.A. from Columbia University while working at Dun and Bradstreet and Knight-Ridder Financial. She has



Karen Kidwell is the new executive director of the San Francisco Parks Trust.

also held positions at Apple and E*TRADE. Her key business experience in marketing and financial services and her service on the board of directors of two nonprofit organizations will help enhance SFPT's core Park Partners program, which provides strategic guidance and financial services to more than 50 community groups active in their neighborhoods.

As a key fund raiser for major park renovations, SFPT has raised millions annually for the Department's

most iconic park restoration projects, including The Conservatory of Flowers, Dutch Windmills, Beach Chalet, and Koret Children's Quarter. Upon learning about SFPT's current renovation project to restore the Golden Gate Park Stables, Karen agreed that, "The Stables restoration is especially exciting, as it preserves this historic feature of Golden Gate Park—ours is one of the last urban stables in the world—while improving it by adding new educational facilities, a covered and lit arena, and making it a certified green building."

(For more information, please visit www.sfpt.org)

B.V. Park Gets Some Respect

A stop sign was finally installed the wide intersection at the foot of the former (now closed), paved service road into Buena Vista Park. It will stop traffic heading east on Upper Terrace (toward the park), at Buena Vista East/West. The intersection is in constant use by neighbors walking to and from the park.

The sign was recommended by city traffic engineers, to supplement the earlier installation at the intersection of a crosswalk, and pedestrian and speed warning signs for traffic approaching the intersection from both directions on Buena Vista East and West.

The Buena Vista Neighborhood Association, as well as neighbors living at the corner, enthusiastically supported the new stop sign. BVNA has also asked city traffic engineers to continue monitoring the intersection, to possibly institute an "All Ways" stop to further calm traffic in the future.

—Richard Magary
Buena Vista Neighborhood Association

Neighborhood Muni Route Changes: Last Chance to Speak

The Transit Effectiveness Project (TEP) is the first comprehensive review of Muni in over a generation. The project is a joint effort



Muni's 6-Parnassus would turn north on Cole Street instead of continuing east on Frederick to Masonic Avenue.

of the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA), which operates Muni, and the Controller's Office. The TEP's preliminary proposals aim to transform Muni so people can get where they want to go reliably, quickly and safely. The proposals would also help address Muni's structural budget deficit by making service more efficient and by attracting new customers to Muni to help reduce traffic congestion and pollution.

Here are the proposed changes to the lines that affect our neighborhood:

N-Judah: More frequent trips during peak hours to reduce crowding and shorten wait times (proposed frequencies – 6 minutes peaks; 10 minutes midday).

6-Parnassus: Extended to West Portal Station via 14th Ave. and Taraval St. (would require extension of overhead wires); rerouted via Cole to provide bus option for N-Judah riders at Carl/Cole; discontinued in Ashbury Heights due to low ridership; existing 6-Parnassus and 7-Haight lines would be combined into a single route; peak period frequencies on Haight St. would decrease from 4 to 5 minutes; possible two-way service on lower Haight (further study needed); proposed frequency of 10 minutes all day.

7-Haight: - Route would be consolidated with 6-Parnassus, which would be rerouted to stay on Haight St. until Cole St.; service along entire 7-Haight alignment would continue to be provided by the 71/71L.

33-Stanyan: Two options have been proposed for this route but both effect the route south of Market Street; no route change proposed north of Market; proposed frequency of 15 minutes all day.

35-Eureka: Replace Roosevelt branch of 37-Corbett, but would not go past Cole and Frederick due to low ridership on segment to Haight St.; southern segment would be rerouted to partially replace existing 48-line service on Hoffman and Grandview; segment along Diamond, Addison and Farnum would be eliminated due to low ridership; modified 36-Teresita would connect Bemis St. to Glen Park BART; proposed frequency of 20 minutes peak, 30 minutes midday.

37-Corbett Changes: Alternative A would serve the Castro Metro Station and then terminate at the 16th St. BART Station; Alternative B would terminate at the Castro Metro Station; replace service on 18th St. from Castro to 16th Street BART Station currently served by 33-line with same peak period frequency to better match ridership with service levels; the northern Roosevelt branch of the 37-Corbett

would be served by a modified 35-line; segment on Glenview and Dawn View Way would be discontinued; proposed frequencies of 15 minutes peak, 20 minutes midday.

43-Masonic: Extended from Chestnut/Fillmore to Fort Mason (Marina Blvd./Laguna), replacing the 28-line terminal; proposed frequencies of 10 minutes peak, 12 minutes midday.

71L Haight/Noriega Limited: Limited-stop service on Haight Street would be expanded to run all-day in both directions to reduce travel times; would make local stops west of Stanyan and limited stops between Stanyan and Market, decreasing travel time for most passengers; more frequent service in midday (every 10 minutes) would shorten wait times and reduce crowding; proposed frequency of 10 minutes all day; possible two-way service on lower Haight (further study needed).

Check out the details of these changes at www.sftfep.com. Ridership data for existing weekday service bus and rail line is available online at www.sfmta.com/tepdata.

Please join us at the meeting on May 29. If you cannot, we urge you to submit your comments—what you like as well as what you don't. Submit your comments online (see the Contact Us tab at sftfep.com) or call 311 to share your comments. Remember that your compliments are just as important as your complaints!

—Joan Downey

Community Meeting

Thursday, May 29, 2008

6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Grattan Elementary School

165 Grattan St.

(Between Cole and Shrader)

Near Muni routes N, 6, 37, and 43.

Parking entrance on Alma

between Cole & Shrader

Muni Route Changes

**N-Judah, 6-Parnassus, 7-Haight, 22 Fillmore,
24-Divisadero, 33-Stanyan, 35-Eureka,
37-Corbett and 71L-Haight/Noriega Limited**

Join your neighbors to hear from the Transit Effectiveness Project (TEP) team about the evaluation process, goals, and findings—and details of the proposed route changes that impact our neighborhood.

Mt. Sutro Open Space

The UCSF Mt. Sutro Open Space is a treasure and a hidden resource for all of Cole Valley. Craig Dawson, founder of the Mt. Sutro Stewards, will present an overview of their recent work and the reason neighborhood support is needed to reopen access from Stanyan Street to the historic trail leading to the summit.

This meeting is sponsored by the Cole Valley Improvement Association, Buena Vista Neighborhood Association, Mt. Olympus Neighborhood Association and Haight Ashbury Improvement Association.

Pot Clubs Get Free Ride From Supes

The Board of Supervisors on May 6 approved an ordinance that will grant the city's "medical cannabis dispensaries" a second extension of time for registering with the city. All but one of the existing 33 outlets have failed to meet both the original deadline of June 2007 and the extended deadline of March 2008. They will now have until January 21, 2009, to do so, barring any more extensions. The vote was ten to one, with Supervisor Sean Elsbernd dissenting.

Speaking in favor of the ordinance, sponsor Supervisor Chris Daly maintained that the approval process was overly complicated for the outlets, involving four different city agencies. "We don't want to see all but one shut down," he said. "This allows for a realistic time line."

Speaking in opposition, Sean Elsbernd countered that "this industry, more than any other industry, continues to be granted waiver after waiver." The current law is "a broken product," he charged, and needs to be rewritten.

Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi said that both Daly and Elsbernd had some valid points. "We all agree that there should be regulation," he said. The problem, he added, is that "the city has been slow to expedite the process." He said a better way would be to have hospitals and other medical facilities administer medical marijuana. "But we can't do that," he added; so the present system is the next best thing.

Supervisor Michaela Alioto-Pier asked supporters to identify the specific roadblocks in the approval process. Her questions marked the first time in the various hearings on the extension that any supervisor has asked for details in scrutinizing the claims of the dealers. In response, fingers were pointed at the Department of Building Inspection (DBI). However, no representatives from the DBI were present to address the issue, and the supervisors made no effort to summon them for their testimony before voting on the ordinance.

The board's compliant handling of this issue is a testament to the great lobbying skill of the city's powerful drug lobby. As Elsbernd noted, no other industry here could get away with repeatedly flaunting regulations without close scrutiny of its behavior. Only one small question remains: Who's looking out for the public interest?

—Arthur Evans

The Great Blue Herons are Back at Stow Lake

Stow Lake in Golden Gate Park has been home to a colony of great blue herons since 1993. Nest building for 2008 has already begun. Some of the chicks have already hatched and the adult birds have begun the arduous phase of feeding their hungry offspring. For human children and adults, a visit to the colony is a wonderful way to experience nature without leaving the city.



District 5 Cleanup

Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi announced a cleanup and planting day starting at Newcomer High School (1350 Seventh Avenue) on August 9. There will be three large dumpsters at Kezar Stadium for deposits of anything from trash to electronics. For more information contact Vallie.Brown@sfgov.org.

Medical Pot Resold in Park

It's no secret that Park Station Police are barraged with complaints of illegal drug sales by neighborhood residents and merchants alike. In her recent online newsletter, Captain Teresa Barrett wrote, "Others in the community have a more liberal attitude toward the



Stanyan Street pot sellers have taken on new personnas as quasi providers of medical cannabis.

problem. In order to maintain a level of partial control over the issue, the officers of Park Station conduct plainclothes operations in order to abate the blatant street sales that offend so many. One such operation conducted over the weekend of May 4 netted twelve different sellers around the Alvord Lake/ McDonald's area in a three-hour period.

"Many of those arrested present their marijuana cards (Medical Cannabis Dispensary) and believe them to be a license to openly sell their wares and saying that they are "providers." That is not how it works. Selling on the street to strangers is still a felony in California."

Haight Ashbury Free Clinics: The Hangover Continues

Two more sad epitaphs marking the demise of the once vibrant Haight Ashbury Free Clinics: One is the thoughtful analysis by Douglas L. Polcin published last year in the Journal for Social Action in Counseling and Psychology titled "Reflections on Lost Opportunities at the Haight Ashbury Free Clinic: Lessons for Progressive Non-Profit Organizations." In it he chronicles the final decade blighted by disorganization, plummeting staff morale, charges of embezzlement, lawsuits, counter lawsuits and mass staff defection and looks at ways they (and other) nonprofits might avoid such a plight.

Then there was a small item in the Chronicle a few weeks ago that reported the sentencing of Carl Gill, former HAFC chief financial officer, to seven years in state prison for stealing \$773,000. In an elaborate scheme, he set up a bogus account at a Sacramento bank with a government-like name to which he sent checks — unspent grant money intended for the Federal Government. As the sole signature on this account, he then wrote checks to himself. He was charged with two felony counts of grand theft and six counts of tax evasion.

Ed. note: The reorganized Free Clinics have consolidated their operation south of Market.



Would you like a copy of this newsletter sent to a neighbor? E-mail CVIASF@aol.com or leave a message at 431-1414 with their name and address and consider it done.

CVIA Thanks Mark Ballew

Everyone knows that it's not easy to create a good website. We have long looked with envy at organizations who had them — thinking “some day.” Then Mark Ballew stepped up to the plate. After countless hours of work — and graciously interpreting mixed messages from our diverse board, Mark put CVIA on line on May 4. Assisting him was our youngest board member Amy Blakeley, who also devoted much of her free time to adding links, changing text, and generally tailoring the website to reflect our organization — to its members as well as to those who just wanted to learn more. Former



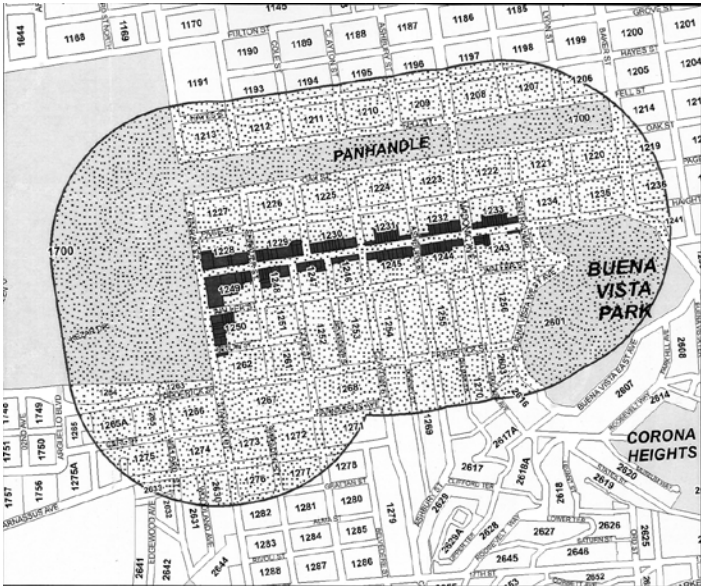
CVIA president Joan Downey, who spearheaded the project, provided most of the content and encouraged its complete transparency, i.e., the website has both our bylaws and articles of incorporation.

We thank Mark, Amy and Joan, who have given us this immeasurable gift and brought us into the 21st century with style and intelligence.

—David Crommie

More Restaurants in Haight

A hearing was held at the Planning Commission on March 13 on amendments to the code governing the number of restaurants



Haight Street neighborhood district with quarter mile radius area.

in the Haight. Introduced by Supervisor Mirkarimi, it provides for four new full-service restaurants. They will have to satisfy specific requirements and obtain conditional use authorization.

The areas zoned “Haight Street Neighborhood Commercial Dis-

trict” covers a quarter mile radius extending along Haight between Stanyan and Central. But under the planning code, a non conforming use located within ¼ mile from this area must also comply with its building standards and use limitation.

This modification was initiated because of interest to open a cafe/restaurant at Hayes and Cole which was impossible because of a cap on new restaurants under the NCD restrictions. The immediate neighbors have shown enthusiastic interest in having the new business.

Supervisor Mirkarimi's former aide, Regina Dick-Endrizzi wrote that the supervisor only asked for an additional four restaurants so that there would be minimum impact on the neighborhood.

—Karen Crommie

Whole Foods Project Update

Editor's note: The project referred to below is a mixed-use building on the northeast corner of Stanyan and Haight containing 62 residential units with a Whole Foods market on the ground floor and 180 space underground garage. It would replace a former Cala Foods. Mark Brennan is the attorney and son of site owner John Brennan. (See related article on page 1.)

During the Planning Department's comment period for the Draft Environmental Impact Report, it has received approximately 240 letters of support for the project. The next step is for the final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to be certified by the Planning Commission, which will hopefully also hear the Planned Unit Development (PUD) hearing at the same meeting.

The opposition letters, while relatively few in number, employed a shotgun approach in which they scattered every possible issue (and non-issue) they could to derail the project. At the Public Comment hearing before the Planning Commission on February 28, 2008, noted opponents, Calvin Welch and HANC Attorney Sue Hestor, complained to the Planning Commission that they could not understand the Draft EIR and needed an extension to the comment period — from March 3, to March 10. As of March 3, only seven letters of opposition had been submitted, this number swelled to approximately thirty by the close of business on March 10.

Of Calvin Welch's arguments against the project is that the full-service grocery store will somehow harm families with children who want to enter Golden Gate Park, and that the Draft EIR “fails to include the fact that the developer is proposing to sell alcohol 24 hours a day.” Despite the fact that site owner John Brennan has no intention of personally selling alcohol to anyone, Whole Foods does not operate and will not operate on a 24 hour schedule, and even if they were, it would violate State law to sell liquor 24 hours a day.

Negative comments, including nonsensical arguments like Welch's must be answered, despite the fact that many do not relate the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Some argued that a smaller alternative would be the best compromise, however, a smaller version of the project (i.e., a 17,000 sq/ft. Whole Foods, which would be smaller than Cala Foods) is not an option and will not be agreed to.

To compile the letters and categorize them (both negative and positive) will take approximately six weeks by the environmental consultant. It will take the Planning Department around the same time to analyze and begin to answer them. This is the city's document, not the developers. The City Attorney will then review the draft document, which may take another three to six weeks. The bottom line is that we can expect to have a hearing on the project toward the end of Summer, beginning of Fall.

—Mark Brennan

New Aide for Mirkarimi

It's a taxing job and the burnout rate is high. For that reason we considered ourselves very fortunate that Regina Dick-Endrizzi



Regina Dick-Endrizzi has moved on to the Office of Small Business.

stayed so long in her post as legislative aide to District 5's Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi. Dick-Endrizzi, who had a rich background including owning a clothing store on Haight Street and serving as assistant to international peace activist Dr. Helen Caldicott, was a tireless fixture at every neighborhood meeting and the voice of calm in recurring political turmoil. She carried out her work with intelligence and pragmatism, always clearly indicating what she

could do and what she could not. We appreciated her open mind, particularly as we struggled to keep the Haight family-friendly in



At CVIA's May board meeting, Vallie Brown gave details of the District 5 cleanup scheduled for August 9.

the face of a politically influential social service community, not to mention the predisposition of the Supervisor himself. As Dick-Endrizzi moves on to a job with the city's Office of Small Business, hopefully permitting her a few week nights at home, we welcome her replacement Vallie Brown, who attended the CVIA board meeting on May 5 and who demonstrated an easy familiarity with the issues discussed.

A resident of the Lower Haight, Vallie Brown's talents became apparent when she skillfully brought together the very diverse group of people living on her block. Noticing her effectiveness, Supervisor Mirkarimi encouraged her to broaden her vision and apply the same skills to unifying the residents and merchants of the entire Lower Haight neighborhood. In this pursuit, Vallie worked closely with Northern and Park Station police and received a grant from the

Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice to help educate the community on how to work with the police on safety issues. She also organized and wrote a Community Challenges Grant for trees and sculpture tree guards for the neighborhood. While the supervisor's main aide, Boris Delepine, was on family leave, she took his place, sharing the position with Rick Galbreath. Now the two share the vacancy left by Regina with Vallie focusing on neighborhood concerns.

Vallie attended UCLA and has lived both in New York and Paris. She settled in San Francisco over ten years ago. We hope to see a lot of her in the months to come and wish her the very best in her new job.

—Karen Crommie

Masonic and Fell Intersection Traffic Changes Approved

Responding to a request filed by the San Francisco City Attorney's Office, Superior Court Judge Peter Busch today granted the City temporary relief from the Bicycle Plan injunction* to expedite safety improvements at the intersection of Fell Street and Masonic Avenue, a hazardous area for pedestrians and bicyclists along the popular Panhandle pathway.

"Fixing the Fell/Masonic intersection is an urgent matter of public safety for people walking and bicycling. We are pleased that the City can now fix this problem before more people are



This corner has a potential for a "perfect storm" of jeopardy.

injured," says Mark Christiansen, a neighbor in the area and co-founder of the Fix Masonic group, a coalition of neighborhood activists, parents and teachers from nearby schools, and community organizations including Walk SF, the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition (SFBC) and the Senior Action Network.

Judge Busch's ruling allows the city to install a dedicated left-turn signal and left-turn pocket for motorists turning from Fell St. onto Masonic Ave., and to create a separated bike- and walk-only signal phase for cyclists and pedestrians crossing Masonic Ave.

* *Ed. note. The injunction was imposed as the result of a lawsuit against implementing the SF Bicycle Plan until after the completion of an environmental impact report. Opponents were led by Rob Anderson, a fearless blogger, most familiar to Haight residents from his run for District 5 supervisor. Anderson represents a body of people who feel that the bicycle "lobby" is overrepresented in city—"a vocal minority who capture the ears of politicians at the expense of car drivers and traffic flow." The environmental impact study is ongoing and will be completed early next year.*

Proposed Skateboard Park Is Still Drawing Controversy

As the months go by, the proposed skateboard park in Golden Gate Park (Styan and Waller) doesn't seem to be attracting any additional fans, except, of course, the Rec and Park Department, which believes it should provide places for kids to practice this popular sport. The damage done to places such as Ferry Plaza, the Main Library and the Embarcadero boarding station is seriously harming these new structures and public open space. Closer to home, the



This structure in Onondaga Lake Park, NY, is an example of a well maintained skateboard park.

entrance to Kezar Stadium and the Spreckels Bandshell have been chipped from the repeated slamming of skateboard wheels. Wrote neighbor Tyrone Sterdivant, in a community internet posting site, "I am 100% opposed. The upper Haight already has more than its share of WHATEVER! Having a Skateboard Park in the neighborhood, in my opinion, will negatively impact the community.

Longtime CVIA board member Marianne Hesse drew our attention to a KRON Channel 4 news report that showed the damage done by skateboarders, as well as the mismanagement of the city's newest skateboard park in the Crocker Amazon neighborhood. In two short segments in his "People Behaving Badly" series, host Stanley Roberts successfully demonstrates the problem. See it at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=apMAq71FGgM>.

Another segment at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3CRbMSoxpgY&feature=related> clearly shows both the need for a location for legal skateboarding and the challenge of attracting skaters to a confined (and ultimately boring) location in addition to the vandalism and litter the space attracts.

—Karen Crommie

Bay to Breakers Runs Amok

So bad was the behavior of participants and well wishers at the Bay to Breakers footrace on May 18 that Park Station's Captain Teresa Barrett circulated the appeal below.

I am trying to document how out of control the Bay to Breakers was this year. Drunks everywhere, people urinating on peoples front stairs, both females and males, and basically a very ugly event. If you have complaints. Please email me at parkstation.sfpd@sfgov.org so I can convey our displeasure with the events sponsor and city officials. Thank you.

*Captain Teri Barrett,
Park Police Station.*

Why is Cole Street Torn Up?

CVIA asked the same question to Dadisi Naji, the public affairs officer for the Department of Public Works. Here's what she said.

"The DPW Bureau of Engineering is replacing the curbs along the Cole Street commercial corridor because they are being brought



Few guessed that Cole Street was suffering from chronic low curbs.

up to the new city standard height of 4-6 inches. The existing curb level was too low at 2-3 inches.

"The new higher curbs are a significant component of the right-of-way. They provide multiple functions, including delineating the space between the roadway and streetscape, and channeling surface water into drainage inlets."

For some reason, there were no replacement curbs planned for the south half of Cole on the west side, but Sam, of Crepes on Cole, talked the city into including that section. Thanks, Sam!

—Joan Downey

Cole Valley Fair: Get Involved!

The Cole Valley Fair will be on Sunday, September 21. We're now accepting applications from artists and musicians. If you know of any talented people who would be interested, direct them to cviasf.org.

We need volunteers! Last year vendors told us we needed more people to help during setup to direct them to their spaces and help with parking at Grattan School; monitoring musicians' time-slots; and as vendor "booth-sitters" (circulate around the fair asking vendors if they need to have someone mind their booth while they take a break). We have these and other tasks for you to do. We can use your help for an hour or a day from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. If you can help, send an email to colevalleyfair@gmail.com with your name; time and duration you will be available; and any limitations you have. Volunteer for an hour and you'll get a poster; for three or more hours and you'll get a t-shirt.



Cviasf@aol.com

Please contact us by e-mail if you have an issue to bring up, a newsletter article, address change, or an update to your membership information.

CVIA Board Actions

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

March

- Reviewed last meeting's resolutions, discussed current Haight issues, heard reports from committee heads and from delegates to the Municipal Transit Agency, Kezar Stadium Advisory Committee, UCSF Citizens Advisory Committee and the Coalition for S.F. Neighborhoods. Welcomed Craig Dawson, director of the Mt. Sutro Stewards.

- Craig Dawson asked for our support on opening up and extending the Mt. Sutro greenbelt through unused Rec and Park property accessed at Stanyan and 17th streets. He asked that we call a community meeting. Joan suggested combining it with a report on the TEP in late May. He wants to be able to utilize Prop A money to hire a chain saw crew to break down 60 fallen trees so that the Mt. Sutro Stewards can clear the trail. There may be privacy issues with residents living near the trail head on Stanyan. These folks need to be brought into dialogue as do the stewards, Sigg, Brastow, Rec and Park, etc.

- Lena Emmery and Chuck Canepa, both members of the Kezar Advisory Committee reported that Rec and Park have finally been convinced that the track needs replacement and has hired the Mondo company, original builders of the track, to bid on the job. They have inspected and say that the track is just at the last point in its life when it is eligible for resurfacing (as opposed to complete replacement). It is a 15-year track in its 18th year. The surface can be ground down and a new one bonded to the top. The estimated price for the track and ancillary expenditures is \$1 million.

The Heart of Cole Festival took over the remainder of the meeting:

- Agreed: to change name to Cole Valley Fair passed 5 to 2 with Hesse and Glosenger absent.

- Agreed to rent the inflatable jumping environment IF the Grattan Elementary School parents would provide supervision.

- Agreed: To have both a poster and T-shirt for this year's fair

- Motion: to have a contest to determine artist to design final 16X20 Cole Fair poster. Award is \$300-500 which will give CVIA all rights to use the design for this year's fair, both for the poster and T-shirt. Amy Blakeley to do research on correct amount and how to get the word out to artists.

- Discussed the need for someone to manage the scheduling of the performances to make sure the artists begin and end on time preventing a back up. Amy Blakeley said she might be able to do this.

April

- Reviewed last meeting's resolutions, discussed current Haight issues, heard reports from committee heads and from delegates to the Municipal Transit Agency, Kezar Stadium Advisory Committee, UCSF Citizens Advisory Committee and the Coalition for S.F. Neighborhoods and welcomed Ben Caldwell ("Fix Masonic"), Susan King (WalkSF), and Michelle McMahon and Lynn Miller (Haight Ashbury Community Nursery School).

- Ben Caldwell, who directs the bicycle program at the Presidio YMCA, reported on the problems that have given rise to the Fix Masonic organization. He described its goals of improved bicycle and pedestrian safety. The group desires to enlist the support of neighborhood organizations.

- Motion passed: To write a letter to the MTA stating CVIA's support of the specific measures to improve the Fell/Masonic south-side crossing (dedicated left hand turn lane on to Fell from Masonic and 3-way signal light) and the overall goals of the "Fix Masonic" group, while withholding actual endorsement until the details of the specific measures are presented and the impact on Masonic through-traffic is assessed.

- Heard presentation from Michelle McMahon on the history and services of the Haight Ashbury Community Nursery School operating at the Grattan Playground daily from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. School sponsors a cleanup four times a year. The next being on May 3. On June 1st they will stage a Carnival from 11-3 p.m. in the Grattan Playground with games and entertainment.

- David Crommie announced that the city's ISCOTT commission had approved stop signs, requested by CVIA, to be installed at the corners of Carl and Clayton; and Beulah and Cole. Both signs would be placed on the "stem" streets as they meet the arterial streets (Clayton and Cole).

- Motion passed: With regard to website links it was agreed that we would have no further enhancements of merchant members other than acknowledgement of those who contributed to the cost of the daily cleaning of Cole Street and those who are sponsors of the Cole Valley Fair. Merchant links may be discussed as a future option.

- Motion passed: To retain Steve Desdier for accounting services and determine allocation of receivable accounts.

- Motion passed: To write a letter to the Sierra Club expressing disappointment of their position against the construction of the proposed mixed use building at 690 Stanyan containing a Whole Foods store on its ground floor.

May

- Reviewed last meeting's resolutions, discussed current Haight issues, heard reports from committee heads and from delegates to the Municipal Transit Agency, Kezar Stadium Advisory Committee, UCSF Citizens Advisory Committee and the Coalition for S.F. Neighborhoods and welcomed Vallie Brown, new legislative aide to Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi and member Virginia Joosen.

- Lena Emmery reported on the 42nd International Children's Games to be held at Kezar Stadium July 10 to 15 which will bring in approximately 2000 athletes (12-15 years old) along with their coaches representing over 100 different countries. The group will submit a transportation plan as required by Rec and Park.

- Joan Downey announced that the long awaited CVIA website went on line May 4. Group commended member Mark Ballew who spent countless hours setting it up and Amy Blakeley who helped put on the finishing touches. Discussed a few minor changes including spacing and deletion of certain links that are no longer viable.

- Chuck Canepa reported on the delay in renewing the Kezar running track. If not done in the next six months, it will outlive the opportunity for resurfacing and will have to be completely replaced.

- Motion passed to subscribe to Quicken Online at \$21 per month and appropriate set-up fees for accountant Steven Desdier.

- Joan Downey announced that she had set up a Transportation Effectiveness Program (TEP) meeting for the greater Haight Ashbury at Grattan School on May 29. Joining us as sponsors are the Buena Vista Neighborhood Association and the Mount Olympus Neighborhood Association. Also that evening will be a presentation by Craig Dawson on extending the Mt. Sutro hiking trail with egress on Stanyan and 17th St.

- Lena Emmery reported on a series of trespassing and robberies in the Edgewood area. For that reason, neighbors are planning to attend



■ Vallie Brown, new legislative aide to Supervisor Mirkarimi announced a district cleanup and planting event starting at Newcomer High School on August 9. There will be three large dumpsters at Kezar for deposits of anything from trash to electronics.

She also encouraged reporting graffiti, pot holes, dumping, etc. to her directly at 554-7630 or vallie.brown@sfgov.org.

■ The remainder of the meeting was focused on the Cole Valley Fair:

■ Agreed to give early acceptance to known and well-received vendors.

■ Agreed that Old Car Show should be noticed on the fair website with entry information contact number.

■ Agreed that each booth set-up should be photographed and filed for future reference.

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

Haight Street Restaurant Busted

On the morning of May 2 at 10:30 a.m., federal agents entered the Balazo restaurant on Haight Street, part of a sting operation carried out simultaneously at their 11 Bay Area venues including San Ramon, Lafayette, Concord, Pleasanton and Danville. Search warrants in hand, immigration agents ordered the doors be shut and interrogated employees inside. A total of 62 people were arrested, photographed and fingerprinted at the 11 restaurants.

The Chronicle's Heather Knight quoted Virginia Kice, spokeswoman for the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency (ICE), as calling the arrests "a targeted enforcement action" that is part of a continuing criminal investigation. She said that "ten women and one man were released on humanitarian grounds, including pregnancy and medical concerns, pending future immigration proceedings."



Immigration raid at Balazo on Haight Street was covered by KTVU.

Knight reported that, "the majority of those arrested were expected to be released under supervision. Some of the illegal immigrants had prior criminal convictions or deportation orders and will be detained. Since its creation in 2003, ICE has stepped up efforts to stop the employment of illegal immigrants. Last year, the agency made more than 4,900 arrests related to undocumented workers, a 45-fold increase compared with 2001."

This brings into memory a similar incident when the owner of North Beach Pizza Kitchen (Beulah at Stanyan) was arrested in 1993 for selling counterfeit alien registrations (green cards). Also arrested were 15 undocumented foreign nationals, mostly from Brazil, working as delivery men at the owner's four restaurants.

—Karen Crom-

Community Nursery School Meets Changing Needs

For more than 33 years, the Haight Ashbury Community Nursery School (HACNS) has been a fixture at Grattan Playground. This cooperative nursery school offers an affordable preschool education in a play-based environment for Haight Ashbury and Cole Valley children.

The school opened in 1974, founded by local parents who wanted a nursery school close to home. With the help of then San Francisco Supervisor Diane Feinstein, the school obtained a permit from the Recreation and Parks Department to locate the school at the Grattan Playground and Clubhouse.

HACNS operates its school-year program on weekday mornings from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and invites local children visiting the playground, along with their caregivers, to use the school's



Everyone pitched in for HACNS' May 3 workday.

toys and equipment as well as participate in its weekly music and movement class, daily craft projects and other activities.

As a cooperative, the school is run and managed by its 24 member families and has only one employee, Cocoa Drake, who started out as a HACNS parent herself, and has been the school's Teacher/Director since 1986. Parents work alongside her providing a supportive environment for the children and making the school a special place for many neighborhood families.

Over the past several years, HACNS has taken a more active role in the stewardship of Grattan Playground and clubhouse by starting the Friends of Grattan Playground. HACNS organizes regular workdays to help maintain the clubhouse and playground and encourages neighbors to join in. For more information on the school's maintenance activities, please send an email to grattan-playgroundfriends@yahoo.com.

"On our first workday three years ago, I will never forget the excitement that was created when I suggested getting new sand for the Grattan playground," said Che Heron, current HACNS president. "More than 50 neighborhood volunteers came together and helped move 25 tons of sand, completely changing the face of the play area. HACNS and the Friends of Grattan Playground have been committed to keeping that community relationship alive and moving forward with the upkeep of the playground."

District 5 Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi has been a strong supporter and has assisted the school in its park stewardship efforts. Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi observed that, "The Haight Ashbury Cooperative Nursery School is an invaluable and innovative resource that speaks to the heart of what it takes to keep families and children in San Francisco."

HACNS will be holding a Summer Carnival fund raiser at Grattan Playground, corner of Stanyan St. and Alma St., on Sunday, June 1 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Activities will take place on



the field and admission is free. There will be live music, including Gayle Schmitt and the Toodala Ramblers, carnival games and crafts, bouncy castles, a fire truck and police car visit, food/drink, plant sale and a raffle and silent auction.

For more information on HACNS' nursery school program or the Summer Carnival, go to www.hacns.com or call 415-661-9204.

—Lynn Miller



POLICE COMMUNITY FORUM

Captain Teresa Barrett holds community forums every month except December. She and her staff review criminal activity, park events, and the general safety concerns of residents. It's a good way to stay in touch with what's going on. CVIA members are strongly encouraged to attend each month from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at Park Police Station, 1899 Waller at Stanyan.

**June 10, July 8, August 12
Mark Your Calendars**

Postscripts

Cole Valley's favorite son Craig Newmark has been in the news more than usual recently since eBay filed a lawsuit against Craigslist for a corporate restructure that diluted the percentage of their shares, formerly 28.5%, thereby eliminating eBay's board appointment. The Chronicle's Ellen Lee reported, "The disagreement began when eBay launched Kijiji.com, its version of an online classified site, here in the US. eBay started the site overseas in early 2005." Craigslist attempted to buy back their stock from eBay to no avail and then pursued reorganization as the only means to protect "the long-term well-being of the Craigslist community."



* * *

No one could have been happier at Home Depot's abandonment of their plans to open in San Francisco than Cole Hardware's Rick Karp. Working with other owners of small hardware stores, Rick



fought the retail giant for five years but ultimately lost when the Board of Supervisors approved the plans in March. They immediately went to the Board of Appeal and failed again. But the plunge in the building sector changed the profit outlook and Home Depot suddenly pulled out of the deal. Rick speculates that there was more to it than that. He wrote in this month's Hardware Hotline, "(the city's) high minimum wage, mandatory health care and 'paid time off' ordinances" probably influenced their decision.

* * *

In their latest Park Police Station online newsletter, Captain Teresa Barrett described a robbery on May 1 at Frederick and Delmar. "(The perpetrators) are probably the same guys that robbed a woman at Pierce and Waller a couple of nights ago. The M.O is exactly



the same as two other cases. Two guys spot a lone person walking on the street. They wait for the right conditions—darkness and a lack of witnesses. Then they pounce. This is what happened to a lone female as she reached her home. The two guys ran up to her, thrust a gun towards her face and demanded her valuables. The victim complied and they ran off with the property leaving her terrified. Our midnight watch is definitely watching out for these two people cruising possibly in a dark small sized SUV.

* * *

Longtime CVIA member Ruth Wheeler has recently been appointed to the Citizens Advisory Committee of the Municipal Transit Agency. Ruth exhibited her knowledge of Cole Valley's Muni routes and traffic problems when she spoke at the MTA's





meetings focused on improving the Cole and Carl intersection. Ruth grew up in the neighborhood and is a faithful volunteer at the Fourth Saturday Alvord Lake gardening work parties. She joins CVIA past president Joan Downey who has been on the MTA's committee since its inception. Congratulations, Ruth.

—Karen Crommie

Letters

Editor's note: Although the writer of the following letter applauds CVIA for organizing the daily cleaning of Cole Valley's commercial corridor, he laments the state of the surrounding streets.

Dear CVIA:

If there's one glaring thing I see as a blight on Cole Valley, it's the trash blowing in the streets. It simply steals from the beauty. I can't tell you how many times I've seen little kids pick stuff up, and sometimes put it in their mouths. If it's colorful, they will go for it, like a bass to a lure.

The apathy to the situation appears endemic—based on the fact that I've never seen a single person pick up a piece of trash, other than myself.

As a community, we can do more. There could be gatherings of volunteers at Boulange de Cole for coffee, or beers at Finnigans on Sunday afternoons after a sweep of the surrounding streets. It could become a weekly event.

Getting those pizza fliers banned would also help; so would asking Sunset Scavenger to be more diligent in containing the trash during their pick-ups

I don't mean to blow the situation out of proportion but it's a shame that, beyond those three blocks of Cole Street businesses that are regularly cleaned, the neighborhood looks trashy.

Joe Caccamo

Help

- Emergency 911
- Disturbance553-0123
- Blocked Driveways & Parking on Sidewalks553-1200
- Abandoned Vehicles781-5865
- Health Department255-3610
- Litter Patrol (sofas, mattresses, etc.)..... 311
- Graffiti and Illegal Sign Removal 311
- NextBus 311
- Street Lighting 554-0730

Mayor Gavin Newsom554-6141
City Hall - Room 200
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
S.F., CA 94102

Chief of Police Heather Fong553-1551
Hall of Justice - 850 Bryant St.
S.F., CA 94103

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

Captain Teresa Barrett242-3000
Park District Police Station
1899 Waller St.
S.F., CA 94117

San Francisco Board of Supervisors

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10. Sophie Maxwell Sophie.Maxwell@sfgov.org	554-7670	554-7674
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- Vice President Lena Emmerly
- Treasurer Joan Downey
- Membership Lena Emmerly
- Community Relations Amy Blakeley
- Special Projects..... Joan Downey

CVIANEWS is published quarterly as a forum for residents of the greater Haight Ashbury neighborhood. The views expressed reflect those of the writers. Contributions for the Fall edition should be sent before August 1, 2008 to 624 Ashbury St., San Francisco, CA 94117 or kcrommie@aol.com. We encourage submissions from anyone interested in our neighborhood. Send questions or comments to the above address or call 431-1414.

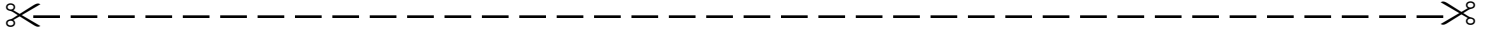
EditorKaren Crommie
Production.....David Crommie
Editorial AssistanceJoan Downey

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 \$20.00. 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 \$20.00 made payable to: COLE VALLEY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Renewal

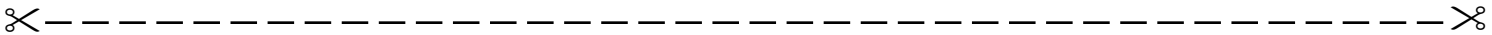
NAME _____ E-MAIL _____

ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____ FAX _____

What I like about the neighborhood: _____

What I dislike about the neighborhood: _____

I would like to help, and this is what I can do: _____



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

New Website!
CVIASF.org