

CVIA NEWS

COLE VALLEY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Volume XXII

SERVING ALL RESIDENTS OF THE GREATER HAIGHT ASHBURY

WINTER 2009

Neighborhood Divided Over Thinning of Sutro Forest

A meeting unveiling UCSF's plan to thin its eucalyptus forest drew a standing-room-only crowd on October 19 as neighbors took turns exchanging verbal blows. Make no mistake, the controversy over the university's fire mitigation plan is far more subtle than the usual tree hugger v. developer debate. Both sides were represented by well-spoken professionals dwelling in the area nearest the forest. The University, along with the volunteer group that has been toiling to rebuild the historic hiking trails, were joined by other environmental groups and neighbors to support the funding offered by the federal government (FEMA) to thin the trees and understory, part of the fire mitigation program. Attendees, some ostentatiously articulate, lined up behind a floor microphone to speak their peace — supporters in greater numbers.

Overview of Mitigation Plan

The project was described in a PowerPoint presentation by Daniel Iacofano, partner of MIG, the management consulting company hired to carry out the plan. He told the crowd that there are two projects: the first would occur in an eight-acre area where a wildfire would be particularly threatening to student housing (Aldea



Council of Neighborhood Park's founder Isabel Wade spoke in support of the forest management plan presented by UCSF on October 19.

off of Claremont Ave.) while the second would take place in a six-acre area near Edgewood Ave., where the Medical Center and the densely populated residential area on the east side of the campus are vulnerable. The primary goal is to "substantially reduce the amount of fuel and the potential for a fast-moving, high-intensity fire." Secondary objectives are to improve the health of the remaining trees, provide easier fire truck access, convert some of the forest to more fire resistant species — increasing biodiversity and age diversity to better resist insect infestation, and to provide a more attractive environmental setting for hikers.

What Will Be Removed

The plan is to remove both dead and live vegetation by means of goat grazing, mechanical and hand-clearing as well as applica

Continued on page 2, column 2.

Park Branch Library Celebrates 100 years

When the oldest (existing) library in San Francisco turns a century old, it is no small deal. Nor was it treated as such by Park Branch head librarian Kathy Delneo. On October 29, exactly 100 years to



Food and entertainment began in the morning and continued until 8 p.m.

the day of the dedication ceremony in 1909, she and her staff, working with Friends of the SF Library organizer Mary Abler, hosted a day long celebration party targeting the different age and interest groups among Park Branch users.



Urban High School's Jazz Combo

After Baby Rhyme Time and cupcakes at 10:30 a.m., there was a performance by Charity Kahn, cutting of the birthday cake, an afternoon crafts program, face painting with Erin Gallagher and a slide show by Katherine Cole Cohen on the history of the Haight Ashbury. Attendees were kept happy with pizza from North Beach Pizza, chocolates



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from Coco-luxe, and fresh fruit and vegetables from Haight Ashbury Market. Other sponsors provided cookies and dips, all of which were heartily consumed and replenished until it all finally ended at 8 p.m., two hours after normal closing time. Part of the evening's entertainment was music from the Urban High School Jazz Combo.

CVIA was proud to underwrite the event with profits from the



Supervisor Mirkarimi acknowledged the neighborhood's support for its library. (Far left, Mary Abler, FoSFPL, and Cathy Delneo, Branch Manager.)

Cole Valley Street Fair and supply volunteer help. We were joined in this effort by the Haight Ashbury Neighborhood Council, who also sponsored an essay contest for middle school students on "Why



The downstairs community room was filled for the evening program.

I Love the Park Branch."

The celebration was the best kind of gathering of neighborhood folks, young and old, along with former librarians, students, district historians and bibliophiles sharing memories, not only of the library—its wealth of books, information resources and programs—but of all the community events that had taken place over the years in its venerable basement meeting room.

Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi, in a brief speech to the crowd, characterized the recent acrimony over the scheduled plans to renovate the library (No Changes, Ever!) as an admirable demonstration of fierce library support and, ultimately, sensible compromise. He also commented that people, who wanted the start date of the renovation to be postponed until after the centenary got more than they wished for—the refurbishment, originally scheduled to begin in October, has now been

—Karen Crommie

Continued from Page 1, column 1.

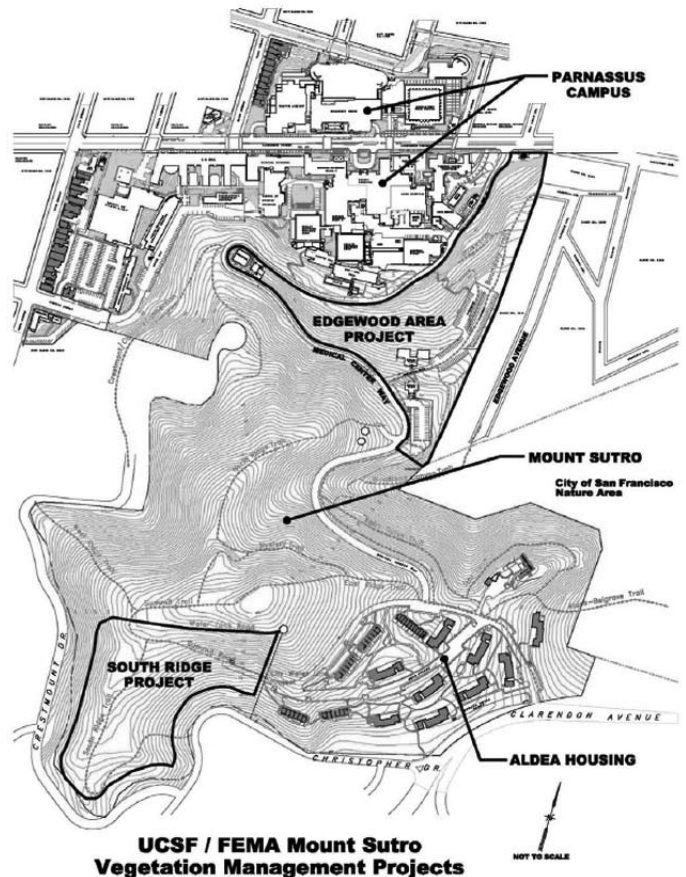
tion of chemicals. The predominant species to be removed are blue gum eucalyptus and Himalayan blackberry. The biomass would be reduced by removing up to 90 percent of the brush and trees (less than 12 inches in diameter) and selectively removing larger trees with the goal of maintaining a sparse canopy of dominant trees and removing limbs, vines and loose bark up to ten feet from the ground.

Over Our Dead Bodies

Members of the opposition had distributed fliers listing their concerns before the meeting began, stating that the program will increase fire hazard by opening up "this wet forest" to drying air, will not protect houses because the plan leaves the trees closest to residences remaining, introduces toxic herbicides that will be used during the process of killing unwanted vegetation, increases the potential of landslides, reduces the CO₂ needed to lower greenhouse gasses, destroys the neighborhood's windbreak, and that the proposed "native replacement trees" will not tolerate the conditions of the hillside (the flier sites Tank Hill, where efforts to replace eucalyptus with native trees are said to have failed).

Dawson Rebutts

In a dramatic move and barely containing his rage, Craig Dawson, head of the Mt. Sutro Stewards, held up the opponents' flier and refuted each claim. He was followed by scores of people



who supported the plan and expressed the feeling that serious forest management was long overdue. In an earlier message to CVIA, Dawson wrote, "It took UCSF 10 years to find the funding to begin to mitigate the danger on their property and Rec Park is just beginning that process for the Interior Greenbelt. Meanwhile the fuel load remains unaddressed and has, in fact, been rapidly increasing due to

CVIA's Position

The plan had been discussed at length at several meetings of the CVIA board. Both Dawson and Orlando Elizondo (UCSF Community Relation) came to meetings discussing the plans and asking for our support. But that didn't mean we immediately backed the project. Because we are a neighborhood organization, our responsibility is to represent residents, and certainly over the years we have learned to maintain a healthy skepticism of any UCSF plan. Nevertheless, the advantages of receiving federal money to carry out what we have all known needed to be done and the added benefit of providing the massive land-moving equipment to complete the hiking trails was very persuasive. The CVIA Board voted unanimously to support the plan.

—Karen Crommie

Haight Ashbury Museums Are Blowin' in the Wind

It seems you have to read the Wall Street Journal to find out what's going on here. Booksmith owner Praveen Madan alerted us to an article in the November 5 issue reporting Dr. David Smith's plan to convert the large building he owns at 1692 Haight Street into a museum highlighting the work of the Free Clinics. At the same time, (and we *did* know about *this*) artist David Wills is looking for a space for a museum with emphasis on the whole hippy scene: art, music, personalities and philosophy. He and partner Andy Bayowski have backers waiting in the wings and are reported to be in talks currently with a Haight property owner regarding a location. As appealing these museums will be for visitors to the neighborhood, it could mean added woes for residents.



It's Still Not Easy Being Green

John Upton recently reported in the SF Examiner (10-20-09) that Haight neighbors Karen and Douglas Kitt spent nearly \$90,000 to install solar panels on their house on Page Street only to have neighbors Maureen Gannon and Rohit Verma file an appeal with the city stating that the panels are "dangerous" and could harm not only the character of the neighborhood, but (gasp) property values. Since over 75 Haight Ashbury and Cole Valley families have already filed applications to erect solar panels, the case could have a long-term implication.

CVIA Officers

- President..... Lena Emmery
- Vice President Marianne Hesse
- Treasurer Joan Downey
- Membership Lena Emmery
- Community Relations Amy Blakeley
- Special Projects Joan Downey

Santa Photos on Cole Street!

Avoid long lines and busy malls. Plan to come to the Postal Chase for that classic holiday photo of your child (or pet) with the guy in the red suit.



Sunday, December 6th

Postal Chase
912 Cole Street

Morning Afternoon
10 a.m. - Noon 2 - 4 p.m.

Hey, this is high quality Santa photography right here in Cole Valley. Don't stand in line: simply sign in and be given a number and approximate wait time. In the meantime, go have a hot chocolate, or start tackling your Christmas shopping. Later, go online and order photos directly or purchase the photo file for holiday cards or gifts.

Photo sitting fee is \$20.00. Online orders start at just \$1.00 per photo and \$15 for the photo file. Santa on Cole is a fund raiser supporting the Cole Valley sidewalk cleaning program. All of our "elves" are friendly members of the Cole Valley neighborhood who look forward to helping you make this holiday season truly memorable.

This event is sponsored by: Loic Nicolas Photography, Postal Chase, Cole Valley Antiques, Cole Hardware, Tully's, Walgreen's, La Boulange de Cole, Carolyn Rebuffel and CVIA.

Remembrance: An Earlier Visit by Santa to Cole Street

I remember vividly, back in the 40s, when Santa Claus visited Cole Street. I happened to be downtown on errands with my mother (Katherine Arnerich). My sister Frances and brother Joe were home at 1314 Cole Street. While I was downtown that particular day, Santa had come up Cole Street on a large truck or float with music and loudspeaker announcing that Rita Arnerich had won the contest sponsored by Bell Brook Dairy in naming their signature cow. I had submitted the name "Betsy Brook" with little hope of winning. The prize was five dollars, a small Brownie camera and Christmas candy canes, which Santa left with my sister and brother. This was a huge, wonderful surprise for all of us. I enjoyed the celebrity at age 11. Bell Brook Dairy, which was very popular in the city in those days, has long disappeared. My Brownie camera is gone with time, Betsy Brook is in other pastures, but the happy memory jogged by reading your "Santa Plans" remains. Welcome back Santa!

—Rita Arnerich Veideman



Would you like a copy of this newsletter sent to a neighbor? Leave a message at 431-1414 with their name and address and consider it done.

Now It's Ice Skating on Waller

Norm Jaeger is in the business of building ice rinks. Last month Rec and Park property manager Chris Mack sent an email to the Haight's neighborhood organizations informing them that "Rec and Park is planning (to issue) a temporary permit for an ice skating rink to be located on the Waller Street paved area," from Thanksgiving through January. That means there are *three* different projects vying for that relatively small stretch of concrete. Since then, Jaeger is getting cold feet (no pun intended) and may postpone his enterprise until next year. In a phone conversation with CVIA president Lena Emmerly, Jaeger said that they had originally asked Rec and Park for the 2010-11 date, but they were encouraged to bring plans forward to this year. And there's a reason for that.

In the Spring issue we wrote about an "event" at the site celebrating an \$80,000 feasibility study for a skateboard park that drew Rec and Park commissioners, Supervisor Mirkarimi and Captain Barrett, indicating the massive political weight behind this facility. In fact, Nick Kinsey of Rec and Park is in the process of selecting a designer



How will outdoor ice skating coexist with a skate board park?

for the skate park and, once the design firm has been chosen, will hold several community forums to get neighborhood input.

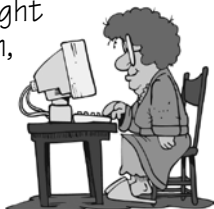
In the meantime, those pushing for a farmers market in that space have had their way greased by Supervisor Mirkarimi who recently passed legislation to lower the cost of permits on Rec and Park property.

While I can see how the stalls of a farmers' market could conform to the surface variation required by a skate park, and possibly make it more interesting, I cannot see how that same surface could be transformed to an ice skating rink come next winter. Yet Jaeger seems to think he has a chance for a Rec and Park go-ahead then. The whole thing becomes more mysterious as the months go by.

—Karen Crommie

Call for News

We need news items, articles, letters, opinion pieces. Please tell us what you know about Cole Valley and the greater Haight Ashbury: handwritten, typewritten, e-mailed or scrawled on a cocktail napkin. We want to hear from you! CVIA News: 624 Ashbury St. or cviasf@aol.com.



What a Neighborhood Business Owes its Residents

Anyone who went through the seventies in the Haight, when stores were boarded up and the streets were littered with the living dead (as well as the Grateful Dead), would never, ever underestimate the contribution of vibrant businesses to a neighborhood.

These small stores are what keeps our gardens flourishing, our bodies well-fed, our clothes clean, our pets in food, our prescriptions filled and where we meet our neighbors and share the daily back and forth that gives Cole Valley the feeling of a village. Just as we owe these shopkeepers our patronage for being close at hand when we need them, they owe us a few things.

We expect business owners to run a clean establishment with fresh merchandise at a fair price. But we also expect them to sweep their storefronts and sidewalks and keep the public right of way clear. While it's true that most Cole Valley businesses sweep in front of their buildings in the morning, because of the take-away food, public transit, general foot traffic and prevailing winds, trash does not stop circulating at the door of those who have swept. If the whole corridor is not cleaned, simply sweeping one storefront does not work. Trash must be removed from the whole area once a day for noticeable results.

Our Cole Valley merchants comprise a community, whether they acknowledge it or not—even if they are part of a small chain of stores and even if the owner goes home at night to a different county. In some things they must work together. Nowhere is there a more important common cause than clean sidewalks.

A dollar a day doesn't seem like very much to make this happen and yet fewer than half of Cole Valley merchants pony up for the service. The ten who contribute pay for the rest. The shortfall is made up by proceeds from the Cole Valley Fair, a generous CVIA member, who wishes to remain anonymous, and a reduced fee by CleanScapes. And, as always, any contribution from individuals is welcome.

So, as CVIA board member Joan Downey prepares to deliver letters to the merchants asking for participation, each of us can help by speaking to the people we deal with in the stores and encouraging them to contribute to the 2010 program. We need to raise awareness that a clean Cole Street is important to their customers. (Go to CVIASF.org/clean-cole-street for an updated list of contributing merchants.)

—Karen Crommie

Thanks to the members . . .

...who send us encouraging notes, renew for multiple years and send contributions. We just want to mention a few of them here: Les Silverman, Leigh Ann Baughman, Ira Govan, Constance and Dan Reid, Voytech Licko, Margareta Ekblad, Richard Felciano, John Manning, Dennis Martino, Dave and Ginny Keller and Gerardo Joffe.



Since litter moves, simply sweeping in front of one store does not work.

Haight Street in Crisis (Again)

A vocal Group of Haight Street merchants and residents met with Park District Police Station's brass and beat officers on October 19 at Martin Mack's Bar and Restaurant to, once again, tackle the problem of indigents' behavior on Haight Street. The meeting was jointly hosted by Captain Teresa Barrett and Haight Ashbury Improvement Association merchant chair Kent Uyehara.

Captain Barrett related the continuing frustration experienced by beat officers who find their arrest citations of habitual alcoholics being thrown into the trash can by the District Attorney. Officer Brett Kaczmarczyk spoke of certain offenders that have been arrested



Park District Police Station Captain Teresa Barrett brought eight members of her staff to confer with Haight business owners and residents.

hundreds of times and are still allowed to return to the neighborhood to panhandle. Barrett suggested that nothing substantial will change until legislation is enacted making it illegal to sit or lie down on the commercial district's sidewalks. She said that Tacoma, Washington and Portland, Oregon* recently instituted such laws.

Uyehara acknowledged that some merchants are reluctant to report quality of life violations such as urinating in doorways for fear of retaliation. Uyehara said he has assumed the role of Proxy for several merchants who are "burned out" from calling the police to report violations.



HAIA Merchant chair Kent Uyehara

Frank's Liquors and Sunshine Liquors were repeatedly mentioned as businesses that irresponsibly sell liquor to intoxicated people. Others spoke of "Hell's Angels" motorcyclists that loudly ride into the neighborhood late at night to make drug sales on Haight Street. And, of course, there was the usual outrage with groups of "homeless" street youth clogging the sidewalks with their camping gear and dogs.

So, in the time honored tradition of the Haight, it was a pretty typical meeting with residents expressing fear and outrage, police voicing their frustration, and merchants worried about the business fall out. The interested parties plan to meet again in late November.

—David Crommie

*Portland's sit/lie law was scuttled by Multnomah County Circuit Judge Stephen Bushong on August 14, 2009 on constitutional grounds. The city is appealing the decision.

Who Named It "Cole Valley?"

When Stephen Short of KALW recently contacted CVIA asking about the origin of "Cole Valley" for a feature he was doing on place names, we put it out for comments. Here's what we got:

"Growing up in the neighborhood, the first I knew that we had a name (other than the Haight) is when I saw a sign on the window of Bank of America, "Parnassus Heights," located where Cole Fitness is. That was in the 60s. Yes, back then we had a post office, a pharmacy and a dentist, too." (Virginia Joosen)

"My recollection is that it came about in a rather snobbish manner. Homeowners in the upper Haight wanted to distinguish themselves property-value wise, from the lower Haight and Haight Street. But that may be my cynical memory of the time. I believe it was in the mid '70s, when the area was continuing its revitalization full speed. Prior to that time, we always referred to our store as being in the Haight Ashbury and were (and are) proud of it!" (Rick Karp)

"I don't know about the Cole Valley designation, but Cole Street is named after Dr. Beverly Cole, one of the leading physicians in the establishment of what has become UCSF." (Douglas Hall)

"The story I heard was that it all started with the liquor store calling itself "Val de Cole." It took off from there. I think some poet was involved, too. The one with the British accent who died about 5 years ago...(Thom) Gunn?" (Karen Crommie)

Greg Gaar (our local historian) and David Crommie agree with Rick Karp that it was a term used by a real estate person/office to repackage this part of the Haight in or around the 70s.

Please send comments to cviasf@aol.com and we'll continue this discussion in the next issue.

Muni Changes on December 5

After reporting on the changes in Muni's service to our neighborhood for over a year now the plans have been finalized and December 5 has been announced as the start date.

There will be a shortening of service hours, particularly late at night, on the 6-Parnassus, 33-Stanyan, 37-Corbett and 71-Haight/Parnassus. (Go to www.sfmta.com for details.)

The most important change is on the N-Judah line, which will no longer go from the Embarcadero to the Caltrain station on weekends. (That means no direct service to AT&T Park, either.)

The terminus of the 6-Parnassus will change from the Transbay Terminal to Ferry Plaza at Market and Steuart streets.

The 71-Haight/Noriega will change its present downtown terminus to First and Mission Street.

The 7-Haight will be discontinued and the 43-Masonic will remain unchanged.

POLICE COMMUNITY FORUM

Captain Teresa Barrett holds community forums the second Tuesday of every month (except December) from 6 to 7:30 p.m. 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.

January 12, February 10, March 9
Mark Your Calendars

Diary of a Street Fair Organizer



This is the third year Joan Downey has organized the Cole Valley Fair.

Ed. Note: I asked Cole Valley Fair organizer Joan Downey to jot down her recollections of the day of the Cole Valley Fair because I think it will help folks understand the scope of the task.

6 a.m.: Five cars are parked where we've posted "No Parking" the signs; DPT isn't there as planned (after many calls they showed up at 6:40 and so didn't have time to try to contact the owners of the cars before issuing the tickets and implementing towing). Joe Sablon and his CleanScapes crew were there to clean the whole area before the fair started. I saw Joe himself cleaning muck from the gutters on Parnassus. Justine Hancock and Cole Roberts set up the street barricades (the police delivered them two days before) and chalked off the 10' x 10' vendor spots on the street. Then Hartman Studios arrives with canopies, tables, and chairs and were very efficient in setting things up; they even helped us hang signs.

7 a.m.: The vendors start arriving. Brendan McKenna, Carolyn McKenna, Maryann Hrichak, and Suene Waldman man the intersections where they direct the vendors to their spots and manage the chaos on the street during the setup. These volunteers made all the difference and because of them we received compliments from the vendors. Maryann did double duty and produced the schedule of events on A-frame stands. Judy Mahnke organized the vendor parking in the Grattan School lot, which got a late start because, in spite of all our signs, a neighbor had parked his car across the entrance to the parking lot!



Merchants of Cole Valley were featured in photo display by Jessica Justino.

helps Jessica Justino hang the historic photos and her 2009 "Merchants of Cole Valley" display. Bill Thomas assists CVIA board member Chuck Canepa prepare Parnassus Street for the antique car show.

9 a.m.: Nona Thomas and Amy Blakeley check that each vendor is displaying the crafts previously accepted by the jury (CVIA board members). Only one vendor was not in compliance: she was showing mostly jewelry but had applied for a booth that sold children's clothing. Amy got that corrected. The Health Department tells me that the portable toilets are

too far away from the food vendors, otherwise all the vendors will get a good report; the Fire Department inspector tells me he is charging us last year's fee (\$630) instead of more than \$900. This means he was working on his own time. The crowds start coming while booth setup is finishing.

1 p.m.: Bill Hancock, who ran the "Pet Tricks" contest at the previous two fairs, decided it was time to give it a rest. But a few neighbors who had been teaching their dogs tricks all year, were so disappointed they decided to stage themselves. It was a huge success as the crowd applauded for their

favorite dog and determined the winner. The problem was that we had a full slate of musicians performing. They agreed to hold the event while the musicians' were setting up. Unfortunately it ran much longer and overlapped on the musicians' scheduled playing time causing some hard feelings. (Still can't figure out why people love "Pet Tricks" so much.)

2 p.m.: Richard Magary and Carole Glosenger managed the musicians: made sure they started and ended on time, updated the signs, provided water, monitored their sound level, and gave them their chits for a free T-shirt. Isn't it great that we can get this kind of talent gratis? I love it that people bring their own chairs. Only one group – The Ferocious Few – didn't abide by the rules. All the groups sign an agreement that only vocals will have a battery-pack amplifier that won't be heard any more than 20 feet – and that they will comply with an order to turn the volume down if asked. The Few were way louder and refused to turn down their sound so I asked the police to stop them. It wasn't an easy decision since they had an appreciative crowd – and I liked their music too! – but we have to consider the neighbors, the fair attendees, and the vendors. To be fair to these musicians, their manager may have signed the agreement and not let them know.

3 p.m.: Dave Morse, along with CVIA Board members monitored the fair throughout the day: they reported when trash barrels were full and relieved solo vendors when needed. The jumpy house (we're so grateful the Haight Ashbury Community Nursery School took over the monitoring of it!), Buki, the face painter, and Twee Twee, the balloon artist, kept kids busy all day. Where do all these little ones come from?

4 p.m.: Most vendors reported sales better than last year – great news when the economy is in the dumps. We're lucky to have such a talented group of artists that we can present. The Booksmith booth is always a favorite: a neighborhood shop that showcases local writers. Janis Bell, author of Clean Well Lighted Sentences had a quiz that no one passed! I think we all need her book! Check out her quiz at <http://cviasf.org/cole-valley-fair/>

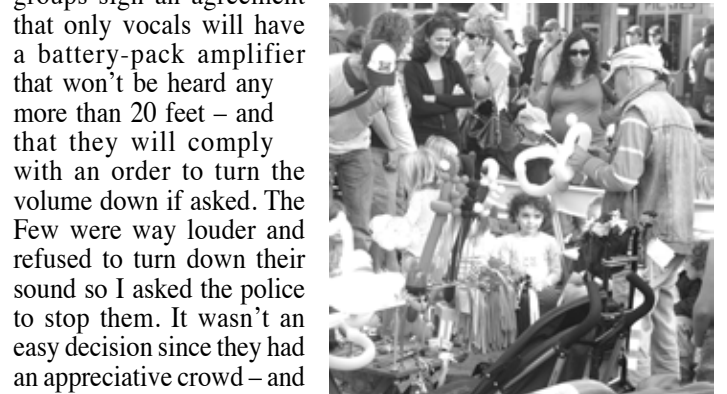
Although "Pet Tricks" had been cancelled, dog owners staged an impromptu competition to everyone's delight.



Although "Pet Tricks" had been cancelled, dog owners staged an impromptu competition to everyone's delight.

Again Twee Twee drew the largest crowd for his balloon animals.

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Competition for booth space was tougher this year and quality improved.

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CVIA Board Minutes

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.

September

Location: Home of Douglas Hall. Date: September 7, 2009

- Reviewed last meeting's resolutions, discussed current Haight issues, heard reports from committee heads and from delegates the Kezar Stadium Advisory Committee and the Coalition for S.F. Neighborhoods. Welcomed Mary Abler from the Friends of the SF Public Library.

- Treasurer Joan Downey reported a balance of \$2,107.49 in the CVIA account.

- Discussed lessons learned on this year's Summer Social: fewer tables, smaller finger food, bigger, stronger plates. CVIA subsidized the members' admission fee with a contribution of \$600.00

- President Lena Emmery read a report submitted by Richard Magary on the move to landmark the Park Branch Library before the currently planned renovation is to take place. The information hearing at the Landmarks Preservation Commission on September 2 reviewed the pros and cons of a request made by the Library's User Group (Peter Warfield). Viewed by Friends of the SFPL as a tactic to delay the scheduled construction work, which will close the library for a year. All present at the hearing agreed that landmarking the building was probably a good idea but staff, and neighborhood representatives wanted to postpone any action until after the renovation work is completed.

- Friends of the SFPL staff member Mary Abler reported on plans for the Park Branch's Centennial Celebration on October 29. There will be a volunteer meeting on Sept. 22 at 7 p.m. Abler is seeking contributions of money, food and volunteer hours for the success of the party. Later she will be fund-raising for the interior fixtures and furnishings of the renovated library.

Voted to send the Park Branch \$500 toward the celebration and the interior appointments.

- Motion approved to raise dues from \$20 per year to \$25 per year.

- Karen Crommie reported on the August meeting of the Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods, which CVIA co-hosted. (Then) CVIA president David Crommie addressed the assembly, recounting the history of CVIA. Copies of the Fall CVIA newsletter were distributed. The CSFN meeting dealt with November's ballot propositions, the pros and cons of which Karen related.

- Karen Crommie reported on an upcoming meeting with Golden Gate Park director Gloria Koch-Gonzalez and Rob Bakewell (Native Oak Forest volunteer leader) about possible projects in the Alvord Lake area that might qualify for a Community Challenge Grant.

- Cole Valley Fair organizer Joan Downey reviewed the rising costs of permits (the SF Fire Department and the Department of Public Health both nearly tripled their fees) and the lower participation by merchant sponsors. Profit is estimated at one-third less than in 2008. The only possibilities for more income are the sale of the Paul Madonna-designed posters and T-shirts.

- It was decided to use high quality American Apparel T-shirts at a cost of \$17.20 for short sleeve, \$20.20 for long-sleeve; that any necessary car towing on fair day will be done by DPT, which is less expensive than SFPD; reviewed volunteer list and CVIA booth items each would provide.

- Joan reviewed new expenses for the "Santa on Cole Street" project including a poster. Discussion of details was continued to next meeting.

- Meeting adjourned at 10:00

October

Location: Home of Carole Glosenger. Date: October 5, 2009.

- Reviewed last meeting's resolutions, discussed current Haight issues, heard reports from committee heads and from delegates to 5Together, the Kezar Stadium Advisory Committee and the Coalition for S.F. Neighborhoods. Welcomed member Shannon Cooper-Hock.

- Treasurer's report postponed to next month because treasurer Joan Downey is on vacation.

- Discussed Cole Valley Fair: Decided to keep Cole Valley Fair on fourth Sunday for next three years. In 2013 date will have to be changed to accommodate Rosh Hashanah. Other recommendations were forwarded to Fair organizer Joan Downey.

- Karen reported on the Coalition for SF's unsuccessful efforts to mitigate the current SF Housing Element of the City's General Plan and described a presentation given by a group at its September meeting opposing the building of the Central Subway and the heated discussion that followed.

- Decided to invite Supervisor Mirkarimi to the November meeting.

- Santa on Cole Street: Carole Glosenger agreed to price a professional Santa. Amy Blakeley will contact photographer Loic Nicolas regarding coordinating publicity i.e., placing posters at Library, store windows, website, email, etc. Will ask Cole Hardware to put notice in November newsletter.

- Shannon Cooper described dangerous intersection at Clayton and 17th where traffic signals give conflicting information resulting in recent accidents. She will write a description and provide a map of problem. CVIA will get this to DPT to be corrected.

- Adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

November

Location: Home of Lena Emmery and Chuck Canepa. Date: November 2, 2009

- Reviewed last meeting's resolutions, discussed current Haight issues, heard reports from committee heads and from delegates the Kezar Stadium Advisory Committee and the Coalition for S.F. Neighborhoods. Welcomed CVIA members Patrick Jennings and Shannon Cooper-Hock

- Treasurer Joan Downey reported that CVIA has \$500 in its active account, with \$22,500 in the Cole Valley Fair account (earmarked for pending bills from the city for various Fair permits, annual contribution toward daily sidewalk cleaning, cost of annual meeting [Summer Social], accounting/tax preparation and 2010 Fair seed money). Approximately \$7,000 of is unencumbered and can be donated to the community.

- Motion approved to have Joan call a meeting of the six restaurants currently within the Cole Valley Fair boundaries to see if they would be willing to provide walk-away, fair-type food for the fair attendees, thereby releasing the Fair from the expensive Health Department and Fire Department permits. If they are not all interested in providing food to be sold from fair booths, but prepared within their restaurants, we will proceed with vendors from last year and/or some pushcart food.

■ Motion approved to have Joan investigate moving the fair one half block north so that Reverie, Occasions, Crepes on Cole and Say Cheese would be included in the fair boundaries. The N-Judah would move through the fair with a monitor alerting fairgoers.

■ Motion to make another donation to the campaign for the Park Branch Library interior furnishings. Amount to be determined when contribution options are made public.

■ Discussed the increasingly threatening atmosphere of numbers of transient young people sitting on the Haight Street after dark. Supervisor Mirkarimi feels that police should use existing laws to discourage them from making camp. For example, cite for blocking right of way, open containers, unleashed dogs, drunkenness, harassing passersby, smoking pot, etc. Where are foot patrols on Haight Street at night? Mirkarimi expressed doubt over the mandatory rotation of SFPD captains, feeling that they spend much of their time playing "catch up" on community issues and players.

■ Agreed that David Crommie would write letter to Captain Teresa Barrett regarding kids on Haight Street (back up with e-mails).

■ Supervisor Mirkarimi told us he had invited John Brennan and representatives from the Planning Department to discuss the establishment of a Whole Foods Market in the existing (Cala Foods) building at Stanyan and Haight. He encouraged them to stay on course in giving the Haight a full-service grocery store.

■ There are plans for giant mobile illuminated traffic signs (called "go signs") to be placed both on Fell and Oak streets. One on Fell will direct westbound motorists into the Concourse garage, while the Oak sign will warn drivers of the upcoming right lane turn to Octavia Boulevard. Joan Downey will bring this up at the next MTA citizens advisory committee meeting. Related to this, Mirkarimi has also initiated a study on Octavia Boulevard regarding the unintended consequences of having two right turn lanes in force only during peak hours.

■ Supervisor Mirkarimi is attempting to designate the streets along the Panhandle as residential parking zones to discourage overnight car camping. CVIA member Patrick Jennings asked for a stop sign on Clayton at Carl St. to discourage motorists from speeding up the hill going south toward 17th Street. Joan Downey will bring this up at MTA citizens advisory committee.

■ Supervisor Mirkarimi has had little success in his contacts with the United Method Church headquarters in Sacramento regarding the fate of Hamilton Church. With its stunning Julia Morgan building (currently without historical protection) and large gymnasium, it is a resource that should be sold for housing or otherwise utilized in some productive way.

■ Joan Downey announced the start of the annual drive to persuade Cole Street merchants, who benefit from the daily street cleaning, to actually help pay for it. Last year only 10 paid the dollar a day (\$350 per year) to cover the cost of \$1,000 per month. In past years the deficit has been made up by CVIA, CleanScapes and a single member out of his own pocket. This anonymous donor is losing faith that the merchants (all of whom live outside the neighborhood) really care about the cleanliness of the commercial corridor.

■ Joan has met with CleanScapes regional director Joe Sablon to discuss expanding their cleaning area to the adjacent blocks..

■ Motion approved to include on the membership renewal form a space for contributions to the daily sweeping of the Cole Street commercial corridor — with acknowledgment in the newsletter.

■ Motion approved to oppose the building of a skateboard park at the end of Waller Street.

■ Meeting adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

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

Mirkarimi Gives a Leg Up to Plans for a Farmers Market

The Board of Supervisors on October 6th approved Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi's ordinance to lower the cost for farmers' market permits on Recreation and Park property. Previously, the fee was \$50 per day per vendor. The legislation replaces this with a flat \$475 fee for a six-month permit for an unlimited number of stalls



New ruling paves the way for a farmers market in the Haight.

for markets held once a week. The previous fee was both difficult to administer and too expensive for any potential farmers' markets to bear. The Rec and Park department is working with the Pacific Coast Farmers' Market Association (PCFMA) and neighborhood groups to bring a new farmers' market to the closed portion of Waller Street off Stanyan in Golden Gate Park, which hopefully will begin early next year.

Said Ted Loewenberg, president of the Haight Ashbury Improvement Association, active supporters of the market, "This new fee effectively brings the cost down to a dollar or two a day incrementally over the existing PCFMA agreement with its participants."

He added, "It should be noted that the total management of the market is conducted by the PCFMA. They select the farmer participants. They manage the certification of local production, review the organic certificates for compliance with standards, set the hours, etc. They ensure compliance with all requirements for keeping the site clean, and clean up afterwards. They assume all the liability for their participants.

Due to rising printing and mailing costs, CVIA's annual dues will increase to \$25 on January 1, 2010.

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. Send us *your* e-mail address if you want to be notified of upcoming meetings and events of importance to our neighborhood.

Priorities for Alvard Lake Area

During a walkabout with Golden Gate Park Manager Gloria Koch-Gonzalez, park volunteers Rob Bakewell and Karen Crommie discussed needed improvements to the Stanyan Street park entrance around Alvard Lake. Although both Rob and Karen produced their own long lists, Gonzalez was more concise. She gave priority to the following for future projects:

1. Alvard Bridge and tunnel have cracked buttresses, broken stalactites and leaks. Fund a structural engineering study as a basis for planning future restoration.

2. Add a sidewalk to the park edge on Stanyan between Haight and Page — to formalize the unsightly footpath worn into the turf.



Without a sidewalk, pedestrians have worn away the grass along Stanyan.

the Stanyan stairs. The tree roots are undermined and ground cover vegetation is missing. This is essentially a landscape renovation project that Rec and Park volunteers have the skills ability to do, but not the time. It involves slope stabilization with park logs, revegetation with oak understory and exclusion of foot traffic.

4. At our site meeting we also discussed the possibility of recreational programming, such as unamplified bluegrass jams (no



The slope on the south side of the entrance path is badly eroded.

drums) or hula hoop classes — key to changing the misuse patterns in this area — along with restoring the rest room with a monitoring concession such as some kind of warming hut, information center, hot chocolate hut, (possibly returning the Ghirardelli shelter now at Bunny Meadow).

Reminder: Because of Thanksgiving, the next Alvard Lake gardening work party takes place on Saturday, Dec. 5 from 9 a.m. to noon. For more information call Karen Crommie at 431-1414 or kcrommie@aol.com.

Add five more high branching trees to complete the reforestation begun along the edge, enhancing the internal park experience while maintaining sight lines.

3. Erosion management and landscape restoration is needed on the sandy slope along

After Three Years, Whole Foods Market Is a Done Deal

John Brennan has finally signed a lease with Whole Foods Market to occupy the former Cala Foods store at Haight and Stanyan. Attorney and son Mark Brennan said, "There is no hard timetable



Cala Foods, emptied in 2006, is currently a public parking lot.

right now, but we anticipate that the store will open in late 2010." Plans for the residential housing and an underground garage have been dropped for a combination of economic reasons. Whole Foods is expected to occupy the same space as the former market, including the adjacent parking lot. "We are happy to announce that the Haight will nevertheless have a full-service grocery store for the first time since Cala closed its doors in May 2006," he added.

Postscripts

The Booksmith co-owner Praveen Madan is now blogging regularly on the Huffington Post. The excellent articles are a must read for anyone interested in the business of books and in getting a close look at one of the Haight Ashbury's most interesting merchant/residents. Go to www.huffingtonpost.com/praveen-madan

Richard Magary of the Buena Vista Neighborhood Association recently told us that Doug Murphy, who had an ownership interest in Trax Bar on Haight Street, passed away. Doug also owned three bars in the Castro — Moby Dick, 440 Castro and Blackbird (formerly Metro, on Market near Church).

Supervisor Mirkarimi has authored an ordinance that would ban plastic newspaper delivery bags unless they are compostable or recyclable in the blue bin. The ordinance has the flexibility to allow the use of plastic bags in rain or other wet conditions if compostable and/or recyclable bags are otherwise unavailable. Currently, the bags used by newspapers are not compostable. While it is technically possible to recycle them, none of the recycling firms in San Francisco are capable of doing so. Robert Reed, a spokesman for Sunset Scavenger calls plastic bags "the biggest challenge in the waste stream."



Praveen Madan

**THINK HOLIDAY CARDS.
GET A PICTURE WITH SANTA. (PAGE 3)**

Letters

Dear CVIA:

[Regarding the Muni park on Carl near Cole] I continue to be of the mind that the spaces below the handicap platforms should be meshed off to prevent, not only the sleepers, but also the storage of sleeping materials that are there now.

As the wet season is here, this will only accelerate the problem and further facilitate camping in doorways, streets and in the Muni park.

The MTA needs to step up. As I have indicated previously, once MTA has been informed of a clear and attractive nuisance with photo evidence thereof, their liability regarding an accident or fatality goes through the roof.

James Judge

Ed. Note; CVIA's complaints to the SF Municipal Transit Agency (the mini park is under their jurisdiction, not Rec and Park) have been met with advice to "go to the police." Park Police District's Captain Teresa Barrett has assigned sector cars to regularly patrol the area. That's about as far as anyone is willing to go.

Dear CVIA:

I wish to reiterate my grave concerns about plans to place a skateboard park in such close proximity to both a residential neighborhood and one which has businesses (i.e. yoga and massage studios and a long standing hotel) that specifically rely on a quiet environment for their continued success.

The skateboarding event that took place there [in July] was so loud and disruptive that the noise from the event carried at least three blocks from the site into my home. Also, when I was out walking with my mother, who uses a walker, skateboarders, who obviously came for the event chose to skateboard down the sidewalk on Waller Street, making it difficult for the two of us to safely make our way down the street. While the skateboarders were polite, it is a foregone conclusion that, if a skateboard park were put in the Waller and Stanyan Street location, skateboarders would then use Waller Street as one of their main thoroughfares, making it difficult for older neighbors, as well as mothers with young children to safely get around.

All skateboard parks, historically, have been placed in locations where they are away from residential and business areas. There are sound reasons for this and the city and Rec and Park need to find a more suitable location where the burden is not, once again, placed on this neighborhood's long suffering residents.

Marianne Hesse

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 Spring edition should be sent before February 1, 2010 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.

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Help

- Emergency** 911
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 S.F., CA 94103
- District Attorney Kamala Harris**.....553-1741
 Hall of Justice - 850 Bryant St.
 S.F., CA 94103
- Captain Teresa Barrett**242-3000
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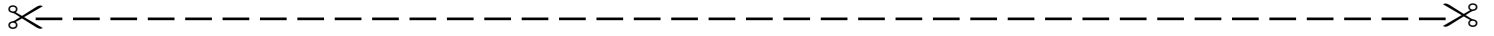
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BECOME A CVIA MEMBER

Membership in the Cole Valley Improvement Association is open to anyone interested in the greater Haight Ashbury. CVIA's mission is to promote a sense of responsibility and mutual respect throughout the district; preserve the character of its architecture; support the police in law enforcement efforts; encourage neighborhood-serving business; and be

constructively involved in San Francisco's governmental process. Annual dues are \$25.00. Membership provides contact with other responsible neighbors, a quarterly newsletter and participation in an active forum for effecting change. If you would like to become a member, please send in your dues with the form below.

Please clip and mail the coupon below to CVIA, P.O. Box 170611, San Francisco, CA 94117



Yes! I'd like to become a CVIA member!

Here's my check for \$25.00 made payable to: COLE VALLEY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION Renewal

NAME _____ E-MAIL _____

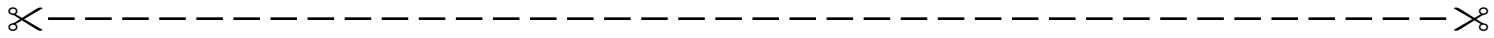
ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____ FAX _____

What I like about the neighborhood: _____

What I dislike about the neighborhood: _____

Optional contribution to Cole sidewalk cleaning \$_____ Okay to acknowledge by name in newsletter

Dues paid to CVIA are not deductible as charitable contributions but may be taken as a business expense. Any amounts greater than the membership dues may be taken as a charitable deduction. Contact your accountant regarding your tax law.



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

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