COLE VALLEY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Volume XXXII

SERVING ALL RESIDENTS OF THE GREATER HAIGHT ASHBURY

WINTER 2018

#### **Santa Comes To Cole Street On Sunday, December 2**

Come and have your picture taken with Santa without the hassle of driving to a mall or waiting in long lines. The proceeds help fund Clean Cole Street, the project that pays for the sidewalk cleaning of our commercial area every day.

Loic Nicolas, a popular photographer with consistent 5-star reviews on Yelp and a CVIA member, came up with this fund-raising idea ten years ago and donates a day of his time for the good of his neighborhood. His photos are wonderful and he is a delight to watch while he works. We're so fortunate to have Loic as a neighbor and supporter.

As always, Chuck Canepa is our handsome Santa. He even bought his own Santa suit a few years ago and so is fully committed (we hope). Chuck not only looks good, but he's also great with the kids. And, yes, this is the same Chuck who organizes the car show for the Cole Valley Fair.

Maryo Mogannam graciously allows us to use Postal Chase for the event every year. Board members serve as the "elves" who usher the kids and parents through the process while trying to calm



Santa with Cole Valley's Joshua Leventhal.

Photo: Loic Nicolas

the littlest ones who are not too sure about the guy with the white beard (although those in distress sometimes make the best photos).

Please come by with your kids, grand kids, pets, or yourself on Sunday, December 2 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The cost of the sitting is \$20 and prints start at \$1. Digital files are \$15 to \$35 depending on resolution. Photos are available within 24 hours. See loicphoto. com/santa for more information. And spread the word!

—Joan Downey

#### ANNUAL HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING

Thursday, December 6 from 4 to 8 p.m. McLaren Lodge, Golden Gate Park

#### **Off the Grid Has Moved On**

It's with sadness that we learned that Off the Grid would be halting operations in the Haight Ashbury. CVIA was instrumental in bringing Off the Grid to the Waller Street location—which we still think, in our humble opinion, is their loveliest location—nearly 8 years ago. The staff reached out in early September and told us that they would be closing operations to make way for the city's twoyear transit and pedestrian improvement project on Haight Street. Thursday, September 27th was their last night. Always a class act, the group donated a portion of the sales from their last night to CVIA's "Clean Cole" initiative. We'll miss them, but Matt Cohen, founder of Off the Grid assures us that he'll be back in our hood in some capacity in the future. We look forward to it.

-Chris Hock

### **Scooters Return Big Time**

The SFMTA on October 15, awarded permits to two local companies, Skip and Scoot, to operate shared electric scooters on



Skip claims it can override speed remotely.

the streets of San Francisco. Each company will operate 625 scooters, 1,250 total. Skip plans to drop some of their scooters in Cole Valley.

CVIA board members met with Muriel MacDonald, Skip Director of Public Affairs, iust before the launch date. One big concern was

pedestrian safety. Muriel assured us that they will do everything they can to make the sidewalks safe. Their required video for new users will emphasize it, a sign on the scooter will repeat the message,

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and, their software will detect if someone is on a sidewalk and will limit the speed to 2 mph (15 mph is the maximum speed). It will be interesting to see how that works.

Board members had different ideas on where scooters could be dropped off. Should there be one area in Cole Valley's business district or should there be no regulation? Skip requires its users to "Park responsibly in the 'furnishing zone' of the sidewalk, where they won't block the pedestrian right-of-way." The furnishing zone is where street furniture (newsracks, transit shelters, utility poles and boxes) or trees are allowed. One recommendation we made is that scooter parking be made available where curbs on the corners are painted red so that drivers and pedestrians have added visibility. This would keep scooters off the sidewalks and would not limit sight lines. Skip is looking into retrofitting their entire fleet with locking devices to help with parking compliance.

What happens when people behave badly? Skip says "We ask for your patience as we work to educate riders about responsible riding and parking behavior, and become a seamless part of the San Francisco transportation network. Our goal is to get people out of cars and into other modes, by replacing unnecessary rideshare trips, connecting riders to mass transit, and making it easier and safer for everyone to travel around the city, regardless of what mode they choose. Whether or not you're a rider, we want to hear from you." Email feedback@skipscooters.com with complaints, concerns, ideas, or requests, or use a form on their website: https:// skipscooters.com. Skip has a 3-strikes rule: at the second reported infraction, the rider will be required to retake the initial training and will be suspended after the third. We also requested that Skip create an app, similar to the 311 app, so that complaints could be reported from our phones. -Joan Downey

#### **Back in the Swing**

CVIA Board member Steven Madrid, spotted a post on Cole-Valley-a-Not-So-Secret-SF-Neighborhood.com by Hannah Oxley who reported that her daughter was ejected from a swing at Grattan



Redesigned hooks now anchor the swing chains at Grattan Playground.

Playground when the chain came unlatched and as a result her arm was in a cast. CVIA was able to connect with Rec and Park manager Steven Cismowski. Within a day the swing was repaired.

But wait, there's more. The swing broke again a few days later. The underlying problem was related to a defective design at the hook that connects each swing to its chains. Now the good news. All the hooks have been replaced and the kids should be able to enjoy the swings safely. We thank Rec and Park for taking the needed action and hope this incident will encourage better maintenance at Grattan Playground.

—Lena Emmery

#### Angelus Joins Schick at Kezar Bar and Restaurant

Thanks to Eater.com we know that after almost 30 years as a popular destination for denizens of Cole Valley, Kezar Bar & Restaurant is ready for a refresh. Owner of nearby Bacon Bacon, Jim Angelus, will join current co-owner Steve Schick as partner, bringing his expertise as a restaurateur and former manager of SF institutions like Kuleto's and E&O Kitchen to the established neighborhood restaurant.

Angelus is planning to aid in some back-of-the-house upgrades, such as implementing a Point of Sale system. There will also be



Jim Angelus posing for a 2013 WSJ photo during Bacon Bacon's permit problems.

some tweaks to the menu, including the addition of a set kids menu, which Angelus says he's working on with his kids and their cousins, all of whom live in Cole Valley.

Kezar's owners really wanted someone from the neighborhood to partner

with, Angelus said. "I feel really fortunate to be put in touch."

Angelus and his family have lived in the neighborhood for over a decade. He says it was a priority for him to keep Kezar as a neigh-

borhood hangout for years to come and says not to expect to see Bacon Bacon dishes hit the menu, as he wants to make sure "Kezar stays Kezar." Other changes could include the addition of brunch, though it could be much further down the road.

"Kezar's been doing fine and it's been successful. There's a lot of tradition



Steve Schick and partners established the perfect neighborhood bar and kept it real for 30 years.

there," says Angelus. "There's a rush, but no rush to change things."

Neighbors will notice the ABC license transfer poster in the window in coming days; Angelus says that he'll be fully and officially part of the business as soon as the license transfer is complete. Stay tuned for more updates to Kezar, which is "thirty, flirty, and thriving."

-Karen Crommie

Community meeting on proposed cannabis dispensary at 1685 Haight Street on November 15 from 6 to 8 p.m. Photo: Hoodline.com

# Off The Grid Could Find a New Home in the Haight

As has been reported for months, the corner of Stanyan and Waller—for years occupied by McDonald's—is up for grabs. Specifically, the City is intending to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) from organizations interested in establishing an interim, self-supporting, community use of the site during the estimated 3 to 5 year period before breaking ground on affordable housing. Why so long? The building sponsors must paddle through an alphabet soup of regulatory requirements before getting the ultimate go-ahead for construction.

Hoodline.com's intrepid reporter Camden Avery (a neighborhood treasure) quoted Off The Grid (OTG) spokesperson Dana



The site of the former McDonald's offers an opportunity for neighbors to gather much like Off the Grid's former venue on Waller (shown here).

Smith as saying that the food truck caravansary is looking at the site as the location for a possible food-truck park and community area that will offer "a safe, beautiful and inviting civic space and cultural asset." Adding that, "Having put down pretty deep roots" in the neighborhood, Off the Grid is committed to continuing to build community and opportunity in the Haight."

In addition to providing space for a alternating schedule of specialty food items drawn from the approximately 250 food trucks already working with OTG, they would incorporate a variety of other activities such as pop-up businesses, movies, entertainment, activities for seniors and children, a plant nursery, a beer garden (in collaboration with Magnolia), and bringing back a Farmers' Market to the Haight.

As soon as the RFP is issued, Off the Grid will hold a community meeting sponsored by three neighborhood groups (CVIA is one of them) laying out their plans and gathering suggestions for additional uses. As soon as the request for proposal is released by the city, CVIA members will be notified of the date.

-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. We want to hear from you! CVIASF@aol.com

### **State Bill To Help Mentally III**

A bold new bill will grant authorities permission to temporarily take away rights from severely mentally ill indigent individuals, in an effort to get them off the streets and into serious care. If done well, it will be a firm but necessary step to help the city's most vulnerable population get the assistance they so desperately need. But implementation of such a law in a city that is determined to protect the right of anyone to remain living on the street will make it very difficult.

Senator Scott Wiener introduced Senate Bill 1045 in Sacramento earlier this year. It is described as a 5-year pilot program that extends



The social contract requires helping those who lack the cognitive ability to care for themselves.

the state's conservatorship laws, which currently apply to those who "suffer from chronic homelessness accompanied by severe mental illness, drug addiction, repeated commitments, or exceptionally frequent use of emergency medical services."

Said Senator Weiner, "It is inhumane to watch as people deteriorate and die on our streets. Our counties don't have the tools they need to effectively help individuals suffering from severe mental health and substance abuse disorders."

The bill was approved by Governor Brown on September 27 and will take effect in January 2019. It will also transfer the responsibility for all non-criminal mental health conservatorship cases from the District Attorney's office to the City Attorney's office. Already Mayor London Breed is preparing legislation to implement the new law as a way to address the unspeakable suffering of seriously mentally ill people living on the city's streets. She revealed plans to increase the number of mental health beds at SF General Hospital by 70-80 next year. To read a breakdown of the legislation, enter CA S-1045 into your browser and check "Bill Analysis."

-Karen Crommie

## **Another Postponement for Cole Valley "Streetscaping"**

Apologies for the delay in work start in Cole Valley. Our contractor, Bauman, was ready to begin in August, however the construction in the Inner Sunset had to move forward earlier than anticipated which moved the Cole Valley work to later in the schedule. The project has multiple firms contracted to do different work scope, and because the those doing the sidewalk demolition in the Inner Sunset completed their work at Fifth and Sixth Avenues, the landscape contractor (Bauman) had to move crews to those locations to get the sidewalks closed up, which involves a number of items. However, much of their work in the Inner Sunset will be closing up in January, so it's likely this work (in Cole Valley) will be started in January or February.

-Michael Rieger, PLA, PMP DPW Project Manager



## Thank You For Your Support



It certainly isn't expected, but when a member sends in an extra contribution, we appreciate it greatly. Only nine Cole Valley merchants contributed to the daily cleaning of Cole Street's business district this year, which costs CVIA \$936 each month. We make up the deficit with member contributions, a discount from CleanScapes and proceeds from the "Santa on Cole" photo shoot. So we would like to take this opportunity to thank the following members for their generosity during the period September 2017 through October 2018. Please notify us if your name has inadvertently been omitted.

Beacons (\$1000): Tracy & Patrick Jennings, Loic Nicolas, Les Silverman & Irv Govan

Benefactors (\$250 - \$500): Karen & David Crommie, Diane & Christopher Davies, Abby & David M. Rumsey, Say Cheese - Roger Soudah

Donors (\$100 - \$249): Cecile and Jeff Bodington, Lena Emmery & Chuck Canepa, Gina Centoni, Eugene Chen, Gloria Galindo & Mari Coates, Linda Coda, Linda Erkelens, Tresa & Jim Eyres, Marianne Hesse, Shannon & Chris Hock, Jane & Michael Miller, Deborah Robbins & Henry Navas, Janan New, Catherine Covey & Thomas Ports, Joanne & Bill Prieur, Michael Rafferty, Sigrid Schafmann, Robert G. Jones & John T. Smith, Alexis Woods

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

Supporters (\$25 - \$49): Katherine Alba, Barbara Alexander, Molly Barry, Gail & Howard Berman, Sharon Birenbaum, Jeanne Blamey & Rob Fram, Jennifer Braun, Katherine L. Brody, Penny Duan & Steve Chaffin, Donna Cooper, Ellen Curry. Karin de Brer. Kevin Dede. Kate Ditzler. Kelsie Dore. Deb & Todd Frederick, Stuart Gasner, Melissa & Glen Gee, Robert Gordon & Bill Haskell, Jean Hayward, Thomas Hubbard, John Ignacio, Sarah & Neema Jalali, Bryn Jedlic, Catherine & Brian Kane, Lynn Kormondy, Richard Magary, Dennis Martino, Michael McCarthy, Barbara Mow, Robert Mullin, Thomas Nicoll, Teresa Olle, Robert Page, Celia Price, Jan Platt & Jeff Ross, Helen & Allan Ridley, MeMe Riordan, Katherine Bird & William Rothrum, Michael Siliski, Jay Stevens, Shelly Sutherland, Benjamin Thompson, Conchita Toshok, Deborah Van Atta, Isabel Wade, Edward C. Walls, Boyd Watkins, Mary Ann Wolcott

Boosters (\$24 and below): Anna Almberg, Travis Becker, Olivia Birdwell, David Burke, Mary Ann de Souza, Heather Drake, Beverley Epstein, Lavion Gibson, Minette & Isac Gutfreund, Gabriel Peixoto, Marie Samson, Isabel Greenfield & Dan Selvig, Diane & Bob Silver

## A CLEAN COLE STREET

## Our Neighborhood Heroes 2018 Merchant Participants

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

\*Owners of 930 Cole Street (former Cole Garage)

#### This Holiday Season Support Our Local Merchants

Instead of shopping online this holiday season, why not give our local merchants the nod? If you can't find a gift at Cole Hardware, well, you just aren't looking. Cooking and bath accessories, plants and dec-



Nothing puts you in the holiday mood so much as the scent of Cole Hardware's forest of Christmas trees.

orative pots, cool tools, fancy water bottles: gifts at all prices for every member of your family. For hostess gifts, there are the upscale gourmet selections of Say Cheese. And don't forget the gift certificates: Bambinos and Padrecito are two that would be particularly welcome. Reverie and Crepes on Cole also provide gift certificates, ditto the Ice Cream Bar and Peet's. For the children on your list, a sweater from Tantrum, or maybe a doll, game or book. For adult collectors of old toys, it is a treasure trove. Speaking of things old, probably best place of all for finding something unique is Jerome's Antiques: a pair of earnings from the forties, a Bakelite bracelet, a Victorian lamp, charming figurines redolent of grandmother's house. Gifts with history make them much more special. And after you've wrapped them in paper and tied the bows, just take your gifts to Postal Chase. They will insulate, box, seal, insure, and mail the whole enchilada. What a neighborhood.



May 17, 1920 - October 19, 2018

Cole Valley mourned the death of Dalia Becerra who passed away last month at the age of 98 in her home on Frederick Street. Born near Puerto Vallarta, Dalia lived most of her childhood in Mazatlan where her father was a lighthouse watchman and where she was a competitive cyclist. She immigrated to the United States in 1939 when she was 19 and met her husband Philip Becerra in San Francisco where he was employed by the Lilli Ann clothing company. They raised and educated five children, all living in the greater Bay Area. Philip died at the age of 61 when she was 54 year's old. Dalia loved to garden and was an avid walker right through her eighties, going regularly to the senior center at St. John of God (Fifth and Irving) and attending mass at St. Ignatius. Her memorial service was attended by her extended family including 13 grandchildren and four great-grand children. In her coffin her arms embraced a bouquet of lilies tied with the ribbon from her bridal bouquet. Condolences go out to her daughter Estella Becerra, a longtime CVIA member.

### **Night Program at Conservatory**

If you're planning holiday outings for your family, consider an evening at Night Bloom, a five-week light and sound exhibition



A rare opportunity for a night visit to the glass palace begins in December.

being presented at the beautifully illuminated Conservatory of Flowers between December 2 and January 6.

Among five galleries, you'll pass through rooms evoking the tropics, complete with glowing ponds, palm-and-prism installations, a firefly jungle and other

interactive nighttime experiences guaranteed to wow. As they say in Rec and Park's press release, "It's an opportunity to play and embrace your imagination." If you're a first-nighter kind of person and have \$50 bucks for a good cause, think about attending the Preview Night on November 30 where there'll be a live DJ performance, light-up activities, selfie stations, food and beverages. Tickets are \$50, time-dated, and include a complimentary beer or wine. (Alas, this event is limited to those over 21.)

Night Bloom has been developed in collaboration with Lightswitch, a consortium of internationally recognized lighting, media, and visual designers, who create unforgettable experiences where people live, work, learn and play. Lightswitch has installed lush light art exhibits at Descanso Gardens Guild, the Morton Arboretum and museums and events all over the world.

But just being in the Conservatory at night is a thrill in itself. This gem of Victorian architecture has a long and storied history, and is the oldest existing public wood-and-glass conservatory in North America. As a city, state and national historic landmark, the Conservatory has remained one of the most photographed and beloved attractions in San Francisco for more than a century. Advance tickets required. Search for "Conservatory of Flowers Night Bloom." There is a calendar for ordering tickets. Cost for adults is \$27 and kids 8 and under are free. Conservatory members pay \$20. —Karen Crommie

# **Service Truck Problem Persists On Arguello at Frederick**

Greg Gaar, longtime neighborhood environmentalist and worker at the Native Plant and Community Garden, reported in the Spring issue of the CVIA News that the area bordering the west end



Service vehicles routinely block the Frederick Street access to the Park.

of Kezar Stadium had become a congregating place for numerous ambulances and Recology trucks at various times of day.

Gaar reported, "As many as four or five ambulances loiter for hours in the No Parking/Tow Away zone and every morning (ex-



Misspelled but crystal clear.

cept Sunday) at 9:30, four DPW trucks bring garbage into the park and transfer it into Recology compactor trucks. Then comes the Recology bulky item trucks such as sofas and mattresses are moved into the compactor truck." This, in spite of signs clearly posting that commercial vehicles are prohibited. His concern is not only misuse of public space but because all morning long he observes people walking into the park (many mothers with children) having to dodge the big trucks and move into the center of the street.

Last month, CVIA president Lena Emmery spoke to Dana Ketcham, Rec and Park's director of property management, asking for a resolution to the problem. Ketcham responded this week by informing the Kezar Committee that the Rec and Park Department will be installing a swing gate on Arguello only accessible by RPD vehicles. When the stadium is in use, appropriate personnel will also have access. The remainder of the time the area can be used for exercise classes, bike training, and expansion of neighborhood activities in the Kezar Triangle.

surprise backing of Prop

C (housing and other services for homeless

people). The backstory involves Haight Booksmith owner Christin Evans, a vocal Prop C supporter. Seems she had a spirited Twitter exchange with Benioff

triggered by a remark he had posted referencing "the city's four sea-

sons of homelessness." Christin was indignant

and told him so. As a

result, he had his staff

study the bill and be-

came convinced that it

### **Booksmith's Christin Evans Ropes in Benioff Donation**

Missionlocal.org revealed the story behind Marc Benioff's



Booksmith co-owner Christin Evans

and other big SF companies have to pay. Not only did he give Prop C his endorsement but accompanied it with a check for \$2.5 million toward its passage. (Mission Local, 10/18/18) For additional information go to "What it Really Costs to Help the Homeless and how Businesses Can Do More" by

was worth the additional 0.5 percent of gross sales taxes Salesforce

Salesforce CEO, Mark Benioff

Heather Knight, SF Chronicle, Aug. 24, 2018.

#### POLICE COMMUNITY MEETING

Captain Una Bailey holds community meetings the second Tuesday of every month (except December) from 7 to 8:00 p.m. She gives briefings on upcoming permitted events, reviews neighborhood criminal activity, and addresses the safety concerns of residents. It's an excellent way to stay in touch with what's going on in the neighborhood. The



meetings are held at Park Station's Community Room (1899 Waller).

November 13, 2018, January 8, 2019 *Mark Your Calendar* 

### **Cha Cha to Produce Its Own Fruit Flavored Brew**

The Haight's Cha Cha Cha was purchased last year by restaurateur Irfan Yalcin, who'd already bought the restaurant's Mission Street location the year before. But a few months ago he petitioned the state Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control for a transfer of



An added perk of the liquor license transfer: Margaritas!

its existing beer and wine license into an on-site brewing license. But even better, Cha Cha Will also be able to serve liquor and cocktails, not just beer and wine. You can only drink so much Sangria.

Longtime owner Phillip Bellber, who worked, alas, unsuccessfully to establish a Haight Ashbury history museum, threw in the sponge after a forty year run on the corner of Haight and Shrader.

Yalin was quoted as saying he would likely start with a single style of beer, probably "a tropical flavor, mango or guava." But first he's having to reconfigure the back bar where the brewing tanks will be installed. Pending ABC approval, Cha Cha Cha will be offering the proprietary brew sometime this month.

-Karen Crommie

### **New Manager at La Boulangerie**

Alastair Maxwell is the new manager of the Cole Valley's beloved café at the corner of Cole and Parnassus. He grew up in



Alastair Maxwell.

Anaheim and graduated from San Francisco State University with a degree in Political Science. That should prepare him well for running a business in San Francisco.

But for us in the Greater Haight, the Boulangerie is much more than a business, it's more of a gift. When Starbuck's in 2012 bought the La Boulange chain of French cafes owned and operated by Pascal Rigo for

\$100 million, it got access to its French-style bakery products, which were being produced in two large facilities in South San Francisco. Starbuck's sales in that category soared by 16% the first year.

But by June of 2015 the Seattle giant abruptly shuttered all 23 Boulange cafes. Neighbors were bereft, but not for long. Three months later Rigo reopened the Cole Valley cafe under the name La Boulangerie de San Francisco, one of six in the city.

As manager, Alastair inherits this history. His goals for La Boulangerie are to maintain the high quality French-inspired food, keep a neighborhood/family atmosphere and offer more attentive service. I think we can all agree with those goals. Stop in to welcome Alastair to the neighborhood.

—Lena Emmery

### **Pot Shop Moves Forward**

Our last issue reported on the rivalry between three different groups vying to open a recreational/medical cannabis dispensary on the 1600 block of Haight Street. Because any site must be at least 600 feet from a school, this is the only eligible block. (However, be aware that there is another possible site on Stanyan between Beulah and Waller.)

Last month, the city's "Office of Cannabis" (did you know they had one?) announced that they had given the nod to three principals of the



Cole Ashbury Group, LLC. At CVIA's November board meeting, Connor Johnston, a former aide to then supervisor London Breed, described the project and introduced his two partners—Robert Delaplane, a former medical cannabis grower, and aspiring cannabis retailer (761

Bryant) and Shawn Richard, founder of Brothers Against Guns. The later was identified as the "equity partner."

An Equity Partner is required to be part of any cannabis ownership in San Francisco. Defined as someone who has personally suffered as a result of the Drug War, it is a kind of reparation. The applicant must have three out of six requirements including prior arrest for cannabis use by himself or relatives, low income, prior eviction, proof of residency in low-income neighborhoods and having attended a SF public school for five years (evidently considered another injustice, ouch).

The group hopes to open at a space now occupied by the pop-up underground zines shop, Silver Sprocket at 1685 Haight Street. They will offer the services of nurse Meredith Bassler, who is qualified to offer advice on the prescriptive use and give occasional classes to assist new buyers. The estimated \$800,000 required to open the store has been put up by undisclosed investors. But that may be the easy part. State and city regulations are numerous and taxes are many and complicated, viz. buds are taxed separately as "flowers" so sales must be sectored. Most banks refuse to offer services resulting in a highly risky cash business, although Delaplane indicated that some are willing to process debit card purchases. Cole Ashbury Group will hold a neighborhood informational meeting at the site (1685 Haight) on November 15 between 6 and 8 p.m.

-Karen Crommie

## **New Free Program for Seniors**

Always Active Senior Exercise Class meets Monday and Thursday, 1:30-2:30 p.m. and is free. The "after party" 2:30-3:30 p.m. offers coffee and snacks as well as the opportunity to meet your neighbors. We meet in the Community Hall of St. Anne of the Sunset, entrance on Funston between Judah and Irving.

Thirty-eight seniors attended our launch last month—an unbelievable first day. This program is funded by the City in response to a request from Cole Valley Improvement Association, Inner Sunset Park Neighbors, and S.H.A.R.P., and is sponsored by the Community Living Campaign, www.SFcommunityliving.org

The new coordinator Marina Lazzara is a lively, energetic, woman who lives in the Haight, and has been a great addition to the program. For further information contact marina@sfcommunityliving.org.

## **CVIA Donation Gets The Ball Rolling At Grattan School**

Grattan Elementary School is part of the fabric of Cole Valley, and every year we try to find ways for CVIA to partner with them.

Last year CVIA donated \$2,000 to go toward Grattan's Reader's Workshop program. The PTA used the funds to purchase readers for the second grade, the first grade-level targeted for implementation of the reading program. At that time Cate Walter, Grattan's Princi-



For some children, it's their first experience of opening a brand new book.

pal, anticipated that it would take a few years for all grades to be able participate in the reading program.

Our donation covered the cost of about 50% of the needed second grade materials. Teachers show-cased the second grade program and asked Grattan supporters to help fund the school's

Reader's Workshop. Grattan supporters pulled together and were able to fund the reading program for the entire school! We are delighted that our initial gift got the Reader's Workshop ball rolling and that the program will be available to all students so quickly.

This year CVIA has again partnered with Grattan School, donating a total of \$3,000 to the Grattan PTA. We asked that \$1,500 go toward purchasing bookcases and book bins for the Reader's Workshop materials, and that \$1,500 be used by the Grattan Safety Committee. The Safety Committee needs to replenish emergency classroom backpacks, purchase a shed for emergency supplies and upgrade the school PA system, among other things. We know our donation won't cover it all, but hopefully we'll get another ball rolling!

Thank you to the Grattan teachers and staff; we appreciate the work you do. -Cathy Haller

## **Seeking Court Watch Volunteers**

The advocacy of Court Watch recently had an impact in a major case. Deshawn Patton, one of San Francisco's most prolific car burglars was finally sentenced to state prison thanks to pressure from our Court Watch program featured in the San Francisco Chronicle. Before Stop Crime SF got involved and before the media started



Citizens attend court dates of repeat offenders.

paying attention to this case, the judge was planning to let the defendant off on probation—even after he had been arrested for new crimes while already on probation. The latest FBI crime statistics show San Francisco ranks #1 in property crime in the nation.

Our Court Watch program works to ensure that judges take crime seriously in San Francisco.

Can you assist with Court Watch? We are looking for volunteer coordinators who can take a lead in their neighborhood to track cases and organize other volunteers to appear in court. We will train you. Let us know if you have several hours a week to help as a coordinator. Write to stopcrimesf@gmail.com with "Court Watch" in the subject heading.

—Frank Noto, Stop Crime SF

#### **CVIA Board Minutes**

The following is a summary of what took place at the CVIA board meetings the last three months. Those wishing to bring a neighborhood issue before the Board are welcome to do so. Meetings take place on the first Monday of every month at 7:00 p.m. in the home of a member. There is no meeting in December. Call 415-431-1414 or email cviasf@aol.com to learn the location.

Every meeting begins with a reading of the minutes of the last meeting and reports from delegates to the Kezar Stadium Advisory Committee (KSAC), SFMTA Citizens Advisory Council (CAC), the Community Police Advisory Board (CPAB), UCSF Long Range Planning Citizens Advisory Group (CAG) and the Coalition for SF Neighborhoods (CSFN).

#### September

Location: Home of Lena Emmery and Chuck Canepa – September 10, 2018 - 7 p.m. Guest: Nancy Tung (Stop Crime SF)

- Treasurer Joan Downey reported a bank balance of \$50,090.96 out of which \$1,202.15 is being presently held in the Clean Cole Street fund and \$24,767.20 is being held in the account (as fiscal sponsor) for the Stanyan Parklet. CVIA received 6 new members and 23 renewals. The Summer Social cost \$1,300, of which approximately half was covered by members' door fees. A link to the membership list, with expiration dates and contributions has been sent to board members. Joan will keep updating as needed.
- Discussed the progress of determining an interim use for the 730 Stanyan site. An RFP has still not been issued by the City but is imminent. Supervisor Vallie Brown stated at CVIA's Summer Social (8-18-18) that the space would be used as a parking lot for holiday shoppers until the end of the year. When Steven Madrid later spoke to the Supervisor she emphasized the need to include a social service component in any proposal for interim use of the area, specifying the needs of transitional-age-youth and seniors (housed). Steve has a list of possible non-profits who would qualify and will suggest them to Matt Cohen (Off The Grid), who would be making a proposal. He also spoke to John Gavin, chief policy advisor of the city's real estate division, who stressed that any tenant must provide a comprehensive overall site management plan.
- Joan Downey corrected a prior report saying that CVIA's web host Mark Ballew was unresponsive to requests for assistance during recent hacks to the CVIA Facebook site. Turns out that we had been using the wrong email address in our efforts to contact him. We apologize to Mark, who has been guiding and hosting us on his platform for years for free. Thank you so much, Mark.
- Karen Crommie reported on the presentation of five November ballot measures picked by the Coalition for SF Neighborhoods on which to take a stand. After two long evenings of discussion, the CSFN voted to support Props A, C, E and State Props 1 and 10. CVIA was one of three dissenting votes for Prop 10, feeling that SF housing stock would be imperiled if it were passed.
- Chris Hockreported that Jim Angelus of Bacon Bacon (205 Frederick St.) will become a partner of Steve Schick in ownership of the Kezar Bar and Restaurant (Carl and Cole). Angelus is the former manager of Kuleto's and E&O Kitchen and plans a few additions to the menu.
- Alameda county assistant district attorney Nancy Tung, representing Stop Crime SF, described the organization's mission (victim's rights) and encouraged us to participate in their Court Watch program, bringing citizens to court hearings of serial offenders to bear witness to whether the safety and interests of neighborhoods are being honored by the judge. She highlighted the recent case of chronic offender Deshawn Patton, tried by Judge Christopher Hite

- and featured in a recent column by Heather Knight (SF Chronicle 8-10-18). Over 31,000 car break-ins were reported in San Francisco in 2017: less than 2% were prosecuted.
- In a discussion about 2018 grants, Cathy Haller reported on the success of CVIA's 2017 contribution to Grattan Elementary School's second grade reading program. It was used as seed money to inspire a successful literacy program for the whole school. This year's grants to Grattan School will be a \$1,500 grant for book storage units (to complete implementation of the reading program) and another \$1,500 will go to the school's safety committee to be used as their discretion.
- Approved proposal by Lena Emmery of a matching grant of \$1,500 to Sutro Stewards for the following projects recommended by the Stewards' executive director Amy Kaeser: Primary Fairy Gates Trail project: \$1,000.00, Woodland Canyon drainage project: \$200.00, Second Fairy Gates Trail project: \$500.00, Habitat Restoration planting projects: \$1,350.00.
- Joan Downey reported that Kezar Parking Lot (owned by ABC Parking) has been placing leaflets on cars parked nearby soliciting their monthly parking stalls. Gone are the days when they all slots were booked. Perhaps the monthly rate of \$190.00, or \$22 per day could be the reason. (The lot is a valuable neighborhood resource but maybe UCSF could subsidize user cost?)
- In reviewing the "lessons learned" at last month's Summer Social it was decided that 1) we need two people at the reception table and 2) it should be situated further away from the entrance 3) anyone speaking should rehearse with the microphone beforehand 4) no speaker should be scheduled before 2:00 p.m. 5) we should consider playing a looping video of the past year's activities and 6) the speakers should position themselves between the two rooms. That said, it was agreed that the event was the best to date. Lena has sent thank you letters to all speakers.
- Agreed that the CVIA Board email listserv would be limited to board members only—with the single exception of former member Amy Blakeley because of her continued interest and contribution to the organization.
- Chuck Canepa reported on UCSF's dedication to "reimagining" its Parnassus campus as a place dedicated to research and learning. Dr. Daniel Lowenstein, executive vice chancellor and provost, wants to develop and implement campus priorities, including advancing precision medicine and maintaining UCSF's status as an international leader in health sciences education. A stepped-up schedule of monthly meetings with the architects and engineers will be closely followed by Chuck, who is a member of the UCSF Long range development plan's community advisory group.
- A broken swing in Rec and Park's Grattan Playground (not to be confused with the Grattan Elementary School playground) was reported by a Cole Valley mother as causing an injury to her young daughter. CVIA president Lena Emmery immediately contacted Rec and Park. It was repaired within 24 hours.
- Lena also reported on implementing a solution to the longtime problem around the Arguello and Frederick intersection where Recology trucks park and block pedestrian entrance to Golden Gate Park. All morning people walking into the park (lots of mothers with kids going to Children's Playground) must dodge the big trucks and walk in the center of the street trying to avoid the cars. Rec and Parks' Dana Ketcham, director of permits and property management responded to Lena's concerns by promising to erect a barrier to correct the situation.
- Agreed to sponsor one table at the SFPL's Big Book Sale on October 30. Karen to forward a selection of quotes from which board is to chose three favorites. That with the most votes will be

submitted with our donation of \$100. Each sponsor is asked to include a quotation relative to the joy of reading beneath its name.

- Agreed to give artist Trevor Yormick, who has designed CVIA's postcard promoting the annual "Santa on Cole" event for many years without charge, a commendation. Joan to ask photographer Loic Nicolas for advice on further response.
- Joan reported that, due to pushback on the proposed placement of a Ford Go-Bike dock on Ashbury Street—along with other complaints received by the SFMTA's citizens advisory council, the CAC recommended that the MTA notify ALL neighborhood organizations of their docking plans (last time only HANC was alerted) at least 30 days prior to installation—up from 15 days. In addition, the noticing radius should be increased from 200 to 500 feet.
- Discussed time slots for members volunteering at the CVIA booth at the Cole Valley Fair on September 30. Decided that all T-shirts will be sold for \$15 and volunteers were asked to wear the shirts during the time they're working in the booth.
- The next meeting will be on October 1 at the home of Shannon and Chris Hock. Cathy Haller, David Crommie and Karen Crommie will be absent.

Adjourned at 9:30

#### October

Location: Home of Shannon and Chris Hock – October 1, 2018 - 7 p.m. Special Guest: D-5 Supervisor Vallie Brown

- Treasurer Joan Downey reported a bank balance of \$46,402.62 out of which \$11,999.71 is being presently held in the Clean Cole Street fund and \$24,767.20 is being held in the account (as fiscal sponsor) for the Stanyan Parklet. Cole Valley Fair t-shirt sales were brisk and we generated 13 new members and 10 renewals. Fair proceeds were \$1600.
- Online/social media chair Chris Hock reported on the transition as he assumes the work of both Amy Blakeley and Mark Ballew (longtime manager of the CVIA website)
- Marianne Hesse reported that Jennifer Sushi Au has replaced Maggie Lohmeyer as site manager at the Waller Center.
- In her comments on the last C-PAB meeting, CVIA president Lena Emmery emphasized the importance of reporting crimes. These data assist the police in finding solutions to neighborhood issues. "Coffee with a Cop" event has been scheduled for Wednesday October 3, at Peet's on Cole St.
- In a discussion of the upcoming SF Beautiful awards, Joan Downey suggested we nominate Erica Kajdasz for her continuous work in organizing the Cole Valley Fair. Joan also mentioned that, although we nominated the Clean Cole Street project in the past without success, we should do it again. Shannon said she would contact to SF Beautiful to implement this.
- In reviewing operation of the CVIA booth at the Cole Valley Fair, it was noted 1) that the Fire Marshall asked that the booth have an open back and side which is required when it is located within five feet of fire hydrants. It was decided that, although, the side open worked well, next year the booth will move a few feet to the north so we will not encounter that issue. 2) Cathy Haller suggested that in the future all booth volunteers put the PayPal app on their smart phones. 3) Agreed to postpone the decision of ordering more t-shirts until the Spring of next year.
- Discussed the return of Skip scooters. Joan will arrange to meet with representatives and will be joined by Chris and Steven Madrid. They will be invited to the January (2019) board meeting after their program has been in effect for a few months.

- Supervisor Vallie Brown discussed a variety of subjects of neighborhood concern. We learned that: 1) Each supervisorial district will have a navigation center. (We are promised it will be in a building, not one of the tent options.) 2) There is a need to replace an existing emergency family shelter in our district. The Waller center is on the radar as a possible location, although no outreach to them has yet been made by the supervisor's office. 3) Brown agreed that the neighborhood needs better enforcement of existing laws such as citing for unleashed dogs, public drinking, and blocking pedestrian access. Steven mentioned the problem of the vacant storefronts on Haight Street. The Supervisor said that the Office of Economic and Workforce Development (OEWD) would be stepping up to help both the Bayview and the Haight (because of the ongoing construction) this year. When he brought up granting more food permits and liquor licenses, Brown said her immediate concern was just keeping the businesses already there open.
- Supervisor Brown also addressed the interim use of 730 Stanyan (former McDonald's). Steven mentioned that in their discussions regarding interim use, Off the Grid (OTG) has suggested possibly having some of their surplus food go to the Haight Ashbury Food Bank; bringing back the Farmer's Market which might have a SNAP low income component to it; possibly involving AcroSports and UCSF community relations regarding senior services (health checks, etc.), and the possibility of having Dave McLean from Magnolia run a beer garden. Once the Request-for-Proposals (RFP) is issued, OTG plans to talk to various neighborhood groups to find out what they would like to see included. Steven said that there is a 30 to 45 day window of time to respond. Supervisor Brown, who will not be on the panel to make the determination, reiterated that the four criteria for acceptance by the City. 1) The site plan has to activate the entire space. 2) There needs to be a safety management plan. 3) It has to be self-sustaining; there would be no financial help from the city. 4) Any activity must serve low-income neighbors, by either offering the opportunity to work at the site or have services available for them at the site.
- Brown said that, although "Taking it to the Streets" had been defunded and the staff dissolved, none of the kids involved in the program would be displaced from their housing. She mentioned that a Tenderloin group called "Downtown Streets Team," which does similar work might be helpful in some capacity in terms of helping the youth become "cleaning and community ambassadors." Adjourned 9:45

(Ed note: The above minutes are a compilation of the careful notes of Lena Emmery and Marianne Hesse. Thank you to both.)

#### November

Location: Home of Carole Glosenger–November 5, 2018 – Guests: Cole Ashbury Group. LLP, Ozzie Rohm and Gary Weiss of the Land Use Coalition, Dan Serot of Finnegans Wake.

- Treasurer Joan Downey reported a bank balance of \$46,402.62 out of which \$11,999.71 is being presently held in the Clean Cole Street fund and \$24,767.20 is being held in the account (as fiscal sponsor) for the Stanyan Parklet.
- Joan said that among new and renewing members, many have offered to lend a hand to the organization but are not responded to. All agreed that at the next board meeting on January 8 each member would bring a list of ways in which the general membership could assist us in our individual organizational efforts, i.e. letter writing, fair booth, newsletter, etc.
- Chris Hock reported on last month's website posts and responses. The Clean Cole Street project nomination for San Francisco Beautiful's annual award was the topic that created the most interest. Chris

is creating a new CVIA website which will be beta tested soon.

- Discussed the "no parking" policy of alternative vehicles on UCSF's campuses and, more important, the lack of comprehensive regulation guidelines for all San Francisco sidewalks. Joan Downey suggested building on SFMTA's Vision Zero program by erecting bike stands alongside the red-curbed street corners, recently added to improve driver vision and reduce accidents. Joan agreed to draft a policy paper to be sent to all pertinent city departments.
- President Lena Emmery said that Traci Lawrence, pubic relations officer of DPW, reached out to CVIA encouraging us to contact her regarding any litter, garbage, dumping or other problems in the neighborhood.
- Discussed installation of street bike stands on Cole Street.
- Discussed the meeting of Joan Downey, Chris Hock and Chuck Canepa with Muriel McDonald, Skip scooter's director of community affairs. (See article on page 1).
- Presentation was made by Cole Ashbury Group, LLC on their recent go-ahead from the Planning Department on establishing a recreational cannabis dispensary in the Haight Ashbury. (See article on page 7.)
- CVIA member and co-owner of Finnegans Wake Dan Serot made a brief appearance speaking in support of the cannabis group.
- Presentation was made by Ozzie Rohm and Gary Weiss of the Land Use Coalition, advocating intelligent growth, protection of sound housing, and fulfillment of city infrastructure needs, transportation, and fire and police protection as mandatory criteria before Planning Department approval of large residential buildings. Discussion followed.
- Motion approved to join the Land Use Coalition in spite of not agreeing with all of their concerns. Their basic advocacy for preservation of San Francisco's neighborhoods and strength in numbers determined the decision.
- Discussed the illegal parking of service vehicles at Arguello and Frederick. Lena Emmery reported on a letter from Dana Ketcham, Rec and Park's director of property management, describing a new pilot policy for use of that area. (See article on page 5)
- Board members chose areas for Santa flier delivery and also volunteer hours assisting parents and children at the Santa on Cole photo fundraiser on December 2.

**CVIA Executive Board:** Chuck Canepa, Shannon Cooper Hock, David Crommie, Karen Crommie, Joan Downey, Lena Emmery, Carole Glosenger, Cathy Haller, Marianne Hesse, Chris Hock, Steven Madrid, Edward Walls

## **UCSF Emergency Department Expansion Work Begins**

Last month UCSF began construction on the Emergency Department on the Parnassus campus. This upgrade will include improving the visibility of the Emergency Department entrance and expanding the waiting room by approximately 300 square feet to increase the waiting area. In addition to the expansion, the work includes demolition of the existing courtyard and roofing and installation of an air handler and chiller on the roof of Moffitt. Construction will occur on Mondays through Fridays, between 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., with any noisy work to begin after 8 a.m. If there are any urgent project-related concerns, please contact Geoff Pierce, Project Manager, at 415-250-1896.

### **Postscripts**



CVIA's longtime dream of a "Welcome to Cole Valley" mural at the N-Judah incoming stop on the northeast corner of Cole and Carl Streets ended abruptly when the Wooden Cafe owner hired a sign painter. It doesn't have the nostalgia of the scene we had submitted to the building

owner of dairy cows, formerly on the site, but it's a big step up from the blank wall.

\* \* \*

Former CVIA board member Amy Blakeley commented recently, "I haven't seen one single bike use the green lanes on Masonic, which I travel at all times of the day. Has anyone ever seen a bike on Masonic yet? Such a shame to remove 87 parking spaces and change/minimize traffic lanes on a main thoroughfare and not see it ever used."

\* \* \*

Bangkok 900, the familiar Cole Valley restaurant at the corner of Stanyan and Frederick, owned and operated by the Jirasub family for many years, closed its doors last month. They told CVIA Board member Ed Walls that they opted



not to renew their lease. Lack of customers would be my first guess.

\* \* \*

Board member Joan Downey reports that **Kezar Parking** lot, which has about 380 spaces, is looking to add 20-30 new monthly renters. The rate for those living within a 3-block radius is \$198/month; otherwise it's \$221/month. More information is at https://www.sfmta.com/garages-lots/kezar-lot. (There are no more senior spaces available)



Cole Valley's own **Finnegans Wake** took first prize in the annual Bloody Mary contest at the SOMArts Cultural Center last month. Attendees had the opportunity to taste submissions from over a score of bars before voting for their favorite in the "People's Choice Award." This isn't the first time they've come away a winner. Finnegans won the title of the "Best Bloody Mary in San Francisco" in both 2015 and 2016. Its award-winning ingredients include Marz vodka, horseradish, and Sacramento tomato juice.

\* \* \*

**Patricia Corrigan** leads a stimulating neighborhood book club that meets at **Crepes on Cole** on the first Thursday of the month at 6:30. The December 6 gathering will be a discussion of Min Jin Lee's "Pachinko," a National Book Award finalist.

**Tricia Stauber** coordinator of **Pro/SF** tells us that the installation of the Fell and Stanyan **Ford GoBike** racks has begun. Access may be limited to the "loop" because of equipment and the narrowness of the road. Signage will be posted about any needed detours.

\* \* \*

When someone broke a lockbox and entered **Cole Valley Fitness**, owner **Andrew Chaban** was incredulous. Hoodline quoted him as saying "Nobody breaks into gyms. We don't do a lot of cash transactions." But Park Police officers reported that there has been a rash of recent lockbox break-ins. The thief was caught on video but as yet no one has been arrested.

\* \* \*

We were sorry to hear of the passing on September 27 of our longtime Stanyan Street neighbor **Robert Laws**. He and his wife **Beatrice Challiss Laws** have been neighborhood stalwarts for decades fighting the good fight in the neighborhood, the city, and the rest of the world.

\* \* \*

Mad at Muni? MTA has a new format to accept complaints. This covers Taxi, Commuter Shuttle Buses, Chariot, Powered Scooters, BikeShare and more. When your arrive at the link, read the documentation and scroll down to the complaint form. Clicking on the listed blue topical link will lead you to a closed loop. There is information on the different topics, so you can sight and submit a complaint. www.sfmta.com/about-us/contact-us/commuter-shuttle-program-complaints

-Karen Crommie

#### **Letters**

Dear CVIA,

Thanks for providing thoughtful feedback through our online survey! It was invaluable to get such great community responses. Your input helped us formulate the conceptual framework for the experiences we will be building at Alvord Lake. Attached you will find a summary of our findings along with a brief introduction to our concept plan. In the next coming weeks we will be prototyping exhibit ideas in the park. Stay tuned for dates and times to come check them out.

Allyson Feeney (and the rest of the Alvord Lake Exploratorium Team

#### **CVIA Officers**

<b>9-11</b>	
President	Lena Emmery
	Cathy Haller
	Joan Ďowney
Recording Secretary	Karen Crommie
	Lena Emmery
Special ProjectsJoan	Downey, Shannon Cooper Hock

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 January 15, 2019 to CVIASF@aol.com. We encourage submissions from anyone interested in our neighborhood. Send questions or comments to the above address or call 431-1414.

Editor	Karen Crommie
Production	David Crommie
Editorial Assistance	Joan Downey

#### Help

Emergency911
Disturbance415-553-0123
Blocked Driveways415-553-1200
Abandoned Vehicles415-781-5865
Health Department415-255-3610
Litter Patrol (sofas, mattresses, etc.)311
Graffiti and Illegal Sign Removal311
NextBus311
Street Lighting415-554-0730
Mayor London Breed
District Attorney George Gascón415-553-1741 Hall of Justice - 850 Bryant St. S.F., CA 94103
Captain Una Bailey

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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

Here's my check for \$25.00 made pay	yable to: COLE VALLEY IM	PROVEMENT ASSOCIATION	Renewal
NAME		E-MAIL	
ADDRESS		PH0	ONE
What I like about the neighborhood:_			
What I dislike about the neighborhood	d:		
Optional contribution to Cole sidewal			
Dues and contributions to Clean Cole	Street may be taken as charita	ble deductions. Contact your accoun	tant regarding the tax law.

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

