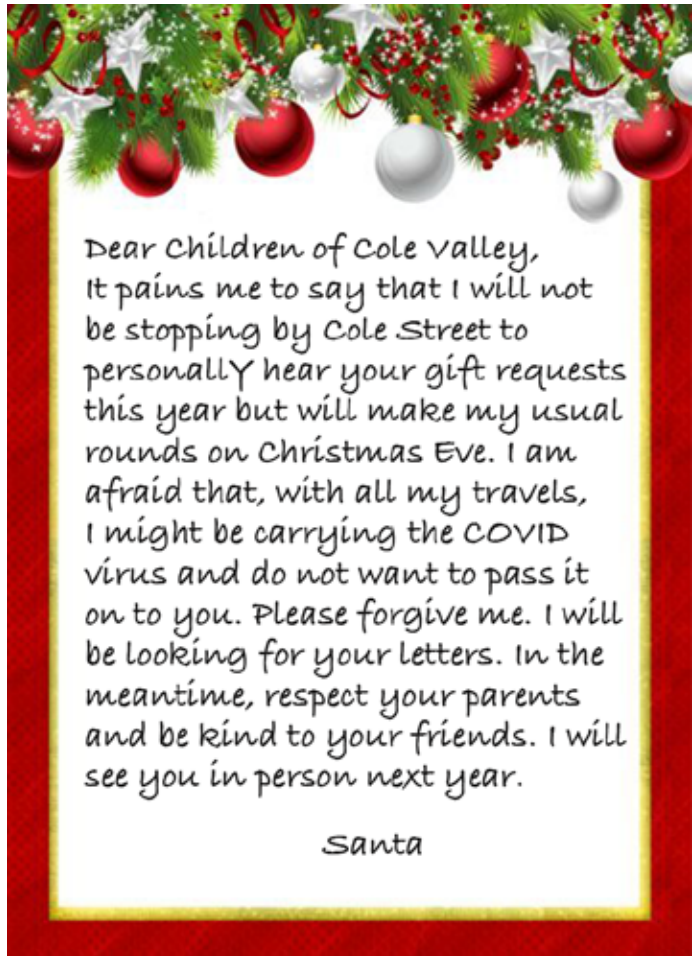


# CVIA NEWS

COLE VALLEY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Volume XXXVII      SERVING ALL RESIDENTS OF THE GREATER HAIGHT ASHBURY      WINTER 2021



Dear Children of Cole Valley,  
 It pains me to say that I will not be stopping by Cole Street to personally hear your gift requests this year but will make my usual rounds on Christmas Eve. I am afraid that, with all my travels, I might be carrying the COVID virus and do not want to pass it on to you. Please forgive me. I will be looking for your letters. In the meantime, respect your parents and be kind to your friends. I will see you in person next year.

Santa

## “It’s Not Going to Happen,” Says Mayor London Breed

When the developers of the affordable housing—approved for the former McDonald’s site—announced peremptorily in August that the interim use of 730 Stanyan would be a Drop-In Center for homeless people, residents felt the City had crossed a line. After spending months on an interim-use proposal for an outdoor community center with food and family activities was delayed so long that main sponsor “Off the Grid” pulled out, we were told by proj-



For over an hour Mayor Breed listened intently to residents’ objections to the drop-in center and the City’s allowance of seriously mentally ill people to live out their lives on Haight sidewalks. (Screen shot: Chris Hock)

ect manager Bo Han, without any neighborhood notification or discussion, that “The Mayor had decided that the interim use would be a service center focusing on youth and using a “harm reduction approach,” (code for assisting clients in safe use of illegal drugs).

In response, CVIA president Carole Glosenger set up a virtual meeting between Mayor London Breed and Haight / Cole Valley neighbors. Included were members of the Safe Healthy Haight ad hoc group lead by John Logan and including Constance Denise, Gnaritty Burke, Stacie Johnson, Marc Lambros and others who had circulated an on-line pe

## Second Shootout in 2 Weeks

With helicopters circling the Haight on the afternoon of November 4, neighbors were alerted to news of another shooting, this time involving two people near Haight and Masonic. As we go to press details are not available excepting that one person was wounded and the other killed.



Police cordon off Haight Street.

Meanwhile those living near Central and Haight were still wary over the aftermath of a shootout two weeks earlier when two cars careened down Central firing what some witnesses say were as many as 33 shots aimed

Continued on page 2, column 2.

### INSIDE

Adel’s Changes Ownership .....5	Mad Dog Coming to Haight ....4
Board Minutes .....8	Muni Dilemma ..... 7
Bocce Ball Rules .....6	No Boot on Cars..... 9
East End of GG Park..... 6	No Flowers Now ..... 9
Extension of 66 Quintara ..... 9	Remembering Cosi Pavalko..... 7
Help.....11	Route of 43 Masonic ..... 10
James Hormel ..... 5	Speed Limits Change ..... 7
Julia Leaves Cole Hardware ....6	Thank You for Support..... 3
Letter to the Mayor ..... 4	The City’s Christmas Tree ..... 3
Letters ..... 11	What is CPAB? ..... 2

tition asking for neighbors to protest this use of the space. As this goes to press, it has received nearly 700 signatures.

The question wasn't whether services were needed as much as the disastrous misuse of that corner in the face of the money and time spent in the last three years refurbishing the area. The City had purchased the 38,000 square foot space for \$15 million, occupying a full block of Stanyan Street frontage, precisely to mitigate a habitually problematic corner. This spurred Rec and Park to respond to longtime efforts of Susan Stolis and Ted Loewenberg to revive the Alford Lake area (across the street) at the cost of \$5.5 million. Simultaneously DPW and SFMTA together carried out a two-year renovation of the Haight commercial corridor at the cost of \$22.3 million. In total some \$43 million taxpayer dollars had been invested in improving this part of our neighborhood.

Glosenger spent days jumping through the bureaucratic hoops to make this meeting possible. When the time fi-



*The city has ten or more departments devoted to homelessness and spends \$850 million dollars annually, still this severely mentally ill woman sat on Haight Street for over two months.*

nally arrived, Thursday, October 21 at 4:00 pm, the Mayor opened the meeting with, "Let me just say this before we start, it's not going to happen."

The group was stunned. Afterward came the feeling of relief. The Mayor continued, "I don't believe the group chosen to manage the drop-in center had the best interests of the neighborhood in mind. The Mayor then spoke directly to Captain Pedrini, "Let's be clear on my position, enforce the law in quality-of-life issues." She also said she had ordered Haight Street to be cleaned three times a week. She was surprisingly well informed about the community's many problems. She was even familiar with Lisa, the seriously mentally ill woman who sits in front of the boarded-up Michael Collin's bar in a pile of garbage and who apparently "cannot be moved." In case there was any doubt about this, Captain Chris Pedrini of Park Station and Commander Peter Walsh judiciously recited all the reasons the police cannot touch mentally ill people. However, the next day Lisa was gone and the garbage carted away. Will she return without having received custodial medical care? Probably.

—Karen Crommie

*Shootout, continued from page 1, column 1.*

at one another. Some penetrated a home on Central leaving shell casings all down the street.

Although police cannot divulge details because the case is ongoing, preliminary investigation suggested a



*One random shot broke the front window of Ritual Coffee on the corner of Haight and Central. No customers were injured.*

gang rivalry from outside the neighborhood. Police tracked one suspect to the Market Street Safeway store where he phoned his girlfriend saying he was shot. She called 911 but when responders arrived the man had fled. Later that night, there was a man with a gunshot wound seeking care at SF General Hospital.

An earlier homicide on Haight Street was reported near Happy Donuts in early September when a 65 year-old man died after repeated stabbing.

—Karen Crommie

## What is CPAB?

The Community Police Advisory Board is a group of local residents who have been appointed by the Captain of each Police Station. Christopher Pedrini, the current Captain at Park Station, is very committed to community policing and the job of CPAB members is to assist in this effort.

In addition to the work of CPAB members, everyone is encouraged to attend Captain Pedrini's community meetings on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm. For the foreseeable future these are virtual events. The Cap-



*Captain Chris Pedrini responds to questions from Haight Ashbury neighbors during "Coffee with a cop" on October 27. Of most concern was the recent shooting on Central. (Foreground: John Logan, Carole Glosenger.)*

tain would like as many people as possible to subscribe to his weekly newsletter. Go to [sfpdparkstation@sfgov.org](mailto:sfpdparkstation@sfgov.org) to sign up. In it you'll find recent crime information, tips to stay safe inside your home, and instructions on joining the monthly meeting. Once you've registered, the newsletter will magically appear in your email each week, usually on Thursday.

Captain Pedrini also holds periodic "coffee with a cop" events at local cafes so that he can meet the officers who serve our community.

—Lena Emmery

*Ed. note: Lena Emmery is CVIA's representative to the CPAB.*





## Thank You For Your Support



It certainly isn't expected, but when a member sends in an extra contribution, we appreciate it greatly. Because of the business climate this year, we have not asked Cole Valley merchants to contribute to the daily cleaning of Cole Street's business district, which costs CVIA \$1,023 each month. We make up the deficit with member contributions, and a discount from CleanScapes. So we would like to take this opportunity to thank the following members for their generosity during the period November 2020 to October 2021. Please notify us if your name has inadvertently been omitted.

**Daddy Warbucks (\$3000): Anonymous**

**OMG (2500): Tracy and Patrick Jennings**

**Beacons (\$1500): Abby & David M. Rumsey**

**Benefactors (\$250 - \$499): Karen and David Crommie, Pacific American Group / Theron Bullman, Michael Siliski**

**Donors (\$100 - \$249): Cecile and Jeff Bodington, Megan and Bruce Bourne, Mike Burbank & Cindy Roberts, Gina Centoni, Cole Hardware / Rick Karp, Len Conway & Debbie Beck, Elizabeth Corden & Ken Shannon, Katie Dahlinghaus, Diane and Christopher Davies, Mary Ann de Souza, James Diwik, Joan Downey, Tresa and Jim Eyres, Gloria Galindo & Mari Coates, Robert Gordon and Bill Haskell, Marianne Hesse, John and Mary Hooper, JJJ Corporation, Robert G. Jones and John T. Smith, Catherine & Brian Kane, Lauren Peters Lague, Randy & Rich Lavinghouse, Peter Mansfield, Karen Mar, Deborah Robbins and Henry Navas, Flavia Naves, Sandra Norberg & Richard Drake, Susan and Steven Rosen, Lauren Ross, Sigrid Schafmann, Richard Taylor and Tracy Grubbs, Jillian and Blake Tyrrell, Nathan Wolfe**

**Contributors (\$50 - \$99): Kay Auciello, William Barnaby, Gina Bartlett, Travis Becker, Kathleen Bertram, Sharon Birenbaum, Judith Bishop & Robert Liner, Jeanne Blamey & Rob Fram, Chantal Byrne, Pete Chung, Anna Coles, Sheila Cordon, Joseph Creitz, Creola / Edwin Caba, Frances Dependahl, Matthew DuVall & Irene Jang, Todd and Deb Frederick, Shannon and Chris Hock, Harold and Lyn Isbell, Sarah & Neema Jalali, Jessica Justino, Margareta Ekblad & Vojtech Licko, Wallis and Michelle Lim, Susanna Lorant & Mark Anthenien, John & Bahereh Manning, Azadeh Moghtaderi & David Amiss, Bill O'Such and Ineke Ruhland, Robert Page, Jan Platt & Jeff Ross, Francine M. Prophet, Michael Rafferty, Robin Ridgeway, Kendra and William Robins, William Rothrum & Katherine Bird, Jay Stevens, Mary Ann Wolcott**

**Supporters (\$25 - \$49): Anonymous, Susan Allen, Molly Barry, Estela Becerra, Gail & Howard Berman, Mary Helen Briscoe, Robert G. Burkhead, Kristina and Howard Case, Karin de Brer, Joelle & Ralph Edler, Richard and Rita Felciano, Nick Fram, Glen and Melissa Gee, Mike & John Greenwood, Kevin Dede, Minette & Isac Gutfreund, Douglas Hall, Heather Hawker, Jennifer LaVail & Russell Snyder, Steven Madrid, Thomas Nicoll, Bill and Joanne Prieur, Helen and Allan Ridley, MeMe Riordan, Serena Unger & Cole Roberts, Elsa Rosenberg & David Zuckerman, Marie Samson, Diane & Bob Silver, Iolanthe Stronger, Fabienne Thuillier, Cynthia Travis, Deborah Van Atta, Edward C. Walls, Meredith White & Steve Cheng**

**Boosters (\$24 and below): Anonymous, Peter Scott Duyan, Maryann Hrichak, Thomas Hubbard & Sam Jackson, Davelene Israel-Hanniford, John Priest, Shannon Riordan**

## The City's Official Christmas Tree Isn't Where You Think.

San Francisco has several iconic Christmas trees that illuminate the city every December, but the official city tree may not be where you think it is. In fact, it's not really a Christmas tree at all. Contrary to the opinion of most, it's



*The Christmas tree in Union Square*

not the one in Union Square, which may be the city's most famous Christmas tree today. The Macy's sponsored (artificial) 83-foot giant has 33,000 energy-efficient LED lights, 1,100 ornaments, and has been going up in Union Square for more than 30 years now.



*Westfield San Francisco Centre*

Neither is the official city tree the 40-foot tree inside Neiman Marcus just off Union Square. And it's definitely not the controversial upside-down tree in the Westfield Centre. It's not even the 50-foot tree in the grand rotunda at City Hall, often referred to as "The Tree of Hope." That 23-foot tree is decorated annually with hundreds of origami cranes and inscribed with San Franciscan's wishes and hopes for the future of the world.

The Official San Francisco Christmas tree actually doesn't look much like a traditional Christmas tree at all, but it does mean a great deal to the city, and has since the Great Depression. The massive Monterey cypress at the entrance to Golden Gate Park has been illuminated, usually in a ceremony led by the mayor, every Christmas since 1929.

The giant tree is lovingly referred to as "Uncle John's Tree," in honor of the man who built Golden Gate Park, John McLaren. The tree was first lit during the Depression as a gift from the celebrated Scottish botanist to San Franciscans struggling through the hardships.

McLaren, who lived in the nearby historic mansion at 501 Stanyan, decided to first light up the tree in his front yard in 1929, along with a mile-long row of trees stretching all the way down the Panhandle on Fell Street. While those other trees on Fell no longer get the festive treatment today, the Monterey cypress, which is believed to have been

planted in 1880, is still lit up like a hot air balloon with vertical stripes every year.

It takes eight tree toppers to put up the 550 Christmas lights, working with a specialized cherry picker that park



"Uncle John's Tree" was first illuminated in 1929.

officials have adapted to the tree. Decades ago, it would take workers three days to build scaffolding and carefully climb the limbs of the tree with rods to position the lights, and squeeze the majestic specimen into its holiday dress.

The tree is as deeply rooted in San Francisco history as McLaren. And the annual ceremonial lighting of Uncle John's Tree is as much a celebration of Christmas as it is

the man who turned 1,000 acres of sand dunes on the western side of the young city into one of the most beautiful and diverse arboreal destinations in America.

In 1871, as plans were afoot to develop a Central Park on the West Coast, the Scotsman was asked by the Park Commission if he could make Golden Gate Park "one of the beauty spots of the world."

"With your aid gentleman, and God be willing, that I shall do," McLaren replied.



John McLaren hated statues. This one, commissioned by Adolph Spreckels in 1911 was not placed in the park until after his death.

Over the next decade, McLaren and his team stabilized the dunes by planting 155,000 trees in the new park. He has since been credited with planting more than two million trees across Northern California and introducing more than 700 new species of tree to the state.

He was so loved in San Francisco that residents wrote hundreds of letters to the city requesting a charter amendment in 1917 to exempt him from forced retirement. McLaren never wanted to stop doing his life's work, and was bestowed a mansion at the entrance of the park, McLaren Lodge, next to the beloved tree until his death in 1943 at the age of 96. The Romanesque sandstone home is now the administrative headquarters of the San Francisco Recreation and

Park Department. McLaren requested on his deathbed that the cypress would continue to be illuminated every year at Christmastime. His wish was granted and it is now considered the official Christmas tree of San Francisco.

—Andrew Chamings  
Editor, sfgate.com

## Mad Dog Coming to Haight St.

Cyril Hackett, owner of the Kezar Pub on Stanyan, has applied for a liquor license transfer to operate in the boarded up Michael Collins Irish bar at 1568 Haight. No, he's not moving the Kezar



Above is Hackett's original pub, closed in 2020.

Pub, but rather reopening his former Lower Haight bar, Mad Dog in the Fog, which, after three decades, was shuttered in 2020.

The new venue, originally called Martin Mack's was owned by larger-than-life Brian Mahoney. After a long run, it was the subject of multiple financial, legal and ownership disputes forcing its closure. It re-

opened under new ownership as Michael Collins but succumbed during COVID restrictions over two years ago.

Since then, the boarded-up storefront has been a magnet for street people and was recently staked out by a severely mentally ill woman known as Lisa. (See photo on page 2.)

Active work is going inside the premises reports Joe Kukura on Hoodline.com (11-3-21) and, assuming Hackett's license will be approved, will open Mad Dog in the Fog in its new location soon. This is very good news for Haight Street and especially the 1500 block.

## Letter to the Mayor

Dear Mayor Breed,

You've been quoted as saying that San Francisco is "a magnet for people looking for help," and that "a lot of other cities are not doing their part," and "larger cities end up with more than our fair share." On a micro level, this is exactly how I feel about the Haight—we are dealing with more than our fair share.

We continue to have people sleeping in and dealing drugs behind and around our bus stops and sidewalks (vestiges from the safe sleeping site). This intersection is the entrance to the Haight Street business corridor, which as you have recently seen and now heard about, is currently populated by an increasing number of feral drunks, drug users, and mentally ill individuals. These are the same sidewalks that students from at least two local high schools, two elementary schools, a few nursery schools, hundreds of adventurous (or uninformed) tourists, and loyal beleaguered residents attempt to maneuver daily.

Drug running on wheels (skateboards, scooters etc.) and other suspicious transactions (casing homes and cars for burglary, etc.) happen quickly, routinely, and seemingly without repercussion or even follow-up. They have become the norm. Our current D5 Supervisor Preston (unlike you and former Supervisor Brown) is just not interested in our opinions, or any that challenge his own. Please don't forget those of us who support you: we are your loyal constituents, and residents of a mostly residentially zoned neighborhood. I bought my home charmed by the architecture and friendly open attitudes of an eclectic neighborhood. I raised two children here. We may be open-minded, but our beloved Haight has never looked this broken. Please don't add to the already pervasive unregulated havoc already existing on our streets.

—Dr. Gnarity Burke

Ed. note: Gnarity Burke is a retired USF and City College educator who has been a resident and homeowner in the Haight for several decades.



## Much More Than a Wine Cellar

You may have noticed some changes recently at Adel's Wine Cellar, the market at the corner of 17th and Cole—you know, the little corner store with the flowers overflowing along the sidewalk that make you smile every time you pass by. Longtime owner Adel Shalabi recently sold the beloved neighborhood treasure. But fear not, it's being left in very good hands. Jimmy Mousa ("Sweet Jimmy") the new owner, is going to take very good care of it.

Jimmy is passionate about this store and it shows. He's lived in San Francisco for over 35 years and is no stranger to the grocery business. He owns two other markets—one in the outer Sunset and one in Pacific Heights.

The first thing you will notice is the expanded selection of grocery items, including dozens of organic and local



Photo: Shannon Cooper Hock

Sweet Jimmy Mousa (left) is taking over Adel's. On right is Abdul Shalabi, Adel's cousin, who is staying on to work with Mousa.

items and pantry staples: flours, crackers, nuts, coffee, canned goods, pastas, ice creams, etc. It's all there and at competitive prices. And over the next few days Jimmy will be installing a new refrigerator that will be stocked with over 60 specialty cheeses. Over the next few weeks we'll also start to see a selection of fresh fruits such as bananas, apples, avocados and citrus.

The market is also now a pick-up terminal (hub) for the online "fresh fish-to order" site called 1fish2fishmarket.com. This is the first I had heard of this service and am excited to place my first order. Check it out.

And let's not forget about the market's Wine Cellar. Jimmy pointed out that we'll soon see a new selection of "weekday" or everyday wines—good wines at a great value. But don't worry wine lovers, we'll still find a great selection of unique, hard to find and library wines (I'm told that Adel will continue to consult on the wine side of the business. Yea for us!)

One of my favorite things about living in Cole Valley is the small-town feel and this is largely because of our merchants. They are the heart of this community. I want to thank Adel for being part of our community over the decades and now we want to welcome "Sweet Jimmy" to our Cole Valley neighborhood.

Change is always bittersweet, but I feel that this change has only an upside. If you're a longtime customer or if this will be your first visit, stop by and say hi to Sweet Jimmy or to Abdul, who will be staying on.

—Shannon Cooper Hock

## James Hormel: LGBT Ground Breaker

Longtime Buena Vista Park resident James C. Hormel, the first openly gay person to represent the United States as an ambassador, died on August 13, 2021 at age 88.

Mr. Hormel, a philanthropist and the grandson of the founder of Hormel Foods, served as ambassador to Luxembourg under President Bill Clinton.

Mr. Hormel received a bachelor's degree in history in 1955 from Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania, where he met his future wife, Alice McElroy Parker. They married in 1956 and, after having five children, divorced in 1965.



Hormel sold the stately pink home on Buena Vista East in 2013.

Hormel received a law degree from the University of Chicago and from 1961 to 1967 worked as dean of students at its Law School.

He eventually returned to Swarthmore to become a member of the college's board of managers. There he met Michael P.N. Araque, a student in his sophomore year. They married in 2014, with Michael assuming the Hormel name.

For over three decades, Mr. Hormel worked at providing resources to organizations serving people affected by HIV and AIDS or dealing with substance abuse and breast cancer.

In 1997, Mr. Hormel was also the chairman of Equidex, a San Francisco-based company managing the Hormel family's philanthropic endeavors and investments, a position he would continue to hold for years.

Through a large donation, followed by thousands of others, in 1996 he founded the first gay and lesbian center in a public library—a stunning reading room on the third floor of San Francisco's Main Branch.

In addition to his husband, Michael Hormel, who worked with him in his philanthropic and charitable work, Mr. Hormel is survived by five children,

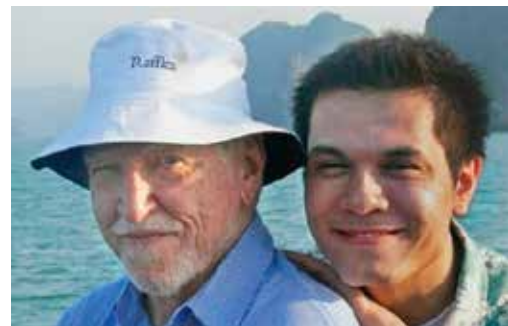


Photo: Elisa Rolle

James and Michael Hormel

Alison, Anne, Elizabeth, Jimmy and Sarah; 14 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

**ANNUAL HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING**  
 Tuesday, December 2 from 4 to 8 p.m.  
 McLaren Lodge, Golden Gate Park

## The East End of Golden Gate Park Lives Again

Finally, the main entrance to Golden Gate Park has received the attention it deserves. The landscaping welcomes you with open arms inviting exploration and enjoyment of our glorious park. The native plants are thriving and are definitely worth a look.

To officially finalize the project, Rec and Park, Urban Alchemy and the Exploratorium gathered at Alvor Lake on October 14

to celebrate the opening of eight new “experiences.” These installations have been designed and built by the

Exploratorium to enhance the “social landscapes” of the park. You can greet others along the High-Five Highway, investigate how wind shapes the shifting sands of Hidden Dunes, experiment with the magnetic Black Sand found at Ocean Beach, explore the algae that thrives in the lake, and more.

The area has also been activated by a variety of activities: the Skate Park at the end of Waller seems busier—maybe because skateboarding is now an Olympic sport. The sloping path along Alvor Lake is once more a graceful entry to Sharon Meadow and the Children’s Playground—or



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

perfect for a short walk. Further north, at Page Street, the coffee kiosk, run by Flywheel Coffee (across the street), has made a very positive impact on this long-neglected area bordering Stanyan. Tables and chairs, even some child size ones, invite you to linger. During their hours of operation you can borrow Bocce balls to use at the two adjacent courts. And it is free. You can also bring your own set, if you have one.

Additional enhancements include an actual sidewalk along the park side of Stanyan Street and a good bike path connection to the rest of the park.

Golden Gate Park is world famous, yes, but it is also our neighborhood green space and we should enjoy all it offers. As we activate the space it becomes more an integral part of the neighborhood.

—Lena Emmerly



High-fiving the big red hand somehow makes one feel different about entering the park.

## Cole Hardware Says Goodbye to Esteemed Manager

Julia Strzesieski, Cole Hardware’s community relations/commercial sales/marketing manager extraordinaire, will be leaving after fifteen years.

Julia’s generosity and involvement have been pillars of Cole Hardware. Through her tireless partnership with the Department of the Environment, Cole Hardware has repeatedly qualified as a Green Business.

—Rick Karp

## So Long, San Francisco!

After fifteen years as part of the Cole Hardware family, I will be moving on to embark on my next chapter. A few



Julia Strzesieski

years ago, I bought a house for my retirement in my hometown in Western Pennsylvania, and I’ve decided it’s time. I was a naive eighteen-year-old when I moved to California forty-two years ago, so at least I will go home a little wiser (hopefully).

My time at Cole Hardware has been meaningful and rewarding—especially working with the many neighborhood community groups and the folks at the vibrant San Francisco Department of the Environment. I will surely miss the family atmosphere at Cole Hardware and the many lifelong friends I have made over the years. May our paths cross again down the road! Cheers, Julia

### Simple Rules for Friendly Bocce Ball

**The person (or team) going first throws the pallino (small ball) and the place where it comes to a stop becomes the target. The person who threw the pallino throws the first bocce ball and players alternate throws until all eight balls have been thrown. Players try to make their bocce be the closest to the pallino.**

### Scoring

**Only the person with the closest bocce to the pallino scores any points. The person who is closest, or inside, gets a number of points equal to how many of their bocce are closer to the pallino than the other person’s nearest bocce. If the player’s bocce touches the pallino, it is called a baci and the opponent earns 2 points for that ball. A game of bocce is called a round and it lasts until a person (or team) reaches a predetermined point value. Common point values are 9, 11, 12 and 15. Any disputes can be settled using a tape measure or even a stick to check the distance from the pallino. In the case of a tie, or any dispute that cannot be settled, no points are awarded to either team.**

Taken from [www.livestrong.com](http://www.livestrong.com).

**Fond Farewell to Buster.  
Forever in Our Hearts**



*Lee Fabian (Harrison) Pavalko*  
*February 17 1947 - July 21, 2021*

Lee Fabian (Harrison) Pavalko, known as “Cosi”, passed away surrounded by friends and staff at UCSF Medical Center on July 21, 2021. A well-known San Francisco and Haight-Ashbury personality and British expatriate, she was during her life a scholar, journalist, author, poet, masterful storyteller, avid gardener, sex worker, a recovering alcoholic (40 years sober), devotee of the “Goddess spirit” in all life and a force to be reckoned with.

Cosi was born in Malta to British family who later returned to the UK where Cosi’s primary education took place. An initial visit to San Francisco led her in the late 1960s to make it her home.

In 1980, Cosi moved into the apartment on Ashbury Street that would remain her home for 40 years. She also began a lifetime journey of sobriety. Later that decade she became part of the sex worker community, supporting the decriminalization organization known as COYOTE (Call Off Your Old Tired Ethics), founded by Margo St. James



Cosi served as an advisor and a lecturer for The Women’s Spirituality Programs at The New College of California. In later life, Cosi created the successful dog walking business “Mary Poopins” and was an active participant in the Haight-Ashbury community, creating a support group for seniors, and engaged with campaigns to ensure public transport access for seniors. A celebration of Cosi’s life was held at the San Francisco Columbarium on September 25th.

### **Poly Want A Street?**

The Board of Supervisor’s Land Use and Transportation Committee is considering changing the 700 block of Frederick to “Polytechnic Way.”

## **Muni Dilemma: Closer Stops or Faster Trips?**

SFMTA has been soliciting public input over the past few months asking about what Muni service should look like in 2022. They especially focused on the question about which was more important: closer stops or faster trips. Budget constraints means that they have to choose one over the other. Muni received one billion dollars in relief funds from the Feds and half of that has been spent. Since staff does not expect revenue to be back to normal for at least a couple of years, they’re trying to stretch out the remainder.

They’re still tabulating the survey results but shared some of the data in an October 16 meeting. Most of the responses were from the 94117 zip code and people with disabilities and seniors were over represented. Not surprisingly, the younger crowd wanted faster trips and the elders wanted closer stops.

Their plans for 2022 will depend on the vaccination status of the drivers. There are still some un-vaccinated drivers



who were terminated or put on unpaid leave on November 1. If there is a driver shortage, the wait times for service will be increased. And because NextBus prediction times depend on historical data, those predictions will not be accurate.

Currently the 7 Noriega and 37 Corbett have both resumed full service; the 6 Haight/Parnassus has not been restored; the 66 Quintara has been extended to Stanyan & Haight; and the 43 Masonic route has been shortened to end at Presidio and Masonic.

The shortened 43 route has been the most controversial because this route eliminated the only service to Ft. Mason; a connection with senior housing to the Marina Safeway; bus access to the Presidio; and an important connection to school. The full route will be restored in February 2022. CVIA does not think the MTA should wait until then. Let them know that the 43 should be extended as soon as possible. (SFMTA.com/contact)

In February 2022, the 6 Haight/Parnassus and 66 Quintara will be restored to pre-pandemic service. And at some future date, staff is looking at adding rapid service to Haight Street. (See letter on next page.)

—Joan Downey

## **Changes in City’s Speed Limits**

Seven busy street corridors in San Francisco are likely to see their speed limits lowered to 20 mph in early January as the city puts to use its newfound power to reduce speeds under a new state law AB43. One of these on the list is Haight Street, from Stanyan to Central Avenue and from Webster to Steiner streets

The SFMTA will implement the changes in two phases. First, under the provision that goes into effect in January 2022, the SFMTA will move to lower speed limits by 5 mph (from 25 mph to 20 mph, or 30 mph to 25 mph) in key streets with business activity—where at least half of the property uses are dining or retail.

## CVIA Board Minutes

Every meeting begins with a reading of the minutes of the last meeting and reports from delegates to the Kezar Stadium Advisory Committee (KSAC), and Community Police Advisory Board (CPAB).

### Virtual Board Meeting on Zoom— Sept. 7, 2021, 7:00

#### p.m. Guest: Sam Lauter

■ Although on vacation, Treasurer Joan Downey submitted a report that CVIA currently has a bank balance of \$16,481.38, with \$10,045.89 held in the Clean Cole Street fund, and \$25,267.20 in an account (as fiscal sponsor) for the Stanyan Parklet (American Cyclery). She also filed sales tax with the State, (even though we hadn't sold anything) in order to maintain our business license. She noted that PayPal now takes 99 cents for an online membership payment of \$25. (Note that in a recent donation of \$1000, they took over \$20.) The membership should be made aware of this.

■ Joan also asked if someone would to take over Mailchimp; or authorize hiring someone to do it. The Board needs to find a way for Mailchimp, used to send out the newsletter, can be updated automatically. Using Mailchimp means we keep track of those people who have shown interest in our organization and also tracks how many people open the emails we send out: 62 percent of members in good standing opened the newsletter message; 50% of those in arrears for up to 9 months; 44% of those more than 9 months.

■ President Carole Glosenger reviewed the last Community Meeting hosted by the developers of the affordable housing at 730 Stanyan at which they announced the height of the building would rise to 80 ft.—three stories higher than the neighborhood had voted for in 2018. And that the interim use of the site would not be for community activities for which CVIA and several others submitted proposals, but for a homeless drop-in center for the approximately two years before construction begins.

This temporary facility will include bathrooms, showers, and harm-reduction services (injection site), and resource information. It will be run by a non-profit group, most likely Larkin Youth Services or Homeless Youth Alliance, the operators of the recently removed Safe Sleeping Village. After a long discussion, it was decided that, we would draw a line at the extra two floors, feeling that an increase of nearly 400 people in an 80 foot building to a street with a maximum height of 40 feet would have a negative effect on the neighborhood.

■ Karen Crommie to contact Calvin Welch regarding a joint protest to the Mayor's Office on the single issue of the two extra floors, and to also draft a survey to be sent to CVIA members to asking for their opinions on the building enlargement.

■ Sam Lauter, principal of BMWL& Partners, a longtime San Francisco public relations consultancy, now based in Oakland, asked for the Board's recommendation (to the Rec and Park Commission) of a festival to be held in Golden Gate Park next year, which is applying to extend the hours to 9:30 pm on a Saturday night. Ozy Fest is a big-crowd event held in New York's Central Park and elsewhere that features thought-provoking speakers, music, comedy and cooking on three different stages and typically attracts a crowds of as many as 2000 people. It would be staged in Robin Williams

Meadow. Balancing its unique content against the noise it would inflict on our Sunset District neighbors, the Board decided neither to support nor oppose it. (*Later revealed as scam.*)

Adjourned: 8:40 pm

### Virtual Board Meeting (Zoom) –Nov. 1, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

■ Treasurer Joan Downey submitted a report that CVIA currently has a bank balance of \$17,502.09, with \$9,055.31 held in the Clean Cole Street fund, and \$25,267.20 in an account (as fiscal sponsor) for the Stanyan Parklet (American Cyclery).

■ Karen Crommie reported that Foodrunners will remain operating out of the Waller Center for the time being. Foodrunners picks up unused food from restaurants and elsewhere, prepares and delivers it directly to agencies feeding the hungry in San Francisco. They had been given a gentle eviction notice and had embarked on a search for new commercial kitchen. They're safe for now.

■ Lena Emmery reported that Captain Pedrini of Park Station is still troubled by understaffing and has beefed up his drug enforcement.. At the same time the Captain is trying to get his weekly newsletter distributed more widely and engage more neighbors in his monthly meetings (now virtual).

■ Joan Downey described a neighbor's complaint about the noise of a leaf-blower being used by the street-cleaning team hired by CVIA. CleanScapes agreed not to use leaf blowers in the future which Joan reported to the resident.

■ Lena Emmery suggested we provide a matching grant to the Mt. Sutro Stewards, who maintain the hiking trails. The Board agreed but decided to wait until the middle of next year as our last grant was given only five months ago.

■ It was agreed that we can improve our support of Park Station by using the newsletter to encourage membership in SFSAFE and NERT, and also to consider CCTV installation on their property.

■ Karen reported that Calvin Welch would be willing to join us in a meeting with the mayor but not if it is confined to the height of the building.

■ Carole Glosenger proposed that our next goals regarding the 730 Stanyan site should be to stop the plan to install a drop-in harm-reduction center as part of the new affordable housing. There will be diverse supportive services on site for residents of the building, but allowing others to come for services seems rash. Members agreed that it would not be the best use of space in a building full of families.

■ Carole further said that, even more important, was to advocate for a lower building height. Early on, neighbors had voted for a 50-foot building. Then it rose to 60 feet and more recently, 80 feet. It was agreed that it should go no higher than 60 feet. The board also agreed we support the interim use of the site as a parking lot for Haight visitors during the holiday season. This had been floated as a business-friendly use last year by merchants. If the use was approved, would the City continue to assume the cost of 24-hour security?

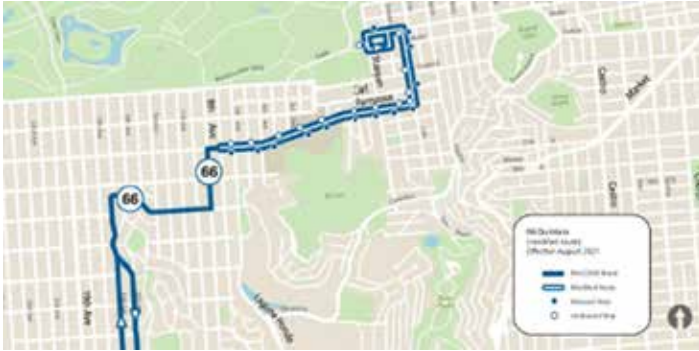
Adjourned at 8:30 pm

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



## 66 Quintara Extends to the Haight

The northern part of the 66 Quintara route has been extended to the Haight as part of the COVID-19 Muni Core



*The extension of the 66 Quintara brings new transit options to the Haight.* Network. It is covering some of the suspended route of the 6 Parnassus. Previously the route of the 66 was from 30th and Vincente to 9th and Judah. The extension brings it east on Judah/Parnassus, to Cole, Haight, and ending at Haight and Waller.

## City Not Tagging Live-in Vans

A San Francisco Superior Court judge on October 6, 2021 ruled in favor of the city of San Francisco after the judge acknowledged recent changes made to the city's vehicle policies, bringing a nearly three-year lawsuit over towing practices to a close.

The nonprofit Coalition on Homelessness filed a lawsuit against the city back in December 2018, alleging the



practice of towing or placing a boot on a vehicle for unpaid parking tickets was disruptive for those who can't afford to pay their debt, in particular for people who live in their vehicles. As a result it will no longer be done.

Furthermore, the SFMTA has committed to implement a variety of payment programs for low-income people to reduce parking and towing fees. Recognizing the recent changes, Judge Ethan Schulman recently ruled in favor of the city to resolve the Coalition on Homelessness' suit. The coalition and its supporters declared the recently implemented changes a victory.

*(Excerpted from article by CBS News Channel 5 broadcasting 10-6-21)*

## They Don't Have Flowers In Their Hair Now

Why we were so concerned about the proposed homeless services drop-in center planned for the interim use at 730 Stanyan? Those of us who have lived here for many years remember the various stages of the Haight—really bad and better. The drop-in center would have had food, showers, needles, etc. but no place to sleep. Our concern is that our neighborhood will go back to the dark days when hundreds of transient, drug-addicted homeless kids occupied our streets and wrecked the entrance to the park. I have some memories.

My first experience with the street people was when my first-born son was about six months old. I decided to take him to the children's playground just beyond the entrance to Golden Gate Park (Now, Koret Childrens Quarter). I set out, with the baby in a stroller, to enter the park at Haight and Stanyan. At the time there were wooden benches leading



*Even before the Summer of Love, Haight Street was on a downward path.*

down to the tunnel at Alvor Lake. The benches were occupied by grizzled inebriated men who called out to me. One asked, "Can I hold him?" I passed on that and went through the tunnel to the Children's playground. When I came home I asked my neighbor if she took her kids to that playground. She said, "Oh no. You can't go there. They found needles in the sand." You have to go to Mountain Lake Park. After the experience of what some called "passing the Alvor Lake gauntlet," I drove to other parks with my children. Alvor Lake became a notorious drug dealing outpost.

At that time, the Haight Ashbury was recovering from the Summer of Love. After one year of dancing in the street with flowers in their hair, the "hippies" went away and what was left were boarded up businesses and hard core drug addicts occupying the streets and the Park. Haight Street was sad, sleazy, skid row.

For several years there were lots of addiction related services for street people. The street population seemed to grow. It became difficult to navigate down Haight Street to do a little shopping. The street people planted themselves in front of businesses and harassed you if you suggested they get out of the way. The merchants were intimidated. If they stood up to the kids who were hanging out in front of their property, there were consequences. A huge plate glass window could cost thousands.

Back then, the drugs were predominantly marijuana and acid. When walking down Haight Street, you could hear hushed offers of “buds, doses.” Now it’s Fentanyl and people die.

Many residents had long stopped shopping on Haight. Then tourists began to return. There were a lot of unique shops on Haight Street and the carnival atmosphere of street people panhandling, some in very outlandish costumes, was entertaining. They took pictures.

In 1988, Art Agnos was elected mayor. One of his first proclamations was that “hippie buses” could park on the streets of the Haight Ashbury without having to abide by the 72 hour parking law. (See article on prior page). ONLY in the Haight Ashbury. The busses grew from about 10 to over 100 just before the Haight Street Fair in June, 1990.

I had a large parking space and a tree in front of my house so I had busses. They did have to move for street cleaning. They would leave their garbage under the bus and pull away. Oftentimes, they came right back. I had clothes hanging in



Former Mayor Art Agnos

my tree. On some corners, the kids would be sitting in lawn chairs. When I took my children to school in the morning, I was afraid to open the garage door for fear the bus dwellers

would jump out and run into my garage. I could see the vehicle rocking a bit so I knew they were in there. My two big dogs stayed with me until I checked under my stairs and made sure it was safe.

Residents complained and there were “us versus them” meetings. We wanted to know why our neighborhood was singled out for this kind of treatment. At one of the meetings, a young man was called on to speak. “VRA spokesman...” I looked at my neighbors. VRA spokesman? What’s a VRA? Vehicular Resident’s Association. It turned out that he had an apartment but his band practiced there. So, he and his girlfriend lived on the bus.

That episode was the beginning of CVIA. I found a flyer on my doorstep inviting me to a neighbor’s home for a meeting regarding the bus issue. Residents got together and formed a group that opposed the resident-busses. Our meeting was televised on Channel 5 news. The mayor rescinded his proclamation. Art Agnos was a one term Mayor.

Unfortunately, Haight Street has continued to have issues with street people. Sometimes it’s really bad. Sometimes it’s better. Lately it’s been bad. It seems that chaos and lawlessness erupts on Haight Street without consequences. The street people are meaner, more out of control. On September 9 there was a fatal stabbing including one that permanently blinded a victim near Happy Donut.

When the Sleeping Village went in at 730 Stanyan, there wasn’t room for everyone. Tents went up on neighboring streets and for about six months there were many more

people living outside of the Safe Sleeping Village than inside. Small crowds gathered on street corners and erected living rooms complete with sofas, tables, chairs, dogs, and



Tents were not limited to the Safe Sleeping Village.

garbage. There were brawls, noise, and unsanitary conditions in front of people’s homes. Police did not seem to be able to do anything, blaming COVID and the SFPD policy of non-compliance with the sit/lie law.

Alvord Lake is pristine now. The entrance to Golden Gate Park has been completely redone and it’s so beautiful it breaks my heart to think that reckless people might destroy it again. If there had been a City sanctioned drop-in center for homeless transient youth across the street, it’s likely there would have been many more out of control people occupying our streets, doorways, and the entrance to Golden Gate Park. This would be a tragedy. Is our neighborhood that expendable?

—Carole Glosenger

## Letter to San Francisco MTA Regarding 43 Masonic Route

Dear Mr. Tumlin:

I am a new 9th grade student at the Bay School of San Francisco that is located in the Presidio. I live in Cole Valley and had planned to take the 43 bus to school every day. In fact, my decision to go to Bay was partially based on the fact that I would be able to get to school on the 43. In my first weeks at Bay, I have learned that many other students also had planned to depend on this bus to get to and from school each day. Without it, parents are forced to drive their students to Bay (and I am sure other schools that the 43 served), inconveniencing them, clogging up the streets, and creating more air and other environmental pollution than what is already happening. Examples of congestion are Masonic and Stanyan Avenues, where now there are major delays in the morning and at night. Some of that congestion is caused by Bay families. The 43 bus needs to not just finish its route at California Street, it needs to continue on its original route through the Presidio.

In doing additional research, I learned that the SFMTA received over \$1 billion in federal funding to re-invigorate the public transit system. Ben Fried, Spokesperson for Transit Center said “To build fair cities, they need to build equitable and effective transit systems. For many people their ability to access jobs, education and the basics of city life depends on their ability to get around. I think that has to be an urgent priority in all our cities.” I agree with this statement and believe that reinstating the full 43 line is a step in the right direction.

The nearly 350 undersigned Bay School community members share my concerns and are joining me in petition



ing that the SFMTA to immediately reinstate the full 43 bus line connecting the Northern and Southern parts of the city.

Nathaniel Page  
Class of 2025

# Letters

Dear CVIA

Thank you so much for the discounted tickets to the "All San Francisco Concert" on September 30th. I apologize for the delay in sending this and thank you for all you do for Cole Valley.

Kay Auciello

Dear CVIA Board:

As a Haight Ashbury business owner, I do not support this petition, nor do I support CVIA associating with Safe Healthy Haight. SHH is a group of people with no vision for anything positive for the world.

As a dues-paying member of CVIA I hereby voice my opposition to the organization promoting this petition.

Joe Creitz

*Ed. note: We removed defaming language from the above letter. (Sorry, Joe.) Nearly 700 neighbors signed the SHH petition, registering opposition to the establishment of a drop-in "harm reduction" service center at the former McDonald's site.*

**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, 2022 to CVIASF@aol.com. We encourage submissions from anyone interested in our neighborhood. Send questions or comments to the above address or call 415-431-1414.

Editor .....Karen Crommie  
Production.....David Crommie  
Editorial Assistance .....Joan Downey

**If you would prefer to receive this newsletter by email, please let us know at CVIASF@aol.com**

## Call for News

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



# Help

- Emergency .....911
- Disturbance .....415-553-0123
- Blocked Driveways .....415-553-1200
- Abandoned Vehicles .....415-781-5865
- Aging and Disability Services .....415-355-6700
- Health Department .....415-255-3610
- Litter Patrol (sofas, mattresses, etc.) .....311
- Graffiti and Illegal Sign Removal .....311
- NextBus .....311
- Street Lighting .....415-554-0730

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

**Chief of Police William "Bill" Scott .....415-553-1551**  
SFPD  
1245 Third Street  
S.F., CA 94158

**District Attorney Chesa Boudin.....628-652-4000**  
350 Rhode Island Street North Building, Suite 400N.  
S.F., CA 94103

**Captain Christopher Pedrini .....415-242-3000**  
Park District Police Station  
1899 Waller St.  
S.F., CA 94117  
[Christopher.Pedrini@sfgov.org](mailto:Christopher.Pedrini@sfgov.org)

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

**Telephone: 415-554-5184 FAX: 415-554-5163**

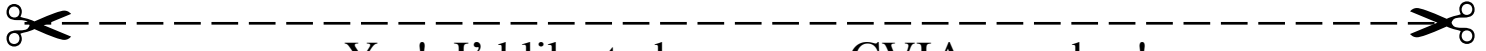
District	Telephone
1. Connie Chan <a href="mailto:ChanStaff@sfgov.org">ChanStaff@sfgov.org</a>	415-554-7410
2. Catherine Stefani <a href="mailto:Catherine.Stefani@sfgov.org">Catherine.Stefani@sfgov.org</a>	415-554-7752
3. Aaron Peskin <a href="mailto:Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org">Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org</a>	415-554-7450
4. Gordon Mar <a href="mailto:Gordon.Mar@sfgov.org">Gordon.Mar@sfgov.org</a>	415-554-7460
<b>5. Dean Preston</b> <a href="mailto:Dean.Preston@sfgov.org">Dean.Preston@sfgov.org</a>	<b>415-554-7630</b>
6. Matt Haney <a href="mailto:Matt.Haney@sfgov.org">Matt.Haney@sfgov.org</a>	415-554-7970
7. Myrna Melgar <a href="mailto:MelgarStaff@sfgov.org">MelgarStaff@sfgov.org</a>	415-554-6516
8. Rafael Mandelman <a href="mailto:MandelmanStaff@sfgov.org">MandelmanStaff@sfgov.org</a>	415-554-6968
9. Hillary Ronen <a href="mailto:Hillary.Ronen@sfgov.org">Hillary.Ronen@sfgov.org</a>	415-554-5144
10. Shamann Walton, President <a href="mailto:Shamann.Walton@sfgov.org">Shamann.Walton@sfgov.org</a>	415-554-7670
11. Ahsha Safai <a href="mailto:Ahsha.Safai@sfgov.org">Ahsha.Safai@sfgov.org</a>	415-554-6975

# BECOME A CVIA MEMBER

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

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

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



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

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

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

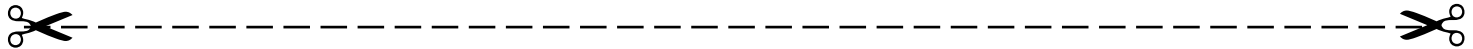
What I like about the neighborhood: \_\_\_\_\_

What I dislike about the neighborhood: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Do NOT acknowledge my contribution in the newsletter

*Dues and contributions may be taken as charitable deductions. Contact your accountant regarding the tax law.*



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

**SAVE THE AGGRAVATION**  
**Shop for Holiday Gifts**  
**in Cole Valley and the**  
**Haight. (If you can't find it**  
**here, they don't need it.)**

