

# CVIA NEWS

COLE VALLEY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Volume XXIV SERVING ALL RESIDENTS OF THE GREATER HAIGHT ASHBURY WINTER 2011

## Photo with Santa Helps Fund Clean Cole Street Program

Because of the overwhelming response to last year's event, CVIA is again giving neighborhood families a chance to have their children (and dogs) photographed with Santa. As for posing and costumes, well, you're only limited by your imagination. Last December we saw everything from a little princess in red velvet to a Great Dane who sat majestically at Santa's feet (after Santa fought him off his lap).

This is a fund-raiser for the 7 day-a-week cleaning of the Cole Street commercial corridor. It is made possible because of the generosity of photographer Loic Nicolas, who volunteers his time, and



**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4TH**  
10 - 12 NOON AND 2 - 5 P.M.

Maryo Mogannam, who provides the use of Postal Chase. There are scores of other volunteers, too, particularly the two neighborhood guys who have agreed to play Santa: the popular Gaston Alfonso from Tully's and CVIA board member Chuck Canepa, known best for his vintage car show at the Cole Valley Fair.

Bring your children, dogs, cats or birds to Postal Chase (912 Cole Street) on Sunday, December 4th between the hours of 10 to 12, 2 to 5 p.m. Sign up and pay \$20. The next day you go online to select your prints, which are priced at \$1.00 for a 4x6 print, \$4.00 for a 5x7, \$10 for an 8x12, you get the idea. The cost to download a file runs from \$15 to \$35, depending on the resolution. For more information, visit Loic's special website for this shoot at <http://loicphoto.com/santa/>. Such a deal.

**ANNUAL HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING**  
Thursday, December 8 from 5 to 7:30 p.m.  
McLaren Lodge, Golden Gate Park

## Judge Gives HANC Recycling Center Another Pass

With the Sheriff's office scheduled to evict the owners of the HANC recycling center on October 10, their lawyers asked Judge Charlotte Woolard to grant them a stay until the appeal they had filed in Superior Court earlier this year was heard. The judge agreed, which means the Recycling Center will remain open until that time, which could be as long as a year.

The attorney for the Recycling Center argued that by forcing the eviction before the appeal could be heard would create a hardship on its business and jeopardize the jobs of their ten employees. (The fact that they have had ten years to find an alternative location was apparently not considered.) The incredible aspect is that Woolard was the same judge who had earlier ordered the eviction. Yes, she stayed her own decision.

This is a great victory for HANC, which has been successfully evading relocation for years, hanging on to that piece of Golden Gate Park like a dog with a bone. In the meantime, knowing that Rec and Park had made plans to convert that corner of the park into



The HANC Recycling Center will remain open until its appeal is heard.

a community garden, the recycling center owners have built raised beds and recruited gardeners, outside of the city's community garden guidelines.

Ted Loewenberg, president of the Haight Ashbury Improvement Association recently wrote, "It is my opinion, as one who's dealt in a lot of land use, tenant lease matters, the judge clearly does not understand contracts and obligations, along with reasonable respon

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sibilities. This matter has been in the court for most of the past year, and the issue is the obligation of a tenant to abide by the terms of the lease to which they agreed. The tenant's failure in this matter to make reasonable plans to find another location for conducting its business is not the responsibility of the lessor (the City). HANC's immediate goal was to postpone the eviction until after the election, hoping for a sympathetic mayor to give them permanent status in the park. They didn't have to bother. It seems apparent that Mayor Ed Lee will not confront this takeover of public land by a private non-profit, nor will any other politician.

—Karen Crommie

## Halloween on Belvedere

It was a surprisingly busy Halloween for a Monday night. At 4:00 p.m. I was getting a substantial number of people in complete daylight. I think either they are unclear on the concept e.g., dark, spooky, or they just wanted to beat the crowds. (After all, the name is All Hallows Eve.) Many residents weren't finished with their decorations but, by nightfall, everyone was ready to pull off a great time for all the little ones and even the teens. Some people grumble about

teens trick or treating, but speaking for myself, I think if people take the time to get in costume we shouldn't begrudge them a candy. There are so few places for teens to go at night and who can blame them for wanting to hold onto the magic of their childhood for just a little longer.



Some Belvedere residents handed out more than 2,500 treats.

I took a poll of the total number of treats given out by neighbors. Some living near Belvedere and Parnassus report having handed out 2000 pieces of candy between the hours of 4 and 8 p.m. And 2,500 between 5 and 9 p.m. Both ran out. At the top block of Belvedere, outside the barricade, the number of treats is closer to 1000 to 1500. The crowd pretty much slowed to a trickle by 9:30 p.m.

It is great to see how the costumes change from little bunnies and pea pods, to the scary ninjas and superheroes to the more political teens e.g. my daughter in her milk carton as THE 1%. Trick or treat hosts and trick or treaters alike could be seen in assorted Mario Bros. costumes. There were a lot of adults dressed in the easiest costume of the night, Steve Jobs, in black mock turtle and jeans. Kudos to the couple dressed in full lobster regalia and the woman dressed as a Rubik's cube in mid-turn.

As for me, I continue to put up my "Jack o' Lantern of Truth." It requests treaters to reach into the Jack o' Lantern's mouth (ala the Boca de Verite in Rome) to see if they will get a treat or trick based on whether they've been good or not. Of course everyone gets a treat. We don't do anything bad but sometimes just gently "pet" the older hands as they grab through the fabric slit for the candy. Quite unsettling when you can't see the other side. For the very young or squeamish we have to sneak a bit of the candy outside the slot to give them enough confidence to take it. Maybe they heard that in the Rome of old, there were lions on the other side. As slaves were forced to stick their arm in the hole, they sometimes had no arm left to withdraw.

Other displays on the street just keep getting better. There was an Oktoberfest giving out pretzels and beer for the adults besides the usual candy treats for kids. One of the biggest hits is always

the modern house with extra large windows. Every year they have great music with dancing characters from a recent animated movie. This year's theme was "The Princess and the Frog." There was a band playing at the north end of Belvedere that had everyone moving. There are always so many wonderful carved pumpkins, people get more talented each year. There were so many hanging mini ghosts in front of one house, I can't imagine how long it took for them to get that display together. As usual, there was the ironic house in full Christmas regalia complete with "Countdown to Christmas" sign.



The barricades were up for this Halloween despite threats that the police would not provide them without a permit. Even though CVIA graciously paid for a permit last year, the permit stipulated someone indemnify the event. No one wanted to take on the responsibility this year. Neighbor Teri Olle tried to get some assistance but in the end she finally told Captain O'Leary of Park station that the neighbors had neither the energy or inclination to go through the permit process. The Captain, in the spirit of Police Chief Greg Suhr's request for more neighborhood centered policing, relented and provided barricades and police presence (although I did not personally see any police.) On Belvedere Street, the Halloween experience lives on.

Belvedere Street is home to virtuosos pumpkin carvers.

—Jessica Justino

## Newly Discovered SF Footage at Castro Theatre

Rick Prelinger, a guerrilla archivist who collects the uncollected and makes it accessible, presents the 6th of his annual Lost Landscapes of San Francisco screenings. You'll see an eclectic montage



of rediscovered and rarely-seen film clips showing life, landscapes, labor and leisure in a vanished San Francisco as captured by amateurs, newsreel cameramen and studio filmmakers.

New material this year (presented for the first time in HD) will include San

Francisco's lost cemeteries in color, unique drive-through footage of the Produce Market (now Embarcadero Center and Golden Gateway), rides along the newly constructed Embarcadero Freeway, back streets in working-class North Beach, new film showing the sandswept Sunset before its dunes were covered, wild automobile rides through downtown in the 1920s, newly-rediscovered Kodachrome Cinemascope footage of Playland and the Sky Tram, and much more.

### Castro Theatre

Thursday, December 8 at 7:30 p.m.

(Doors open at 6:30)

Info and ticket link: <http://lostlandscapes.eventbrite.com/>

Note: Jake Sigg (Nature News) "These shows have a way of selling out quickly. The Castro's a big, beautiful room, but I'd advise ordering tickets right now."

## NERT Trainings

If the last few small jolts haven't reminded you that we are way past the predicted time for the next major quake, then you may be spending too much time at the Vapor Room. Instead of feeling helpless, there are things you can do to prepare. First is securing the seismic safety of your home (go to [www.sfdbi.org/index.aspx?page=371](http://www.sfdbi.org/index.aspx?page=371)) for guidance. Second is enrolling in a 6-session training to become a member of the Neighborhood Emergency Response Team (NERT). This free program will next be offered in the Richmond District beginning January 11. If you have not taken the essential training, this is the time. The Haight has its own group of NERT graduates who meet regularly to refresh the emergency response techniques that range from personal and family safety to post-disaster neighborhood organization.

### January 2012 NERT Training

Location: Catherine Delmar Burke School  
7070 California St. at 32nd Ave.

Wednesdays 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Class session 1: January 11

Class session 2: January 18

Class session 3: January 25

Class session 4: February 1

Class session 5: February 8

Class session 6: February 15

## NERT Potluck Dinner

For those of you who are already "NERTs" there will be a Quiz Night & Potluck Party (hosted by the USF-Lone Mountain-Haight Ashbury coalition) on November 30 at USF's McLaren Building (Room 252) from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Please bring a dinner dish to share with others. RSVP to: [nopa.nert@gmail.com](mailto:nopa.nert@gmail.com) so we have an idea of numbers. Please submit questions for the Quiz. The Haight Ashbury NERT co-coordinator is Kate Klonizchii. Contact her at [haight.nert@gmail.com](mailto:haight.nert@gmail.com) or by calling (415) 652-8247.

**THIS HOLIDAY SEASON SUPPORT  
OUR NEIGHBORHOOD BUSINESSES.  
THEY ARE THE LIFEBLOOD OF  
OUR COMMUNITY**

## Chabad opens in Cole Valley

Rabbi Nosson and Chaya Potash together with their seven month old son, Menachem Mendel have recently moved in to Cole Valley and have been connecting and sharing the Jewish heritage with the community.

Nosson spent his formative years in London. Chaya grew up here in San Francisco. They met in New York where Nosson was ordained as a Rabbi and led the Congregation Zichron Moshe in Manhattan. "Since moving to San Francisco, I have met so many friendly people, it is just fantastic," says Nosson. But for Chaya, who grew up here, this is just the norm. "San Francisco is like a big city and a village at the same time," she says.

Chabad is an acronym for wisdom, knowledge, and understanding. This represents bringing the Torah and its teachings to all levels of understanding.



*Rabbi Nosson Potash*

"We care for every single Jew regardless of background, level of practice, or knowledge of Judaism," says Nosson.

Chabad is the largest Jewish organization of its kind. With more than 3500 local Jewish community centers across the globe, Chabad's success is based on the fact that Chabad is not a particular brand of Judaism, but rather a basic philosophy embracing all Jews. They believe

in the importance of each individual and the significance of every single good deed.

Since the Potashes arrived in Cole Valley they have hosted spirited Friday night Shabbat dinners at their home on Parnassus and a NorCal Kosher wine tasting event. Other events such as a Chanukah public menorah lighting and other family programs are in the works.

Participants vary greatly in degrees of observance yet they all come together and share a common bond of heritage, and friendship. Everyone is welcome. They expect no special knowledge from partakers, only a love of Judaism. They are there to facilitate a platform for Jewish life and expression in the neighborhood. At Chabad they are acutely aware of the needs of people that are unfortunately so often overlooked. One of the first things they did when they got here, was to volunteer at Laguna Honda Hospital and other senior homes to help in whichever way they could.

Chabad of Cole Valley does not receive any funds from Chabad regional and national headquarters. One hundred percent of funds donated to Chabad are directed back into the community. Chabad of Cole Valley is a recognized 501(c)3 organization. To get involved or volunteer for helping those in need please email [info@chabadcv.org](mailto:info@chabadcv.org) or visit [www.chabadcv.org](http://www.chabadcv.org). Rabbi Potash can be also be contacted at (415) 598-8718.

## Victorian Alliance House Tour Draws Hundreds to Cole Valley

It was a beautiful autumn day when, for the first time in memory, the Victorian Alliance on October 11 held their annual house tour in Cole Valley. The homes weren't all Victorian but they were old with interesting histories. Spreading upward from Waller to Belgrade, the tour provided quite a workout for those who didn't want to wait for the shuttle.



*The Dining room of the Kellers' Waller Street home was a favorite.*

Several CVIA members opened their homes for hundreds of architecture aficionados to peruse, not only the structure and decoration, but, let's be honest, to snoop. It is the downside for people who offer their homes: invasion of privacy. That's why it is such a generous thing to do and why the visitors are so grateful and respectful.

Most notable within the Victorian period was the home of CVIA members Virginia and David Keller on Waller Street. Also on Waller was the 1903 All Saints' Episcopal church. There were lovely houses on Carl, Clayton and Rivoli. High up on the 1500 block of Cole



*Taking a bath in the Kaltman-Vognsen home would surely expand one's frame of reference.*

the bay. The built-in bathtub is situated so that one can sit in the bubbles and look out at the world.

As always with the Victorian Alliance, the tour was well run with docents in each room and Hosts at the door in Victorian garb, in which they seemed to feel quite at home. It was a pleasure to see so many people from all over the Bay Area discovering Cole Valley.

—Karen Crommie

## GG Park Bike Path Plan May Create Serious Problems

Creating a separate bike lane between the cars and the edge of the road, which has been recently proposed by Rec and Park, will effectively force two bike lane choices: (1) take the proposed one between the cars and curb, or (2) continue the current practice of traveling in the same lanes as automobile traffic. There is no real choice for cycle-commuters and serious riders who navigate the park



*Some studies have shown that placing bike lanes between sidewalks and cars have markedly increased ridership while others indicate a rise in accidents.*

at speeds unsafe for the sheltered "child's corridor" path between parked cars and pedestrians.

Cyclists who ride daily to commute/train/recreate do not belong on this proposed new path, and to think they will use it is to ignore reality. The speed at which a serious cyclist will travel is usually between 12 and 25 mph on flat roads, faster on a grade. This is way too fast for a path between two fixed hazards (car doors, pedestrians and dogs) where children are expected to ride.

No serious cyclists will put themselves in a position where they are confined on both sides and have no exit path. Momentum is a cyclist's friend and on this new path momentum will be dangerous for everyone. The result will be that children will ride in the new lane and real cyclists will ride with the cars, in a lane now reduced in width.

The recent modifications of painted lines to keep cars to the center of the road have been a major improvement to bicycle flow in Golden Gate Park. It works. Don't change it.

—Charles Canepa

*Ed. note—The opinions expressed in the preceding article are those of the author and not necessarily those of CVIA.*

### A CLEAN COLE STREET



#### 2011 Participants

Alpha Market  
BurgerMeister  
Cole Hardware  
Crepes on Cole

Bambino's Ristorante  
Cole Cleaners  
Cole Valley Fitness  
Postal Chase

## Skateboard Park Settles In

After months of preparation, the Waller Street Skateboarding Area Pilot Project fully started on September 27th, with the installation of the nine skateboarding elements at the multi-use site. Since the last community meeting on July 27th, Rec and Park made the



On a Saturday afternoon, the skateboarders are older and few.

following changes and improvements to the Waller Street multi-use area in preparation of the pilot project launch:

- Moved the disabled parking to the East Side of the property at Stanyan and Waller, which can now be used 24/7 rather than being inaccessible for majority of the time as was before.
- Installed a Golden Gate Park - Waller Street Kiosk to be used for announcements and schedule information.
- Installed trash and recycling cans on site.
- Offered DRP-run open drop-in skate hours on Fridays from 1-6, with additional pipes, ramps, and rails on-site.
- Installed skateboarding area sign with rules and contact information.
- Installed 8 skate elements for the duration of pilot project.

Later this month, representatives from the neighborhood groups, skateboard association, RPD, SFPD, Farmers Market, Off-the-Grid, and the Bicycle Coalition will meet as part of the bi-monthly working group. We are also working with the SFMTA to install bike racks on site to make the area friendlier to alternative forms of transportation.

Alex Randolph  
Deputy Director of Community and Government Affairs  
San Francisco Recreation and Parks  
Alex.Randolph@sfgov.org

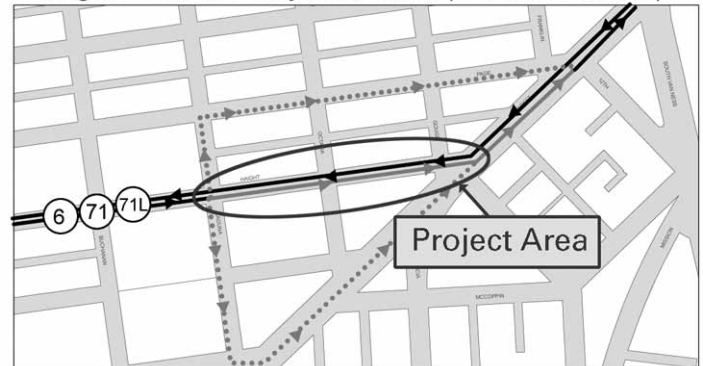
### NOTICE OF DATE CHANGE

The November Alvord Lake Gardening Work Party, normally scheduled for the fourth Saturday, has been changed to December 3. 9 a.m. to noon, Stanyan and Haight  
Dress in layers - bring gloves  
Contact: kcrommie@aol.com

## Two-way Haight Approved

On Tuesday October 18, The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) Board of Directors unanimously approved the conversion of the first block of Haight Street, between Market Street and Octavia Boulevard, from one-way to two-way.

Haight Street Two-Way Conversion (Octavia to Market)



Dotted line indicates inbound segments to be eliminated.

Two-way Haight Street allows the MTA to move the eastbound 6 and 71 routes from Page to Haight Street. Consolidating transit operations on Haight Street will eliminate two turns, and improve transit speed and reliability. The project includes a short segment of colored bus-only lane. Used extensively in other cities, this project will be San Francisco's first colored transit priority lane.

The project also includes many pedestrian safety improvements including curb extensions, realigned crosswalks, an expanded traffic and Muni boarding island, and signal improvements.



It certainly isn't expected, but when a member sends in an extra contribution, we appreciate it greatly. Only eight Cole Valley merchants contributed to the daily cleaning of the Cole Street business district, which costs us \$900 each month. We make up the deficit with member contributions, a sizeable discount from CleanScapes and proceeds from Santa on Cole and the Cole Valley Fair. So we would like to take this opportunity to thank the following members for their generosity:

*Les Silverman and Irv Govan, Britny Bottorff, Cecile and Jeff Boddington, Ellena Ochoa and Ted Ridgeway, Lena Emmery and Charles Canepa, Michael J. Sullivan, Jessica Justino and Bill Hancock, Rosemary Southwood, Byron G. Bray, Jr., Gina Centoni, Juliet Pries, John Manning, Margareta Ekblad and Vojtech Licko, The Ice Cream Bar, Virginia and Kenneth Brown, Virginia Joosen, Tresa and Jim Eyres, Tom Nicoll, Cole Hardware, Billy and Kendra Robins, Penny Duan and Steve Chaffin, Timothy Dunn and Claudia Scharff, Janan New, Susan Hills, Kay Bertram, Jan Platt and Jeff Ross, Linda Coda and Robert Brigante, Gerardo Joffe, Gail Berman, Ellen Curry, John and Molly Hooper, Harold and Lyn Isbell, Robert G. Jones and John T. Smith, Dennis Martino, MeMe Riordan, Linda Smith, Richard Taylor and Nancy Grubbs.*

## District 5 Groups Sponsor Successful Candidates Forum

Have you ever attended a candidates' forum that actually kept you awake? Such was decidedly the case on September 22 when



Audience members came to UCSF's Cole Hall from ten sponsoring organizations in District 5.

the new umbrella organization of neighborhood groups founded by Jarie Bolander (NOPNA) and called District 5 Neighborhood Action Committee, hosted a mayoral candidate forum at UCSF's Cole Hall. Of the top twelve candidates, only Mayor Ed Lee and Angela Alioto-Pier took a pass.

The strict time restrictions on the initial stump speeches and the decision of limiting questions to two candidates, with the others given a single chip (think poker) to rebut, avoided the one-question-ten answers snoozer and insured that the candidate using his one chip actually had something substantive to say on the issue. It also added a bit of levity to an otherwise tense grilling as BVNA's Richard Magary scurried to relieve the candidate of the chip once he had used it. (Lest he try to use it a second time)



SF Bay Guardian favorite John Avalos won in D-5 but was second to Ed Lee citywide.

CVIA's Lena Emmery and Azalia Merrell of Alamo Square (ASNA) went through the written questions from the audience of over 150 people, and evaluated them so successfully that it sounded



KGO-TV's Carolyn Tyler implemented a smart format that discouraged both repetition and candidate grandstanding.

as though the audience was a group of geniuses. (Maybe they were.) Thea Selby of the Lower Haight (LHMNA) gave a warm and professional introduction. Having nailed KGO-TV's Carolyn Tyler to moderate on a night of similar events all over the city, was a credit to the tenacity of Buena Vista's Richard Magary, who also stage-managed the affair. Everyone was especially grateful to CVIA's Joan Downey, who negotiated the superlative venue and to UCSF's Damon Lew who generously provided it.

—Karen Crommie

## Cole Valley Fair: Rain Made it Even Better, Eventually

The Cole Valley Fair started with rain. Canopies folded, banners got soggy. Merchandise got wet. Cole Hardware sold out



It started raining when the fair opened.

of plastic drop cloths as artisans sought to protect their crafts. At the CVIA booth, posters, membership forms and complimentary newsletters were sodden. But then, around noon, the skies parted and the sun looked down on the grateful vendors

and nonprofits that had huddled under tents. Maybe it was gratitude for the change in weather but the rest of the Fair was one of the best we have ever had. The musical groups, expertly chosen by Chris



Pet tricks always draws a crowd.



Never too young for vintage cars.

Hock, were outstanding; Pet Tricks was won by a contestant who had been passed over last year causing euphoria in the crowd; Jessica Justino's historic photo display featured famous residents of Cole Valley; the vintage car show had newly discovered treasures; the crowds lined up for middle eastern food delicacies; the jumpy house bounced up and

down all day; the balloon artist Twee Twee continued to have a crowd of tots seated around him until past closing time. It was, in short, a wonderful day. Exhausting for the CVIA volunteers but well worth the months of planning and negotiation by organizer Joan Downey, who promptly went on vacation.



Historic photos on Alpha Market.



Fair organizer Joan Downey pulled it off with competence and style.

Oh, sure, there were some complaints about smoke from the Korean Barbecue and two cars had to be towed. Some musicians said they couldn't be heard over the inflated house generator. But these were all things that we will work on next year. Each fair is a learning process.

Thanks to all of you who helped throughout the day and to those of you who simply came and enjoyed yourselves.

—Karen Crommie

# Get Ready: Massive Carl St. Road Work Begins in February

## Last Meeting

At a meeting held at Grattan School on November 9, Cole Valley residents were given a final report on major infrastructure work scheduled for Carl Street the beginning of next year. Municipal Transit Agency's (MTA) project manager Ha Nguyen explained that, by February, crews will start replacing the 35-year old N-Judah rail tracks, the overhead power lines, new underground water lines, traffic signals and install "rail lubricators" both at the exit from the tunnel and the turn on Arguello Street. Most controversial are the three transit "bulbs" that will eliminate eight parking spaces and narrow the already restricted Carl Street. Three bus shelters are being considered, using the "Wave" model provided by Clear Channel Outdoor, for which they will receive advertising rights.



Project Director Ha Nguyen reviewed the scope of the upcoming Carl St. improvements.

## Service Disruption

In an effort to minimize the inconvenience to the 5,000 riders who use the N-Judah line every week day, the work will take place over 13 weekends. When the time comes to actually lay down the road, Carl will be closed for nine days straight. Muni will provide buses with alternate routes. There will be plenty of notices posted ahead of time and even MTA "ambassadors," on the spot to guide riders to the new stops and explain the route and its transfer points.

## Improvements vs. Neighborhood Character

This meeting equivalently ended the 6-month protest of CVIA board member Charles Canepa who, in a series of communications to the MTA, has made the following point: "Our little Cole Valley neighborhood was built around 1900. I am quite dismayed to find



that your overall design is not in keeping with its character. The renderings we were shown (at the last public meeting in July) were severely modern in every aspect and do not blend into the feel of Cole Valley." He went on, over several rounds of correspondence,

to express his concerns about the surface of the transit boarding "bulb-outs," the modern light poles "masting into the street at Carl and Stanyan," the surface of the crosswalks (Canepa suggested brick, as is used in some neighborhoods), and the ultra modern "wave" transit shelters planned for the Carl and Cole stop.



Grace Knight and Louise Finau express concern over lost parking spaces.

MTA, replied that they are indeed reconsidering replacing the light pole mast arm with one somewhat shorter 10-12 ft; that brick crosswalks, as installed at Ninth and Irving streets, have been "problematic to maintain;" and that the "Wave" design shelters had gone through an extensive citywide approval process — including one by the Art Commission lasting six months. In short, the die has been cast.

Canepa's point of view, expressed again at last week's meeting, was not foreign to project engineer Mark A. Rudicki, who



A "Wave" bus shelter on Haight Street.

admitted to not liking the Wave in the older neighborhoods and described trying to preserve a more "period" looking shelter in St. Francis Wood during its street improvement project. The City warned him not to try it again.

Still, Canepa asked, "How can one design be approved as the only option available citywide? What is appropriate in front of Stonestown is not by definition appropriate in a Edwardian era neighborhood. While the Wave may be interesting looking (to some), consensus is that it is all form and functionally ineffective."

Nevertheless, Ha Nguyen, the project manager who lead the November meeting, left no doubt in the minds of the approximately 25 neighbors who were present. The plans for the Cole Street Rail Project are final and critics should, well, just get over it.

—Karen Crommie

### CVIA Officers

- President.....Karen Crommie
- Vice President ..... Shannon Cooper Hock
- Treasurer .....Joan Downey
- Recording Secretary ..... Amy Blakely
- Membership .....Lena Emmery
- Community Relations .....Amy Blakeley

## Cviasf@aol.com

Please contact us by e-mail if you have an issue to raise, a newsletter article, address change, or an update to your membership information. Send us your e-mail address if you want to be notified of upcoming meetings and events of importance to our neighborhood.

## CVIA Board Minutes

The following is a summary of what took place at CVIA board meetings the last three months. Those wishing to bring a neighborhood issue before the Board are welcome to do so. Meetings occur the first Monday of every month at 7:00 p.m. in the home of a member. Call 681-0681 to learn the location.

### September

Location: Home of Shannon Cooper Hock – September 6, 2011

- 35 member renewals, 10 private contributions to the Clean Cole Street project
- Board Members voted that CVIA recommend a “no” vote for CSFN in regard to Bill ACA4, which lowers the requirement for passing bonds on public works projects from 2/3 majority to 55%.
- Guests Debbie Fortun and Teri Olle updated CVIA on this year’s Belvedere St. Halloween, for which the City now requires permits and insurance.
- Waller Street skateboard park pilot structures are in place. Board member Marianne Hesse to act as representative of CVIA during pilot period, with Board members Shannon Hock and Karen Crommie as back-up. CVIA wants to know if the current pilot’s structure and hours of operation represent exactly what the permanent structure location and hours are to be.
- Still no movement toward an exit from the park by the HANC recycling center. Rec and Park recommends a strong public outreach and a push for more publicity to keep the exit on track.
- Board member David Crommie advised that SF Beautiful and other organizations have filed suit against the City to challenge the vote of the Board of Supervisors regarding allowing the installation of more AT&T boxes. SF Beautiful is seeking contributions to help fund the suit.
- Good turnout and feedback from this year’s CVIA Summer Social. Everyone loved the location at Kezar Bar and Restaurant. Next year members will be encouraged to pay in advance to make accounting easier.
- CVIA Board approved preliminary marketing materials for Santa on Cole fundraising event. All members agreed that the photo shoot set needs to be improved this year.
- Board member Chuck Canepa reviewed communications he’s had with SFMTA regarding N Judah stop improvements, including sidewalk bulb-outs, new stop shelters, and lighting. CVIA voted to send a letter to SFMTA requesting changes to maintain the architectural integrity of the neighborhood.
- CVIA received a refund of \$250 for making changes to the organization’s insurance coverage.
- Board member Joan Downey alerted CVIA that the new Segway tours in Golden Gate Park sometimes operate on pedestrian paths. CVIA to write a letter to Rec & Park admonishing the use of motorized vehicles on pedestrian paths.
- Approved t-shirt pricing and sizing for the Cole Valley Fair. CVIA agreed Cole Street restaurants sponsoring this year’s fair are allowed to erect A-frame signs with featured menu items. Board member Amy Blakeley to request volunteers on Cole Valley Neighbors Facebook page. Notice and flyer posting dates were established. CVIA agreed to tip the fair’s CleanScapes workers. Fair still needs one more food vendor.
- Adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

### October

Location: Home of Lena Emmery & Chuck Canepa-October 6, 2011

- Park Police advised that they will provide gates to section off

Belvedere St. for Halloween trick-or-treating at no charge.

- Waller Street skateboard park to have first public meeting October 24th.
- District 5 Mayoral debate was well received by all that attended, thanks to the cooperating neighborhood groups, UCSF who donated the room, and Cole Hardware for sponsoring the event.
- CVIA will co-sponsor the Mt. Sutro Stewards Aldea Center opening event which takes place on October 23.
- Board reviewed next steps in planning for CVIA’s Santa on Cole photo event. Walgreens may donate tree. Photographer Loic Nicolas will be invited to the November Board meeting to discuss details.
- Board reviewed all details of the Cole Valley Fair, which took place on Sunday, September 25. Very few issues occurred and a “lessons learned” list was created.

### November

Location: Home of Carole Glosenger – November 7, 2011

- Waller Street skateboard park held a meeting on Oct 24th. No representatives of CVIA attended. Board member Marianne Hesse shared a meeting recap that was provided from a member of Friends of the Haight (FOTH).
- HANC Recycling Center received a stay of eviction.
- Guest Kevin Growney briefed the CVIA Board on his new website, [www.meetingpost.com](http://www.meetingpost.com) which acts as a community sharing site. The site is free to join and provides a way for residents to share information with anyone who posts a question, from basic neighborhood information to more specific issues. Members choose an organization of their choice to which site proceeds are donated.
- The Aldea Community Center in conjunction with Mt. Sutro Stewards held a grand opening party on October 23. Donations to support the event were provided by UCSF, CVIA and Inner Sunset Neighborhood group.
- CVIA Board member Joan Downey requested CVIA support of a letter to Rec & Park admonishing the use of Segway motor transport on sidewalks and paths in Golden Gate Park. A letter will be written to Rec and Park.
- Board member Amy Blakeley advised that the Huffington Post online journal erroneously cited CVIA as the originator of a petition against the Waller Street skateboard park. Karen Crommie will contact HuffPo to correct.
- Loic Nicolas joined the Board in discussing the logistics of Santa on Cole, the fund-raiser supporting Clean Cole Street. Tasks were organized and jobs delegated to members.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

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



Would you like a copy of this newsletter sent to a neighbor? Send an email to [cviasf@aol.com](mailto:cviasf@aol.com) or Leave a message at 431-1414 with their name and address and consider it done.



## Renown Gay Activist Dies

Gay pioneer, writer, and neighborhood activist Arthur Evans, who lived at the corner of Haight and Ashbury streets in San Francisco since 1974, died of a heart attack in his home on Sunday, September 11. He was 68.

Arthur had been diagnosed with a large aortic aneurysm in October 2010 and was not expected to live more than a few months. I first found out about it a few months before he died, when he told me he could no longer care for the ragtag sidewalk garden that he had tended on Ashbury with discarded planters. He was ashamed they had gotten so shabby and asked for help in removing them.

Arthur was born on October 12, 1942 in York, Pennsylvania. His father worked most of his life on assembly-lines, the last in a chain factory. His mother ran a small beauty shop out of a front room in the family house.

When Evans graduated from public high school in 1960, he received a four-year scholarship from the Glatfelter Paper Company in



*Arthur Evans lived for decades on the corner of Haight and Ashbury.*

York County to study chemistry at Brown University in Providence, RI. While at Brown, Evans and several friends founded the Brown Freethinkers Society, describing themselves as “militant atheists” seeking to combat the harmful effects of organized religion.

The group picketed the weekly chapel convocation then required of all students (even though Brown is a secular institution) and urged students to stand in silent protest during the compulsory prayer. National wire services picked up the story.

As a result, the Glatfelter Paper Company informed Evans that his scholarship would be cancelled. Evans sought help from Joseph Lewis, the elderly millionaire who headed the national Freethinkers Society. Lewis threatened the paper company with a highly publicized lawsuit if the scholarship were revoked. The company relented, the scholarship continued, and Evans changed his major from chemistry to political science.

Although obstreperous politically, Evans remained closeted sexually and very lonely, not knowing any other gay person. Throughout both high school and college, he often thought of suicide. In 1963, after completing three years at Brown, he read an article in a national magazine reporting that many “homosexuals”

lived in Greenwich Village in New York City. He promptly withdrew from Brown and moved to the Village, where he became a leader in fighting for gay rights.

A memorial service was held on October 23 at the Eureka Valley Community Club attended by nearly two hundred people. His long time friend Hal Offen opened the event began by saying, “I first saw Arthur when he was being interviewed on the Dick Cavett Show.” He then went on to describe Arthur’s participation in Stonewall and his tireless advocacy for Gay acceptance and justice. He encouraged other Gays to come out of the closet and fight for the rights everyone else had: the big things like getting hired for a job and the small things like legally drinking in a bar.

In 1978 he published his ground-breaking book “Witchcraft and the Gay Counterculture.” It demonstrated that many of the people accused of witchcraft and heresy in the Middle Ages and Renaissance were actually persecuted because of their sexuality and adherence to ancient pagan practices.

In 1988, he began work on a nine-year writing project. Thanks to a grant from the San Francisco Arts Commission, it was published in 1997 as *Critique of Patriarchal Reason* and included artwork by San Francisco artist Frank Pietronigro.

Offen described Arthur’s last year as a quiet pursuit of his pleasures: translating ancient Greek, playing chess with his best friend, going to the Castro Theatre, dining out, writing letters to the editor, and visiting friends. He was an articulate spokesperson for civility on the streets of the Haight and was deemed a “Neighborhood Treasure” by the Haight Ashbury Improvement Association in 2008. A lovely man has left us. We will miss his moral certainly, his noble demeanor and infectious warmth.

—Karen Crommie

*With excerpts from the obituary Arthur wrote.*

## Judge Orders Stay of Construction of AT&T Utility Boxes

On November 14, 2011, Judge Harold Kahn of the San Francisco Superior Court “stayed” the City of San Francisco’s approval of location and construction of 726 AT&T utility boxes citywide. The injunction will remain in effect pending a final ruling in the environmental lawsuit filed by a coalition of San Francisco organizations, including San Francisco Beautiful.

The groups’ Petition for Writ of Mandate filed in August challenges the City’s refusal to conduct any environmental review whatsoever before approving 726 utility boxes that impact pedestrian safety and aesthetics.

Judge Kahn’s ruling explains that the stay is being granted because the City violated the California Environmental Quality Act. The evidence shows that the proposed AT&T boxes will have a “significant and cumulative adverse effect on the aesthetics of San Francisco.” The ruling relies on testimony at public hearings before the Board of Supervisors during which the public and many of the Supervisors, including Board President David Chiu, explained that the 726 boxes would have significant cumulative impacts that warrant environmental review.

“We are profoundly grateful to the Court for upholding environmental laws that require commonsense mitigation measures such as placing the AT&T equipment on private property rather than giving away our public sidewalks,” said Milo Hanke, past president of San Francisco Beautiful.

## Postscripts

BVNA's **Richard Magary** reports that at an Oct. 20 meeting at Park Police Station, Acting Captain **Lt. Michael Caplan** said they have recently been having additional problems in the **Alvord Lake** area (Stanyan at Haight). Seems a new "gang" from the Western Addition has been threatening and assaulting the resident dope peddlers, in an effort to take over the turf. There have been injuries (some not reported) and heavy-duty gang-style threats. Should we summon back **Captain O'Leary** from his advanced training assignment in Quantico, Virginia?



\* \* \*

After much discussion, **ParkWide Bike Rentals** officially rolled out in five city parks last month —Justin Herman Plaza, Marina



Green, Union Square and two locations in Golden Gate Park (behind the Bandshell, along Tea Garden Drive in the Music Concourse area). Park visitors will now be able to easily and conveniently rent a bicycle at one park

and ride to another to drop it off. Problems of theft and maintenance are said to have been worked out.

\* \* \*

Talk about chutzpah:

At 11 p.m. on October 23, **Officer Anderson** of Park Station found a 22 year-old Western Addition man defacing a No Parking sign with a marker. The man defended his actions claiming that as a taxpayer he "owned the sign." Anderson booked him for malicious mischief



\* \* \*

At the **Cole Valley Fair**, there were some energetic young people handing out water bottles wrapped in little jackets imprinted with "**CarlandCole.com**"—still another neighborhood message board providing information about "housing, jobs, opinions, services." Funny, that's just what Craig Newmark was doing when he started his now famous list. After him was **Michael Sullivan's** colevalley.tripod.com; colevalleysf.com; colevalley.org (**Niana Liu's** blog), njudahchronicles.com; colevalleyalley.com(**Brendan Constans**) and more, I'm sure.

\* \* \*

We were contacted last month by KGO-TV producer **Beth Rimby** who represents a segment called "**U FIX IT.**" that tries to get the city to respond to citizens who want action getting something fixed or changed in their neighborhood..."potholes and bad roads, constant

litter, broken street signs and lights, dumping, eyesores, blight, graffiti, poorly maintained parks, broken playground equipment, structural problems that could lead to injuries, maintenance or projects that drag on and never get finished." She is reaching out to Cole Valley with the hope that we will send her our story ideas. Here is how to reach her: Beth Rimby (415) 954-7815 or Beth.rimby@abc.com.

\* \* \*



**Lt. Ed Del Carlo**, SFPD MTA, conducted a Muni fare "saturation" op on October 12 at Carl and Cole around 4:00 p.m. Of the 2,309 passengers contacted, 82 were freeloaders and were issued citations. Another 22 had some kind of excuse and were given

warnings. This does not speak well of the ethics of our Cole Valley riders.

\* \* \*

As if **Cole Hardware** doesn't do enough for the neighborhood in general and its customers in particular, it is now offering its own label wines for free to schools and non-profits for fund-raisers. They suggest you sell the wine by the glass (or bottle) and pocket all the profits. They only ask that you display the bottle so that people can see the Cole Hardware label. They are offering Dry Creek Sauvignon Blanc and Napa Valley Merlot. Such a deal. Thank you, Cole Hardware.



\* \* \*

Another tip passed on to us by **Richard Magary**—As shorter days approach, please help keep our neighborhood safe, by monitoring street lights near you. If there's a light out, note any serial or 2-digit number on the pole and its exact location (nearest house number) and report it ASAP to the city's Customer Service Center at "311" (701-2311 from cell phones) or at [www.sf311.org](http://www.sf311.org). Be sure to get a TRACKING NUMBER for your report. Let CVIA know ([cviast@aol.com](mailto:cviast@aol.com)), if the light is not repaired within five (5) business days.

\* \* \*

**The Booksmith** (1644 Haight St.) invites us to celebrate the release of **ZYZZYVA's** Winter 2011 issue on Thursday, December 8 at 7:30 p.m. when there will be a reading by four of its contributors: **Katie Chase's** work has appeared in *The Best American Short Stories 2008* and the 2009 Pushcart Prize anthologies. **Joseph Di Prisco's** work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Threepenny Review*, and *Prairie Schooner*, among other places. His forthcoming novel is "All For Now." He lives in Berkeley. **Karen Joy Fowler** is the prize-winning author of many books, including the novels "Sister Noon," "Wit's End," and "The Jane Austen Book Club." Her most recent book is the story collection, "What I Didn't See." **Adam Johnson** is the author of the story collection "Emporium" and the novel "Parasites Like Us," which won a California Book Award. His novel "The Orphan Master's Son" will be published in January. Wine will flow, good cheer will abound.

—Karen Crommie

*Ed. note—Christin Evans and Praveen Madan continue to provide our neighborhood with intellectual nourishment almost ever night of the week. Go to Booksmith.com.*

# Letters

Dear Cole Valley Improvement Association,

We are writing you because we think your members might be able to benefit from our nonprofit mediation services.

For over thirty-five years, Community Boards has helped San Franciscans live harmoniously together. We partner with SFPD, SFUSD and the Department of Children, Youth and their Families; the Board of Supervisors recently issued an official proclamation celebrating our work in the city.

For a small, affordable fee to cover our costs, we provide panels of trained mediators that can help your members solve disputes affecting their quality of life. Over 85% of the cases that we see are solved to everyone's satisfaction — cases that seemed hopeless before coming to Community Boards.

We offer services in English, Spanish, Mandarin and Cantonese, and can assist with disputes between family members, neighbors, landlords and tenants, and customers and businesses. Nothing is too small for us to consider, and we are a great alternative to expensive and frustrating lawsuits. Recently, we solved cases involving

- noise complaints between neighbors;
- landscaping issues between neighbors;
- hostilities between members of an organization;
- family arguments between a daughter and father;
- hostilities between members of an organization; and
- labor disputes between employees and their employer.

We would like to share information about our services with your members, and hopefully help them solve any disputes affecting their lives. If you have a newsletter or email list, can we include information about Community Boards in your next issue? Can we attend a meeting to discuss how we can help your members? Are you able to pass out fliers or list us as a resource on your website? We appreciate any help spreading the word about our services.

Jim Garrison  
 Community Boards  
 Learn\_More@communityboards.org  
 (415) 920-3820 x104

**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 Winter edition should be sent before February 1, 2012 to 628 Ashbury St., San Francisco, CA 94117 or [kcrommie@aol.com](mailto:kcrommie@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

# CVIASF.ORG

Check out our nifty website created by CVIA member Mark Ballew and maintained by Amy Blakeley and Joan Downey. It has everything: history of the organization, breaking neighborhood news and upcoming events.

# Help

**Emergency .....911**  
**Disturbance .....553-0123**  
**Blocked Driveways & Parking on Sidewalks ...553-1200**  
**Abandoned Vehicles .....781-5865**  
**Health Department .....255-3610**  
**Litter Patrol (sofas, mattresses, etc.).....311**  
**Graffiti and Illegal Sign Removal .....311**  
**NextBus .....311**  
**Street Lighting.....554-0730**

**Mayor Edwin M. Lee .....554-6141**  
 City Hall - Room 200  
 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
 S.F., CA 94102

**Chief of Police Greg Suhr .....553-1551**  
 Hall of Justice - 850 Bryant St.  
 S.F., CA 94103

**District Attorney George Gascón .....553-1741**  
 Hall of Justice - 850 Bryant St.  
 S.F., CA 94103

**Captain Denis O'Leary.....242-3000**  
 Park District Police Station  
 1899 Waller St.  
 S.F., CA 94117  
[Denis.O'leary@sfgov.org](mailto:Denis.O'leary@sfgov.org)

## San Francisco Board of Supervisors

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

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

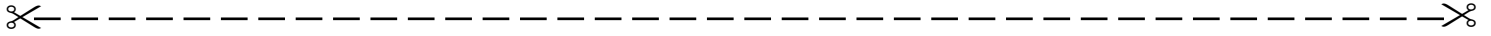
<i>District</i>	<i>Telephone</i>	<i>Fax</i>
1. Eric Mar <a href="mailto:Eric.L.Mar@sfgov.org">Eric.L.Mar@sfgov.org</a>	554-7410	554-7415
2. Mark Farrell <a href="mailto:Mark.Farrell@sfgov.org">Mark.Farrell@sfgov.org</a>	554-7752	554-7483
3. David Chiu, Board President <a href="mailto:David.Chiu@sfgov.org">David.Chiu@sfgov.org</a>	554-7450	554-7454
4. Carmen Chu <a href="mailto:Carmen.Chu@sfgov.org">Carmen.Chu@sfgov.org</a>	554-7460	554-7432
<b>5. Ross Mirkarimi</b> <a href="mailto:Ross.Mirkarimi@sfgov.org">Ross.Mirkarimi@sfgov.org</a>	<b>554-7630</b>	<b>554-7634</b>
6. Jane Kim <a href="mailto:Jane.kim@sfgov.org">Jane.kim@sfgov.org</a>	554-7970	554-7974
7. Sean Elsbernd <a href="mailto:Sean.Elsbernd@sfgov.org">Sean.Elsbernd@sfgov.org</a>	554-6516	554-6546
8. Scott Wiener <a href="mailto:Scott.Wiener@sfgov.org">Scott.Wiener@sfgov.org</a>	554-6968	554-6909
9. David Campos <a href="mailto:David.Campos@sfgov.org">David.Campos@sfgov.org</a>	554-5144	554-6255
10. Malia Cohen <a href="mailto:Malia.Cohen@sfgov.org">Malia.Cohen@sfgov.org</a>	554-7670	554-7674
11. John Avalos <a href="mailto:John.Avalos@sfgov.org">John.Avalos@sfgov.org</a>	554-6975	554-6979

### BECOME A CVIA MEMBER

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

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

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



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

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

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

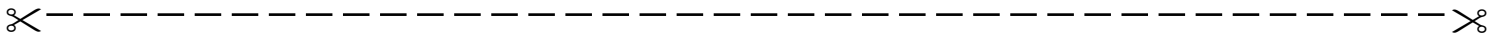
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ FAX \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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



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