

CVIA NEWS

COLE VALLEY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

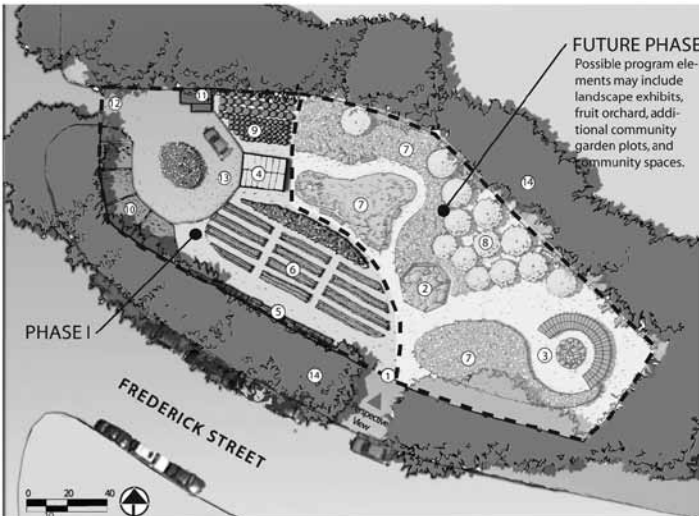
Volume XXIV

SERVING ALL RESIDENTS OF THE GREATER HAIGHT ASHBURY

SPRING 2011

Prospect of Community Garden Unites Neighborhood Groups

Plans for a community garden in the Kezar Triangle are being discussed by a neighborhood advisory group headed by Neighborhood Parks Council founder Isabel Wade, who graciously agreed



After asphalt removal and soil testing, the first phase of construction will include (left to right) the Native Plant Nursery, compost bins and garden beds.

to accept Rec and Park's invitation. The first meeting was held on January 31 and was well attended by about 20 people. Marvin Yee from Rec and Park was there to present the conceptual plans. It is expected that the 40 or so plots will be quickly absorbed by community gardeners.

Ms. Wade announced in an e-mail that there will be regular meetings on the 2nd Monday of the month at McLaren Lodge at 5:30-7:00 p.m. for volunteers who want to help create (literally, construct) the garden. Those interested in getting a plot need to get on the wait list that RPD has established. As soon as the possession of the site is obtained, a lottery drawing for plots will be announced.

The initial construction budget for Phase I is \$250,000, which would provide for half of the garden as planned. Wade suggested, and it was agreed upon, that neighborhood help be sought to stretch this

Continued on page 2, column 2.

Whole Foods Will Open With Prelude and Fanfare

The new Whole Foods Market at Haight and Stanyan is scheduled to open at 8 a.m. on February 16, with a "bread breaking" ceremony at 9:45.

The road has been rough for the Texas-based chain. Originally the ground floor tenant in a three story, 62 unit apartment complex planned by owner John Brennan, the project was beset by myriad delays involving neighborhood obstructionists, traffic impact questions, and a toppling economy. As the months turned into years, the owner was forced to abandon the plans for residential housing and settle for a remodel of the exiting Cala Foods building with the same footprint and surface parking lot. The upscale market, although welcomed by most of the neighborhood as a breath of fresh air on that troubled corner, still remains contentious among the smaller grocery stores and operators of the weekly farmers' market nearby. But most people believe that there is plenty of patronage for all to prosper.

Prior to the opening, neighbors are invited to join the store's "Good Food Celebration," on Sunday, February 13, from noon to

4 p.m. This event will be held in the parking lot and feature ethnic foods from La Cocina members and an assortment of specialty beers from neighborhood favorite Magnolia Brewery, among others. Admission is free and all food items are priced under \$5. All profits made from beer sales will go directly back to La Cocina to support its incubator programs for low-income food entrepreneurs.



The 21,000-square-foot store includes locally reclaimed redwood throughout, as well as a reused gym floor from DeAnza High School in Richmond; exterior mural at the entrance created by Kids Serve, 50 percent recycled content tile, from Healdsburg, is used throughout the store. Green store design elements include glycol refrigeration system; a reflective roof and glass dairy doors with LED lights.



Recycling Center Hearing February 14, 2011

City Hall - Room 250 - 10 a.m.

It is vital that you speak in support of Rec and Park's proposed plan for a Community Garden on the site.

(See Background on page 10.)

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The Market will feature:

- Local Vendors – a wide range of products from more than 250 local Bay Area vendors (within 100 miles or less of San Francisco) will be featured
- “Street Eats” – features products from San Francisco street food vendors including Magic Curry Cart, Chai Cart, King of Currywurst, Bicycle Coffee Company, Empanadas de mi Pueblo and El Porteño Empanadas and HapaSF.
- Meat – large meat counter with special offerings including local Panorama organic 100% grass-fed and grass-finished beef and Country Natural grain-finished beef from cattle that have never been in a feedlot. Also available will be locally-raised Field to Family



The front wall is brightened by a yellow tile mosaic of grapefruit hanging from branches. The market will be open from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily.

air-chilled chicken, and local Pozzi grass-fed lamb.

- Artisan Bakery – featuring Whole Foods Market artisan hearth breads, brownie bar, cakes, cupcakes and raw and vegan treats.
- Prepared Foods – featuring an extensive selection of foods made by in-house chefs. Specialties include a daily selection of house-made soups, extensive salad bar, full-service burrito bar, sandwiches, pizzas and charcuterie.
- Seafood – large seafood counter featuring a vast array of fresh and frozen fish in addition to a selection of sustainable seafood certified by the Marine Stewardship Council and ranked by the Monterey Bay Aquarium’s Seafood Watch Program.
- Beer and Wine – over 400 wines and over 200 beers are featured.
- Coffee Bar – freshly-brewed espresso and coffee daily from Allegro.®
- Nut Butters – grind-your-own organic and almond nut butters.
- Bulk Section – a 30-foot, organically focused bulk department will feature a variety of bulk bins brimming with legumes, grains, flours, nuts and seeds.
- In-Store Dining – outside seating for casual dining.
- Community Giving Days – at least four times a year, Whole Foods Market sets aside a day on which five percent of the day’s net sales is contributed to a local 501(c)3 non-profit organization. The next community giving day will be in March and benefit Kids Serve.
- Nickels for Nonprofits – when customers bring in their own bags for groceries they have the option of receiving a five-cent refund (per bag) or donating the money to a selected charity. The first non-profit beneficiaries are the Boys and Girls Club, Whole Planet Foundation



New windows maximize natural light.

and Women’s Community Clinic.

- Donations Out the Back – perishable products that aren’t sold during the day are donated to those in need. Whole Foods Market Stanyan is proud to work with FoodRunners.
- Kid’s Club – children ages 2 through 8 are eligible to complete a scavenger hunt to receive a free treat.

Whole Foods Market Pre-opening Events in Parking Lot

Lunchtime Taco Truck

Feb. 9 through 11 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Grilled cheese sandwiches, soup and salad will be available for purchase from Whole Foods Market taco truck.

Valentine’s Day Flower Sale

Feb. 12 & Feb. 13 from 12 to 4 p.m.

An assortment of flowers and Whole Trade™ roses will be on sale in the store’s parking lot — 25 percent of the day’s sales will be donated to the Grattan School’s Edible School Garden.

Good Food Celebration

Sun. Feb. 13 from 12 noon to 4 p.m.

Residents are invited to the “Good Food Celebration” on Sunday, February 13, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. This event will be held in the parking lot and feature ethnic foods from La Cocina members and an assortment of specialty beers from neighborhood favorite Magnolia Brewery, among others. Admission is free and all food items are priced under \$5. All profits made from beer sales will go directly back to La Cocina to support its incubator programs for low-income food entrepreneurs.

Community Garden, continued from page 1.

budget and finish the job if possible. Volunteer skills and materials will be needed if this is to be accomplished.

Applications for plots should be submitted to Marvin Yee at marvin.yee@sfgov.org. He asks that the applicants include an address and phone number with their request.

Questions and Answers

(Courtesy of Isabel Wade)

- 1) **Possession of the Site:** Rec & Park expects to have the site in March.
- 2) **Commercial sales:** Although the current native plant sale by HANC was never authorized, it may be possible for plant and vegetable-seedling sales to occur when set up properly.
- 3) **Site Remediation:** RPD will soil test prior to garden construction but all garden plots will be in raised beds in any case.
- 4) **Trees:** RPD will look into trimming adjacent trees; some are concerned with conifer detritus acidifying the soil.
- 5) **Recycling:** RPD is proposing to continue a small-scale collection of materials that can be useful in gardening operations such as cardboard and plastic nursery containers. These materials will be available for citywide gardeners.
- 6) **Tool Lending:** RPD staff will manage a tool-lending library



(as well as the recycling operation).

7) Plot Designation: a nonprofit, SF GRO, will determine plot assignments from the wait list. All agreed that a one-time lottery for plots on a specific and publicized date be used as the basis for selecting from the pool of all those who have submitted their names for plots. There will be wide announcement of the lottery. Everyone urged that SF GRO maintain a totally transparent process that would be available for review, ideally on the web.

8) Annual Fees: they range around the city from \$10/year to \$50/year; these fees are set by the garden's board of directors (once established).

9) Garden Construction Costs: RPD has \$250,000 for garden construction, estimated to cover Phase 1 costs only. Several suggested that we consider fund-raising in order to be able to stretch the City's funding for construction. This approach may affect the date of start-up of the garden, but others pointed out that community participation was important to build community.

Regular Meetings Established: a regular meeting date of the second Monday of every month at McLaren Lodge is proposed, moving the time to 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Next Date: February 14 (This does not conflict with the time of the hearing about the site.)

Information Sites:

Rec and Park Community Garden website: <http://sfrecpark.org/CommunityGardens.aspx>

*Isabel Wade
Lena Emmerly*

Grattan Students Learn to Grow Herbs and Vegetables

If you have passed the Grattan Elementary School's children's garden on Shrader near Grattan you know how encouraging it is to see the young ones learning to care for the vegetables they have planted.



There's no shortage of jobs to be done nor kids to do them in the vegetable garden at Grattan Elementary School.

Under the direction of Rebecca Gould and made possible by a grant from the Grattan PTA, children are taught not only the art of growing things but responsibility, cooperation and even less lofty habits such as putting their tools away.

The Booksmith: Establishing a Community of Thought

"Economics of Happiness" is an unusual documentary film that, when shown in Berkeley on January 13, turned away 500 ticket seekers. What could draw so much interest? It tells the story of Helena Norberg-Hodge, an analyst of the impact of the global economy on cultures and agriculture worldwide. When the neighborhood's enterprising book-sellers Praveen Madan and Christin Evans heard about it, they knew it should have a showing in the Haight. Within four days they arranged to rent the film, put out publicity, rent projection equipment, and, on January 17, managed to screen it before a standing-room-only audience. Praveen announced that although writer-producer Norberg-Hodge was currently in the Bay Area, she had fallen ill and probably would be unable to make an appearance afterward.



Helena Norberg-Hodge has worked in India and Tibet for over 35 years.

The film is narrated both on and off camera by Norberg-Hodge, who documents life in rural villages in India and Tibet over a period of 35 years, before and after their access to the global marketplace. (After seeing the 40-minute film, it is impossible to agree with President Obama that "growth is the answer" to the world's financial woes.) When the film ended, the audience members, still slightly stunned by the powerful message of the film, was jarred into animation when Norberg-Hodge, by now a familiar face, walked to the front of the room. Obviously under the weather, she graciously answered intelligent and provocative questions for a half hour.

This screening was just another example of how Praveen and Christin have made the Booksmith a vital center of intellectual life in our neighborhood. Bookmark their website and join in on the discussions, book clubs, author readings and other imaginative events that crowd the Booksmith's calendar. Go to —Karen Crommie

Thank You For Your Support

It certainly isn't expected, but when a member sends in an extra contribution, we appreciate it greatly. Only 11 Cole Valley merchants contribute to the daily cleaning of the Cole Street business district, which costs us \$1,000 each month. We make up the deficit with member contributions, a sizeable discount from CleanScapes and proceeds from the Cole Valley Fair. So we would like to take this opportunity to thank the following members for their generosity:

Britny Bottorff, David Rumsey, Les Silverman and Irv Govan, John Manning, William Rothrum, Dennis Martino, Michael Sullivan, Rosemary Southwood, Kay Bertram, Virginia Joosen, Michelle and Wallis Lim, Randy and Rich Lavinghouse, Robert Jones and John T. Smith, Timothy Dunn and Claudia Scharff, Gerardo Joffe, The Ice Cream Bar.

Park Branch Library Scheduled to Reopen on February 26

The newly renovated Park Branch Library will reopen to the public on Saturday, Feb. 26. The 101-year-old library at 1833 Page Street, has been returned to its neo-classical glory with a sensitive renovation that was also designed and built to meet the latest green standards.*

The grand reopening celebration will kick off with Chinese lion dancers at 1 p.m. Library services start at 2 p.m. A ribbon cutting ceremony will be held with City Librarian Luis Herrera, Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi, Department of Public Works Director Ed Reiskin and other city and state officials. Page Street between Cole and Shrader will be closed between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. for the event.

“It is a great pleasure to reopen this historic branch library that is so well loved by its diverse neighborhood community. Park Branch Library has provided more than a century of service as our



Representing Friends of the Library, Mary Abler welcomes a small group invited to a sneak preview three weeks prior to opening.

oldest branch and will continue to do so for generations to come,” said City Librarian Luis Herrera. “The sensitive renovation means the library that can now offer improved accessibility for all users, updated technology to meet 21st century library needs, and dedicated space for children, teens and adults to enjoy all the services that San Francisco Public Library provides.”

The Park Branch Library’s interior remodel includes new energy-efficient lighting that reflects the historic period, improved electrical and ventilation operations, new sustainable linoleum flooring and a new energy-efficient heating system.

The lower-level meeting room at the branch was reconfigured with state-of-the-art audio visual equipment, new lights and flooring. Two new accessible restrooms were added downstairs and a family restroom was renovated upstairs. In the main room, the historic wooden tables and chairs were refinished, original perimeter wood shelving was refurbished and new shelving was added along with a beautiful painted ceiling.



Library users insisted that the children’s slanted reading table remain.

The remodel was designed by Field Paoli and Joseph Chow & Associates with Page & Turnbull Inc., serving as historic preservation consultants. The total project cost was approximately \$2.9 million. Construction was completed on time and within budget. The



New fixtures are a modern take on the original chandeliers from 1910. original two-story neoclassical brick and terra-cotta library building was designed by the McDougall Brothers.

“We’re proud to have managed the restoration of the oldest li-



Renown muralists Mark Evans and Charley Brown donated murals to fill the former skylights, which couldn’t be preserved.

brary in the City,” commented Department of Public Works Director Ed Reiskin. “The building is not only beautifully refurbished, but



A trompe d’oeil sky shows fluffy clouds and circling gulls.

now it is sustainable, efficient and ready to serve the public another 100 years.”

Over the past two years, Friends of the San Francisco Public Library has been working in partnership with neighborhood residents and communities to raise funds, awareness and support for the branch

improvements. Friends, together with the Park Library Campaign Committee, will contribute approximately \$500,000 towards the branch renovations to pay for furnishings, fixtures and equipment—expenses not covered by the bond. For more information on how to support the Park Library Campaign, please contact Mary Abler with Friends of the San Francisco Public Library at mary.abler@friendssfpl.org or (415) 626-7512, ext.107.



Architect Mark Schatz shows the reading lamps for the library tables.

For more information about the Park Branch Library's opening celebration, please call (415) 557-4277, or visit www.sfpl.org.

*Silver certification standards or greater, under the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating system.

Expanded Haight Street Market Aims for Spring Opening

While Whole Foods is opening on Stanyan, the opposite side of the Haight Street commercial corridor is watching another food market preparing for an opening. The venerable Haight Street Market, long a favorite for produce, has, in recent years, become a one-stop for sustainably produced meats and fish as well as offering a wide range of gourmet cheeses and innovative deli food. Owned by Gus and Georgia Vardakastanis, its product line has increasingly been influenced by



their son Bobby, and, to a lesser degree, his older brother Dmitri—who manages their Noriega Street store.

their son Bobby, and, to a lesser degree, his older brother Dmitri—who manages their Noriega Street store.



The adjacent building has been gutted, the back wall extended to the lot line and a mezzanine level added.

A few years ago, the two sons expressed their desire to strike out on their own and looked at other venues for a larger market. They seriously considered Cole Valley for a while, until they realized Massawa, the Eritrean restaurant immediately next door to their market was going to be available. The family bought the building and immediately made plans to expand into the space, nearly doubling their square footage.

Construction is moving quickly as they try to achieve a March or April opening. The display cases have arrived, stock is being



The extension (see ladder) will double the square footage of this popular neighborhood market.

ordered and a new sign is in the works. That the Vardakastanis would plan this expansion the same time as a Whole Foods Market is opening five blocks away is a measure of the confidence they have in the loyalty of their customers. I don't think they'll be disappointed—they've worked hard to earn it. We'll have the full story in our next edition.

—Karen Crommie

POLICE COMMUNITY FORUM

Captain Denis O'Leary holds community forums the second Tuesday of every month (except December) from 6 to 7:00 p.m. He and his staff review criminal activity, park events, and the general safety concerns of residents. It's a good way to stay in touch with what's going on.



March 8, April 12 and May 10.
Mark Your Calendars

WHY NOT JOIN THE ALVORD LAKE GARDENING WORK PARTY ON THE FOURTH SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH? 9 A.M. TO NOON
CONTACT KCROMMIE@AOL.COM

Mass Dismissal of “Nuisance” Citations to Cease...Finally

For years the citations issued in our neighborhood for so-called quality-of-life crimes (urinating, drinking alcohol from an open container, inebriation, sleeping, blocking sidewalks) have been bundled by the Coalition on Homelessness and given to the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights (LCCR) which supplied an attorney to go to Traffic Court (oddly, where these citations are processed) to plead a blanket dismissal of the cases. The justification was that offenders were just doing what they would do in their own home, if they had one. Issuing citations was a waste of police officers' time and they knew it, but, because of public complaints and the police code, they had to keep writing them—a very demoralizing process for all concerned. But, now, that may change.

A spokesperson for the LCCR told SF Chronicle columnist C.W. Nevius that they no longer have funding to continue their Homeless Rights Project. Nevius states they were also under “scrutiny from the organization's board of directors.” This program did no one any good. The mainly alcoholics, whose citations were dismissed, avoided any intervention from the system and the police felt undermined by the pro bono legal group, feeling they had, albeit well-meaning, overstepped their position as officers of the court.

—Karen Crommie

Haight Ashbury Free Clinics and Walden House Merge

Two Haight Ashbury addiction treatment providers originally founded in the 60s, have signed a letter of intent to merge operations. The Haight Ashbury Free Clinics (HAFC) and Walden House will join forces to reduce operating costs. Reflecting the tight economy,



The Haight Ashbury Free Clinics experienced funding reductions.

nonprofits are finding it harder than ever to continue their programs and meet their monthly costs. Walden House plans to apply to San Francisco Foundation's transition fund in the next grant cycle, later this month, to defray the costs of the merger.

Walden House, which has programs around the state and serves as many as 2,500 clients a day, will take over the primary care services now provided by the Free Clinics. The current executive director of Walden House, Vitka Eisen, will head the merged organization while the Free Clinics' CEO John Ekstrom is moving on. She was quoted in the SF Chronicle (Jan. 6) as saying she “expects the Haight Ashbury

Free Clinics to retain its iconic name in some form.”

Eisen, 51, was once a patient at the HAFC and then a resident of Walden House where she recovered from drug addiction and went on to get a PhD from Harvard University.



Walden House will take over primary care services from the Free Clinics.

Free Clinics to retain its iconic name in some form.” Eisen, 51, was once a patient at the HAFC and then a resident of Walden House where she recovered from drug addiction and went on to get a PhD from Harvard University. The SF Business Times (Jan. 14-20) reported that the merger will cost Walden House approximately \$500,000 for hard costs (upgrading real estate, computer compatibility) with so called soft costs (legal fees, move management, planning, design and coordination) estimated at close to \$1 million. Walden house has an annual budget of approximately \$58 million whereas the Free Clinics operate on about \$8 million. The SF Department of Public Health has supported the proposed merger.

—Karen Crommie

Reminiscence: Soda Fountains on Cole Street

Ed. note—As reported in the last newsletter, an old style soda fountain, The Ice Cream Bar, will soon open at 815 Cole (the former Cole Foods). The article inspired longtime CVIA member Rita Veideman to submit the recollection below.

I think having a new soda fountain on Cole Street is a great idea! I grew up on Cole Street some years ago. I am 82 years of age and live not to far from Cole Valley now, so that I often visit the familiar street and reminisce.

In the 1940s, there was a drug-store on the corner of Cole and Carl. It was called Peerless Pharmacy. It was on the site of the present Crepes on Cole. It was a cheerful, busy place—mainly because the pharmacist/owner, Nate

Fisher, was such a helpful, pleasant person. There was also a soda fountain there and, although I never really had a soda or any other item there, it was very a friendly gathering place. I don't know why it finally disappeared but I can still picture the counter in a horseshoe-shape at the entrance.

There was another soda fountain across the street, where the laundromat now stands. A youngish man and wife were owners and very personable and conversant with the teenagers who came in. I recall the sodas—and I believe cookies and candy were also available there. It was there for a time and then it was gone. I guess the post-war economy and the depression had their effect on soda fountains.

—Rita Arnerich Veideman



Cole St. had two soda fountains in the 40s.

Cole Valley Residents Question Need for Transit Bulbs

Ed. note—As reported in the last issue, there are plans to expand the sidewalk and add three transit bulbs on Carl at Cole Street and at Stanyan Street. The Carl/Cole transit stop is the second-busiest surface stop on the N Judah line. The transit bulb proposal builds on recommendations that came out of a series of community meetings held in fall 2007 and spring 2008 to discuss options to improve safety and convenience for both customers and pedestrians at the Carl/Cole intersection.

LETTERS IN OPPOSITION:

The idea of a transit bulb on the inbound section seems like a waste of taxpayer money and a loss of valuable parking spots. What is the big deal about walking down off the curb and then onto the train? The argument that it is easier to not have to leave the sidewalk seems, to put it frankly, silly. Since the train stops at the same spot each time (or it should), and the problem is with train door access, parking spots could be selectively removed. The bulb also causes a huge problem by having a single traffic lane. So, that prevents a right hand turn when someone is (for what ever reason) blocking the more central (closer to the line in the road, if you will) lane. This will create large traffic problems. You can achieve your goal by removing the parking spots and you can save money by not making a bigger sidewalk. As is, it is a bad idea.

Andy Leavitt

The “problems” listed cited as reasons for this change are laughable. “...eliminates the need for passengers to weave between tightly-parked cars.” Today, there are enough “no parking” zones and driveways in these areas that there is not a lot of walking between cars. Even when you do have to walk between cars, it’s not an issue. In these times when the city is facing a number of serious financial issues, we should not be wasting money on something that “solves” problems that are not real. Further, the loss of these parking spots will certainly not help local merchants as there will be fewer spots for potential customers and fewer loading zones.

Chris Hock

To be honest, I was always against the proposal, and let Britt (Thesen Tanner, SFMTA engineer) know. I think the current emphasis on creating islands and bulbs only slows the flow of traffic and particularly at that intersection, as there is a back up regularly on the 900 block of Cole St. due to buses, delivery vans, and vehicular traffic. The money would have been far better spent on improving the frequency of the N line, which is sporadic at best. If needed, simply removing the parking spaces in that area would have been better, but still allowing for right turns, etc. The bulbs reduce the street to one lane 100 percent of the time, whereas the trains are only there 5-10 percent of the time, even when two or three N cars are stacked in a row heading downtown. The push for mass transit only works if it’s cost-effective, timely, clean and safe. Unfortunately Muni doesn’t do well on three out of four counts, so allowing them permanent control over thoroughfares rewards their inefficiencies.

Whitney Gilkey

RESPONSE FROM MUNI

Thank you for your email regarding the N Judah transit bulbs on Carl Street at Stanyan Street and Cole Street. I wanted to update you about changes made to the proposal since it was approved at the Public Hearing on November 5, 2010.

We are proposing to install three 9-foot wide transit bulbs to allow passengers to board and alight trains directly from the sidewalk. At the Carl/Cole intersection the inbound transit bulb on the southwest corner has been reduced from 165 feet long to 113 feet

long. The outbound transit bulb on the northeast corner will be 98 feet long, as originally proposed. At the Carl/Stanyan intersection, the inbound transit bulb on the southwest corner will be 59 feet long. These bulbs would remove a total of six parking spaces near the Carl/Cole intersection and two spaces near the Carl/Stanyan intersection.

Installing these transit bulbs will improve conditions for the nearly 6,000 daily passengers that use these transit stops by eliminating the need for passengers to weave between tightly-parked cars as they get on and off of N Judah trains. They will also improve pedestrian visibility at the intersections, provide the train operators a clear view of boarding and alighting customers, and reduce train



Existing conditions—inbound stop at Carl and Cole Streets.

dwelling times by encouraging passengers to board through all doors. Furthermore, they will eliminate conflicts between trains and parked cars, particularly at the outbound stop on the northwest corner of the Carl/Cole intersection, where the N Judah tracks curve and illegally parked cars have caused delays and several side-swipe collisions.

We recognize that parking is at a premium in this neighborhood.



Rendering of proposed 9 foot bulb at Carl and Cole. (Image courtesy of San Francisco Planning Department, City Design.)

As mentioned above, this proposal was modified slightly from its original form to mitigate the parking impacts. We also investigated several other alternatives including modifications to the bus zones on Cole Street and part-time tow-away restrictions. However, these options were not able to reduce the parking loss while meeting the goals of the project. We believe that the current configuration is the optimum solution to improve conditions for transit customers and pedestrians while meeting the needs of the neighborhood as a whole.

The changes at both intersections will be implemented in 2012 in coordination with the replacement of the N Judah tracks on Carl Street between Arguello Boulevard and the Sunset Tunnel.

*Britt Thesen Tanner
Engineer, SFMTA*

CVIA Survey Results

Thanks to all of you who took the time to respond to the CVIA Member Survey in December. There was no shortage of thoughtful comments and great ideas. Many of you (like Ben Caldwell) expended extra effort to express insightful observations over a wide range of topics. Although the results are summarized below, there is not enough space to record all the contributions. Suffice it to say the board read them all (14 pages) and discussed most of them at length. A summary follows:

- 78% of respondents see the difference made by the daily cleaning of Cole Street (Clean Cole Street project).
- Only 65% of respondents had heard of “Santa on Cole,” our December photo op for kids with Santa. However most residents think it should continue as long as it’s a profitable venture. (Proceeds go to the Clean Cole Street project.)
- Of all our projects, the CVIA Newsletter ranks as the most important, then Clean Cole Street, then the Cole Valley Fair, and, finally, Santa on Cole.
- All recipients of CVIA grants got positive comment with Clean Cole Street getting the highest ranking and the Park Branch Library second. Contributions to the Grattan Elementary School scored lowest and there were comments about it not really being part of the neighborhood since most kids don’t live here. From other comments, it was pretty clear people don’t have enough awareness of the annual Summer Social.
- Of 26 comments regarding the Cole Valley Fair, 18 were positive (69%).
- Two people wanted a greater food selection, 1 person didn’t care for the food trucks,
- Two people requested more music and 1 person complained of not being able to get out of their garage because of the Vintage Car Show.
- There was overwhelming support for the relocation of the Recycling Center with 21% saying they didn’t care what replaced it.

Recommendations for how to increase member outreach consisted of: One-on-one outreach (i.e., card table at Cole/Carl), distributing pamphlets on doorsteps, advertising inside Cole Valley businesses (posters, flyers, sign-up sheets), and use of social media (Facebook, Twitter).

In the Open Feedback section, half of the respondents registered concern about indigent people making the neighborhood unsafe and unpleasant. There were two comments opposing the proposed skateboard park at Waller and Stanyan, one from a member who has an issue with sidewalk dumping, and one complaint about the tone of the newsletter (too opinionated). Six people thanked us for our good efforts, several complained about the wording of the survey’s first question (asking to grade issues by importance) saying it was inadequate and unclear, three provided contact information to get involved, one expressed concern over the chronic double parking on Cole Street, one asked for support of the street light project in Buena Vista Park, one opposed CVIA’s position on the proposed Cole Street traffic bulbs, one said more police enforcement needs to happen across the board—people, cars, bikes, parking, and one requested social nights involving younger people. Some felt there should be more member social gatherings, monthly meetings in a public place, an increase of newsletter distribution, and a need to broaden its subject matter to engage a wider audience.

Again, our appreciation for your participation in the survey. The CVIA board will take these opinions and preferences under advisement as we move ahead in this new decade.

—Amy Blakeley

CVIA Board Minutes

The following is a summary of what took place at the CVIA board meeting last month (there was no meeting in December). 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.

January

Location: Home of Lena Emmery & Chuck Canepa - January 3, 2011

- Reviewed last meeting’s resolutions, discussed current Cole Valley/Haight issues, heard reports from committee heads and from delegates to the Kezar Stadium Advisory Committee, MTA Citizens Advisory Council, Alvord Lake Gardening Work Party, Graffiti Advisory Board and the Coalition for S.F. Neighborhoods.
 - Treasurer Joan Downey reported \$978.45 in an active account, \$3,300 in the Clean Cole Street fund (including profits from Santa on Cole), \$14,592.88 in the Cole Valley Fair (CVF) fund, \$1,335.53 in checking, and \$17,207.77 in savings.
 - Reviewed “lessons learned” from December’s Santa on Cole (photo op), which netted \$737.00, roughly half of last year. Since it requires much preparation and volunteer time, most notably photographer Loic Nicolas, who donates his time, discussed wisdom of continuing it, but ultimately decided to try it for one more year with the following changes: Create a different strategy for distribution; use a photo from one of last year’s children on the poster and postcard; take over printing of postcards; engage more Cole Merchants to display poster; contact Cole Valley Parents’ network; increase outreach beyond Cole Valley.
 - Discussed food vendors for the 2011 CV Fair. Decided to subsidize the cost of the city permits and return food vending to booths rather than mobile food trucks.
 - Agreed that a Frederick Street extension permit will be applied for with the option not to use it. Vendor booth fees will be raised to \$185 (from \$175) and food booth to \$260 (from \$250). The booth fees for all vendors (excluding food) with a 94117 zip code will be discounted to \$150.
 - Only two people signed up for new CVIA memberships at the fair, unlike other years. Consider keeping one person specifically assigned to that in the CVIA (not CVF) booth. Possible fair discount or coupons.
 - Halloween on Belvedere Street remains an unsolved liability problem. If police will no longer provide barriers with flashing lights, who will? And who will assume the liability since the city apparently refuses? President Lena Emmery to bring this up at the Park Police Station Community Meeting on Jan. 11.
 - Discussed problem of Grattan School double parking. Because of the narrow street, flow of traffic is seriously impeded. Agreed to take this up at next meeting.
 - Discussed results of CVIA online survey created and managed by Amy Blakeley. (See adjacent article).
- CVIA Executive Board:** Amy Blakeley, Chuck Canepa, Shannon Cooper Hock, David Crommie, Karen Crommie, Joan Downey, Lena Emmery, Carole Glosenger, Douglas Hall, Marianne Hesse.

Will Sit/Lie Law be Enforced?

The civil Sidewalks law, which was passed last November and went into effect on January 1, won't actually be enforced until Feb. 15. Although some neighbors say they see fewer kids sprawled on Haight Street, it is clear from any stroll to McDonald's that



Every morning groups of transient youth emerge from Golden Gate Park where they have camped overnight.

not everyone has gotten the message. The delay in enforcement is because of the expected increase in misdemeanor citations, which is forcing DA Gascón to come up with ways to ensure a fair and timely police response.

One solution is to expand the existing citizen-paneled Community Courts, which, for the most part, are under-utilized. The model would be prompt adjudication—as is done in the New York City community court system. This would mean that the courts would



More infraction and misdemeanor citations will call for an expansion of the Community Courts system.

have to meet much more frequently than the once a month schedule they now follow. To accomplish this many more panelists would have to be recruited. If you are interested in training to serve on a Community Court contact Nicole Brown at sfcommunitycourt@gmail.com.

—Karen Crommie

Street Closure

**Page Street between Cole and Shrader
February 26, 2011 - Noon to 4 p.m.**

Page Street will be closed to automobile traffic due to the re-opening celebration for the Park Branch Library.

Civil Sidewalks Defined

The law: No one can sit or lie on a public sidewalk in the city between 7 a.m. and 11 p.m.

Exceptions: Medical emergencies, disabilities, sidewalk businesses, parades, protests, festivals, sitting in line without obstructing pedestrians, children in strollers, Pavement to Parks projects.

First offense: Verbal warning.

Second offense: A citation will be issued; conviction will result in a \$50-\$100 fine.

Third offense (within 24 hours of citation): Anyone who violates the law within 24 hours of receiving a citation will be charged with a misdemeanor. The fine will increase to \$300-\$500 and/or community service and/or up to 10 days in county jail.

Third offense (within 120 days of conviction): Anyone who violates the law within 120 days of being convicted will be charged with a misdemeanor. The fine will increase to \$400-\$500 and/or community service and/or up to 30 days in county jail.

Panhandle Group Receives Grant for Improvements

A proposal for capital improvements in the area between the Panhandle's playground and basketball courts was selected for implementation on December 2.

The plan repairs a key area in our big neighborhood park. It will fix broken pathways between the playground and basketball



courts, replaces degraded turf while modernizing irrigation and drainage, and places small-stature, moisture-loving native plants in a small area. We also have a seating wall positioned close to the basketball courts, bike racks, and a partial re-routing of service vehicles to get them in and out more sensibly. And it builds a casual (non-asphalt) pathway to make it easier to visit the Kevin Collins Children's Garden surrounding the playground.

SF Rec and Park Department will get this work underway soon - hopefully in the first months of 2011. There are many opportunities to make this project a catalyst for even more improvements.

Dale Danley
Panhandle Park Stewards

Background on Recycling Center's Lease Termination

When the city's landmark curbside recycling service was put in place, our revered neighborhood Recycling Center was forced to change its operation to the collection and transport of commercial recyclables by trucks to its site near Kezar for processing and then into still larger trucks for distribution.

In 1998, the long awaited Golden Gate Master Plan was released deeming the Recycling Center as a "non-conforming use" of park land and recommending its phasing out. In 2001 Rec and



Chronicle/Kat Wade

The Recycling Center has become a transfer facility using open top cargo containers (rear) to transport materials collected elsewhere.

Park told the owners (HANC) to relocate, and refused to renew its five-year lease, putting them on a month-to-month holdover tenancy (paid quarterly). For over ten years the owners of the Recycling Center have fought to hang on to their half-acre of Golden Gate Park for which they pay rent of \$417 per month.

In response to neighbors, Rec and Park has made preliminary plans to reutilize the site as a Community Garden for growing vegetables and incorporating the Native Plant Nursery, now located in the Recycling Center.

Last month the Rec and Park Commission finally gave the owners of the Recycling Center a notice of lease termination effective March 4, waiving all rent for the months of January and February. The owners have hired a lawyer and are prepared to fight the action the grounds that there was not a proper hearing process. They have persuaded Supervisor Mirkarimi to schedule a hearing before the City Operations and Neighborhood Services Committee of the Board of Supervisors on February 14. HANC will draw a large group of supporters because they are saying that those in favor of their relocation are (1) against recycling, (2) want to rid the neighborhood of the "poor," and (3) want to evict the Native Plant Nursery. None of which is true. We hope to see you in City Hall on February 14 at 10 a.m. in Room 250 to set the record straight.

Karen Crommie

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



Recycling Center Hearing February 14, 2011

City Hall - Room 250 - 10 a.m.

It is vital that you speak in support of Rec and Park's proposed plan for a Community Garden on the site.

Mayor Lee Is Up Against the Democrats AND Danny Glover

The city is looking at a \$400 million deficit, the state is calling for an emergency June vote to extend taxes and yet the Democratic County Central Committee (DCCC) had time on January 26 to pass a resolution calling for the HANC recycling center to stay in Golden Gate Park. Such is the power of Calvin Welch.

And as if that's not enough, our longtime neighbor, actor Danny Glover, was shown on YouTube making a statement that he would be "dismayed" if the Recycling Center were to close. Wow. He must have time on his hands, too. (See adjacent article.)

—Karen Crommie

New Rules for Bay to Breakers Centenary Race May 15

Community organizations with members along the race route have held a number of meetings with operators of the Bay to Breakers in an attempt to curb the revolting behavior of drunken race



There were 122 runners in the first Bay to Breakers (then called the Cross City Race) on January 1, 1912.

participants who last year destroyed property and mocked requests by residents for civility.

Anticipating a greater attendance at the 100th anniversary event, the registration will be limited to 50,000 people, the starting time advanced to 7 a.m., and only registered runners will be permitted on the course. There will be multiple checkpoints to make sure this is the case.

Alcohol and floats will not be allowed at the race and additional police and private security will be present to remove both should they appear (and it is likely they will). Race sponsors insist that these new regulations will not be reversed.

A retrospective exhibit of Bay to Breakers history will be held at the Greater Body Expo on May 13 and 14. This will include photos, race memorabilia and a historical timeline from 1912 to 2011. The after-race festivities (Footstock) will be moved to the Beach Chalet soccer fields where there will be food booths and entertainment. Men who beat Bobby Vlught's 1912 time of 44:10 and women who beat Frances Conley's 1971 time of 50:45 will have their race numbers retired. To register online go to baytobreakers.com.

Postscripts

Responding to complaints by Beulah Street residents to Park Station Captain Denis O’Leary about the lack of driver compliance with the crossing signs at Stanyan, a sting operation was carried out on January 13. Lt. Pengel from Traffic Enforcement Operations, along with his “posse,” cited 20 motorists for failing to yield to pedestrians in a marked crosswalk.

Captain O’Leary also reported that a shooting occurred at the Twin Peaks Overlook parking lot on January 15. The parking lot was full of people enjoying the view when a 24 year-old Latino male from San Mateo County was shot as he walked in the lot. The victim died soon after.

The suspect was in a white van, similar to a new Honda Odyssey. The van fled before the police arrived. Sergeant Peter Dacre and officers from Park Station detained witnesses and Inspector Valerie Matthews, Homicide Detail, took over the case.

This incident is unusual for the neighborhood. Nevertheless, Park Station will increase its patrols in the area.

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 Summer edition should be sent before April 15, 2011 to 628 Ashbury St., San Francisco, CA 94117 or kcrommie@aol.com. We encourage submissions from anyone interested in our neighborhood. Send questions or comments to the above address or call 431-1414.

EditorKaren Crommie
 ProductionDavid Crommie
 Editorial AssistanceJoan Downey

Call for News

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



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 Officers

President.....Lena Emmerly
 Vice PresidentMarianne Hesse
 TreasurerJoan Downey
 Recording SecretaryKaren Crommie
 MembershipLena Emmerly
 Community RelationsAmy Blakeley

Help

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

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San Francisco Board of Supervisors

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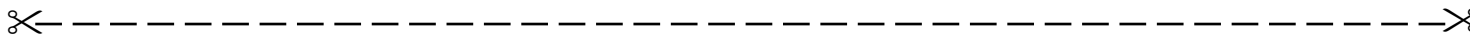
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11. John Avalos John.Avalos@sfgov.org	554-6975	554-6979

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 _____

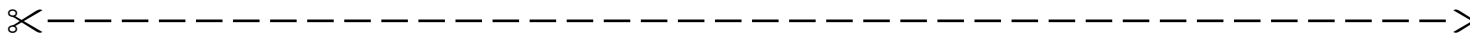
ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____ FAX _____

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