CVIANEWS

COLE VALLEY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Volume XXV

SERVING ALL RESIDENTS OF THE GREATER HAIGHT ASHBURY

SPRING 2012

N-Judah Shutdowns Begin on February 24

Get ready. The first group of weekend shutdowns during the Carl Street Rail replacement project has been scheduled. The new rails should dampen the shriek and trembling experienced by Carl Street residents since the Breda cars came on line. Yes, there will be loud noise during construction. Muni apologizes.

- Friday, February 24, from 7 p.m. until 5 a.m. Monday, February 27. Sewer work on Carl between Arguello Blvd. and Hillway Ave. (south side). Sewer work on Carl between Stanyan and Shrader St. (south side)
- Friday, March 2, from 7 p.m. until 5 a.m. Monday, March 5 Continued sewer work on Carl between Arguello Blvd. and Willard St. (south side). Continued sewer work on Carl between Stanyan and Shrader St. (south side).
- Friday, March 9, from 7 p.m. until 5 a.m. Monday, March 12 Track and sewer work on Carl between Arguello Blvd. and Willard St. (center). Track and sewer work on Carl between Stanyan and Shrader St. (south side)
- Friday, March 16, from 7 p.m. until 5 a.m. Monday, March 19. Track and sewer work on Carl between Arguello Blvd. and Willard St. track and sewer work on Carl between Stanyan and Shrader St.
- Friday, March 23, from 7 p.m. until 5 a.m. Monday, March 26. Track and sewer work on Carl between Hillway Ave.and Willard St. Track and sewer work on Carl between Shrader St. and Cole St.
- Friday, March 30, from 7 p.m. until 5 a.m. Monday, April 2 Track and sewer work on Carl between Hillway Ave. and Willard St. (including Willard St. intersection). Track and sewer work on Carl between Shrader St. and Cole St.

Please note that the breakout presented above is a working schedule and is subject to changes or adjustments due to weather, operational or other unexpected conditions. Please check the project webpage at www.sfmta.com/carl for updates.

Substitute service provided by bus shuttles from Ocean Beach to Church Street. The N Judah Line service will not be operated in the Metro subway; however, supplemental rail service will be in place between Castro Station and the Caltrain Station at 4th and King streets. For each weekend's construction, Muni service adjustments and traffic detours will begin at approximately 7 p.m. on Fridays and last until 5 a.m. on Mondays.

Also expect street and bike lane closures and detours during the different phases of construction.

Traffic control officers along with police officers will direct traffic at critical intersections. Electronic messaging boards will be used in affected areas to alert motorists and cyclists of detours. Access to local businesses, residences and driveways will be maintained. The SFMTA will continue to provide project updates

Continued on page 2, column 2.

New Supervisor for District 5

Christina Olague was sworn in by Mayor Ed Lee on January 9 as District 5 supervisor taking the place of Ross Mirkarimi who vacated the post when he was elected Sheriff. Olague's appointment lasts until November, during which time she will have to mount a campaign to win the seat for herself. The mayor, a political moderate, picked the left-leaning president of the Planning Commission for her many capabilities (not the least of which was her participation in the "Run Ed Run" campaign) and for the fact that she was "progressive" enough to dissuade the volatile Chris Daly from following through on his threat to throw his (cocked) hat into the November race.

Olague was born in the San Joaquin Valley in 1961, the daughter of a farm administrator. She came to San Francisco in 1982 and became active in progressive politics while holding day jobs at several brokerage firms in the financial district. She attended San Francisco



Mayor Ed Lee administers the oath of office to Christina Olague whom he appointed to replace Ross Mirkarimi as District 5 supervisor.

State and finished her degree in Liberal Studies at the California Institute of Integral Studies. Before joining the Planning Commission, Olague was a leader of the Mission Anti-Displacement Coalition (MAC) and was active in the Senior Action Network.

Unlike previous mayoral appointments, Olague will not be a "sure vote" for Mayor Lee. The San Francisco Chronicle on Janu

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ary 9 reported, "In her recent tenure, she voted against three major projects backed by Lee that (ultimately) won Planning Commission approval: Development plans for Treasure Island, the Hunters Point Shipyard and Parkmerced (expansion). However, she backed the environmental impact report for the upcoming America's Cup races - one of the mayor's top priorities."

When she was appointed to the Planning Commission in 2004 (by Supervisor Matt Gonzalez) she was quoted by Stacy Mills in the online news source Beyond Chon as saying, "I feel very marginalized in a way — people automatically write me off and dismiss me as just being "one of those radicals. But over time they'll see I'm really committed to being open to consider the other side. And if I disagree, I'll be very sure to explain why."

Over her seven years on the Commission, Olague proved this to be true. It's easy to see why the Mayor gave her the nod for this key position. Already she has attended a CVIA board meeting, invited us to a meeting in her office, and been available to hear our concerns. We look forward to working with her.

-Karen Crommie

Just One Tree

Do you have a lemon tree in your garden or one bearing some other edible fruit? Do you have a friend or neighbor who does? I'm trying to get folks who have fruit trees to register them on the SF Urban Forest Map as a first step prior to launching the "Just One Tree" project this year. The goal of JOT is for San Francisco to become sustainable in a beautiful and easy to grow crop such as Meyer Lemons, providing a global model that any city can be more self-



With adequate acid fertilizer, Meyer lemon trees grow well in San Francisco.

sufficient in a number of crops—even without much land! For example, we need only 12,000 lemon trees to be completely self-sufficient (3 lbs/per capita per year) and there are an estimated 3-4,000 lemon trees already planted—we just need to find them!.I'd like to get them and other fruit trees mapped before we launch the JOT

campaign because the goal will be very achievable even more quickly. Here's where you (or anyone else) can register your trees: http://www.urbanforestmap.org/ We will have a website up soon that will have everything anyone needs to know about buying, planting, caring for, sharing excess production, and even recipes for lemons. It will also have a list and information about another 11 fruit trees that do very well in San Francisco—the delicious dozen.

Please feel free to send me a photo of your lemon tree (ideally with a city view and not just the fruit) and your lemon recipes. Email: isabelwade@gmail.com. Many thanks.

—Isabel Wade

Ed. note: Isabel Wade, PhD is the founder of the Neighborhood Parks Council, which recently merged with San Francisoco Parks Trust to form The San Francisco Parks Alliance.

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.

N-Judah Shutdowns, continued from page 1. column 1.

to residents, customers and merchants on an ongoing basis.

In addition to the individual line shutdowns on weekends, there will be a full shutdown of the N-Judah Line from May 5 to June 4.

For general information on the project, visit www.sfmta.com/carl or call 311. For questions or special assistance, please e-mail the project team at CarlStRail@sfmta.com or contact the Project Manager, Ha Nguyen at 7014296 and/or Jeannette Sanchez, Public Relations Officer at 701-4790.

Segways Roam GG Park Trails

Have you seen a string of tourists on Segways rolling through Golden Gate Park? We have. Sometimes we've seen these motorized vehicles on the sidewalks and on dirt trails where even bicycles aren't allowed. We contacted Rec and Park and found out that there is only one company—San Francisco Electric Tour Company—that



is permitted to conduct tours in Golden Gate Park. Some of their routes are on dirt paths including the one going to the top of Strawberry Hill. But sidewalks are off-limit. The lease agreement is for a five-year term, which expires January of 2016. The Department receives the greater of 16 percent of gross revenues or \$37,000 base annual rent. Please call RPD Police (242-6391) if you see any Segway group misbehaving.

—Joan Downey

Dog Walker Legislation

Supervisor Scott Wiener—District 8, which includes Buena Vista Park—has introduced legislation, which has been in the works for close to a decade: putting some basic standards in place for



professional dog walkers who use city property, primarily parks, to conduct their businesses. There are currently no rules addressing dog walkers. The legislation requires that professional dog walkers have liability insurance, obtain permits, comply with safety standards for transporting dogs, carry one leash per dog on their persons at all times, and walk no more than eight dogs at a time

In crafting the legislation, Weiner worked closely and collaboratively with several dog walking organizations, many individual dog walkers, dog owner groups, the SPCA, and various city departments.

New Captain at Park Station

We have lost a stand-up guy in the Captain's office at Park District Police Station. Sadly, the popular Captain Denis O'Leary has moved on to Citywide Traffic Enforcement Operations. It isn't that he didn't like us. No, it's that Chief Greg Suhr, like his predecessors, likes to keep the top brass moving so that they will be prepared to take on citywide positions, having had the experience of working in most of the city's neighborhoods. He has been replaced by Captain John J. Feeney, who was an original member of the Tenderloin Taskforce and worked at Park Station as Lieutenant in 2002-3.

From his e-mail communications, Captain Feeney appears to be a brainy guy who has a masters degree in leadership from St. Mary's College. He currently attends Command College, a law enforcement



Captain John J. Feeney has told his officers to expect change.

leadership program sponsored by the State of California, from which he expects to graduate in April.

Stating the main principle of his personal and professional policing philosophy, he has written to CVIA, "Police, at all times, should maintain a relationship with the public that gives reality to the historic tradition that 'the police are the public and the public are the police'; the police being only

members of the public who are paid to give full-time attention to duties which are incumbent upon every citizen in the interests of community welfare and existence."

This puts a responsibility on us, folks. Remember the Police Dispatch number 553-0123. Put it in your cell phone memory. Meet the new Captain at the monthly community meetings held at the Park Station Community Room on the second Tuesday of every month at 6:00 p.m. Be sure to send him your email address so that you will receive a Park Station report of neighborhood crimes and, soon, the link to an upcoming Park Station website. Send your request to John.Feeney@sfgov.org.

We welcome Captain Feeney and look forward to working with him to make Cole Valley and the Greater Haight Ashbury a safer place to live.

- Karen Crommie

POLICE COMMUNITY FORUM

Captain John Feeny holds community forums the second Tuesday of every month (except December) from 6 to 7:00 p.m. He gives briefings on upcoming permitted events, reviews neighborhood criminal activity, and addresses the safety concerns of residents. It's a good way to stay in touch with what's going on. The March meerting will be held at Park Station's Community Room, (1899 Waller) but plans are being made to vary the location of subsequent meetings. Call the station at 242-3000 or email john.feeney@sfgov.org to learn the location.

March 13, April 10 and May 8

Mark Your Calendars

Food Trucks on Haight Street Reveal Lack of Regulation

Last month a permit was filed by Artisanal Funnel Cakes to park a mobile food cart on Haight Street at Cole seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. It sent Haight merchants into an understandable tizzy as, who would want to have their storefront blocked all day by a catering truck deep-frying dough? This led to heated exchanges between the various neighborhood organizations, the Small Business Advisory Commission, District 5 supervisor's office and the Department of Public Works. The permit is now being contested and a hearing date will be set in the near future.

When Supervisor Scott Weiner last week introduced legislation extending food trucks permits to institutions such as hospitals and colleges, the objections achieved critical mass. A meeting was called on February 8 in the office of newly-appointed District 5 supervisor, Christina Olague to explain the policy, or more accurately, the lack thereof. To calm everyone down, Regina Dick-Endrizzi, executive director of the Small Business Commission explained that 1) DPW is obligated to issue a permit application to anyone who asks for it and 2) an applicant will typically apply for *broad* privileges —longer

hours than they plan to operate, greater frequency of days per week and more sites than they actually need. The combination of these two things published in widely circulated notifications leads to understandable alarm among brick and mortar businesses.

Why do they do it? According to Gillian Gillett, legislative aide to Supervisor Weiner, "Because you know that any request will get beaten



Regina Dick-Endrizzi

down by opponents. That's the way everything is done in San Francisco." It's a defensive strategy. Dick-Endrizzi explained that most food trucks start by requesting long hours until they see when the demand occurs, and then trim their open hours accordingly.

Calvin Welch, longtime watchdog of Haight zoning, strongly criticized the original Mobile Food Facility legislation passed in 2010 for not having included the need to comply with established Neighborhood Commercial District restrictions. While residents of Cole Valley have favorable reports on the Thursday night Food Trucks on Waller Street, which do not complete with Haight/Cole Valley restaurants, Booksmith co-owner Christin Evans questioned why there weren't specific restrictions for a food truck to set up in front of an existing business without its permission.

The city's written policy is that "mobile food vendors encourage the use and vitality of San Francisco's neighborhoods. The vitality of our streetscapes directly benefits the economic activity for all commercial interests in San Francisco."

Welch again questioned the inadequacies of the original legislation, saying, "We have a restriction on fast food restaurants in the Haight Ashbury and yet you give a permit to a food truck?" He also brought up considerations of aesthetics, smoke, and generator noise, which routinely measures higher than that permitted by the city's noise ordinance.

Are they a fad or here to stay? Food Trucks are a reality in San Francisco today. What's missing are controls that will keep them from taking business from neighborhood cafes and turning our streets into carnivals.

— Karen Crommie

A New Vision For Parnassus

At a meeting held at UCSF on February 13, plans were discussed to partially convert the venerable UC Hall— formerly UC Hospital, built in 1917—into student housing. This would mean that fewer people would have to commute but, on the other hand, would decrease street-parking spaces. To dissuade the new residents from storing their cars on the surrounding streets, CVIA suggested that residents of the building be exempt from "J" Residential Parking Permits

Part of UCSF's plan is to narrow Parnassus so that it is easier for faculty and students to cross between buildings. Realizing that



UCSF has a plan to change Parnassus Avenue into a more pedestrianfriendly plaza.

a narrower street will slow traffic, including buses (because bike riders have to ride in the traffic lane) it was suggested that, 1) they reduce the number of delivery vans by limiting supply sources, 2) each employee be given a Muni Fast Pass to encourage use of public transportation, 3) stop UC shuttles from picking people up at locations where they habitually park on the city streets (like Clarendon), which only encourages their employees to drive, 3) persuade UC Police to enforce traffic and parking codes more vigorously.

CVIA also encouraged UCSF to not only address the resulting traffic issues that mostly effect the Inner Sunset, but to also consider the effect of their plans on Cole Valley.

-Joan Downey

CPAB-Say What?

CPAB is not the catchiest acronym—standing for Community Police Advisory Board. There are CPAB's at each of the Police Stations in San Francisco with the purpose of dialogue and cooperation between community leaders and the police. The Park District's board is comprised of about a dozen representatives from neighborhood groups and are co-ordinated by Morgan St. Clair of S.F. Safe, Inc.

Captain Feeney.
ary meeting, reported become a major issue the rest of the city. on some possible so-important that you rial number of your photograph of the biand it might help your len bicycle. Other issues include pedestrian safety,

that bicycle theft has in our area as well as We will be working lutions. For now, it is keep track of the sebicycle along with a cycle. Not so hard to do, reunification with a stothat are under discussion theft of personal electronics, esidential security. The one take

speaking at the Febru-

child drop-off at schools and residential security. The one take away from all of this is that any incident needs to be reported so that the statistics can accurately reflect reality. The Captain also hosts community meetings for the general public. See Page 3 for details. Get involved!

Controversial Bike Path on Oak and Fell Hits a Pothole

You may have noticed that the city is hell-bent on increasing the number of bicycle riders by establishing bike lanes. Most recently they've been looking at the three blocks of Fell and Oak between



A plan to convert a lane of traffic on Oak and Fell streets to bicycle use is running into opposition from nearby neighbors.

Scott and Baker where they want to better cycling access to the three blocks connecting the "wiggle," the circuitous cross town route riders take to avoid the Buena Vista hill.

The need is real—bike traffic on Fell has increased 500 percent since 2002. Over the last year the SFMTA (Municipal Transportation Agency) has held the obligatory public meetings and report mostly positive feedback. But there is an active opposition: people who object to the loss of parking spaces (many residences along the proposed path lack garages), the slowing down of traffic, and a nasty suspicion that the city's bicycle riders wield political power incommensurate with their actual number.

CVIA has gone on record in opposing the plan, as has the Haight Ashbury Improvement Association (HAIA). Both agree that Fell and Oak are main automobile conduits whereas bicycles have the option to go on the less traveled Hayes Street to Scott, and across Fell and Oak to the wiggle. Yes, it will take longer but it will also be safer and leave the three lanes of these important crosstown arteries available to motorists while preserving the parking spaces that line them. The mayor announced that approval of the bikeways are being delayed because the SFMTA needs extra time to try and find nearby replacements for the 80 parking spots to be removed for the bike lanes. For more on the proposed changes go to www.sfmta.com/cms/bproj/bikeplan.htm.

-Karen Crommie

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 May 1, 2012 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.

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Local Girl Makes Good

The last thing Molly and John Hooper thought their daughter Hannah would be is an international rock star. But that's what happened. A girl who grew up on Buena Vista East and who hated to

speak in front of her class at high school returned home a few months ago to appear before screaming crowds at the Outside Lands Festival in Golden Gate Park. As one of the founders and lead female singer of Grouplove, Hannah has hit the big time with gigs on Letterman, Conan O'Brien and Jimmy Kimmel. Grouplove's first

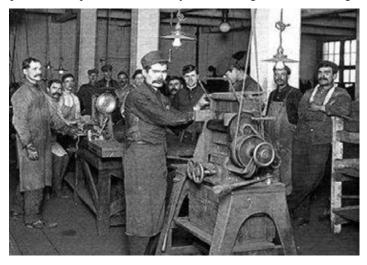


Hanna Hooper of Grouplove.

album is called "Never Trust a Happy Song" and is "quite dark" in places, says Molly. Hannah and her guys are on tour this month with performances in Switzerland, Holland, Belgium and UK. It's okay to be impressed. Check out www.grouplovemusic.com.

SF History Expo 2012

A city is defined by its past as well as its present. San Francisco's past is extraordinarily rich and varied, thanks to the influx of immigrants who came here, bringing their traditions to this new world. We are fortunate that today there are those who strive to preserve the past and the history of their neighborhoods through



oral histories, artifacts and photographs. Showcasing this diversity was the premise behind the first SF Museum and Historical Society History Expo in February of 2011, attended by over 3500 visitors who spent hours visiting more than 25 mini-museums set up by local organizations.

The 2011 event was a tremendous success, so they are doing it again: Saturday and Sunday, March 3 and 4, at the Old Mint. Hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day.

The two-day event will once again feature mini-museums set up by participating organizations. In addition, there will be a special exhibition of 42 photographs called "Elegant Pit Stops," a display of historic garages in the city. Returning for the second expo is historic artist Alan Zimmerman of Stockton whose large-scale oil-on-wood paintings of Gold Rush San Francisco drew admiring crowds.

In the vault area, historic films will be shown and special programs are scheduled both days. Emperor Joshua Norton may even make an appearance.

Ice Cream Bar's Saga Makes the New York Times

It's not every day that the venerable Grey Lady prints a story about Cole Valley but, on February 3, they did. The opening of the Ice Cream Bar at 815 Cole Street was an item, not because of its excellent ice cream specialties, although they did touch on that, but because of the unconscionable length of time it took to open.

Delayed permits and legal obstacles taunted owner Juliette Pries over a period of nearly two years. Time and time again construction work had to be stopped as requirements changed and additional documents were required. Meanwhile no revenue was coming in and the rent had to be paid. Pries told *New York Times* reporter Scott James,



Juliette Pries, The Ice Cream Bar's resolute owner can finally smile on opening day.

"There were permit fees of \$20,000; a demand that I create a detailed map of all existing area businesses (the city didn't have one); and an \$11,000 charge just to turn on the water." A weaker person would have said, "fini." But this beautiful young woman pushed on until opening day.

Since then the store has flourished. People are charmed by the period feeling, the soda jerks in traditional attire, the forties music,



The 30s era back bar is made of curved blond wood trimmed with chrome.

innovative ice cream flavors like sour cherry, honey buttermilk, vegan coconut, toasted pineapple as well as old time favorites like egg cream and phosphates, frappes, malts, crushes, etc. A special favorite is the warm brownie sundae and the hot cross bun ice cream sandwich. My preference is the booze-laced ice creams like Bourbon Pecan and Butterscotch Rye. But you can find plain vanilla, chocolate and strawberry dishes at the Ice Cream Bar, too. By the way, there will soon be lunch menu along with beer and wine service.

Opening day was a mad house. People stood in lines and some left, planning to return when the novelty dimmed a bit. No one was happier than CVIA members who have been reading stories about an imminent opening for four issues now. It's a great addition to the neighborhood and we wish Juliette and her partners a long and profitable run.

—Karen Crommie

Sayonara Eos, Hola Papazote

It's been a great ride. Eos was Cole Valley's destination restaurant ever since Arnold Wong opened its doors in 1995. (Michael Bauer gave it three stars). But over the years it followed the path of many popular eateries: change of ownership, loss of the key chef, diminishing interest in a food trend (Asian fusion) and, alas, a dwindling of regular customers.

The writing was on the wall but the date of its demise wasn't apparent until CVIA was contacted by restaurateur Nate Valentine, who wanted to talk about establishing an offshoot of his successful Marina restaurant, Mamacita's, in the Cole Valley building with its dual entrances at 901 Cole and 101 Carl. His plans are to duplicate the Mexican cantina theme with certain refinements and call it Papazote. The major concern for CVIA was the fact he will seek a hard liquor license. (What's a Mexican restaurant without Margaritas?) Of the many questions we asked Nick Valentine, below are his answers to the most important.

Open Hours: We would like to be open 7 days a week with the ability to be open for Breakfast/Brunch, Lunch and Dinner and later evening dinning if the business is there. I ideally would like the flexibility of gauging what business is viable and then modify



Restaurateur Nate Valentine seeks a liquor license for a Mexican cantina he plans to open at Cole and Carl streets replacing Eos.

our hours accordingly. This however is an important topic for any neighbors I would be happy to work with them.

Parking: I would love any advice you might have as it is one of my biggest concerns both having lived in Cole Valley and spending a lot of time there now it can be a difficult to park in. Valet is expensive and I do not see any viable parking outlets for valet parked cars.

Smokers on sidewalks: There was a new law passed within the city that requires smokers to not smoke in front of businesses and we do our best to ensure that it is upheld. We also vigorously sweep and work to keep the area in front of our businesses and those adjacent to us clean and free of debris and cigarettes. With our location being in front of a major Muni hub I think the main challenge will be those waiting for the train but we will of course work as best and as hard as we can on the issue. Our staff is never allowed to smoke in front of the restaurant.

Music/Sound: We plan ambient and atmospheric music we believe on it being an addition to the dining environment but nowhere near the focus. We would not have it loud enough that it can be heard from outside the premise. We are working to run a fantastic restaurant and know from experience that diners want to communicate with each other and not be blown out by music. I would also be happy to make sure we work with the residents above to ensure no music penetration.

Signage: We would be happy to show you, or anyone interested,

our plans for signs. We tend to be subtle and complimentary to the building and surroundings. We do not believe in over the top signage.

Double venue (Wine bar and restaurant): We would like to bring the wine bar and restaurant into one flowing space with the bar having food from the restaurant and sharing space and concept.

CVIA will keep negotiating with Nate to achieve conditions that are compatible with the neighborhood. We contacted the other Cole Valley restaurant owners and invited them to a meeting last week to discuss this new addition but only Hail Jwainat from Crepes on Cole attended. He felt it would be good for all businesses in the neighborhood. We will keep you posted.

—Karen Crommie

Apply Now for Cole Valley Fair

Attention artists, vendors, musicians and owers of unique cars: CVIA is pleased to announce that the Cole Valley Fair will be back again for its TENTH year on Sunday, September 23, 2012.

The Cole Valley Fair continues to be a charming and wellattended event sponsored by merchants and organizations with outstanding records of community support. The fair features local art and fine crafts, lip-smacking food, live music, a display of historical Cole Valley photographs, a full block of vintage automobiles owned by neighborhood residents, events for children, and more!

If you're an artist with unique handcrafted work or a food vendor with tasty morsels, we hope you'll apply for a booth space. The deadline is July 1. Priority will be given to Cole Valley residents, returning vendors, and promising new applicants. (Imported merchandise will not be considered). We will be accepting some applicants before the deadline date.

We're also seeking musicians from all genres and styles for one-hour performance slots. The Cole Valley Fair is a small and intimate street fair where the right sound will attract a lot of attention.

And, yes, Cars on Cole will be back again this year. Never been to the event? We look for interesting neighborhood vehicles—what-



Vendors who have been successful return year after year.

ever that may mean. It need not be a "show queen," or vintage, or rare. The range of vehicles in past years has been from a gaggle of Citroen 2CVs, British, German, French, Japanese and Italian sports and touring cars, heavy 30-60s American Iron, Model A to modern Hot Rod, bicycles to motorcycles.

Application forms for vendors, musicians, and cars are available online at http://www.cviasf.org/cole-valley-fair-2012/ and on paper at Postal Chase, 912 Cole Street.

—Joan Downey

The Parklets Are Coming

With one already built, another in the final planning stage, and a third being reviewed, Parklets are coming to Haight Street whether you want them or not. As part of a citywide "Pavement to Parks" program to increase green space for public use, San Francisco's projects were inspired by the recent success of similar projects in New York City—where plazas and seating areas have been created in excess roadway simply by painting or treating the asphalt, placing protective barriers along the periphery, and installing moveable tables and chairs.

There are several parklets already in use across the city, some of them sponsored and built by businesses to increase seating for their clients, others by non-profit groups to add to the public space of a neighborhood. There are two examples close by: A parklet applied for and sponsored by Inner Sunset Park Neighbors (ISPN) built in front of Arizmendi Bakery on Ninth Avenue and another in front of Martin Macks Bar and Restaurant at 1586 Haight Street. Magnolia Pub on the corner of Masonic and Haight Street is in the final planning process to add one on the Masonic side of its building. On their website, the non-profit organization, San Francisco Great Streets (sfgreatstreets.org/parklets) lays out the facts pretty clearly:

What is a parklet?

It is a small public sidewalk extension usually extending one or two parking space lengths. It might have seating, trees, flowers, shrubs, umbrellas, bike parking or lighting – the parklet reflects the unique character of that location.

Parking spaces? That's tiny!

Their small size is a huge asset. A parklet's petite nature allows it to get on the ground quickly and for much, much cheaper than a traditional park, while still providing the benefits of a public open space.

Who can use a parklet?

A parklet is a public space that can be used by everyone: neighbors, residents of San Francisco and tourists. It is not private property, and it is not limited to customers of the surrounding businesses.

What are the benefits of a parklet?

A parklet adds much-needed green open space to our dense city. Anyone can sit down to eat or read, watch people, pull over from crowded sidewalks long enough to take a look around and notice new stores and places to explore.

Parklets are also good for surrounding businesses as they attract people to the location and give them a place to linger. The SF Great Streets Project's study of the initial parklet on Divisadero at Grove Street found that it increased foot traffic, particularly during week days, and encouraged people to linger longer (and all without increasing anti-social behavior).

Oftentimes parklets have trees and shrubs, which help to beautify an area and act as a buffer between the street and the sidewalk.

What about parking?

While there is huge demand for parklets from across the city, from the Outer Sunset to North Beach, it is still a tiny program. Even on streets where multiple parklets have been built, only a small amount of space is being transformed – only 2.5% of regular parking spots on Columbus Avenue are parklets, and 1.6% on Valencia Street.

What behavior is not allowed in the parklet?

You cannot smoke, consume alcoholic beverages or participate in other illegal activities, just like a sidewalk.

In order to respect the public nature of parklets, neighboring restaurants are not permitted to provide waiter service, prepare food,

or store food carts, etc in the parklet.

Who cleans up or takes care of the parklet?

The permit holder maintains the parklet. This permit holder pays for the costs of construction and maintenance, even though the parklet is a public space that anyone can use.

How does the permitting process work?

The permitting process is extremely similar to the city's "Tables and Chairs" permit, which allows permit holders to put tables and chairs in the public right of way, and the colored curb program, which allows people to create special loading zones or other special use parking areas.

How many parklets are there?

Currently there are 23 parklets in San Francisco – although that number is going to rise significantly in the coming months. There has been huge demand for parklets around the city, and applications to the City for permits have reflected that hunger. Parklets are located all over the city. Check out our ever-evolving map at sfgreatstreets.org/parklets.

Who can I contact for more information?

For general questions about parklets, e-mail Liza Pratt at liza @sfgreatstreets.org.

To report problems or non-compliance with parklet guidelines, contact DPW, Bureau of Street Use and Mapping at (415) 554-5810 or parklets@sfdpw.org.

Enforcement of the ideals set forward above is the big problem as I see it. Currently, at the Martin Macks site on Haight Street, clients of the bar can be seen drinking alcohol that they purchased inside the bar. And here's the rub: All the city and state agencies



This parklet in front of Martin Macks (1586 Haight Street) features brick planters and hanging plants.

involved seem to want to pass the buck for enforcement. I asked Andres Power of the Planning Department about the enforcement of the no alcohol provision and he said the Planning Department has a neutral position on alcohol use in parklets. I queried the ABC (Alcohol Beverage Control) about issuing a license for alcohol use in a parklet and they said they do not issue licenses for "public spaces." I asked how they would enforce drinking in parklets and they said that clearly it was illegal but they would have to see someone walking out of a bar with an open container to cite the owner of the bar. And when I asked Park Police Station about enforcing the open container law, they said the Police Department hadn't yet established a clear policy. There you have it. Another great idea with no one in charge or willing to take responsibility when things don't go as planned. Ah, bureaucracy.

−David Crommie

CVIA Board Minutes

The following is a summary of what took place at the CVIA board meetings the last two months. (There is no meeting in December.) Those members wishing to bring an issue before the Board or attend a meeting are always very welcome to do so. Meetings occur the first Monday of every month at 7:00 p.m. in the home of a member. Call 431-1414 to learn the location.

January

Location: Home of Marianne Hesse — January 2, 2012

- Reviewed last meeting's resolutions, discussed current Cole Valley/Haight issues, and heard reports from committee heads and delegates to the Kezar Stadium Advisory Committee, MTA Citizens Advisory Council, Community Policing Advisory Board and the Coalition for S.F. Neighborhoods. Welcomed aspiring appointee to position of D-5 supervisor, Michael Breyer, and new CVIA member Dave Parrish.
- Treasurer Joan Downey reported \$12,070.41 in savings, \$4,833.71 in checking, \$2,224.62 in the Clean Cole Street fund and \$13,401.76 in the Cole Valley Fair fund. We made approximately \$14,000 from the 2011 fair, of which we will keep \$8,000 as seed money for 2012 fair, disbursing \$2,000 to Grattan School, \$500 to Park Branch Library, \$500 to Mount Sutro Stewards (to train volunteers), \$2,000 to the Clean Cole Street project. Our account is also holding \$527.47 in trust (as fiscal sponsor) for the Inner Sunset Park Neighbors parklet. Santa on Cole (family photos) made \$938.14.
- Asked Dave Parrish to contact Craig Dawson regarding a written request for a grant to the Mt. Sutro Stewards.
- Reviewed Santa on Cole: Next year need table and chairs, backdrop stabilized, publicity stressing "one day only." Must Contact Cole Valley parent's group, HA nursery school, must have Santa glasses for Gaston, secure any "coupons" early enough so that they can be announced in the publicity. Lena's Emmery's system for accepting payment worked very well and should be done again.
- Letter to merchants appealing for support of Clean Cole project to be revised by Joan and Karen to a single page.
- Marianne Hesse reported that HANC is still opposed to the skatepark. She also said that as many as 30 groups of kids at one time have been congregating at Alvord Lake.
- Lena reported that neighborhood burglaries up 20 percent and that bike sting operations have been going on in several districts including the Haight and Divisadero corridors.
- Joan reported on Segway groups using Golden Gate Park trails.
- Michael Breyer in his presentation said, among other things that he was co-sponsor of the "Run Ed Run" committee, launched public WiFi in the SF superior Court, called Court Room Connect, was a fifth-generation San Franciscan—his great grandfather was on the board of Supervisors, his grandfather was attorney for the School Board. He is presently a library commissioner.
- Discussed the plans for funding a nursery at the Botanical Garden with Rec and Park funds. Nursery was supposed to be funded by Friends of Botanical Garden. Bait and switch situation.
- CVIA member Dave Parrish reported on updates at UCSF. The surge Building and Woods building will come down, Moffet will be demolished by 2030 or rebuilt. He will write an article for the newsletter.

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

February

Location: Home of Douglas Hall — February 6, 2012

- Reviewed last meeting's resolutions, discussed current Cole Valley/Haight issues, and heard reports from committee heads and delegates to the Kezar Stadium Advisory Committee, MTA Citizens Advisory Council, Community Policing Advisory Board and the Coalition for S.F. Neighborhoods. Welcomed District 5 Supervisor Christina Olague.
- Treasurer Joan Downey reported \$12,070.41 in savings, \$5704.93 in checking, \$4,399.62 in the Clean Cole Street fund and 11,401.76 in the Cole Valley Fair fund. Our account is also holding \$527.47 in trust (as fiscal sponsor) for the Inner Sunset Park Neighbors parklet.
- In a discussion with Supervisor Christina Olague board members discussed issues of concern in the neighborhood, including Alvord Lake; the "done deal" skateboard park; and the relocation of the HANC recycling center. The Supervisor agreed that more could be done at Alvord Lake with little effort, and said she would talk to Rec and Park about adding more trash receptacles. Parklets and food trucks were also discussed. Supervisor Olague invited us to attend two meeting on these topics. Details on time/location of meetings to be distributed after the meeting.
- Waller Street skateboard park Marianne Hesse updated us on the effects (on the neighborhood) of the skateboard park's trial period. She reported an increase of skateboard traffic on Waller. A neighbor's steps have been damaged and there has been an increase in graffiti. Marianne would like people to notify Alex Randolph (Rec and Park) when vandalism occurs in the neighborhood.
- Lena Emmery sent a letter to Rec and Park regarding the progress of the appeal to the eviction of the recycling center. No changes reported.
- Carl Street Rail Project dates of the shutdowns have changed. Joan to send Amy details to update website/social media.
- Karen Crommie attended the first meeting regarding the Bay to Breakers. Sgt. Solomon and race organizers were there. The plan is to keep all of last year's rules in place. Joan reported flaws in the rules last year when she volunteered. Karen to bring up points at next meeting.
- Papazotes Agreed to support liquor license if it can be limited to the individual restaurant and not establish hard liquor at that location in perpetuity.
- A bike lane is being proposed on Oak and Fell streets. All members agree that putting a bike lane on this main commute throughway will impede traffic, lead to congestion, lose needed parking spaces, and endanger bicyclists. Amy to write a letter to SFMTA opposing the plan, which Karen will edit.
- Ice Cream Bar is open, Juliet has been very generous in thanking board members, and everyone loves it.
- Off the Grid is contracted with GGP to be open both Wednesdays and Sundays, but has only been doing the Wednesdays up to now. Matt Cohen, the founder, says Waller St. is the most successful OTG of any location. They are planning to do Sundays seasonally and include a beer garden, taking into consideration its family-friendly ambiance. Will have beer from Magnolia Brew Pub to keep it local. Matt is going to all neighborhood groups to get support. He will attend CVIA March meeting to discuss it with us further.
- Cole Valley Fair Discussed whether to produce a 10-year anniversary poster or use the Cole/Carl street sign design, manipulating the image to work better on a poster. Joan to write to Lori Elder (former organizer) for name of artist so to ask for permission.



- Google Docs Joan Downey set up documents in Google Docs so they could be accessible to all. Joan Downey will resend documents available now are membership list, treasurer's report, and disbursement form.
- Joan contacted Rec and Park regarding concerns about Segways on the sidewalks in GGP. R&P said Segways are illegal on sidewalks but allowed on some trails. The Segway operators have a 5-year contract. Segway infractions should be reported to Rec and Park.
- Lena Emmery brought a catalogue showing some reusable bags that would make inexpensive CV Fair merchandise with the CVIA logo. Discussion do we want a logo? Doug offered ideas of the Kezar arch, Mt Sutro, St Ignatius, Karen Crommie likes the idea of using only the capital letters, which give a Greek/Roman numeral style. David likes N-Judah and St. Ignatius. Bags will be ordered with "CVIA" for now, but a deadline of May was given for a logo decision. Shannon Cooper Hock to investigate a pro-bono designer.
- Amy proposed changes to CVIA's social media presence, taking Chris Hock's suggestion to have an actual CVIA "brand" instead of the current Cole Valley Neighbors Facebook page. The CVIA page will provide the public to access CVIA announcements and information but have protections built in so they cannot adversely comment. Members agreed and Amy will make the transition.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

-Amy Blakeley

Thank You For Your Support in 2011-12

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:

Rita & Richard Felciano, Abby & David Rumsey, Les Silverman & Irv Govan, Britny Bottorff, Rosemary Southwood, Cecile & Jeff Boddington, Michael J. Sullivan, Ellena Ochoa & Ted Ridgeway, Lena Emmery & Charles Canepa, Jessica Justino & Bill Hancock, Virginia & David Keller, Byron G. Bray, Jr., Gina Centoni, Juliet Pries, John Manning, Margareta Ekblad & Vojtech Licko, The Ice Cream Bar, Virginia & Kenneth Brown, Virginia Joosen, Tresa & Jim Eyres, Tom Nicoll, Cole Hardware, Billy & Kendra Robins, Penny Duan & Steve Chaffin, Timothy Dunn & Claudia Scharff, Janan New, Susan Hills, Kay Bertram, Jan Platt & Jeff Ross, Linda Coda & Robert Brigante, Gerardo Joffe, Gail Berman, Ellen Curry, John & Molly Hooper, Harold & Lyn Isbell, Robert G. Jones & John T. Smith, Dennis Martino, MeMe Riordan, Linda Smith, Richard Taylor & Nancy Grubbs, Tina & Oliver Brock, Chris Broderick, Marion Elliott, Nancy Hutt, Deborah Robbins & Henry Navas, Susan & Steven Rosen. Mary Ann Wolcott, Stuart Gasner & Kate Ditzler.

The Booksmith's Praveen Madan Buys Kepler's

The popular co-owner of Booksmith, the Haight's only remaining bookstore, made the front page of the *San Francisco Chronicle* recently when he bought the owner's shares of historic Kepler's

bookstore in Menlo Park. Praveen Madan, who has withdrawn from active participation in the Booksmith, in favor of his partner and wife Christin Evans, was quoted as saying, "We're going to create the community bookstore of the 21st century and that hasn't really been done yet." However, most of us in the Haight feel that he and Evans have come pretty close to it with the Booksmith by offering a constant menu of lectures, readings, book swaps, literary mixers, neighborhood



Praveen Madan

discussions, book clubs and theme-based events, some charging admission and serving wine. West Coast Live even broadcast one of its weekend radio programs from the store.

When Clark Kepler, son of the store's founder could no longer afford to keep the store open, he called Madan and they had lunch. Kepler told the Chronicle's Sam Whiting, "From the first meeting, I had an excited realization that he had a vision that could radically change the economics of the bookstore." Madan's strategy, which he calls "Kepler's 2020" is to split the store into two entities: a nonprofit to support author readings/lectures and a for-profit venue selling books.

Since leaving the day-to-day management of the Booksmith, Madan has been a regular contributor to the Huffington Post and served as advisor to several nonprofit newspapers. He is a board member at Berrett-Koehler Publishers and a partner at Berkeley Arts and Lectures. His LinkedIn entry describes him as a "literary entrepreneur," which is a pretty good description of his wide range of interests, intellectual acumen and visionary zeal.

-Karen Crommie

The Booksmith Events

Interested in who'll be coming to The Booksmith this spring? Herewith, a few names we'll drop: Joshua Foer, Alison Bechdel, Matt Ruff, Larry Smith & Friends, Christine Pelosi, Meredith Maran and Michelle Richmond, Terry Bisson, Jennifer duBois, Michael Tucker and Jill Eikenberry, Melanie Thorne and Pam Houston, Julie Bruck, David Vann, David Talbot, a murder mystery Bookswap, and much more. Watch the website (Booksmith.com) and your inbox for all the news.

—Christin Evans

CVIA Officers				
President				
Vice President	Shannon Cooper Hock			
Treasurer				
Recording Secretary	Amy Blakeley			
Membership				
Community Relations	Amy Blakeley			

Bacon Bacon! is the Call on Frederick Street.

Jim Angelus is the owner of the Bacon Bacon food truck and a happy Cole Valley homeowner, living with his family on Alma between Schrader and Stanyan for the last 3 years. He is also a member of CVIA and loves the Cole Valley Fair.

He started the Bacon truck business in July 2011, and is thrilled to have signed the lease last November for the use of the former Ashbury Market deli spot as a prep kitchen for the truck. Every morning his five employees are busy baking large trays of bacon and doing other food preparation. The truck is parks in front of the leased space in the morning to be loaded, but goes to another location to sleep.

This is Jim's first venture in the food truck business, but he has extensive previous restaurant management experience. He was manager of the Union Square area restaurant, E & O Trading Company, where he met Arnold Wong, who was employed as a chef there. This is the Arnold of the Ashbury Market Wong family (still owners of the building) and the founder of Eos restaurant. So, with this contact and the great location allowing him to walk to work,

signing the lease was a no-brainer.

But if you want a Bacon Bacon breakfast you must go to the deli kitchen location, as no breakfast is served from the truck. They are currently offering a limited menu of two differ-



Bacon Bacon uses the kitchen at the former Ashbury Market and serves take-away meals.

ent breakfast sandwiches, one of scrambled eggs and vegetables, the other of a sunny side up fried egg (watch out for liquid yoke when you bite it)—and both including bacon, of course. A scone, yogurt parfait and coffee are other items.

The space is primarily for take out. Though counters for eating standing up are available, there is currently no seating. Bar stools may be added later, depending on permit complexities. The space is tastefully decorated with framed vintage bacon advertisements from old magazines. Lunch items have been added recently and feature some items not available on the truck, such as salads.

Jim drives the truck himself to a regular schedule of locations, including the Thursday night Waller Street food truck extravaganza. About 90 percent of the business is lunch with the other 10 percent dinner. The truck is also summoned for special events and private parties twice a month or so. It recently went to a dotcom company party in the Dogpatch section of San Francisco and as far afield as Redwood City.

The truck is a 1986 Chevrolet that was originally designed and built as a food truck and, in its previous life, mostly serviced construction sites with pre-wrapped sandwiches.

Why bacon? Well, Jim says, bacon is a food almost everyone likes (even his Muslim in-laws), so bacon has broad appeal and instant recognition of the food likely to be inside as one approaches the truck. Yes, chocolate covered bacon is served.

– Douglas Hall

New Concept in Bike Paths Coming to Golden Gate Park

The John F. Kennedy Drive "Drive Separated" Bikeway project has been approved for implementation starting this month. This is the new configuration that has cyclists riding between the sidewalk



The new "cycle tracks" put bicycle riders in a separate lane between parked cars and sidewalks.

and the parked cars, thereby protecting them from traffic. It has been opposed by advocates for people with disabilities but praised by the Livable Streets groups, the Concourse Authority and by the San Francisco Recreation and Parks Commission.

Since its approval, the SFMTA (Municipal Transportation Agency) has been working with interested stakeholders to finalize design details and ensure that the project benefits all park visitors, including not only cyclists but also pedestrians, motorists, and persons with disabilities.

Several bicycle-friendly cities in North America have built cycle tracks – in addition to attracting more bicyclists, there is growing consensus that these projects can slow motor vehicle speeds and reduce collisions and injuries for all road users. The SFMTA is developing educational materials to inform users how to safely use this new type of bikeway, and will be evaluating the project following construction to determine if any changes are needed.

For more information about the project, visit www.sfmta.com/cms/bproj/JFKCycleTrack.htm. If you have specific questions, email Miriam.Sorell@sfmta.com or call 415.701.4770.

Recycling Center on Hold

Neighbors ask us all the time when the recycling center is relocating and changing its business model, which they announced last year. According to HANC Recycling Center Executive Director Ed Dunn, they were planning a switch to providing small collection services to individual markets, which are the ones actually responsible for recycling cans and bottles. They would then cart these materials to an industrial location in lieu of Golden Gate Park. But instead, alas, they are fiercely holding on to that acre of public park and have tied up any action in legal procedures. Says Rec and Park's Director of Policy and Public Affairs Sarah Ballard, "The Superior Court granted us the premises but then stayed that decision pending appeal. All the briefs have now been filed in the Superior Court. And we are awaiting their decision."

Letters

Dear CVIA.

I want to take this opportunity to express my immense appreciation to my past and present office staff who blazed the journey with me, remaining focused on the job at hand while performing simultaneous constituent and legislative acts on a daily basis. The greater the challenge, the better they did. A conventional work day was rare. Often, work followed staff home. I'm grateful to the family and friends who supported their efforts while they gave it their all.

Thank you also to the fleet of amazing volunteers and interns who did everything from mundane clerical tasks, to delving into complicated or controversial projects. There is nothing more rewarding than hearing from former interns who parlayed their positive experience with us into a vocation that truly inspires them.

Most importantly, I want to thank the people of San Francisco and District 5. Our District is one of the most diverse, nonlinear demarcated districts in the city. The range of challenges was often nuanced depending on the specific neighborhood, but they all embodied the fusion of big urban demands with village interests. And I loved that because it was the centrifugal force of neighborhood activism that caused us to reconcile important competing considerations, no matter the issue big or small. Thank you to the volunteer-driven dedicated network of neighborhood groups and its leaders for their commitment to bettering one of the most majestic cities in the world.

Ross Mirkarimi

Ed. note: Ross Mirkarimi was sworn in as San Francisco's Sheriff on January 8, 2012.

Dear CVIA.

Over the past months we've been meeting with people and deepening our ties and understanding of the history and realities of the Kezar Triangle. By getting to know the generous folks at Rec and Park as well as the joggers and dog walkers and inspiring representatives of local community groups, we're steadily building a community of interest in the future of this humble section of Golden Gate Park. What's possible? We don't know. What we do know is that there's interest in improving and maintaining and bringing some fun to the Triangle. Even small things can make a difference. Over time and bit by bit, we hope to help support a shift from "pass through" park to Place.

The next few Wednesdays, a few of us are gathering at the Kezar Triangle (Lincoln and 2nd) to meditate for an hour. No agenda or anything beyond the chance to sit in receptive silence. If you don't know how to meditate, come anyway and just enjoy the park in silence. If you are interested in improving this small patch of open space, contact me at sam@greenmuseum.org.

Sam Bower

SAVE THE DATE

The TENTH annual Cole Valley Fair will be on Sunday, September 23, 2012. Applications for booths, performances and vintage automobiles are now online at www.cvias.org/cole-valley-fair-2012/

Help

Emergency	911
Disturbance	553-0123
Blocked Driveways & Parking on Sidewalks	
Abandoned Vehicles	
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
Chief of Police Greg Suhr	553-1551
District Attorney George Gascón	553-1741
Captain John Feeney	242-3000

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9.	David Campos David.Campos@sfgov.org	554-5144	554-6255
10.	Malia Cohen Malia.Cohen@sfgov.org	554-7670	554-7674
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					
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 contribute charitable deduction. Contact your accountant regarding the	9	ater than the membership o	lues may be taken as a		
<			×		

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

CVIA is on Facebook
Go to www.facebook.com/CVIASF
and please "like" us ASAP

