

CVIA NEWS

COLE VALLEY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Volume XXIII

SERVING ALL RESIDENTS OF THE GREATER HAIGHT ASHBURY

SUMMER 2010

Battle for “Civil Sidewalks” Sizzles as Hearings Continue

The proposed sit-lie law, originally championed by Haight merchants, was again the topic for discussion at a grueling six-hour meeting of the supervisors’ health and safety committee. The overflow crowd included proponents of every social service constituency in the city. What was meant as a simple ordinance giving cops permission to prevent squatters from taking over Haight Street was elevated to an attack on the very freedom to breathe.

As a Supervisor David Campos fired questions at two members of the police command staff, the officers could not seem to explain that within the restrictions of the current laws regarding street behavior (some 33 in number), they have no power unless a law has been broken or there is a victim. Through the sit-lie measure (now called the “Civil Sidewalks” law), they are seeking permission to prevent potential incidents by breaking up group that signal an ac-



Neighbors run out of patience as kids continue to block sidewalks.

cident ready to happen. Yes, although no one would say it, we’re talking preemptive action here.

It wasn’t until Paul Henderson explained that the DA will not prosecute a minor offense unless there is a victim to testify, that the problem became clearer and the police were vindicated. In short, the current laws do not apply to preemptive action. But, by then, inquisitor Campos had left the chambers.

Assistant Chief Kevin Cashman, a cool attorney whom I’ve never seen falter before, shared the lectern with Commander James Dudley, the much-respected former Park Station Captain. Both had been bested by Campos and, much less skillfully, by Supervisor Chris Daly, who rambled on for a half hour.

Questioned by Supervisor Daly, Kent Uyehara, Haight shop owner (and early advocate of the new law) admitted that frustra-

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Skateboard Park: Rec and Park Digs In Its Heels

At a community meeting last month it was clear that, as far as Rec and Park is concerned, the skateboard park on Stanyan at Waller is a done deal.

The department’s young property manager Nick Kinsey was stoney-faced and unmoved by the objections posed by neighbors



Opponents of proposed skateboard park confronted advocates Bryan Hornbeck (SF Skateboarding Association) and Nick Kinsey (Rec and Park). Also pictured: Joey Cain (HANC president), Neal Patel (SF Bicycle Coalition) and Martha Hoffman (Haight resident).

who, one by one, stood up to speak. Said Kinsey, “It was mandated by the Board of Supervisors in 2007 when they approved legislation carried by District 5 Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi.” He went on to explain that the city has only two skateboard parks at present and that their plan is to have them disbursed throughout the city in a “star pattern.” What remained unanswered was, how did this legislation get passed without any community outreach?

Neighbors spoke eloquently about the impact, not only on that section of the park, but on the side streets of Page and, particularly, Waller, that would be used as access routes by the skateboarders on a daily basis. People spoke about the noise (bang, crack, thud) along with the loudspeakers used during weekend events, the influx of more young people to a drug selling/using area, increased neigh-



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borhood graffiti, compromised pedestrian safety—as the elderly try to navigate the same sidewalks as the skateboarders and the approximately \$2 million dollar price tag.

Marianne Hesse summed it up best when she said, “This fragile area cannot handle one more special interest group using our neighborhood for its own interests.”

Neal Patel from the powerful SF Bicycle Coalition said, “We are not taking a position against it, but we want to maintain the ability to use the space for our adult bicycle instruction classes and safety programs.” These activities take place a total of only 12 times a year.

Supporters of the new Farmers Market, which uses the same space, were told that the skateboard park would leave clear 25 feet on Stanyan for the once-a-week food stalls, but that the skateboard park would be in full operation behind it during the hours of the Wednesday market (4 – 8 p.m.).

When the subject of police emergency access to Stanyan was raised, Kinsey assured the audience that there would be no structures inhibiting the cop cars from jumping the curb and making a beeline from the station to Stanyan Street.

Feeling he had addressed all concerns, Kinsey summarized with assurance that there would be plenty of public meetings to get neighborhood input on the details, saying “We’re excited to be able to provide the city with another skateboard park, particularly in this section of the city.”

—Karen Crommie

Cole Valley Fair Returns: Opportunity Knocks

If you’re an artist with unique handcrafted work or a food vendor with tasty morsels, we hope you’ll apply for 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—whatever 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 2CV’s, British, German, French, Japanese and Italian sports and touring cars, heavy 30-60s American Iron—Model A to modern Hot Rod, motorcycles and bicycles.



Cole Fair date:
September 26th

Applications are at <http://cviasf.org/cole-valley-fair/>. Send your questions or comments to colevalleyfair@gmail.com.

Volunteers make the whole thing work. Let us know if you’re interested in helping out. Send an email to colevalleyfair@gmail.com. We hope you will be a part of this year’s Fair!

—Joan Downey, Cole Valley Fair organizer

VOLUNTEER TO WORK TWO HOURS AT THE FAIR ON SEPT. 26. colevalleyfair@gmail.com

Civil Sidewalks continued from page 1, column 1.

tion over the impact of hoards of street kids on Haight businesses prompted him to do research on what, if anything, could be done to change the situation. “I came across the sit-lie law, which had been found constitutional by the Ninth Circuit Court and seemed to have had the best lasting results.” Clearly weary after hearing hours of accusations by opponents, he said, “I never thought it would be so controversial.”

District 5 Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi, a longtime and knowledgeable critic of law enforcement, made a lengthy statement arguing that the numerous existing laws on the books rendered another one unnecessary. Better police work and more foot beat patrols were more than enough to handle the problems, he said. He also pointed out that the sit-lie laws now in effect require benches for sitting, ample shelter beds and other amenities lacking in this legislation.

The week before, committee chair Supervisor David Chiu had introduced a “complement” bill, establishing, among other things, another Community Justice Center to deal with the problems of those living on the streets. Vague and definitely off the point, one could only speculate that the Harvard educated attorney had crafted some kind of feel-good alternative so the left would have some credibility when the sit-lie legislation goes down in flames.

The Chronicle’s C.W. Nevius paraphrased what Supervisor Michela Alioto-Pier had said at the beginning of the hearing—writing, “This isn’t about putting homeless people in jail. It isn’t about arresting migrant workers. It is about people who live in this city who know they should not feel intimidated to walk down the street.” (SF Chronicle, May 11, 2010)

The committee will continue its hearing on this legislation on May 24. (Room 250, 10 a.m.)

Editor’s note: You can read the entirety of the measure by going to www.sfbos.org/index.aspx?page=10047 and clicking on May 2, 2010.

—Karen Crommie

“Civil Sidewalks” Legislation

- No sitting or lying on sidewalks 7 a.m. to 11 p.m.
- Dogs cannot be more than 2 feet away from owner
- Offenders must be warned first
- First conviction will bring fines of \$50 to \$100 or community service
- Second violation will result in 10 days in jail or a fine of \$300 to 500 or both
- Third and subsequent violations would be subject up to \$500 fine and 30 days in jail
- Areas would include most commercial districts
- Restriction on leaving an object on a sidewalk unless the object is in hand or with two feet of the person’s nearest foot
- Police Department must report on its enforcement of the law to both the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor within a year of its implementation.

Cviasf@aol.com

Please contact us by e-mail if you have an issue to bring up, 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.

UCSF Backs Away From Large-scale Forest Management

In a surprise move, UCSF has reneged on its commitment to the community to implement the Mt. Sutro Open Space Reserve Management Plan it adopted in 2001, with heavy involvement by the community.

In a letter issued prior to a March 24 meeting, Barbara J. French, Associate Vice Chancellor said that she had recommended that UCSF withdraw its FEMA grant applications because “they would have inhibited UCSF’s ability to implement small demonstration areas in advance of the fire mitigation projects.” This was disappointing to those of us who thought that, at long last, the vital work would be done. People unfamiliar with management of natural resources often have the illusory view that management isn’t necessary. The University, it now appears, is one of them.

Much work has been done on the mountain, but it has been done almost entirely by volunteers and with outside funding by the Rotary Club (for the Summit Garden). Aside from giving initial assistance by its groundskeepers and feeding pizza to the volunteers, the University has done virtually nothing. The volunteer Sutro Stewards have logged over 20,000 hours over the last four years. Much of the work was heavy grunt work clearing blackberry and other dense brush and re-



At UCSF’s March 24th community meeting, Peter Brastow, founder and director of Nature in the City, said, “I’m frustrated, but optimistic.”

storing trails in ungrateful terrain, not to mention heavy ongoing weed management. The University has plainly not held up its commitment to the 2001 management plan, and no amount of wordsmithing can put a good face on its abandonment of responsibilities to the community. As one who has donated hundred of hours of my time and knowledge, I feel abused and unappreciated.

In 2009 UC held two community meetings at which it presented its plan to manage two small sections of the eucalyptus plantation for specifically fire-hazard reduction, using funds it was to receive from FEMA. Present were representatives from the San Francisco Fire Department and the California Dept. of Forestry and Fire Protection who testified that the accumulation of fuel in the aging plantation represented a fire threat to the community. At the meeting on March 24, the University explained, in essence, why fire is no longer considered a danger. Although there was opposition to the plan from a handful of activists, most attendees were very supportive, making

UC’s about-face puzzling.

The investments contributed by The Rotary Club of San Francisco and the Mt. Sutro Stewards volunteers stand to be lost again to the blackberry, broom and ivy without serious commitment and immediate funding for the necessary maintenance and proactive forestry management just to keep things the way they now are. I’m sure UC is not aware of the consequences of its decision; all the more reason why it should listen to people who do know.

—Jake Sigg

Editor’s note: The above excerpt has been edited and reprinted with permission from botanist Jake Sigg’s “Nature News From Jake Sigg.” You can receive his twice-weekly postings by request: JAKESIGG@earthlink.net

Community workshops to plan, implement and evaluate the small demonstration project (approximately two acres) will take place on the UCSF Parnassus Campus at Millberry Union, 500 Parnassus Avenue at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday-May 25, Wednesday-June 30 and Monday-July 26.

Neighborhood Lake Gets TLC

The Alvord Lake gardening work party in April was joined by a group of thirty business students from University of San Francisco who traveled from all over the city early Saturday morning to that small section of Golden Gate Park at Haight and Stanyan where, for over two hours, they painstakingly shoveled the muck from the bottom of the drained lakelet. “Get busy,” said their leader, Professor David Scalise, good-naturedly, “You’re not working for PG&E here!”

Gardener Joe Chmielewski directed the operation which required scraping the algae into large piles. A small pickup truck maneuvered around the empty concrete basin to get closer to the piles. The students then loaded the heavy organic debris into the truck bed for transporting to a compost pile. The regular volunteers, among them, Susan



Photo courtesy of Susan Strolis

Volunteers from USF assist in “mucking-out” Alvord Lake.

Strolis, Brendan McKenna and Ruth Wheeler were extremely grateful for the students’ help and to Rec and Park volunteer coordinator Kristen Bowman, who assigned the students to Alvord Lake.

The Alvord Lake gardening work party takes place every fourth Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon. Everyone is welcome to help weed, plant, prune and sweep. A good workout is guaranteed, along with the feeling of contributing to the beauty of this key pedestrian entrance to Golden Gate Park.

—Karen Crommie, work crew organizer

Panhandle Neighbors Roll Up Their Sleeves

The new scene in the historic Panhandle Park is not only beanbag tossing and croquet, and cyclists crowding the multi-use path, but also neighbors lending a hand to Rec and Park's gardening staff.

Through the Panhandle Park Stewards, neighbors join together in a monthly work party to tend trees, rake leaves, and take care of the park. In addition to residents, current partners from the commu-



Panhandle volunteers meet on the second Sunday of every month.

nity are the Asian American Recovery Services and Larkin Street Neighborhood liaison Dale Danley keeps track of the monthly progress and other Panhandle Park news at www.panhandlepark.blogspot.com.

Join the next workday, the second Saturday of the month, coming up on June 12 and July 10. We will meet at the bulletin board near the playground (Ashbury Street) at 9 a.m. Wear sturdy shoes and bring gloves if you have them. Otherwise, gloves and tools are provided. The group welcomes additional partnerships from south of the park, as well as sponsorships from businesses. *-Dale Danley*

Whole Foods Market Called Into Account on Network TV

There was a big brouhaha when ABC-TV did an exposé on "organic" frozen food sold at Whole Foods: most come from China. ABC alleged that the organic designation was not well monitored



and that the holier-than-thou food merchant, due to open in the Haight in nine months, has been pulling the wool over our eyes. Whole Foods responded vociferously in a lengthy rebuttal

taking each point one by one and more than proving their case: Below is an excerpt:

Whole Foods: Organic products from China can absolutely be certified organic to the exact same standard as domestic products. While China has had a number of food quality issues in the news in the past year, it does not mean everything grown in the entire country is unsafe.

Since 2002, the USDA's National Organic Standards have governed exactly what can be sold as organic in the US – how it's grown, processed and handled – regardless of where in the world it's grown, INCLUDING China. Organic integrity is ensured every step of the way. For example, a broccoli grower in China must be visited and certified to the USDA organic standards by a certifying agent that is approved and supervised by the USDA. If that broccoli is processed in a packaging plant, that plant must also be visited and certified by a certifying agent, who verifies that the handling and ingredients of the product comply with the standard. For complete story go to www.wholefoodsmarket.com/values/organic.php



It's teeny, but it's there: Product of China

CVIA is now a Community Partner with Cole Hardware. Our number is 21369. If you choose, you can mention this number, or CVIA, when you shop at Cole Hardware and 10% of your purchase will come to CVIA in the form of a Gift Card that we will use to help fund our community activities.



Would you like a copy of this newsletter sent to a neighbor? Leave a message at 431-1414 with their name and address and consider it done.

POLICE COMMUNITY FORUM



Captain Teresa Barrett holds community forums the second Tuesday of every month (except December) from 6 to 7:30 p.m. She and her 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.

June 8, July 13, August 10.
Mark Your Calendars

Horseshoe Pits Make Amazing Comeback in Golden Gate Park

A group of dedicated volunteers has been working tirelessly to transform the weedy campsite that was once Golden Gate Park's horseshoe pitching courts into a version of its former glory. A WPA project completed in 1937 in the northeast corner of the park, it had become overgrown with weeds serving as a campground for indigents with nightly campfires and petty crime. At an underage rave party in December 2009 a young man named Brandon Evans was shot and murdered at the site.

This all began to change when architect Peter Zepponi, looking for a place to pitch horseshoes with his child, started a blog describing the situation at the former courts and wondering if anyone else was interested in restoring them. The response was tremendous. Says



Thanks to volunteers, all 16 pits are functional. In the distance remains of a bas-relief white horse can be seen.

Zepponi, "I started being contacted by people from all social, economic and ethnic backgrounds. I found that this game was a common denominator that spanned the city." With their sweat equity along with the help of Tom Bartlett and other members of The Guardsmen (a service organization) they took on the immense task of its restoration. "Shortly we found some of the wealthiest businessmen in the city playing alongside skateboarding kids and homeless people. It made me proud to be a San Franciscan."

Since May of last year they have hauled more than 100 cubic yards of dirt from the 16 horseshoe pits, felled rogue trees, pulled truckloads of blackberry bushes and vines from the rock walls, uncovered two car-size concrete reliefs of a galloping horse and a horseshoe pitcher, and installed a sign so people can finally find the place.

Spurred by Zepponi, the San Francisco Horseshoe Pitching Club (SFHPC) recently received a SF Community Challenge Grant to continue the restoration. They have partnered with the Natural Areas Programs, SF Parks Trust, Natural Trails program, SF Neighborhood Park Council, Oak Woodlands restoration, the Guardsmen, and landscape architect Masato Kametani.

The horseshoe court restoration will be a key feature of the larger Oak Woodlands restoration and Natural Trails program. Several other community stewardship partners are being developed with organizations such as Tree Frog Treks (Hayes Street). Projects that are currently in the works under the grant are the completion of the new iron backstops and railings, new concrete, artwork restoration, and reopening the welded shut restrooms for use as a SFHPC maintenance

clubhouse and functioning restroom on a limited-hours or event basis. While grateful to have an operating budget to continue the restoration progress, they are still well short of necessary funding to complete the entire scope of work that has been identified to make this a top landmark destination within the park.

Funds from Park Bond B for Trail Improvements in Natural Areas are being released for upcoming construction of a nature trail upgrade through the Oak Woodland and around the rim of the horseshoe arena. Rec and Parks Capital and Planning department lead the operation with the Natural Areas Program. Parks Trust has agreed to lead a co-operative effort with the Oak Woodland volunteers to get a City Guide tour up and running by this summer. Increased public awareness, foot traffic and visibility will greatly improve the safety and security of this problematic area of the park. To become involved go to www.sfhorseshoepitching.com and <http://sfnaturalareas.org/sites/4>.

Ed. note: Thanks to Rob Bakewell and Peter Zepponi who contributed to this report.

It's Our Library: Contribute According to Your Means

The Park Branch Library at 1833 Page Street (near Cole) has closed its doors for a year-long renovation and seismic upgrade. It is the longest continuously operating library in San Francisco. This classic building's beautiful interior and exterior design will be retained and restored, and operating systems brought to current standards (heating, ventilation, Internet access, etc.). The cost of renovation is being funded by Library Bonds passed by voters in November 2000, but donations are needed for new furnishings, fixtures and equipment to complete the project when Park Branch re-opens in 2011. For those who want to be a part of history by having their name on a permanent wall plaque, the contribution



Shown here in 1916, the Park Branch is undergoing a year-long infrastructure upgrade requiring renovation or replacement of interior furnishings not covered by the Bond money.

is \$1,000. To have your name on a chair is \$500 (nice gift for a grandchild). A set of standing bookshelves is \$5,000. To learn more about the fund-raising campaign, contact Mary Abler from Friends of the Library: Mary.Abler@FriendsSFPL.org or 626-7512, Ext. 107.

Haight Farmers Market Baptized by Spring Rain

Rain did not stop neighbors from attending the opening of the long awaited Haight Farmers Market on April 28. The peaked tops of the food stalls filled the end of Waller Street and brought a festive feeling to that expanse of concrete that has recently been the focus of a dispute over a proposed skateboard park.

In addition to an array of early vegetables, an old friend, Bakers of Paris made its return to the Haight. There was a small band "playing for tips," fresh flowers, artisan honey, and, of course, Kettle Corn. Neighbors greeted one another as they darted between the wide market umbrellas and small children in strollers peeked out through plastic rain protectors.

District 5 Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi, who has been a strong supporter of the market for years—even carrying legislation to permit it on park land, presented an award to the Haight Ashbury Improvement Association's Ted Loewenberg. HAIA had graciously taken up the project when the original organizers, the Panhandle Residents' Organization, dropped out. Credit must be given to Mary Helen Briscoe and Cheryl Brodie for doing the early scut work which, although not resulting in a Panhandle venue as they had wanted, came



The Market will increase in size as summer crops are harvested.

to such successful fruition at Wednesday's opening. The market will continue every Wednesday 4 – 8 p.m. until October 27.

It is the city's sixteenth farmers market and one of several in the vicinity. There is a market at UCSF, also on Wednesdays (10 a.m. – 3 p.m.), another one at Kaiser on Geary at St. Joseph Street, that, too, on Wednesdays (10 a.m. – 2 p.m.). The Inner Sunset farmers market takes place every Sunday, year round in the parking lot between 8th and 9th Ave., south of Irving (10 a.m. – 1 p.m.)

—Karen Crommie

Don't Be Bereft of Books

While the Library is closed, the Bookmobile will be parked in front of the Kezar Pavillon at 751 Stanyan (at Waller) on Tuesdays, 3:30 to 7:00 p.m. Baby Rhyme Time is on Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. and Family Storytime on Thursdays at 11:30 a.m. Neighbors in our area also can use the Harvey Milk Branch Library on 16th Street between Market/Noe and Sanchez streets.

For more information about the renovations, interim services and hours, etc., contact Park Branch Library through www.SFPL.org or call 355-5666.

Plea Bargain in Death of Haight Activist Joe Konopka

The sad story of a respected Haight leader came back into the press when Terry Frazier, who had been arrested soon after the death of Joe Konopka, was finally sentenced in late March. He had originally been charged with murder, robbery and burglary. Prosecutors said that he took \$15,000 in jewelry and a laptop from Konopka, who died by asphyxiation on July 11, 2007 at the age of 65.

Frazier was allowed to plead guilty to involuntary manslaughter, theft and committing a crime while on bail, and will be sentenced to a



Joe Konopka was a charismatic neighborhood leader who united Haight residents against the rampant sale of illegal drugs.

total of eight years. He could be eligible for parole from state prison within 15 months because of time served. In addition to prison time, he must pay \$50,000 in victim restitution.

Konopka, a two-time candidate for District 5 supervisor, was the founder of Residents Against Druggies (RAD), a citizen patrol that took nightly tours of the neighborhood accompanied by the Guardian Angels. They presented a nonviolent presence on the streets but kept their eyes open, reporting drug dealing to the police. Until weakened by illness the last years of his life, Joe was a tireless supporter of the the Haight Ashbury and is still greatly missed by his many friends.

—Karen Crommie

Bold Attempt to Reform Muni

No politician has had the guts to fight the Transit Workers Union and their currently non-negotiable wage structure, protected by the city charter. That is, until now.

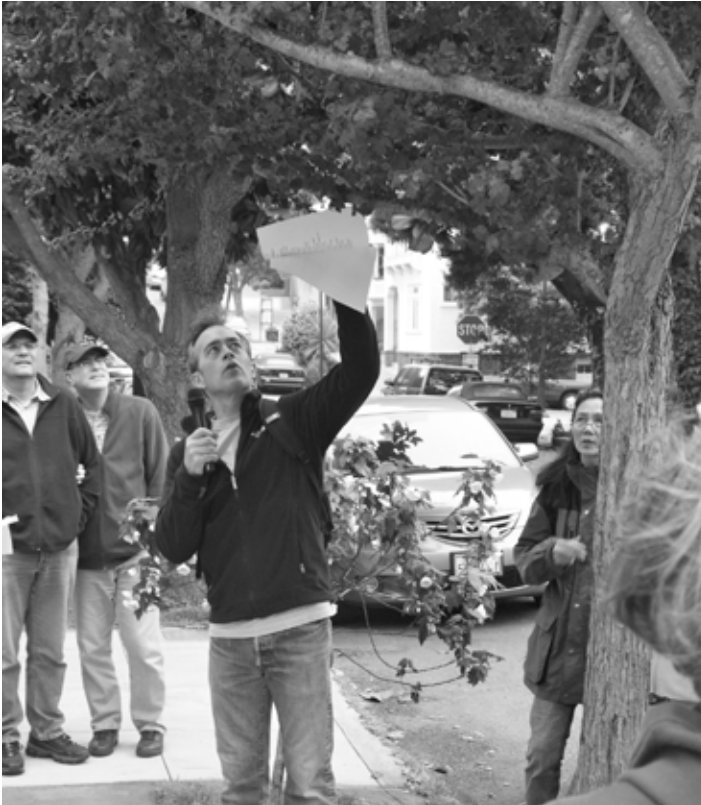
Following up on the courageous efforts of Supervisor Sean Elsbernd, San Franciscans are gathering signatures to place a Muni reform measure on the November 2010 ballot. We have put up with late buses, the threat of fare hikes and service cuts for far too long without the recourse to make real changes that will improve service.

This ballot measure will eliminate the current City Charter provision requiring the Municipal Transportation Agency (MTA) to set operator wages at the average rate of the two highest paying transit agencies in the country and ensure operator salaries are set through collective bargaining, just like every other union in the city. Without this power, the MTA has no bargaining power to curb the permissive work rules that are so out of step with those of most businesses. With more discretion over their budget the MTA can provide better service, avoid fare increases and service cuts.

Help get this on the November ballot. Sign the petition. Go to www.FixMuniNow.com

Last Chance for Tree Planting in Cole Valley and Haight

It's official: Friends of the Urban Forest has added the Cole Valley and Haight neighborhoods to its summer tree planting schedule. Credit goes to resident Matt Hollander, who attended one of the Neighborhood Organizer Workshops to learn how to recruit property



Michael Sullivan, former head of Friends of the Urban Forest, is shown here leading a tree tour of Cole Valley in 2008.

owners to sign up for street trees. He then hosted a Happy Hour gathering at his house to start spreading the word. With FUF's help, Matt and his team have already exceeded the minimum order of 20 trees. Tree orders for that planting day will remain open for a few more days. If you want a tree, or know someone who may be interested, or can help us get the word out, contact Greg at greg@fuf.net.

—Joan 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, type-written, e-mailed or scrawled on a cocktail napkin. We want to hear from you! CVIA News: 624 Ashbury St. or cviasf@aol.com.



Haight Market to Double Size

Plans were recently announced about an expansion of the Haight Ashbury Market. What started as a small produce store run by the popular Gus and Georgia Vardakastanis, Greek immigrants from the island of Zakynthos, has grown and diversified over the years so that it has become a miniature supermarket for Haight residents. It was only a matter of time before space would run out.

Joined by their two sons, Bobby and Dmitri, the Vardakastanis are planning to double their space by taking over the adjacent building now occupied by a restaurant (Massawa). The current entrance and front area will still celebrate their fine produce while the new space will feature a deli area. (Does Georgia have plans



If approved by the Planning Department, the Haight Street Market will expand into the space currently occupied by Massawa.

to do some home cooking?) They are contemplating a table with bakery goods and Gus is pushing for a coffee bar so that he can “give those customers who shop at 6:30 a.m. a cup of joe.”

They intend to push the back wall of the Massawa building to the rear lot line and add a mezzanine level. A variance will be needed because the total square footage exceeds the maximum size permitted in the Haight Street Neighborhood Commercial District.

They will continue to sell fine meats and fish, and will add a small sushi bar. For the first time they will sell wine and beer (restricted to 6-packs only, no single bottles or cans and no malt liquor). This will be stocked on the east wall of the new area while the back will be dedicated to food storage and prep areas. Above this, on the mezzanine level, the noise of the generators and compressors will be baffled by 4 inch insulation to constrain the sound and keep it as far from immediate neighbors as possible.

The overall goal is to widen the aisles and create larger refrigerator and shelf areas so that they can offer a greater range and volume of product. Deliveries will be carried through a doorway on the west façade directly to the back storage area, so no boxes will be left at the curb, as is frequently the case now. They will continue their practice of composting.

I was very impressed with the thought put into the design and the consideration for the immediate neighbors, whom they have kept closely informed. If their plans are approved, they hope to open by Thanksgiving.

—Susan Strolis

Get Ready: Haight Street Fair is June 13

CVIA Board Minutes

The following is a summary of what took place at the CVIA board meetings over the last three months. Those wishing to bring a neighborhood issue before the Board are welcome to do so. Meetings occur the first Monday of every month at 7:00 p.m. in the home of a member. Call 431-1414 to learn the location.

March

Location: Home of Shannon Cooper-Hoch. Date: March 1, 2010

- Reviewed minutes of the February meeting, discussed current Haight issues, heard reports from committee heads and from Board representatives to the Coalition for S.F. Neighborhoods, Kezar Stadium Advisory, MTA Citizens Advisory Committee, UCSF citizens advisory committee, and the Alvord Lake gardening work party. Welcomed Matt Cohen, SF Street Carts; Albert Miniville and John Newlin, both of Inner Sunset Neighbors.

- Treasurer Joan Downey reported a total of \$835 in the CVIA account, with a set-aside of \$25,600 for 1) the second cycle of community contributions (July), 2) daily cleaning of Cole Street and 3) seed money for the 2010 Cole Valley Fair.

- Heard presentation from Matt Cohen, consultant for the Mobile Food Vendors, about having a "night market" on Waller at Stanyan Street where food carts/trucks would be set up under lights on a 6-week trial basis on Wednesday nights from 5:30 to 10 p.m. and on Sundays from 3 to 6 p.m. Cohen is dealing with Nick Kinsey of the Management Division of Rec and Park, which would get a percentage of the net profits.

- Discussed issues raised at the six-hour long City Hall hearing, earlier that day, on a proposed prohibition on sitting or lying on sidewalks. CVIA supports such a law, at least as a pilot program to see if it can make Haight Street a little more resident-friendly.

- Karen Crommie, delegate to the Coalition for SF Neighborhoods, gave a report on the controversy over the construction of a high rise apartment building at 555 Washington Street, next to the Transamerica Pyramid. The CSFN voted 19 to 4 to oppose the construction of the building, which exceeds the zoning height by 200 feet. It has, however, been given a green light by the planning department.

- Discussed the focus and scheduling of a general membership meeting in the Spring. Agenda items suggested were the sit-lie law, the Whole Food Market, the Carl Street mini park. This will be continued at the next meeting.

- Heard a report from representatives from the Inner Sunset Neighbors, Al Miniville and John Newlin, who are concerned over the pilfering of recyclables, rising number of people camping overnight in the park. Agreed to join ISN at a future meeting with Phil Ginsburg, Rec and Park General Manager.

- Agreed to support a "Muni Summit" to be held on Saturday March 6, organized by Judy Berkowitz and Gary Nogara (CSFN) as a brainstorming session on how to creatively deal with impending Muni budget cuts.

- Agreed that Shannon Cooper-Hoch will keep board posted on the proposed night market on Waller St., David Crommie to write a letter to Supervisor Bevan Dufty thanking him for supporting the sit-lie ordinance at the March 1 Public Safety Committee, Karen Crommie to inform Judy Berkowitz of CVIA's support of Muni Summit.

- Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m

April

Location: Home of Lena Emmery and Chuck Canepa. Date: April 5, 2010

- Reviewed minutes of the February meeting, discussed current Haight issues, heard reports from committee heads and from Board representatives to the Coalition for S.F. Neighborhoods, Kezar Stadium Advisory, MTA citizens advisory committee, UCSF citizens advisory committee, and the Alvord Lake gardening work party. Welcomed Craig Dawson.

- Treasurer's report: savings: \$15,181; checking \$8,481.00; Clean Cole Street: \$8,751.52; Cole Valley Fair: \$14,672.

- Discussed the Cole Valley Fair and recent article in SF Examiner (3-31-10) revealing unequal billing for police protection at various city street fairs. Since Cole Valley pays the maximum rate, Fair producer Joan Downey will convey the Board's feelings at an upcoming ISCOTT meeting that all groups pay the same fee or receive the same discounts.

- Board agreed that poster artist Hilary Williams has the board's permission to sell the poster at the fair for whatever price she sees fit. There has been lukewarm reception by residents of the 800 blocks about extending the Cole Fair one additional street north of Carl. We will request the extended permit from ISCOTT (hearing April 8) but will probably not act on it. Sponsors so far are Recology, CleanScapes, Craigslist and Wells Fargo. Joan will be soliciting additional sponsorship in upcoming months. (Zynga Games, Whole Foods, UCSF, AcroSports, etc.)

- Shannon Cooper-Hoch reported that Matt Cohen, consultant for the Mobile Food Vendors, is delaying his plan for a 6-week pilot "night market" on Waller Street at Stanyan. He is also researching whether some of the food carts/trucks he represents have the permits required by the Department of Public Health (\$1000-plus) so that the Fair will not have to bear that burden.

- Karen Crommie, delegate to the coalition for SF Neighborhoods reported that, after hearing pro and con arguments the CSFN voted to oppose Prop F (Daly's "renters' relief" package) and to spend \$500 on a ballot handbook argument stating why. The group chose to take no position on Prop B (earthquake safety and emergence response bond).

- Marianne Hesse announced that HANC would hold a community meeting on the proposed skateboard park on Waller at Stanyan. Board members were encouraged to attend on April 8 to hear arguments. (CVIA is opposed to the park.)

- Lena Emmery reported that, at the last Park Police Advisory Board, members were informed about the surge of iPhone thefts on Muni, coffee shops and neighborhood streets. She also reminded the Board that the Inner Sunset Fair was going to take place on May 15.

- Karen Crommie reported that she and David Crommie have been attending meetings headed by the Friends of the SFPL to brainstorm fund-raising for the Park Branch Library, now under renovation. The library needs \$500,000 to complete the interior furnishings, which includes shelves, lighting fixtures, tables, chairs and computers. At the March 28 meeting, she presented a second check for \$500 from CVIA toward the project.

- Craig Dawson, head of the Mt. Sutro Stewards gave an update on the work of the group. The Mt. Sutro Stewards have forged a new partnership with the SF Parks Trust (formerly Friends of Rec and Park) whereby the latter will be the Stewards' fiscal sponsor enabling them not only to apply for grants (Community

Grant, Community Opportunity Fund (2008-Prop A "Clean and Safe Neighborhood Parks Bond") but also to obtain insurance for the members of their volunteer work crews. Under this agreement, the Parks Trust takes a five percent administration charge when funds are spent. The Stewards have contributed the equivalent of over \$530,000-worth of volunteer labor improving the mountain for public recreation.

■ He also announced the approval by the Rec and Park Commission to reopen the Stanyan Street entrance to Mt. Sutro hiking trails. Flagging the trail and slashing the blackberry thicket has begun. An evaluation of hazardous trees is next. At this point only the rebuilding of the stairway at the entrance to the trail has been approved for funding. Dawson also provided an update on the proposed Aldea Community Center saying that the old building has been demolished and the land cleared.

■ When asked about the fate of the Sutro Forest Fire Mitigation Plan, part of two much discussed FEMA grant proposals, he said that UCSF had decided it was not in their interest to take on such a large project at this time and will instead seek approval for a "demonstration project" in an area of the forest to be determined at series of future public meetings, the agenda of which will be decided by members of an advisory board. (See page 3.)

Note: National Trail Days is June 5 and the fourth anniversary of the Stewards is September 4th. Special celebrations will take place on both days. Check <http://natureinthecity.org/mtsutro.php> for full information.

■ It was announced that a Haight Ashbury Farmers Market would finally open on April 28 in the paved area at the end of Waller at Haight, the proposed site of a skateboard park.

■ President Lena Emmery announced that plans for a CVIA Spring general meeting would wait until the promoter of the outdoor ice rink can attend to explain his plan. She then closed the meeting by congratulating Karen Crommie on her recent Women's History Month commendation by the Board of Supervisors (nominated by District 5 Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi) and the Commission on the Status of Women. Chuck Canepa produced flutes all around and a champagne toast followed.

■ Meeting adjourned at 10 p.m.

May

Location: Home of Carole Glosenger. Date: May 3, 2010

■ Reviewed last meeting's resolutions, discussed current Haight issues, heard reports from committee heads and from delegates to the Kezar Stadium Advisory Committee and the Coalition for S.F. Neighborhoods. Welcomed artist Hilary Williams.

■ Hilary Williams presented her design for Cole Valley Fair's 2010 poster. Board discussed design and recommended cropping as well as a diagonal portion of the artwork as a possible design for the front of the fair T-shirt, with all sponsor printing on the back. She will return next month with a line drawing for approval.

■ Treasurers report: CVIA's accounts are broken into divisions as follows: Savings: \$15,182, Checking: \$8,511, Clean Cole Street: \$8,536, Cole Valley Fair: \$14,872, cash on hand: \$284.

■ Joan Downey lead discussion on Cole Valley Fair matters: Kinds of booths appropriate for the 800 block; conditions of involvement (discounts, sponsorship, poster and T-shirt credits, etc.) for restaurants located on that block for providing food service to outdoor tables; because of DPH and SFPD permit fees, new price for food booths is \$500; announced an agreement with a new supplier of barricades and portable toilets; 35 early applications

from artisan-vendors have already been received.

■ Marianne Hesse presented a draft letter to the Board of Supervisors recommending they rescind their legislation approving the Waller/Stanyan site for a skateboard park so that it can remain available to the community for neighborhood-serving events. Text was approved 5Y, 2N. President Lena Emmery agreed to incorporate it into a letter and send it to the board for final approval before sending it.

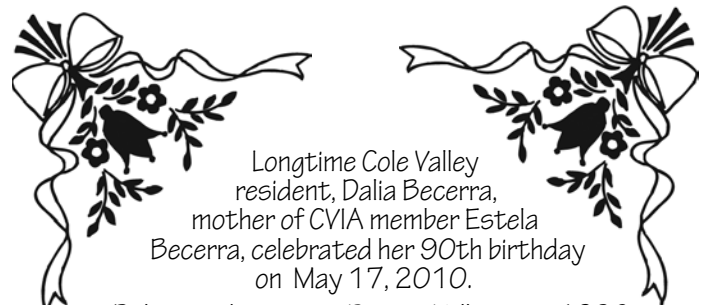
■ Lena Emmery reported that the Park Police Station's Community Advisory Board is investigating establishment of a community court for infractions committed in the greater Haight Ashbury. Karen Crommie, current member of the Western Addition community court agreed to speak at a future meeting.

■ Lena said that James Judge, neighbor living in close proximity to the Carl Street Muni Park reported that the misuse of the park by indigent people has improved thanks to the Muni cops who have been patrolling the area regularly. Nevertheless, the alcoholic man known as "Brown Betty," is still at large, and was recently pulled off the light rail tracks where he had passed out. David Crommie will report this at the next Police community forum and attempt to get some kind of intervention for him.

■ Agreed that an article noting the 90th birthday of Mrs. Becerra and a celebration at St. John's Church at 5th and Irving on May 15. Karen agreed to get details from Estela.

■ Meeting adjourned at 10 p.m.

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



Dalia was born near Puerto Vallarta in 1920. Because her father was a maritime lighthouse watchman, she lived in various ports along the coast of Mexico. In Mazatlan she was a member of a womens cycling group and became a champion cyclist.

She immigrated to the United States in 1930. In 1947 she and her husband moved into their home on Frederick Street. She has five children, thirteen grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

When she was 76 years old she became a U.S. citizen. She loves to garden in her huge backyard and is still an active walker. She walks to St. Agnes Church weekly, and once a month, serves on the Hospitality Committee after mass. You might run into her during her three weekly walks to the Senior Center at 5th Avenue and Irving Street.

On May 15th a surprise birthday celebration was held at St. John of God Church Hall with more than 70 people—family and friends—honoring her. The CVIA Board wishes Dalia, Muy Feliz Cumpleaños.

Finally: A Group For Cole Valley Moms and Dads

A new addition to the neighborhood is the Cole Valley Parents Network, which my husband and I just launched this spring. Since our neighborhood has exploded with families in the last few years, we really wanted to create a way for parents to communicate, share information, and meet each other. We hope that the group becomes a valuable resource for parents and a source of community for families living in Cole Valley.

The very first of our weekly Sunday morning playgroups will be Sunday, May 16th, from 10:30 to noon at Grattan Playground. This will be a great way for neighborhood kids and parents to get to know each other. In addition to this weekly playgroup, we're hoping to organize a weekly stroller walk, family field trips, parents' nights out, and maybe even a babysitting exchange.



For more information about these activities, check out our very new website at www.colevalleyparents.net. Or join our Google Group by going to <http://groups.google.com/group/colevalleyparents>. If you don't have a Google account, the best way to join is for us to invite your email address: send a request to colevalleyparents@googlegroups.com. We have 31 members already, and we're growing every day.

Join us, or swing by our Sunday morning playgroup. I'll be sporting a "Cole Valley Parents Network" sticker, so feel free to introduce yourself. Hope to see you there.

—Jessica Meyers

CVPG Founder, and mom to two little boys

Postscripts

Supervisor **Ross Mirkarimi** has finally done it: registered as a Democrat. That old Green magic started to fade when **Matt Gonzalez** lost his bid for mayor (by a squeak). Mirkarimi's chance of a political career would be greatly hampered, if not snuffed, by an inability to tap the Democratic coffers. **Tim Redmond**, editor of the SF Bay Guardian wrote (March 10, 2010): "He's clearly looking at the mayor's race, but I think he's also looking at the State Legislature; if **Mark Leno** ran for mayor and won, and Assembly member **Tom Ammiano** ran for Leno's Senate seat and won, then the 13th Assembly District seat would be open. Besides, with term limits, Ammiano's seat will open up pretty soon anyway. It's going to a wild year."



Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi

Those of you who are registered Democrats, living west of Stanyan are eligible to vote on June 6 for long time CVIA member **Mike Sullivan** for the Democratic County Central Committee (more com-

monly called the "Dee Triple Cee"). You may know Mike from one of the many hats he wears, such as founder of the moderate political advocacy group called Plan C, commissioner on the Recreation



Michael Sullivan

and Parks Commission, former board president of Friends of the Urban Forest, author of "The Trees of San Francisco," or partner at Pillsbury, an internationally known law firm. Most of us realize that Mike will have a hard fight on his hand but the DCCC is an important stepping stone to positions of influence in San Francisco government. CVIA's non-profit status prevents it from endorsing candidates so this message is strictly from the writer: we need Mike to win a place on this powerful committee!

In early March, after a lot of pushback from residents immediately adjacent to the site, Rec and Park approved the reopening of an entrance to **Sutro Forest** on **Stanyan Street** near 17th St. This will offer hikers a valuable access to the historic hiking trail. We thank all those who put aside deep territorial feelings and fears of trespassing, etc. to expand access to the this wonderful asset of the city.



We were saddened to hear of the April 7 passing of Cole Valley resident and CVIA member, Kevin Ryan. Born on September 20, 1932 in the Mission District, he attended Sacred Heart High School followed by St. Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park. He worked for the Teamsters Union Local 856 as a labor official and organizer for 32 years and a fine obituary of him appears on the Teamsters web site: <http://teamsters856.org/index.cfm?Section=1&PageNum=414>. One quote from that obit pretty much says it all, "Affectionately called 'Kevin from Heaven,' he will be sorely missed by scores of friends and associates. He accepted his illness with calmness and as he recently told a close friend, 'I've been to the show and I've had a good run.'"



run over by the metro. However, it is really a nice and fun little walk if anyone is so inclined." Feeling suicidal?

Amy Blakeley saw a posting on facebook by someone called Justin Chambers O'ferman, who wrote, "It's pretty cool to walk through the N-Judah tunnel that stretches between Duboce Park and Cole Valley. Obviously, this should only be done post train hours, around 3-5 a.m. due to the obvious danger of getting

—Karen Crommie

Letters

Dear CVIA:

On March 3, my wife and I returned from dinner and a show at about 10:30 p.m. We parked our car in the garage. The next morning, at about 7:30 a.m. or so, my wife went to use the car and found that the driver's side door was slightly open and that the trunk was slightly open. I checked the car later that day and found that an iPod that I keep in the car, a purse of change for meters, and some other small things from the trunk were missing.

I think what happened is that I may have left the service-man's door to my garage unlocked, and that someone found it open, entered my garage and my car, and stole what he/she could. The door and trunk were probably left ajar so as not to make any sound while closing them.

The upshot of this is (1) I need to be sure that my door is locked, and (2) the people of Cole Valley may want to know that there is a burglar walking the streets at night looking for access to garage areas.

Geoff Noakes

Dear CVIA:

About a month ago, I assigned three officers to regularly patrol the Carl and Cole Muni park. These officers are Kevin Lee, Craig Canton and Franco Fleming. They are assigned to the Muni Response Team and you may have seen them in the park. They have been contacting the regulars who frequent the park and have contacted gardeners, DPW etc., to keep the park free of debris.

These officers are very committed to making a difference at the park. Some of the problems such as graffiti and restraining orders for problem individuals may take longer to solve but it looks as if some progress has already been made. We plan to stay on top of the issues that arise at the park and continue to improve the conditions there.

Sergeant Brian Devlin
SFPD Muni Response Team

CVIA Officers

President..... Lena Emmerly
 Vice President Marianne Hesse
 Treasurer Joan Downey
 Membership Lena Emmerly
 Community Relations Amy Blakeley
 Special Projects Joan Downey

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 Fall edition should be sent before August 1, 2010 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.

Editor Karen Crommie
 Production David Crommie
 Editorial Assistance Joan Downey

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

Mayor Gavin Newsom554-6141
 City Hall - Room 200
 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
 S.F., CA 94102

Chief of Police George Gascón.....553-1551
 Hall of Justice - 850 Bryant St.
 S.F., CA 94103

District Attorney Kamala Harris.....553-1741
 Hall of Justice - 850 Bryant St.
 S.F., CA 94103

Captain Teresa Barrett242-3000
 Park District Police Station
 1899 Waller St.
 S.F., CA 94117
 Teresa.Barrett@sfgov.org

San Francisco Board of Supervisors

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

Telephone: 554-5184 FAX: 554-5163

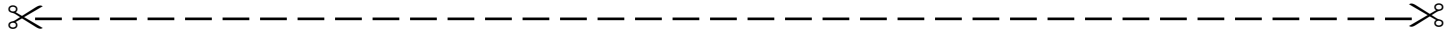
District	Telephone	Fax
1. Eric Mar Eric.L.Mar@sfgov.org	554-7410	554-7415
2. Michela Alioto-Pier Michela.Alioto@sfgov.org	554-7752	554-7483
3. David Chiu, Board President David.Chiu@sfgov.org	554-7450	554-7454
4. Carmen Chu Carmen.Chu@sfgov.org	554-7460	554-7432
5. Ross Mirkarimi Ross.Mirkarimi@sfgov.org	554-7630	554-7634
6. Chris Daly Chris.Daly@sfgov.org	554-7970	554-7974
7. Sean Elsbernd Sean.Elsbernd@sfgov.org	554-6516	554-6546
8. Bevan Dufty Bevan.Dufty@sfgov.org	554-6968	554-6909
9. David Campos David.Campos@sfgov.org	554-5144	554-6255
10. Sophie Maxwell Sophie.Maxwell@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 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 _____

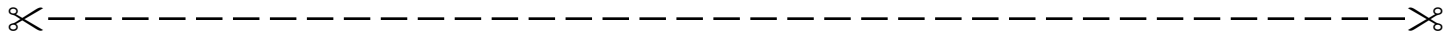
ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____ FAX _____

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 but may be taken as a business expense. Any amounts greater than the membership dues may be taken as a charitable deduction. Contact your accountant regarding your tax law.



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