

# CVIA NEWS

COLE VALLEY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Volume XXV SERVING ALL RESIDENTS OF THE GREATER HAIGHT ASHBURY SUMMER 2012

## N-Judah Will Completely Shut Down For Nine Days

The SF Municipal Transit Agency has issued a Service Alert to warn riders that the N-Judah rail line will be completely shut down from 7:00 p.m. on Friday, May 25 through 5:00 a.m. on Monday, June 4

- Substitute bus service will be provided but schedule will vary on weekdays and weekends.
- The NX service will remain the same.
- J Church line will operate between Balboa Park and Market/Church streets.
- There will be major re-routes of the 22 Fillmore.\*
- There will be minor re-routes of the 37 Corbett, 43 Masonic and N-Owl service.
- Some traffic and bicycle lanes will be closed; detours and parking restrictions in effect.

\*Details available at [www.sfmta.com/longshutdown](http://www.sfmta.com/longshutdown) or contact 311. Please check the project webpage at [www.sfmta.com/carl](http://www.sfmta.com/carl) for updates.

## Belgrave Neighbors Win a Zoning Battle

Several years ago a Petaluma developer purchased a property on Belgrave Avenue. He then applied for a variance to split the existing 75 foot front lot into two separate pieces. The new lot



A proposed Belgrave lot split was successfully halted by neighbors.

would be 700 square feet under the minimum lot size for Belgrave, which is 4,000 square feet. He also applied for permits to demolish the existing house and build two huge houses on the lots. The houses would be considerably out of scale for the street and take away a significant amount of green space. Many neighbors were

*Continued on page 2, column 2.*

## Bay to Breakers May 20

The annual 12k race will start at 7:30 a.m. and end at noon. As was the case last year, there will be zero tolerance for floats, alcohol, wheeled objects or animals at this year's Bay to Breakers 12k foot race. Registration is required of the estimated 34,000 entrants. There will be 1,200 portable toilets on the route. First aid and emergency medical care will be provided, as always, by the American Red Cross.



The floats, booze and mayhem of past years reached critical mass in 2010. Since then there has been strict monitoring by police.

Along the Panhandle there will be scores of Haight, Cole Valley and Panhandle residents volunteering as "Ambassadors" to make sure things run smoothly.

## "Papazote" Gets Green Light to Replace Eos at 901 Cole

The prospect of Mamacita's, the successful Mexican restaurant in the Marina, opening a similar venue at the former Eos site has generated excitement in Cole Valley. Mamacita's is again on Michael Bauer's Best 100 Bay Area Restaurants this year and is famous for its Margaritas.

CVIA's only concern has been over the hours co-owner Nate Valentine was requesting from the Planning Department, which included a Thursday, Friday and Saturday closing time of 2 a.m. For a residential neighborhood to have people who have been drinking leaving the restaurant at that hour is problematic. For a business that has to get a variance even to obtain a hard liquor license in

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### *Bay to Breakers, continued from page 1, column 2.*

For months Neighborhood organizations situated along the route have been attending meetings at City Hall with primary race sponsor Zazzle, to make certain that the rules established at the 2011 (One Hundredth Anniversary) race will be upheld this year. CVIA has met with other members of the D-5 Neighbors in Action Members Committee, key staff members of Zazzle (a custom merchandise marketing firm), Park District Police Station Captain John Feeney, and Supervisor Christina Olague.

There will be nine different Bay Area bands playing along the course and Muni is providing all-day special event passes for \$12. Private (Bauer) busses will also be available to move people from transit points to the starting line and from the finish back to BART, Caltrain, Sam Trans, ferries or even the Amtrak station in Emeryville at prices from \$11 to \$22.

—Karen Crommie

### *Mexican Cantina, continued from page 1, column 2.*

our neighborhood commercial district (NCD), such a late closing seemed presumptuous.

In spite of CVIA's recommendations, and the Planning Department's more liberal recommendation that the restaurant close at 12:30 a.m., the Commission members at the May 3 hearing granted the owners a Conditional Use Permit, stipulating that "all operation must close at 1:00 a.m. on Thursday Friday and Saturday nights." For other nights the premises must shut down at 12:30 a.m. In the



Neighbors were given the option of a traditional style (shown)

meantime a liquor license was successfully obtained from the now defunct Long Bar.

Still not home free, the owners, Nate Valentine, Stryker Scales, Sam Josi and Jordan Dunn have run into a snag regarding the proposed name of Papazote's. SF eater.com reports that they were approached by the owners of a local Mexican chain called Papalote who thought the name too close for comfort. It's too bad because Papazote (big daddy) was a natural complement to Mamacita's (little momma).

Chefs from the restaurant are in charge of the new Cole Valley menu and are planning to install a *tortilleria* where tortillas, both flour and corn, are made on the spot. The partners are consulting with designer Lauren Geremia to solve the problems inherent in the split-level building.

—Karen Crommie

in opposition to the project and five households filed a Discretionary Review application, requesting the Planning Commission to reassess the merits of project.

At the resulting hearing before the Commission on March 22 both the variance application and an environmental declaration by the city that the project would have "no negative impact" (Neg Dec) were contested. The variance was denied. The PMND (Preliminary Mitigated Negative Declaration) was upheld, but, said Belgrave neighbor Ilya Kaltman, "that was a long shot anyway."

The department planner assigned to the project, Scott Sanchez, stated that he thought that the history of zoning for Belgrave, which has evolved over time from 25 foot lot fronts to larger, merged lots, was worth preserving. "Having some 20 articulate neighbors, and an applicant with a specious argument for development also helped," added Kaltman. The developer is expected to appeal.

Congratulations to the Belgrave neighbors who actively protected the character of the unique street. "This was a project that could set dangerous precedents for building "mega" homes, and compromise the unique nature of, not only Belgrave Ave., but Cole Valley in general," said Kaltman.

—Karen Crommie

## Oysterfest at Sharon Meadow

Fiachra O'Shaughnessy of McTeague's Saloon on Polk Street is bringing "San Francisco Oysterfest" to Sharon Meadows for the



first time on Saturday, June 30. This is the 13th year for the event. Built around oysters (including most California oyster farms), the event will have a \$35 ticket price. There will be shucking/eating contests, live music

(monitored, stopping at 6 p.m. pending Rec and Park approval to extend the normal 5 p.m. cut-off time).

They have serious plans for security, recycling, cleanup and a sobering tent. They encourage the use of public transit and bicycles (there were 800 bikes last year). As experienced event producers, O'Reilly Productions will supply post-event neighborhood monitoring and SFMTA staff during event to answer driveway, etc. complaints. Portions of the profits go to the Leukemia Society and "Team in Training." For more information go to <http://twitter.com/#!/sfoysterfest>

—Richard Magary

## Take your trowel to the Park

On the fourth Saturday of every month volunteers gather to plant, weed, sweep and prune the grounds around the entrance to Golden Gate Park at Stanyan and Haight under the direction of a park gardener. The group meets from 9 a.m. to noon but welcomes those who can only offer an hour of their time. If you have work gloves or kneeling pads, please bring them. Dress in layers as the weather changes over the morning.

If you know for sure that you would like to commit some time, please let me know so that we can be sure to have enough tools on hand. However, if you would like to drop by spontaneously, I am sure you can still help. It is important that neighbors have a presence in this vital part of the park.

Come by and say, "hello." The area is bursting with some pretty plantings, flowering trees, and calla lilies on the hillside.

—Susan Strolis (861-3195)

## Restroom in Buena Vista Park?

The City's 2008 "Clean and Safe Neighborhood Parks Bond" passed by voters in 2008 included funds to renovate or replace about 20 existing restrooms in parks all over San Francisco. Buena Vista Park is one of them.

When we learned of this potential project, Buena Vista Neighborhood Association (BVNA) asked the S.F. Recreation and Parks Department to hold one or more neighborhood/community meetings prior to final authorization of the project, and they readily agreed.

BVNA requested this process for full and open community vetting, because we know there are strong feelings both pro and con



*Neighbors were given the option of a traditional style (shown) or a bare-bones "contemporary standard."*

regarding whether a working restroom is needed in today's Buena Vista Park, and (if it is) where it should be located.

While lack of adequate restrooms was the #1 problem cited in a recent survey of S.F. park users citywide, there has been no specific study with BV Park constituents (neighbors, users, other interested parties) on this topic.

At a Community Meeting at Randall Museum hosted by Rec and Park and co-sponsored by BVNA on May 1, a cross-section of BV Park neighbors and users were briefed by Rec and Park's Project Manager, Mary Hobson. The discussion that followed revealed strong, thoughtfully-reasoned opinions both in favor of and against a new facility.

Those favoring a new restroom noted the increased use of the Park by visitors from all over the world; the lack of other "public convenience" facilities to serve the eastern end of the Haight Street business corridor; needs of kids and their parents/caregivers while using BV Park's Children's Playground, among other supporting reasons.

Opponents expressed concern about the "attractive nuisance" problems which public restrooms can cause; the tendency to make Park use less neighborhood-friendly; the potential to encourage more substance abuse, illegal camping, and other undesired behavior which already are challenges in the Park; City budget challenges to properly monitor maintain a new facility, among other negative concerns.

There also was lively discussion about WHERE to locate a new facility, if it was otherwise approved – near the tennis courts, or Children's Playground, or more centrally in the Park's interior, or at the Summit? The steep, hilly, sandy nature of Buena Vista Park poses special challenges when a new facility must be fully-compliant ADA access, and when considering water, electric and sewer line costs.

By evening's end, the group expressed appreciation for Rec and Park's thorough presentation and consideration of options and many details, and was about evenly split on the basic issue – whether there should be a new restroom in Buena Vista Park. Another well-

publicized community meeting likely will be scheduled soon.

Meanwhile, additional public input is encouraged. See the meeting presentation at [www.sfrecpark.org/restroomProject.aspx](http://www.sfrecpark.org/restroomProject.aspx) then follow links to the Buena Vista Park project and the May 1 meeting presentation and notes. Email your comments to Mary.Hobson@SFGov.org with a copy to Info@BVNASF.com or call Mary at (415) 581-2575.

—Richard Magary, BVNA

## Vicky Chaet

December 27, 1941 - February 26, 2012

Artist Vicky Chaet passed away before her time from injuries resulting from an automobile accident occurring six months before. She was the former wife and close friend of longtime CVIA member John Manning.

Vicky earned a BFA from the University of Chicago, an MFA in ceramic sculpture from the University of Massachusetts, and another MFA in video art from Stanford University.

She married John Manning in 1974 at Stanford. They remained loving friends even after their divorce in 2006.

Her lifelong commitment to painting was deeply influenced by her study of classical Chinese art during her undergraduate years at University of Chicago. Vicky Chaet's work in ceramics, sculpture, computer-video and painting has been shown New York, Chicago and San Francisco. Vicky was remembered at a gathering held at her Presidio apartment on May 12 where a selection of her painting were displayed.

## Speeding Problem on 17th Street Finally Addressed

After years of complaints, new traffic-calming measures may finally provide relief from speeding motorists. The SF Examiner's Will Reisman quoted Richard Magary (Buena Vista Park Neighborhood Association) as saying, "Most of the traffic problems occur on 17th Street where motorists ignore stop signs, don't yield to pedestrians and generally drive too fast."

In 2008, the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency, which regulates traffic in the city, began studying ways to improve conditions in the area but the project stalled for years without any major improvements. Now, the agency is planning to install traffic medians, including trouble points at Roosevelt Way and 15th Street and at Temple and 17th streets and step up its presence on 17th Street. The SFPD recently installed a radar trailer on the roadway in an attempt to slow down motorists and have set up decoy operations where officers cross sidewalks and hand out citations to drivers who don't stop.

*Ed. Note—Excerpted from a report in the SF Examiner by Will Reisman, 3/22/12 (wreisman@sfoxaminer.com)*

## Rate of Bicycle Thefts Soar

The humble bicycle has become a main character in our daily lives. For some it is a means of transportation, for others recreation and, for a growing number, a criminal opportunity.

The crime statistics report daily theft of bicycles from the street and, increasingly, from garages and common areas of homes and apartment buildings. These are no longer petty crimes since even an average bicycle is an expensive item. Returning the few bicycles that are recovered is difficult since there is no license requirement in San Francisco. Bike owners are urged to take a photo of their bike, and have a friend take one of them with the bike. They should



*Thefts from unlocked garages and storage rooms are reported daily.*

also keep the serial number in a safe place. There has been some experimentation with the installation of a tracking device on a bicycle so that it can be found via GPS if stolen. Unfortunately this is not really available yet.

It would certainly help if there was some official registry of bicycles via a licensing process. Such a program could also provide an education opportunity so that cyclists would be made aware of the rules and the consequences of non-compliance. The public needs to demand a process for education and registration so that cyclists take more responsibility for their participation in travel around the city.

— Lena Emmerly

## Wanna Run a Merry-Go-Round?

The city has issued a “Request for Proposal” (RFP) for the Golden Gate Park Carrousel and Food and Beverage Concession.



*The Herschell-Spillman Carrouset was built in Los Angeles in 1914.*

The current management agreement with MJM Management as well as that with the refreshment kiosk with Annie’s Hot Dogs have expired and are on a month-to-month lease. Needless to say, this is a unique opportunity for a qualified company. We just hope it won’t ignite another battle royal over the manage-

ment rights of the city over its property such as happened with the Stowe Lake boathouse concession and the Recycling Center. There will be a pre-bid conference on May 15 at 11 a.m. at the Carrousel. Other deadlines and more information are at <http://sfrecpark.org/Opportunities.aspx>

## Earth Day Celebration at the Kezar Triangle

The small group of stalwarts who are determined to rejuvenate that sad patch of gopher savaged grass known as the Kezar Triangle held an Earth Day gathering there on April 21. Although it was chilly, benefactor Carla Crane and others enjoyed good food, games, a nature talk and each other throughout the afternoon. Crane and



*Earth Day provided an opportunity to celebrate the new plans for transforming the neglected Kezar Triangle to a place of beauty.*

environmentalist/artist Sam Bower are working with Rec and Park to convert the site into a space of art, contemplation and community. With trust fund money and expertise available, chances are excellent that they will achieve their vision. Bower told us, “We even got a message from Rec and Park General Manager Phil Ginsburg saying, ‘Congrats and thanks on a great first step forward rejuvenating Kezar Triangle. The weather was a bit blustery but the site looks terrific with its new plantings and as far as I’ve heard, seen and read the day came off quite joyously.’”

Ed note—If you want to be a part of this effort, contact Bower at [sam@greenmuseum.org](mailto:sam@greenmuseum.org)

## National Trails Day on Mt. Sutro

Do you love your trails? National Trails Day offers the opportunity to give back a little love to something that gives great joy to so many. Come out for a morning of Trail Stewardship and



*In Cole Valley’s own wilderness, the Mt. Sutro Stewards have discovered and cleared old trails and maintained them with devotion.*

trailside Habitat restoration on Mount Sutro. We’ll be working with our partner, the Bay Area Ridge Trail, for this event.

We are expecting better conditions than last year’s torrential storm that our hearty volunteers slogged through. Nevertheless, we’ll be feeding you well once again with a catered lunch, fine beverages, and commemorative T-Shirts for all who RSVP (Pre-Register). Join us for some fun on the one and only Mount Sutro, Urban Single-track Paradise!

Time: **June 2, 2012 from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

Location: UCSF Mount Sutro Open Space Reserve Street: 100 Medical Center Way, Woods Lot, free parking available for this event. Call 415-665-1077 for more information.

Register online at <http://sutrostewards.org/events/national-trails-day-on-sutro>.

—Craig Dawson

## Haight McDonald's Symptom of Greater Problem

It's not the kind of article the neighborhood likes to see in a national paper, but the numbers don't lie. The McDonald's at the corner of Haight and Stanyan had over 400 calls for police assistance last year. Longtime McDonald's franchisee Natalie Gonzalez recalled over 300 in "a couple of months." It's no secret that the park's overnight campers hang out at both sides of that intersection all day long. Nor is it disputed that drugs are sold across the street at the entrance to the park. So what's the news?



Each year the police receive hundreds of calls from McDonald's.

Reporter Scott James posed the question in the New York Times (national edition, March 2, 2012, pg. A21) whether it should be the taxpayers who foot the bill for what happens in and around a private business when it is so obviously a chronic situation. Isn't the owner obligated to hire private security instead of calling the cops sometimes several times a day?

Those of us who have lived in the neighborhood a while remember a security guard who used to be a fixture at the restaurant's Haight Street entrance. The reason given by Gonzalez for his departure had a familiar ring, "Neighbors complained...that guards harassed the homeless."

This and many other complaints were raised by attendees at the annual meeting of the Police Commission in the neighborhood—this year on February 29 at Grattan School. One after another, people rose to the microphone to express their outrage at the deterioration of the "Alvord Lake area," so called because of the tiny pond between Stanyan Street and the Alvord Tunnel leading into the park.

Entering the park through the newly erected gateposts means walking a gauntlet of punks with dogs and drugs for sale. Further back, their less fortunate cousins could be seen pushing shopping carts and hanging ragged tarps to trees. Police Chief Greg Suhr heard their distress. After Park Station's Captain Feeney got up to the lectern to explain the social problems of the Haight, Suhr cut him off, saying, "Handle this by the end of the week." That triggered meetings between the police, Rec and Park General Manager Phil Ginsburg and the Park Rangers, which, in turn, led to increased enforcement of the area. The numbers of indigent people dropped dramatically, but then, over the weeks has started to build up again.

One longtime resident who doesn't want to be identified told me, "The problem at Alvord Lake exists because Haight merchants promote and profit from a youth drug culture. Get rid of the clean, well-lit stores that sell bong, pipes, tie-dye, incense, hippy shit, Jerry junk. Bright, shiny things. All that crap. None of the people in the park will want to stay if the merchants would quit profiting from a youth drug culture. People stay in the park because youth come to buy and sell drugs. If merchants celebrate a different part of the Haight's history, kids won't come and the and the campers will leave."

In the meantime, Captain Feeney tells us that he met with a security representative from McDonald's last week to resolve the issues that have made it into the New York Times recently. "We look forward to establishing a good working relationship with McDonald's and to further their positive engagement within the Park community. I will keep you posted on our progress," said Feeney.

—Karen Crommie

*Ed. Note— A vision workshop for the Alvord Lake area has been proposed by Ted Loewenberg, president of the Haight Ashbury Improvement Association, aimed at reinventing the function of the space and finding a solution to this community problem. A report will appear in the next issue.*

## Volunteer Gardener's View of the Alvord Lake Problem

There's been a significantly stepped-up effort along this entire Stanyan Street frontage by SFPD and our Park Patrol unit following the recent Police Commission meeting. This intensified effort is very gratifying, however, it cannot alone be the long-term solution.

The Oak Woodland Volunteers' ongoing joint efforts with SFPD include a daily patrol early each morning (4:30 a.m. to 6:30 a.m.) to find and cite illegal campers throughout all of Golden Gate Park.



This is a daily effort 365-days-per-year. We choose this early morning because this is the most opportune time of day to cite illegal campers for Park Code violations, Sections 3.12 and 3.13.

Additionally, in the last four months, SFPD has deployed 6 Hondas and officers to Park District Station to increase ongoing SFPD uniformed presence within the park both for deterrence and enforcement of municipal code violations.

Looking ahead to the future, I would welcome public support for legislation that would actually establish park hours for Golden Gate Park and all of our parks. Such operating hours for parks, which are clearly established in the Park Code, would greatly facilitate the ability of both Rec and Park and the SFPD to increase public safety and better protect our valuable parklands. We are also developing strategies to increase public safety around Alvord Lake through other types of activation and environmental changes on site.

To dispose of debris from illegal encampments in Golden Gate Park, we have two clean-up crews on duty throughout the week to provide seven-days-a-week coverage. One crew is scheduled Sunday through Thursday and the other crew is scheduled Tuesday through Friday. Working with Recology, we actually weigh the amount of debris that we remove (via dumpster) and it averages 3 tons per week.

—Rob Bakewell

Organizer, Oak Woodlands Volunteers  
[rcbakewell@gmail.com](mailto:rcbakewell@gmail.com)

# New Life for Red Vic

It was a sad day when the Red Vic Movie House closed. There the building sits at 1727 Haight, silent, shabby, its marquee still saying "Thank You, San Francisco." Many of us passing by wish we had gone to see its wonderful films more often while it was open. But soon the bittersweet reverie will be replaced by the hopefulness of new beginnings. In a proposal presented by long time owners, and original founders of the Red Vic collective, Betsy and Jack



A thoughtful proposal has been presented to rejuvenate this sad reminder of a courageous cooperative venture.

Rix, have plans to intend to "carry on the spirit and values of the Red Vic with a unique idea that will be a vital part of he neighborhood." What they propose is the creation of three different entities. 1) An expansion of Dave McLean's successful bar and restaurant, Alembic, which can truly use the extra room, 2) an arcade with six small commercial spaces "food-related, start-up entrepreneurial businesses," and, 3) a 49-seat multipurpose room that can be used for performance, meetings, films, private parties, whatever. (I'm sure the owners already have some takers).

This being San Francisco, the project has obstacles to scale. First they have to get permission for the removal of the single screen movie theatre. If that means a demolition, it will not be a slam-dunk. They then need an "Other Entertainment" permit and, after that, approval for expanding an existing full service restaurant and bar (Alembic). If you would like to know more about this project contact the Rixes at [betsyrix@gmail.com](mailto:betsyrix@gmail.com) or [jrix1727@gmail.com](mailto:jrix1727@gmail.com).

— Karen Crommie

# Renovation In Buena Vista Park

Working creatively and positively around severe budget constraints, Rec and Park gardening and structural maintenance staff, along with apprentices, Enterprise for High School Students, California Conservation Corps and others, are completing several significant renovation projects in BV Park, now through the summer. Rebuilt retaining walls at Sunset Overlook above the Frederick Street entry(done!), at the downtown city skyline overlook (coming this summer!),and adjacent to the recent Southeast Hillside Renovations along Buena Vista East (underway as we write!), and landscape and ADA accessibility renovations at the lawn area opposite BV Manor House on BV East (soon!) are among the projects. Our thanks to all involved in his work. Take a stroll thru the Park one wonderful Spring daysoon, and see it for yourself! Richard Magary

*Ed note—The Buena Vista Neighborhood Association has regular group gardening days. If you would like to be notified of the dates, contact Richard Magary at [BVNA@ix.netcom.com](mailto:BVNA@ix.netcom.com).*

# Wednesday is Market Day in Cole Valley

The Upper Haight Farmers Market returned to Waller and Stan-yan Streets a few weeks ago. It opens a half hour earlier this year, at 3:30 p.m. every Wednesday afternoon and stays open until 7:30.



Neighbors meet amidst the tented vendors of fresh fruits, vegetables, flowers and bakery specialties.

Manager Luke Walton says, "We're excited to meet new faces and looking forward to a successful and enjoyable season for everyone."

# Cole Valley Fitness Is Sold

Betty Doza, longtime owner of Cole Valley Fitness has thrown in the sponge. Her beautiful little gym in the heart of Cole Valley is now owned and managed by an enthusiastic couple from Novato who are delighted to have found such a unique opportunity. Andrew and Jodi Chaban have been in the physical fitness business for 30 years, having owned several gyms in Marin County. "I have always wanted to locate in San Francisco," said Andrew. "It is for me a dream come true."

Impressed with the high windows and beautiful outlook, they are planning to renovate slowly, with official Green certification in mind. They will try to keep the gym open while new exercise machines are installed and "cosmetic improvements" are made. The personal training staff will remain but the gym will cease offering massage because Betty had to relinquish the upstairs room. The building owner plans to revert it back to residential use.

Andrew and Jodi want to become members of the Cole Valley community and ask that you drop in and say hello. They are there most afternoons.

*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, 2012 to 628 Ashbury St., San Francisco, CA 94117 or [kcrommie@aol.com](mailto:kcrommie@aol.com). We encourage submissions from anyone interested in our neighborhood. Send questions or comments to the above address or call 431-1414.*

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## El Balazo Closed

Nicole and Marino Sandoval, owners of the Balazo on Haight Street as well as 11 other restaurants in the bay area, pleaded guilty to charges of hiring undocumented workers, withholding their taxes, and under-reporting their pay. Nicole was sentenced to five years of probation and one year of community confinement, and Marino was sentenced to 41 months in prison.

They'll also have to pay the IRS \$2,216,010 for their troubles.

The IRS and Immigrations and Customs first descended upon the Sandovals in 2008, and since then, all of their restaurants have closed or changed hands. The Haight Street El Balazo, which means "the gunshot" in Spanish, was the last restaurant standing.

*Posted by Amy Stephenson 4-28-12 on Upper casing.com*

## CVIA Grant Awarded to Grattan

The profit CVIA makes from the Cole Valley Fair helps to pay for the Cleaning of Cole Street, which costs \$900 per month. In addition, we traditionally give a grant to a community resource. In the last few years it has been the Grattan Elementary School Library.



*Grattan Elementary School will use the CVIA grant to purchase plants.*

This year, at the request of principal Matthew Reedy, a \$2000 grant is being made for the implementation of Grattan's landscaping project. It is an ambitious plan for greening the periphery of the school and the playground.

With parent and student volunteers, the sprawling campus will be "greened" with native plants including a model riparian section.

## 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 meetings will be held at Park Station's Community Room, (1899 Waller)



**June 12, July 10 and August 14**  
**Mark Your Calendars**

## Martin Mack's Under interim Management

Less than a week after Martin Mack's at 1568 Haight Street closed its doors unexpectedly (2-21-12), the bar and restaurant has re-opened under new management and is back in business. The new manager, Louise, who has over 30 years experience in restaurant management, took a few minutes to fill us in on the situation.

She said that although the change was "really devastating" for the bar and, of course, for the old staff, Martin Mack's is back open with the sole intent of remaining a fully operational, successful neighborhood bar. All of the employees under the former management were offered their jobs back, she said, and although she regrets



*Management change has not diminished the popularity of Martin Mack's.*

the turmoil caused to the bar and its staff, the plan for the future is simply to keep the bar open and profitable.

Last week's open letter to the community from the original Martin Mack's staff cited a legal dispute as the reason for the sudden change. The background of the case looks something like this: the new management is actually the result of a situation that's been going on since July of 2009, according to documents filed with the Superior Court of San Francisco. It was then that three local real estate LLCs (Corvorn LLC, Austin Court LLC and 2628 Telegraph Avenue LLC) filed a joint petition against Eileen Long, their business partner and wife of Brian Maloney, the original owner of Martin Mack's Pub, to settle debts incurred in a joint business venture, the details of which remain unclear.

What is clear is that by August 2009, the tentative ruling in favor of the petitioners went forward, and the parties went into arbitration. Early in 2010, almost two years ago, the suit came out of arbitration and the court ruled in favor of the petitioners, and against Long, in a total amount of almost \$1.7 million plus legal fees.

Then, in December of 2010, the court awarded all of Eileen Long's profits from Martin Mack's Bar to the petitioners; on Valentine's Day of 2012 the bar went into receivership, and a legal receiver was appointed to enforce the court's ruling against Long and seize proceeds from, and management of, the bar. Hence the new management.

Louise emphasized that the bar's current management — which was hired on as an uninvolved third party — doesn't answer to any of the parties in the legal dispute, but rather only to the judge overseeing the settlement. She said the single goal at present is to stay



open and continue running a thriving pub, and, hopefully, eventually to turn it back over. When contacted for comment, Brian Maloney said that little legal progress had been made so far in overturning the decision, but that it was still very much a work-in-progress.

*Posted by Camden Avery on Haighteration.com*

## HAMA Plan for Haight Street

The Haight Ashbury Merchants Association (HAMA) has drafted a plan for improvements for the Haight Street Corridor.

Formed in January 2011 and led by Dave McLean (Alembic & Magnolia), Christin Evans (Booksmith), Phillip Bellber (Cha Cha Cha & Parada 22), James Leonard (Fan Clothing), Kent Uyerhara (FTC / SFO), John Slater (Ben & Jerry's), Bruce Samson (Kids Only), Reagan Capone (Milk Bar) and David Miller (Braindrops), the new merchants' organization has envisioned an enhanced and beautified commercial corridor for visitors and neighbors alike to enjoy. Key elements of the proposed plan include:

### Short-term (next 1-2 years):

- Addition of parklets & bike corrals
- Signage directing cars, bicycles & pedestrians to the area
- Occasional street closures via the city's Sunday Streets program
- Additional streetscaping & tree guards

### Longer-term (next 3-5 years)

- Improved lighting
- Welcome gateway such as an archway or decorative signage or poles
- Integrated traffic flow, bicycle lanes and pedestrian pathways to/from neighboring areas including the Panhandle, Golden Gate Park, Buena Vista Park, Cole Valley, UCSF, Inner Sunset, NOPA, and Lower Haight
- Historical markers and pathway (targeted completion before 2017 and the 50th Anniversary of the Human Be-In and Summer of Love)

The drafted improvement plan has been presented to various neighborhood organizations including HAIA, HANC, and CVIA for input and support.

Presented to Supervisor Olague when she assumed office, the proposed plan has been championed by the supervisor and David Alumbaugh in the city's planning department. The current proposed mayoral budget includes funding for 1 full time employee for two years to engage in a series of activities including:

- Documenting existing conditions
- Drafting the Public Realm Plan
- Community outreach
- Traffic modeling
- Environmental coordination & review

It will be known by the end of the budget process in May and June as to whether or not the plan will go ahead. Anyone seeking additional information about the proposed improvements and the status of the neighborhood commercial corridor planning process can contact Christin Evans at [christen@booksmith.com](mailto:christen@booksmith.com).

*Ed. Note—We commend HAMA for their pursuit of these admirable goals. There are things more basic, however, that could be addressed first:*



*Flyered Poles*



*Vandalized newsracks "Political" plantings*



## Off The Grid Gaining Followers

The Off the Grid is a round up of food trucks held every Thursday nights on Haight (at Waller) from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. It's growing rapidly in popularity as people discover how delicious (but not cheap) the offerings are. The strings of lights go up, the chairs are arranged, the soft jazz starts playing and somewhere between 10 to 13 trucks show up with a range of food from the pork buns of Chairman Bao, the Chicken Tiki Massala burritos of Curry Up,



*There is a growing spirit of comraderie among the Thursday fans.*

a Mac and Cheese roll from 3Sum Eats, a taco from Senior Sisig, a banana cream cupcake from CupKates and Cole Valley's own Bacon Bacon specialties. If you have your heart on a particular dish, go early because they run out. (They're only trucks, after all). Dress warmly and bring some hand wipes. It's a cross between camping and ethnic gourmet dining. Look around you and see the hard-core nomadic foodies, many who follow the schedule of favorite trucks online. Is this trend cramping the style of the Haight's brick and mortar restaurants? Probably.

*—Karen Crommie*

## Haight Street Fair June 10

The 35th annual Haight-Ashbury Street Fair will take place on Sunday, June 10 from 11 a.m. until 6 p.m. A variety of activities have been announced including three stages offering live entertainment; a six-block vending area featuring arts and crafts, food and other merchandise; an area dedicated to the entertainment of families with children. For more information: [www.haightashburystreetfair.org](http://www.haightashburystreetfair.org).

**A CLEAN  
COLE  
STREET**  
2012 Heroes

Alpha Market  
BurgerMeister  
Cole Hardware  
Crepes on Cole

Bambino's Ristorante  
Cole Cleaners  
Cole Valley Fitness  
Postal Chase

# Questionable Plans for Hamilton Church Property

The Julia Morgan building at 1525 Waller Street, once the home of the Hamilton Methodist Church, and still owned by the United Methodist Church, has seen only sporadic use for the last few years. A Saturday food pantry for low-income people has been its only recent function—a waste of such a large amount of square footage, which includes a sacristy, commercial kitchen, second floor office space, gymnasium and parking lot. Recently we have been informed that there are plans to establish a “camping and retreat facility” there. It hasn’t been confirmed but we do know the idea was presented at the Methodists’ California-Nevada annual conference. After the



The group of buildings owned by the Methodist Church at Waller and Belvedere may become a camping and retreat center.

turbulent years when the Samoan Congregation—with their 24 hour a day mourning rituals lasting for periods as long as 30 days—leased the buildings, the neighbors are a bit anxious as to exactly what “camping” entails. CVIA has written to Bishop Warner H. Brown, Jr. asking him to include the neighbors in the implementation of their plans but, after a month, have received no response.

### CVIA Officers

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

## 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/](http://www.cvias.org/cole-valley-fair-2012/)

# 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 this year, 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, Timothy Dunn & Claudia Scharff, Janan New, Susan Hills, Kay Bertram, Jan Platt & Jeff Ross, Linda Coda & Robert Brigante, 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, Marion Elliott, Susan & Steven Rosen, Robert Bakewell, Tracy & Patrick Jennings, Karen & David Crommie, Jeanne Blamey & Robert Fram.

# Countdown for Recycling Center Appeal

The Recycling center’s attorneys have been delaying their relocation from Golden Gate Park to one of their other industrial sites for over a year. Finally, the case is expected to be heard at the Board of Appeal in June. In the meantime the owners have perversely co-opted the city’s plans for a community garden, creating their own, but one completely under the control of the recycling center. It is a desperate attempt to hang on to the one-acre site at the southeast end of the park. Made redundant by sidewalk recycling, they refused to leave when Rec and Park terminated their lease. The Haight Ashbury Neighborhood Council, which has runs the center, describes their pop-up community garden as a “Modern Urban Legend,” because it did not cost the city any money. I guess they didn’t count the year and a half of unpaid rent. That buys a lot of raised frames and mulch.

—Karen Crommie

**CVIA SUMMER SOCIAL**  
**SATURDAY, AUGUST 11**  
 DETAILS LATER

## 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.

### March

Location: Home of Carole Glosenger, Marc 5, 2012

■ Reviewed last meeting's resolutions, discussed current Cole Valley/Haight issues, and heard reports from committee heads and from delegates to the Kezar Stadium Advisory Committee, SFMTA Citizens Advisory Council, the Community Police Advisory Board, Graffiti Advisory Board, the Metropolitan Transportation Advisory Committee, and the Coalition for S.F. Neighborhoods.

■ Oak/Fell Bikeway: Received a letter back from SFMTA and were advised that no lanes would be closed. Since the project only affects parking, CVIA will not continue to pursue the issue.

■ Papzote's: A proposed letter of support was read by Karen Crommie. Concern over how late the restaurant would be open was discussed. CVIA wants to know how late Kezar Bar and Restaurant and conform to that.

■ 89 Belgrave Ave: Four neighbors have filed a discretionary review of the subdivision and development plans of large lot on Belgrave and have asked CVIA for support in their fight against the current plans. CVIA wants more information to come to a consensus on getting involved. Karen to obtain more details about the plans.

■ Red Vic Movie House: Alembic wants to develop the closed Red Vic movie house into an arcade of shops and food, and extend its space to allow for more dining, add a theater, and a 49 seat event space. There will be a community meeting 3/21 at 1727 Haight St.

■ Karen reported that El Balazo, Pure Beauty, and Martin Mack's have closed. Martin Mack's will re-open under new management, but not without legal action being filed against it by the old partners.

■ Guest Evan Wynns of The San Francisco Energy Co-op shared information about the company's initiative, which is to combine small contributions from community members, which goes toward increasing solar power use, with the members receiving dividends.

■ Guest Thea Selby, candidate for District 5 Supervisor, came to share her perspective, experience, and her agenda, which is to create a strong voice for neighborhoods at City Hall.

■ Guest Matt Cohen, of "Off The Grid" discussed the Thursday night food truck operation. future plans. Discussed: resistance of skaters and parents to move for other uses of the space; new food trucks on Haight Street (not a part of OTG), new summer hours take place effective March 18 (close at 9 p.m.). OTG has had a permit to operate on Sundays as well, and Matt wants to include a beer garden 12-6 p.m., starting in May and running through the Fall. CVIA to send letter of support for a Sunday afternoon beer garden to Rec and Park.

■ Social media: old Facebook page phased out, new Facebook page [www.facebook.com/cviasf](http://www.facebook.com/cviasf) has gone live. Facebook will be having a mandatory upgrade requiring a "cover photo" – David to send Amy the photo from the website for cohesive branding.

■ Waller Street skateboard park – Marianne Hesse reported that the trial period has been extended to September. There have been eight complaints by neighbors. Reminder to report any and all problems to Rec and Park. Largest age group using the skate park is 18 years plus. Marianne to send general meeting date to everyone.

■ Cole Valley Fair: Carol Glosenger presented concepts for the

poster and three of them were very well received. Amy and Carol to work on a few ideas later on.

■ Agreed that Lena should order 100 reusable grocery bags imprinted with CVIA for the Fair booth and other events.

10:00 Meeting adjourned.

### April

Location: Home of Joan Downey, April 2, 2012

■ Reviewed last meeting's resolutions, discussed current Cole Valley/Haight issues, and heard reports from committee heads and from delegates to the Kezar Stadium Advisory Committee, SFMTA Citizens Advisory Council, the Community Police Advisory Board, Graffiti Advisory Board, the Metropolitan Transportation Advisory Committee, and the Coalition for S.F. Neighborhoods.

■ Treasurer Joan Downey reported \$12,071 in savings, \$6,674.74 in checking, \$5,322.12 in the Clean Cole Street fund and \$11254.55 in the Cole Valley Fair fund. As fiscal sponsor, we are holding \$527.47 for ISPN's Parklet. Joan will provide a profit and loss statement as requested at next meeting.

■ London Breed, director of the African Art Cultural Center, gave us a brief presentation introducing herself and experience for the office of D-5 supervisor.

■ Karen Crommie showed two possible designs for the Cole Valley Fair poster. Group favored the one showing a vintage car.

■ Joan Downey reminded the board that the 2012 Fair will be the last she will produce. If CVIA wants to continue to organize the fair, another person will need to step forward. Discussed contacting an outside producer. Discussion inconclusive.

■ John Rizzo, member of the Community College Board, gave us a brief presentation introducing himself and his experience for the office of D-5 Supervisor.

■ Discussed the open hours requested by Papzote, the restaurant replacing Eos at 901 Cole St. At a community meeting held on March 21, which revealed that co-owner Nate Valentine wants to stay open until 2am Thursday through Saturday. Agreed to stick to recommendation that they keep the same operating hours as Eos (restaurant at the former site), which was a 10 p.m. door-closing with kitchen open until 11 p.m.

■ Agreed that president (Karen Crommie) should write letters on behalf of CVIA to 1) Planning Department opposing the AT& T U-verse (refrigerator size) utility box scheduled to be erected on Willard Street between Parnassus and Belmont; 2) Rec and Park recommending inclusion of the replacement of the Kezar Stadium track surface in the upcoming Park Bond; 3) Methodist United Church asking that their plans which will be presented at the next National Conference to locate a "camping and retreat facility" at the former Hamilton Methodist Church at 1525 Waller Street, include input from Waller Street neighbors and CVIA with regard to hours, traffic, noise, and all things affecting the immediate neighbors.

Adjourned at 9:50

### May

Location: Karen and David Crommies, May 3, 2012

■ Reviewed last meeting's resolutions, discussed current Cole Valley/Haight issues, and heard reports from committee heads and from delegates to the Kezar Stadium Advisory Committee, SFMTA Citizens Advisory Council, the Community Police Advisory Board, Graffiti Advisory Board, the Metropolitan Transportation Advisory Committee, and the Coalition for S.F. Neighborhoods. Welcomed CVIA member Christin Evans.

■ Treasurer Joan Downey reported \$12,074 in savings, \$4,326.21 in checking, \$4797.12 in the Clean Cole Street fund and \$9,254.55 in the Cole Valley Fair fund.

■ Karen Crommie reported that Rec and Park's Sarah Ballard expects the Recycling Center argument to be scheduled in Court of Appeal in June.

■ Marianne Hesse reported that neighbor Michael Jobe has reported to Capt Feeney numerous incidents of skateboarders climbing fences and doing damage. This was corroborated by Joan Downey, who sees skaters doing tricks off of private property on Carl while waiting for or disembarking the N Judah. Nor has the skateboard park halted the use of Kezar Stadium steps for abuse. Responding to a letter from the Friends of the Haight Ashbury (FOH), Supervisor Christina Olague said she was going to talk to Alex Randolph, who is heading the skateboard park pilot project. Jobe is interested in calling a community meeting for neighbors and neighborhood organizations. Marianne volunteered to represent CVIA.

■ There will be a hearing regarding the Oak-Fell bikeway plan at City Hall on May 18. The board has decided not to take a position.

■ Board President Karen sent a letter to SF Planning Dept urging a 10:00 p.m. closing time for Papazote's, with operation of bar and kitchen to extend until 11 p.m.

■ Christin Evans, owner of Booksmith and board member of the Haight Ashbury Merchants Association, presented their long- and short-term plan to re-invigorate Haight Street. Information will be available to the public via the HAMA website: [www.thehaight.org](http://www.thehaight.org)

■ Motion: To write letters to Supervisors Olague and Weiner, DPW, Captain Feeney, Police Chief Suhr, ABC, and the Mayor to oppose allowing alcohol in parklets.

■ Suggestion to put CVIA's position letters on the CVIA website was approved.

■ Suggestion to add PayPal for memberships to the CVIA website was approved. Karen will send Amy an updated membership form for the website.

■ A design for the Cole Valley Fair was selected showing six, multi-colored Cole and Carl Street signs for the poster with a single street sign for the t-shirt.

■ AT&T met with residents regarding a proposed large AT&T utility box on Willard Street. Other locations were reviewed and AT&T will now propose a box location at Parnassus and Woodland, and will post new community meeting information about the new location. Meeting adjourned at 9:45.

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

## Postscripts

The mandatory redrawing of supervisorial district boundaries took up a lot of emotional energy by the political classes the last few months as different constituencies fought to consolidate their voting blocks. Lines were drawn, hotly contested, redrawn and savaged by yet another special interest group. Finally, as the April deadline approached, compromises were made and a final map was released. The goal was to even up the amount of people in each district, which, over the last ten years has increased mainly in the southeast sections. The configuration gave District 5 the one political plum (or problem, some might say): the proposed new Sutter Health (CPMC) hospital recently approved for the site of the Cathedral Hill Hotel. On the other hand we lost the proposed redevelopment of the UC Extension complex (former historic State Teachers College) at Hayes and Laguna.

—Karen Crommie

# Help

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

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

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

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

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

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<b>5. Christina Olague</b> <a href="mailto:Christina.Olague@sfgov.org">Christina.Olague@sfgov.org</a>	<b>554-7630</b>	<b>554-7634</b>
6. Jane Kim <a href="mailto:Jane.kim@sfgov.org">Jane.kim@sfgov.org</a>	554-7970	554-7974
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9. David Campos <a href="mailto:David.Campos@sfgov.org">David.Campos@sfgov.org</a>	554-5144	554-6255
10. Malia Cohen <a href="mailto:Malia.Cohen@sfgov.org">Malia.Cohen@sfgov.org</a>	554-7670	554-7674
11. John Avalos <a href="mailto:John.Avalos@sfgov.org">John.Avalos@sfgov.org</a>	554-6975	554-6979

### BECOME A CVIA MEMBER

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

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

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



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

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

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

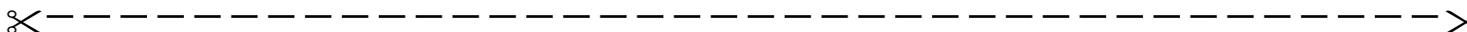
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ FAX \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Optional contribution to Cole sidewalk cleaning \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Please do not acknowledge my name in the newsletter

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



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

**CVIA is on Facebook**  
**Go to [www.facebook.com/CVIASF](http://www.facebook.com/CVIASF)**  
**and please "like" us ASAP**

